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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2018-19
PART II (2019) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

MADRID, SPAIN

2020

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2019)

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, The Gambia, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman

R. DELGADO, PANAMA
(since 21 November 2017)

First Vice Chair

S. DEPYPERE, EU
(since 17 November 2015)

Second Vice Chair

Z. DRIOUICH, MOROCCO
(since 21 November 2017)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

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

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

Chair

H. A. ELEKON, Turkey
(since 21 November 2017)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Sub-Committee on Statistics: TBD, Convener

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: A. DOMINGO (Uruguay), A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners

G. MELVIN, Canada
(since 5 October 2018)

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

D. CAMPBELL, United States
(since 25 November 2013)

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

N. ANSELL, European Union
(since 21 November 2017)

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

R. DELGADO, Panama
(since 21 November 2017)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: MR. C.J.P. MANEL

Assistant Executive Secretary: DR M. NEVES DOS SANTOS

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FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "**Report for the Biennial Period, 2018-2019, Part II (2019)**", 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 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 18-25 November 2019) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention area.

The Report is published in four volumes. **Volume 1** includes the Proceedings of the Commission Meetings and the reports of all the associated meetings (with the exception of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics-SCRS). **Volume 2** contains the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and its appendices. **Volume 3** includes the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission. **Volume 4** includes the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, the Secretariat's Administrative and Financial Reports, and the Secretariat's Reports to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC), and to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). All Volumes of the Biennial Report are only published in electronic format.

This Report has been prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 9, and Article IV, paragraph 2-d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

RAÚL DELGADO
Commission Chairman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT FOR BIENNIAL PERIOD, 2018-2019, PART II (2019), Vol. 1

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 26th REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

1.	Opening of the meeting.....	1
2.	Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements	1
3.	Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations.....	1
4.	Introduction of Observers.....	2
5.	Review of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).....	2
6.	Review of the reports of the 2019 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions.....	3
7.	Consideration and adoption of the Amended Convention Text	3
8.	Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions	4
9.	Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building	4
10.	Cooperation with other organisations.....	4
11.	Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein	5
12.	Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein.....	6
13.	Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein	7
14.	Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein.....	8
15.	Intersessional Meetings in 2019.....	9
16.	Election of Chair and Vice Chairs	10
17.	Other matters.....	10
18.	Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission	10
19.	Adoption of the report and adjournment.....	10
ANNEX 1	AGENDA	11
ANNEX 2	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	12
ANNEX 3	OPENING ADDRESSES AND STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS	61
3.1	Opening Addresses	61
3.2	Opening Statements by Contracting Parties	62
3.3	Opening Statements by Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations	67
3.4	Statement regarding the Convention Amendment Process.....	76
ANNEX 4	RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2019	77
19-01	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on species considered to be tuna and tuna-like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs</i>	<i>77</i>
19-02	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas.....</i>	<i>79</i>
19-03	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-02 by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish</i>	<i>100</i>
19-04	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i>	<i>101</i>
19-05	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish</i>	<i>149</i>
19-06	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.....</i>	<i>155</i>

19-07	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries</i>	157
19-08	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries</i>	159
19-09	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel sightings</i>	161
19-10	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programs.....</i>	164
19-11	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear</i>	169
19-12	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System</i>	171
ANNEX 5	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2019.....	172
19-13	<i>Resolution by ICCAT regarding participation by fishing entities under the amended ICCAT Convention</i>	172
19-14	<i>Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish</i>	173
19-15	<i>Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures</i>	175
19-16	<i>Resolution by ICCAT on Harmonisation and improved observer safety.....</i>	177
19-17	<i>Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT establishing a Pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT.....</i>	178
ANNEX 6	OTHER DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED IN 2019.....	181
6.1	Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)	181
6.2	Protocol to Amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.....	191
6.3	Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review – Plenary Sessions	203
ANNEX 7	REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	211
	Table 1. 2020-2021 ICCAT Budget	219
	Table 2. Basic Information to Calculate the Contracting Party Contributions in 2020-2021	220
	Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2020	221
	Table 4. Contributions by Group 2020	222
	Table 5. Contracting Party Contributions 2021	223
	Table 6. Contributions by Group 2021	224
	Table 7. Catch and Canning Figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties	225
	Appendix 2. Proposal on utilization of a cover note to accompany Recommendations that involve new conservation and management measures for ICCAT – Cover Note Template.....	228
	Appendix 3. Follow-up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review - STACFAD.....	229
	Appendix 4. SCRS Research Activities Requiring Funding for 2020 – 2020 SCRS requests	246
	Appendix 5. Report on the discussions of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF)	247
	Appendix 6. Explanatory note on the eBCD system budget for financial years 2020 and 2021 (revised)	253

ANNEX 8	MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4	262
	Report of the Intersessional and Meeting of Panel 1	262
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 2.....	268
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 3.....	278
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 4.....	280
	Panel Appendices.....	292
ANNEX 9	REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)	335
	Appendix 2. Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review	345
	Appendix 3. Compliance Summary Tables.....	352
	Appendix 4. Compliance Committee Tables.....	418
	Appendix 5. Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities	432
	Appendix 6. Statement of the Pew Charitable Trusts.....	433
ANNEX 10	REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	434
	Appendix 2. Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review - PWG	442
	Appendix 3. Report of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG)	453
	Appendix 4. Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2018	472
	Appendix 5. List of vessels	473
	Appendix 6. Statement made by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)	495

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 26TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)**
(Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 18-25 November 2019)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Commission Chairman, Mr. Raul Delgado, welcomed all the participants and introduced local dignitaries, Ms. Mae de la Concha Garcia-Mauriño, Autonomous Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Balearic Islands, Mr. Luis Plana, Acting Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, and the President of the Government of the Balearic Islands, the Honourable Francina Armengol and thanked them for taking the time to attend the opening ceremony of ICCAT. He also extended his thanks to the Ministers of Ghana and Guinea Equatorial and the General Secretaries of Brazil and The Gambia for honouring the meeting with their presence and to all the delegates and observers for attending and for showing the world that ICCAT was committed to the principles of conservation of the Commission.

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

The Acting Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honourable Mr. Luis Planas welcomed all delegates and recalled that in 1985, Palma de Mallorca had previously hosted the Commission meeting. He also recalled the importance of Spanish fisheries and underlined the commitment of Spain to sustainable fisheries. He reminded that ICCAT was one of the most successful RFMOs, and noted the strong links between ICCAT and Spain, with the seat of the organisation being located in Madrid.

The President of the Balears, the Honourable Francina Armengol, thanked the Minister and ICCAT for choosing to host the meeting in Palma de Mallorca, as the Balears was especially committed to conservation issues, including combatting climate change and maintaining biodiversity. She also stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation to achieve these goals and making progress towards ensuring the future of the planet. Noting that the Balears had one of the biggest marine reserves in the Mediterranean, there was no better place for the 800 delegates from over 50 countries to enjoy their meeting.

The Commission Chair reiterated his thanks to the authorities, and formally declared the meeting open.

The opening addresses of the Commission Chairman and the Executive Secretary are attached as **ANNEX 3.1**

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

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

3. Introduction of Contracting Parties

The Executive Secretary introduced the following 47 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curacao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America and Uruguay.

The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**. The opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the plenary session are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**.

4. Introduction of Observers

The Executive Secretary introduced the observers that had been admitted to the meeting. Chinese Taipei and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

The following inter-governmental organizations attended the meeting, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO); Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches (CSRPF); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

Six non-Contracting Parties, Benin, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mozambique and Togo attended the meeting as observers. Observers from the following non-governmental organisations were also in attendance: Asociación Nacional de Acuicultura de Atún Rojo (ANATUN), Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR), Birdlife International (BI), Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), Europêche, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), FEDERCOOPESCA, Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP), Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), Humane Society International (HIS), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), MEDISAMAK, Oceana, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Organisation for Regional and Inter-Regional Studies (ORIS), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), The Shark Trust, Tuna Producers Association (TPA) and the World Wildlife 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 report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

The Commission Chair indicated that the United States prepared a draft "Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)", noting that discussions of it should occur within the relevant Panels before the document was considered by the Commission as a whole.

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, presented the work of the SCRS during the year which included many intersessional meetings, as well as the work carried out by the various research programmes. Dr Melvin indicated that more details relating to individual species would be presented to the various Panels, but at Plenary he would provide a summary of its activities during the last twelve months. These included SCRS accomplishments and challenges, Secretariat activities in research and statistics, a report of Intersessional SCRS meetings, the Species Executive Summaries, large research programmes (GBYP and AOTTP), MSE, Recommendations to the Commission, and Responses to the Commission.

CPCs expressed their gratitude to the SCRS and they also expressed a common set of concerns. One of these was how to manage the increasing number of activities and meetings undertaken by the SCRS each year and the need to prioritize such activities: several CPCs articulated the need to link such activities (those done directly by the SCRS and also its collaborations outside ICCAT, including tRMFO and ABNJ projects) with the highest priority research areas for the Commission.

CPCs also commented on the importance that the SCRS demonstrate progress on the MSE for bluefin tuna. An additional concern related to the need to ensure participation by developing CPCs to support their meaningful contribution to the SCRS.

The United States indicated that it had prepared the draft "Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)" in an attempt to update the road map for which there was insufficient time to complete and adopt in 2018. The draft attempts to take on board 2019 SCRS input, simplify the format to more clearly display the responsibilities of the SCRS and of the Commission moving forward. It is intended to facilitate discussions here and would need to be updated to take into account work in the Panels by the end of this Commission meeting. Following discussion in the various Panels, the road map was updated as **ANNEX 6.1** and on the final day of the meeting there was general agreement by the Commission that this working document should be referred back to the SCRS.

The Chair thanked the delegates for their kind words and comments. With respect to the need to organize and prioritize resources, he noted that while the SCRS focuses on the Commission's needs, participation in projects like ABNJ represents opportunities to address other research needs. It was indicated that the SCRS will have in 2020 a Process and Protocol Meeting where the SCRS strategic plan for 2020-2024 will be discussed. Regarding the progress on the BFT MSE he expressed his belief and hope that the many of the technical issues have now been resolved. The BFT MSE technical working group will make an assessment of progress in December and decide what the next steps will be for the MSE. With respect to working with other RMFOs, he emphasized the importance of these activities for data sharing and collaboration on research in order to prevent duplication of efforts. Finally, he articulated his appreciation for CPCs to be able to attend meetings noting that while some meetings may be particularly complex, attending the meetings is very important for learning key concepts.

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

The 2019 SCRS report was adopted by the Commission.

6. Review of the reports of the 2019 intersessional meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions

The reports of the intersessional meetings of the [Technical and Legal Editing Group of Contracting Parties, Panel 2](#), and the [Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#), were all referred to the relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration of any necessary actions and were adopted by the Commission. The Report of the Panel 1 Intersessional was incorporated into the report of the Meeting of Panel 1 and adopted by correspondence.

7. Consideration and adoption of the Amended Convention Text

The Chair of the Commission presented the Draft Protocol based on the amended text which had been agreed at the 2018 meeting and finalised through the legal and technical scrub in early 2019. The Chair drew the attention of the delegates to some small errata which had been corrected in the English and Spanish versions.

The Commission had agreed that the proposed text to amend the ICCAT Convention, the associated "Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention", and the "Draft Recommendation on Species Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs" would be adopted together with the Protocol. These two measures were adopted as Res. 19-13 and Rec. 19-01 respectively and are contained in **ANNEX 4 and 5**.

The Protocol and the associated measures were adopted by the Commission, and those with full powers also informed the Commission that they could sign this during the meeting, although the majority needed to finalise internal procedures to sign this through the depositary, FAO.

China specified that it could go along with the adoption of the Protocol on the understanding that Article 14 applied only until the Protocol had entered into force, and that the procedure in Article 13 is in conformity with Article 15 of the current Convention.

Turkey indicated that as the process was not in conformity with its domestic procedures, they would need to append a statement to express their reservation to that effect.

The Draft Protocol was adopted and signed by fifteen Contracting Parties: Republic of Albania, Belize, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Cabo Verde, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Gabonese Republic, Republic of Honduras, Republic of Nicaragua, Republic of Panama, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Behalf of its Overseas Territories, and United States of America.

Those who had not signed were urged to finalise their internal procedures in order to be able to deposit their instruments of acceptance as soon as possible.

All delegates expressed their appreciation for the excellent work of Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer whose dedicated chairing of the Working Group has led to this satisfactory conclusion.

The final text of the Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention is contained in **ANNEX 6.2**.

Chinese Taipei made a statement regarding the Convention Amendment process which is contained in **ANNEX 3.4**.

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

It was noted that many of the recommendations of the Panel carrying out the second ICCAT performance review had been discussed in the subsidiary bodies. It was agreed that the table could be revised at the end of the meeting on the basis of the discussions which had taken place and any progress or agreements reached. The table showing progress to date made on the follow-up of the Second Performance Review is included in **ANNEX 6.3**.

9. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

This item was deferred to STACFAD for discussion, please see item 11 below and **ANNEX 7**.

10. Cooperation with other organisations

The first Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, in his capacity as Chair of the Kobe Process Steering Committee, gave a brief overview of the work carried out under the Kobe process. He noted that there had been general agreement on the need to concentrate on topical workshops, such as the joint tRFMO FAD Working Group, which had been organized by the IATTC in 2019, and the forthcoming Joint tRFMO By-catch Working Group meeting which was being organized for 16-18 December 2019 by ICCAT.

He also stressed the need to jointly ensure the presence of tRFMOs in the BBNJ process, and noted that there could be difficulties in finding sponsors for joint activities in the future, given that Phase 1 of ABNJ, which had funded many of the activities, was drawing to a close. Mr. Depypere assured the Commission that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the Kobe Process in July 2020.

The Executive Secretary presented a document outlining the collaboration with other international organizations which had taken place during 2019. He highlighted the continued contacts with several intergovernmental organisations including GFCM, WECAFC, and SEAFO as a result of which discussions to establish Memoranda of Understanding with these organisations had taken place. Several CPCs indicated that they had some suggested wording for the draft MoUs being presented, and it was agreed that revised versions would be circulated. The Secretary of WECAFC stressed the importance of the MoU to her organisation at this time and urged ICCAT to agree to signing this. Following some modifications, the three draft MoUs were adopted and the Executive Secretary was authorised to sign, if satisfactory to the other parties involved.

The Executive Secretary also noted the cooperation which had taken place with various international organisations during the year, including CITES, IAC, ICES and OSPAR. Dr Rui Coelho, the Vice-Chair of the SCRS, reported on his attendance at the CITES meeting at which two items of significance to ICCAT had been discussed. The United States was pleased that IAC had continued to show interest in collaborating with ICCAT and encouraged the Secretariat to work on a draft MoU intersessionally with a view to its possible adoption and signing at the 2020 meeting.

Mr. Manel also summarized the work which had been undertaken in the context of the ABNJ/Common Oceans Programme. Several CPCs stressed the importance of ICCAT involvement in the forthcoming second phase, which would be beneficial to ICCAT, and called for engagement of the Contracting Parties in this regard.

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

The STACFAD Chair, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey), reported that the Committee adopted the 2019 Administrative Report, the 2019 Financial Report and the ICCAT Budget for the Biennial period 2020-2021. These were all adopted by the Commission and the budget is attached as **Tables 1-7 to ANNEX 7**.

STACFAD also put forward two options for the eBCD budget for the biennial period, and option B was selected, which included, in addition to the continuation of the contract with TRAGSA, the hire of one full time person at the ICCAT Secretariat, with a view to a gradual incorporation of eBCD functions into the Secretariat over the coming years. The adopted eBCD budget is contained in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7**.

Although no discussions took place on the financial implications of the Integrated Online Management System, the STACFAD Chair noted that Chapter 14 of the adopted budget is destined to cover the expenses of Phase 2 of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS).

The Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions had also been approved. Expressing concern about the significant level of outstanding contributions, the Committee recommended sending special letters, to be signed by the President of ICCAT, requesting a payback plan to be submitted by the Contracting Parties that are in arrears for more than two years.

The Committee reviewed and adopted the Secretariat report of the Meeting Participation Fund. In line with discussions from the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finance, the Committee recommended following up on required actions aimed at improving the management of this Fund and required all CPCs to expeditiously comply with the protocols established. The STACFAD Chair also emphasized that the Fund's procedures should be facilitating and non-restrictive in order to enable access to more beneficiaries and to ensure equitable and meaningful participation by developing Contracting Parties of ICCAT in the work of the Commission.

The position of the ICCAT Working Capital Fund and cash flow issues faced in the context of AOTTP were discussed and the Committee approved the solution proposed by the Secretariat to add liquidity to the AOTTP as needed, by using the available balances of the Trust Funds, provided that the transferred amount will be reimbursed and on the condition that this does not affect the development of the activities of these Funds. The Secretariat will notify its intention to the donors of the Trust Fund, in advance of each transfer to be made, as appropriate. Two CPCs indicated that, depending on the conditions described by them, temporary transfers from their Trust Funds to the AOTTP could be made based on a reimbursement condition.

Financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures and of SCRS requests were reviewed and approved by STACFAD, and are included in the budget.

The Committee discussed the Report on the Discussions of the ICCAT Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF), contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7**. In this regard, the need for progress on finding solutions has been emphasized by the Committee in order to address several issues, including on how to alleviate the high cost burden of annual meetings, ensure a more effective and broad usage of the Meeting Participation Fund in a way to make it available for utilization by beneficiaries from an extended number of Contracting Parties, and to improve the current operational procedures of the Fund to this end.

The Committee also agreed on the utilization of a cover note template "Proposal on utilization of a cover note to accompany Recommendations that involve new conservation and management measures for ICCAT" developed in the context of the VWG-SF, to accompany proposed measures and that will be completed by the proponent(s) of any new Recommendation. This is contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7** and will be applied for trial purposes at the 2020 Commission meeting following the necessary changes to be made on the template in the interim period. The Committee has affirmed the need to continue working to address the issues contained in the progress report of the VWG-SF with a view to coming up with concrete proposals for the Commission meeting in 2020.

Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, the Head of the Department of Administration and Finance, announced that this would be the last Commission meeting that he would attend. The STACFAD Chair, on behalf of the Commission, thanked him for his 45 years of service to ICCAT.

The STACFAD report was adopted by correspondence as is contained in **ANNEX 7**.

12. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

Panel 1

Mr. Helguilé Shep (Côte d'Ivoire), Chair of Panel 1, reported that the Panel had, after much debate, been able to submit a revised management plan for tropical tunas to the Commission, although further intersessional work would be needed to refine aspects of the measure.

Panel 1 put forward for adoption the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas", the final version of which was adopted by the Commission as Rec. 19-02 and is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

The Chair and all Panel 1 members thanked the South African delegation for all its assistance in ensuring that the measure contained all elements agreed thus far.

The Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 held just prior to the start of the 2019 ICCAT annual meeting and Meeting of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 2

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan), reported on the deliberations of that Panel. The Panel put forward one draft recommendation and one draft resolution for consideration.

The Commission adopted the *Resolution Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures* (Res. 19-15) and, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 19-04). These are contained in **ANNEX 4**.

Panel 2 had requested two intersessional meetings for 2020; one meeting of Panel 2 for the endorsement of fishing plans and one meeting of the Working Group established by the Resolution adopted. It was agreed that these meetings would be held consecutively (see item 15 below).

The report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 3

Mr. Saasa Pheeha, (South Africa) informed the Plenary that no new measures had been considered in Panel 3. The Compliance Tables had been reviewed and revised to reflect the measure currently in force for South Atlantic albacore, and this was adopted by the Commission (see item 12 below).

The report of Panel 3 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 4

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), informed the Plenary that a total of thirteen proposals had been presented to Panel 4. As several proposals concerned the same species, proponents had worked together to provide combined proposals, and five Recommendations and one Resolution were being put forward to the Plenary for consideration.

The Commission reviewed and adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 19-03), the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish* (Rec. 19-05), the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 16-12 on Management Measures for the Conservation of the North Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 19-07) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of South Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 19-08). As proponents had not reached a consensus text on shortfin mako, the Chair had tabled a proposal for a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, which was adopted by the Commission as Rec. 19-06 with a reservation expressed by Norway.

The Commission reviewed and also adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Res. 19-14).

The texts of these measures are included in **ANNEX 4**.

The Panel had also discussed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT” and a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association With ICCAT Fisheries (Combine, Streamline, and Amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)”, as well as three additional draft measures on North Atlantic shortfin mako, including a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries” but had not reached consensus on any of these.

A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries” [Attachment 1], put forward by the Secretariat to combine the two existing measures, was deferred for discussion in 2020.

The Panel 4 Chair noted that an intersessional meeting of the Panel would be needed to develop and propose additional measures towards achieving conservation and management objectives for shortfin mako.

The report of Panel 4 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

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

The Compliance Committee Chair, Mr. Derek Campbell (USA), informed the Plenary that the Committee had approved and forwarded to the Commission for adoption the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 19-12). This was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4 and 5**.

The Committee recommended that the Compliance Committee Chair send letters on compliance matters to 39 CPCs, and that the Commission maintain identification of Dominica and identify seven additional CPCs under Recommendation 06-13 for diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Compliance Committee (COC) recommended that the Commission renew cooperating status for all current cooperating non-parties and approve Colombia’s request for cooperating status while requesting additional information on the nature of its fisheries, but did not recommend approval of Georgia’s request for cooperating status due to the insufficient information in its application.

For non-CPCs, the Committee recommended sending letters to Gibraltar, Santa Lucia, and St. Kitts & Nevis encouraging cooperation with ICCAT in light of past information on these CPCs’ fisheries’ interactions with certain ICCAT species; to Dominica informing it that its identification was maintained by the Commission; and a letter to Tanzania requesting more information on fishing for ICCAT species in Colombia’s waters under an Access Agreement.

The COC had approved and forwarded to the Commission for its approval the following compliance tables contained in the “2018 Compliance tables received in 2019” (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**): eastern bluefin tuna, western bluefin tuna, and Mediterranean swordfish.

The COC was not able to approve tables for bigeye, southern albacore, northern albacore, northern swordfish, and southern swordfish, due to late revisions, but the updated tables were also presented for Commission approval.

The compliance tables for blue marlin and white marlin were not forwarded for approval due to concerns about non-reporting of recreational catch, including that no compliance tables were received from certain CPCs that had submitted Task 1 data for these species.

Mr. Campbell also informed the Commission that the Committee had adopted a strategic plan for prioritizing ICCAT measures for in-depth review at its annual meetings and had endorsed a process for the application, on 1 January 2020, of a prohibition on retention of ICCAT species, pursuant to Rec. 11-15, for CPCs that have neither submitted Task 1 data nor confirmed zero catch for all or some species. In addition, existing prohibitions will continue for some CPCs until required data are submitted.

The Committee had further endorsed a process for removing vessels from the large-scale vessel list that do not have an IMO/LR number and have not provided information sufficient to qualify for an exemption to this requirement.

The COC had agreed on a number of future actions to improve compliance, particularly in relation to capacity building.

The Commission endorsed all of the decisions of the COC, including all compliance tables with the exception of those for blue and white marlin. In addition, the Commission acknowledged and welcomed the re-election of Mr. Campbell as Chair of the COC for the next biennial period.

The report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee, which was adopted by correspondence, is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

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

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group on the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), Mr. Neil Ansell (EU), informed the Commission the PWG had noted the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group and the smooth implementation of the system throughout 2019. The PWG encouraged the TWG to continue their work and endorsed their solutions and proposed way forward on a number of technical issues. The PWG also recommended that the Commission continue work, through the Working Group on Integrated Management Measures (IMM) and the PWG to discuss the possibility of reviewing/expanding the current catch document schemes.

The PWG Chair reported that a total of five measures had been adopted by the PWG and were being put forward to plenary for adoption.

A Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the Health and Safety of Observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programs, which had been proposed by the IMM Working Group was adopted as Rec. 19-10, as well as a complementary *Resolution by ICCAT on Harmonisation and Improved Observer Safety*, Res. 19-16.

Regarding at-sea inspection programs, the Group agreed on a *Resolution by ICCAT Amending the Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* (Res. 19-17), as well as a *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Sightings* (Rec. 19-09). The Commission adopted this measure.

The PWG had also considered a draft proposal and the Group agreed on a *Recommendation by ICCAT on Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear* (Rec. 19-11), which was adopted.

These three Recommendations and two Resolutions are contained in **ANNEX 4 and 5**.

Mr. Ansell noted that the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment” had been tabled by the United States but had not been discussed and was not being forwarded to the Commission for consideration. The matter would instead be taken up at the next intersessional IMM Working Group meeting.

For port inspection schemes and port State measures, the PWG noted the ongoing work of the Port Inspection Expert Group on Capacity Building and Assistance and supported their ongoing work of onsite country assessments and implementation of the specialized ICCAT training program and recommended approving their request to facilitate a meeting of the group as early as possible in 2020. The PWG noted the value of the Expert Group’s work and training delivered up to now. Interest from a number of CPCs was expressed and the Secretariat will facilitate their inclusion into these training initiatives.

Following the deliberations of the IMM Working Group, the Chair thanked the Secretariat for collating the information on regional VMS from other RFMOs. There was no consensus on moving towards a regional VMS at this time although there was an agreement that the issue could be discussed again at IMM.

For the IUU vessel list, the PWG had merged one duplicate entry and the IUU list was endorsed (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**). CPCs which had requested changes during the sessions were reminded that such requests should be made in writing, in order to follow the procedures laid down in Recommendation 18-08.

The PWG recommended adopting the [Report of the 13th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) from their meeting in April 2019.

Following the streamlining procedure of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, the PWG agreed with the Secretariat’s view that Recs. 09-09 and 12-09 be removed from the Active Compendium.

The Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), adopted by correspondence, is contained in **ANNEX 10**.

15. Inter-sessional meetings in 2020

It was noted that a meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance would be held early in the year.

It was agreed that Panel 1 would meet intersessionally to continue discussion on allocations as well as management and control measures. April was considered the most appropriate timing, and the venue would be determined. The CPCs agreed that, as an exception to the general rules in place for the meeting participation fund, two delegates per developing Contracting Party could be funded to attend the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1.

It was agreed that Panel 2 should meet intersessionally in early March 2020 to, inter alia, endorse the fishing plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and that a meeting of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures would be held immediately following the Panel 2 intersessional. These meetings would be held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid.

An intersessional meeting of Panel 4 was agreed, with the principal aim of developing and proposing additional measures for shortfin mako. The European Union offered to host the meeting in Spain, probably in July, exact location to be determined.

The Commission also decided to hold a meeting of the IMM Working Group, and it was agreed that this should be held in early May at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid, followed by a meeting of the Working Group for the development of an Online Reporting System.

The virtual Working Group to consider options for a sustainable financial position for the Commission, would continue to work intersessionally through correspondence.

The Commission agreed that, consistent with Res. 16-22, the Compliance Committee would hold a two-day special session just prior to the next Commission meeting for a CPC-by-CPC review.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate the meeting schedule which could be finalised by correspondence, once all CPCs had had an opportunity to ensure that the dates did not conflict with other meetings.

16. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

At a meeting of the Heads of Delegation, the Chair, Mr. Raul Delgado, had presented a way forward for the election of the Commission officers. Several CPCs commented on the Chair's proposal and, particularly, the need for a broader discussion on the process and wider engagement of the Parties. Due to the lack of time, and as an exception, it was decided to vote on either the continuity of the current officers or on a "new list" proposed by the Chair. Following a vote by the Heads of Delegation during a closed meeting, it was agreed that the Chair Mr. Raul Delgado, the First Vice-Chair Mr. S. Depypere, the Second Vice Chair Ms. Z. Driouich, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration Mr. Hassan Elekon, the Chair of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee Mr. Derek Campbell, the Chair of the Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures Mr. Neil Ansell, and the Chairs of all four Panels be re-elected to their positions for a further two years.

17. Other matters

17.1 Streamlining of Recommendations and Resolutions

Following review of the document "Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures" presented by the Secretariat, it was agreed that Resolution 06-18 and Recommendation 12-10 should be removed from the Active Compendium.

17.2 Review of procedures.

The Chair noted that there were two additional matters regarding Commission procedures which he would like to consider, one regarding the election of Chairs, and a second regarding the presentation of proposals. CPCs agreed that these issues, and possibly others regarding Commission procedures required further discussion and a review of the Rules of Procedures. The Chair confirmed that he would work with the Secretariat to organize intersessional electronic discussions with the CPCs on these matters to determine possible next steps.

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

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would be held in Antalya, Turkey, together with the two-day meeting of the Compliance Committee. The proposed dates were from 21 to 30 November 2020. It was noted that this timing was later than usual for the ICCAT meeting and left little time between the close of the ICCAT annual meeting and the start of the WCPFC meeting. In consideration of this, it was agreed to explore whether or not it would be possible to change the timing of the ICCAT meeting to earlier in November.

The delegate of Brazil indicated the willingness of Brazil to host the Commission meeting in either 2021 or 2022. This offer was welcomed by all delegates, the year to be determined following discussion with other Contracting Parties.

19. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. The Chair thanked the delegates, the Executive Secretary, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their work and closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1**COMMISSION AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the 2019 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Consideration and adoption of the Amended Convention Text
8. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
9. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
10. Cooperation with other organisations
11. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
15. Inter-sessional meetings in 2020
16. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
17. Other matters
18. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
19. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS**3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES****By Mr. Raúl Delgado, ICCAT Chairman**

It is a great honour for me to welcome everyone to this 26th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Government of Spain and the European Union for offering this beautiful city of Palma de Mallorca to hold this meeting.

This meeting once again involves a number of challenges which I referred to in my latest letter of priorities that was circulated by the Secretariat. In it, I highlighted the important matters, viewed as critical, which must be discussed in depth at the meeting. We need to take decisions, and I urge all members to make major efforts to collaborate and be flexible for the essential purpose of reaching consensuses.

Having said this, one of our priorities relates to the adoption of the protocol to amend the text of the ICCAT Convention. We have already managed to conclude the important task of revising the text, but we still have to adopt the protocol, and as we all recognize, it is time for it to be approved by the Commission.

I would like to highlight that amendment of the tropical tuna populations recovery plan is a major challenge and that it is very important to be aware of this issue, to identify it as a priority and to develop an efficient and effective measure.

Other issues, such as the Integrated Online Management System and the tasks carried out by the virtual group of STACFAD, are also very important, and we encourage increased efforts in these important matters.

Furthermore, we must recall the relevance and importance of the tasks related to compliance issues, and I therefore encourage all members to meet their reporting requirements so that the Secretariat can carry out its work more effectively.

On account of the foregoing, I invite you to take up the challenge and to work together very closely to achieve the objectives, during this important meeting.

I thank you all for your participation and I reiterate my special thanks to the European Union and the Government of Spain for hosting this meeting and the Commission's Secretariat for its organisation.

In accordance with the ICCAT Rules of Procedure, through my words, I formally declare the 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission to be open.

Many thanks.

By Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Honourable Ms. Francina Armengol Socias, President of the Government of the Balearic Islands,
Honourable Mr. Luis Planas, Acting Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Honourable Ministers and Secretary of Fisheries of Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Brazil and The Gambia,
Honourable Ms. Mae de la Concha Garcia, Autonomous Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Ms. Alicia Villauriz, General Secretary of Fisheries,
ICCAT Chairman,
ICCAT Vice-Chairs,
Commission officers,
Delegates,
Partners,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Colleagues,

Duly respecting your ranks and capacities,

It is with honour and great joy that I extend my sincere thanks, firstly, to the European Union for its financial support for organisation of the 26th Annual Meeting of ICCAT. It is with the same enthusiasm that I also thank the authorities of the Kingdom of Spain, strongly represented here by the delegation led by the President of the Balearic Islands and the Minister, for having accepted to host this event on the beautiful island Palma de Mallorca and for making all the arrangements, in a very short time, for smooth preparation of this meeting.

Allow me, in particular, to apologise to the delegation of Curaçao for not holding this session in Curaçao, as initially decided by the Commission one year ago. I very much hope that this other beautiful island will host a Commission meeting in the near future.

Delegates, I welcome you, and I extend to you my deepest gratitude for confirming my appointment as Executive Secretary in June 2019. I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my total commitment and full availability.

I would also like to express my full satisfaction to the Secretariat team of which I am proud. I will continue to further engage the Secretariat so that, with your valuable assistance and in close synergy with the partners, our contribution to achievement of Commission objectives improves.

Thank you for your kind attention.

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

European Union

The European Union is very pleased to have been able to co-host the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT in the beautiful city of Palma de Majorca, Balearic Islands, Spain. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Spanish authorities, as well as to the autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands for their hospitality and outstanding preparations.

As you are probably aware, the work of ICCAT has a particular significance in this beautiful region, since the sea around the Balearic Islands is one of the most important spawning areas for Mediterranean bluefin tuna. This stock, and its successful recovery, perhaps more than any others, epitomizes the crucially important role of ICCAT for sustainable management of tuna and sharks related species. We are hopeful that Palma de Mallorca will be remembered in the future for being the birthplace of a successful rebuilding program for bigeye tuna, and that we will draw inspiration from the success of the eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna recovery plan.

To reach an agreement on the management of tropical tunas will require cooperation and efforts by everyone, and the European Union is ready to play its part in this process and to contribute its fair share to finding a solution. We will also need to build on our experience and previous successes in ICCAT, and a priority will be to end overfishing by managing the TAC efficiently, like we already do for so many other stocks in ICCAT.

This year, we are also confronted with a very challenging situation for shortfin mako sharks and the Commission will be required to demonstrate its capacity and willingness to manage shark species in a pragmatic and efficient way. We would like to highlight the excellent cooperation of the ICCAT scientists working on sharks and we hope that this can be replicated at the level of the CPCs for the benefits of these important fish. As in previous years, the European Union will continue to promote the introduction of a fins naturally-attached policy, for which we welcome the increasing support of many Contracting Parties and express the hope that ICCAT will finally be able to adopt this overdue measure.

The European Union is very grateful for the terrific work of the SCRS scientists, and appreciate the challenge it is to complete the many tasks they are faced with each year in trying to meet the Commission's expectations. In particular, important progress continues to be made in terms of the development of Management Strategies Evaluations for key stocks. We are also pleased at how the AOTTP programme, for which the EU contributed in excess of 13 million Euro, is delivering crucially important information on tropical tunas, and is contributing to further develop scientific capacity in many ICCAT coastal States.

The EU however continues to think that it is important and urgent that ICCAT adopt more long term and sustainable financing mechanisms to support the many scientific initiatives requested by the Commission.

Finally, assessment of the compliance of CPCs with ICCAT rules continues to remain a crucial process for the European Union, in order to ensure that the conservation measures adopted in ICCAT deliver efficiently on their objectives.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

Japan

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Spain as well as the European Union for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful city, Palma de Mallorca. We also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 26th regular meeting of the Commission.

This year's Commission meeting will be probably one of the busiest in recent years. We must develop management measures for tropical tunas, shortfin mako and blue marlin. Finalization of the Protocol to amend the Convention and how to advance MSE processes are also important issues. Japan would like to cooperate with the Chairman and other CPCs to produce good outcomes for these important issues.

Among other things, Japan attaches great importance to management of tropical tuna stocks, particularly bigeye tuna. Introduction of effective management measures on this stock is a great challenge for ICCAT. On the one hand the TAC should be reduced to a level which would achieve stock recovery within a reasonable period while containing the total catch to a level below the TAC. At the same time, due consideration should be given to the right of developing coastal States to develop their own fishery. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the Commission to resolve all the issues at one time. We believe that a practical solution would be to consider this in two steps, i.e., what the Commission should do now and what the Commission will do when the stock recovers and the TAC is increased.

Conservation of shortfin mako is another important issue. The SCRS tells us that the northern stock is depleted and recommends prohibition of retention without any exemption. Japan submitted a proposal for conservation of this species two years ago based on the SCRS recommendation, but the adopted recommendation was full of exemptions that diluted the original intention of Japan's proposal. We do not want to see the same argument at this meeting.

Last year Japan expressed concern about very high growth ratios observed in BFT farming. After the annual meeting, Japan has been communicating with several BFT farming States for further investigation. We would like to thank them for their constructive cooperation. Nevertheless, we believe that more work should and could be done to mitigate such concern. We will provide results of our investigation as well as some ideas for improving the management of farming during the course of discussion at relevant bodies.

Mr. Chairman, the Japanese Delegation 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

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentleman, On behalf of the Namibian delegation I express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Spain and the European Union for hosting the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful city of Palma de Mallorca. We would equally like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for the excellent meeting arrangements.

This year's Commission meeting will be probably one of the busiest in recent years. We must develop management measures for tropical tunas. The Commission will consider the results obtained from numerous stock assessments carried out during 2019 in order to develop appropriate recommendations and resolutions to ensure optimal, sustainable utilization and management of marine resources. Namibia continues to broaden its participation in ICCAT activities; in 2020 we pledge to provide information on short fin mako and sharks as contributions to enhancing knowledge on these species. We are also grateful for the support the Commission provides to CPCs, particularly for improving the capacity to provide accurate information with assistance from the Japanese government; to this effect a training workshop on species identification and data analysis will take place in Namibia next week. Furthermore, Namibia attaches great importance to the management of tropical tuna stocks, particularly bigeye tuna. Introduction of effective management measures on this stock is a great challenge for ICCAT. The TAC should be reduced to be in line with SCRS advice to a level which would achieve stock recovery within a reasonable period while containing the total catch to a level below the TAC. At the same time, due consideration should be given to the right of developing coastal States to develop their own fishery.

This year, we had a two-day Panel 1 meeting before the regular meeting of the Commission, and we hope that this time is sufficient to fully review the issues to be addressed. We are confident that major results will be achieved during this year's meeting.

Over the past few years, significant work was successfully carried out through the Working Group on Convention Amendment. This is however long overdue and we hope this time around the Commission will approve the amendments.

Mr. Chairman, the Namibian Delegation is ready to work with other delegations to find solutions and sincerely hopes that the deliberations of the 26th regular meeting will be fruitful.

United States

The United States would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the European Union and the Government of Spain for their hospitality in hosting the 26th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). We are pleased to be here in beautiful Palma de Mallorca, and look forward to the many important and productive discussions we will have over the next week. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat staff for the time and effort spent preparing for this meeting.

We are excited that ICCAT will celebrate its 50th birthday by adopting the Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention. This is an occasion almost ten years in the making, reflecting an enormous amount of work and goodwill around this table. The package of amendments we all agreed to in principle last year, along with the associated resolution and recommendation, will bring the ICCAT Convention into the 21st century - enshrining ICCAT's commitment to precautionary, science-based management of our fisheries and the broader marine ecosystem, improving our process of decision-making, and ensuring transparency and fair participation. We are proud to join with our fellow ICCAT members to take this final step. Now we must all work to bring these amendments into force as quickly as possible so they can chart ICCAT's course for the next 50 years.

As we begin this year's negotiations, we are feeling a sense of déjà vu. Our inability to come to agreement on a number of issues last year means that we must now make difficult management decisions for a number of stocks that can no longer afford the consequences of our inaction.

Of particular concern is bigeye tuna. Last year's stock assessment made it clear that the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing, yet ICCAT failed to come to consensus on a new measure to address the decline and begin stock recovery. We cannot allow that to happen again. We appreciate the leadership of the Chair of Panel 1 to gather input from CPCs to develop a new proposal and identify the most important issues for our consideration. The United States is ready to collaborate with our partners around the table to finally establish science-based conservation and management measures that end overfishing immediately and rebuild the stock as soon as possible, while providing for fair and equitable fishing opportunities and ensuring effective implementation through strengthened monitoring and control and other provisions.

The Commission also learned last year that the blue marlin stock remains overfished with overfishing occurring, yet could not reach agreement on a new measure. Further, ICCAT learned this year that white marlin remains overfished. Despite a series of management recommendations over the last 19 years, blue marlin has not moved out of the red zone of the Kobe plot, and white marlin is still in the yellow zone. The Commission can no longer delay taking action to establish formal rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that meaningfully reduce mortality. Toward that end, the United States is tabling a proposal, the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish* (PA4-813), to end overfishing of blue marlin immediately and rebuild both stocks in 10 years, taking into account both reported and unreported landings and dead discards for these stocks. It also includes new management measures to ensure that landings limits are not exceeded and to reduce mortality at haulback and post release. Central to this end, our proposal reflects the SCRS advice that using circle hooks in longline fisheries would reduce the mortality of overfished marlins.

Another Panel 4 issue that the United States remains very concerned about is the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock. We have led the way in implementing fishery management measures in line with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 17-08), and our catch of these sharks has been greatly reduced. Yet, based on this year's stock assessment update, and as specified in Rec. 17-08, further action is needed to rebuild the stock. In response, the United States is tabling a proposal, the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries" (PA4-814), recognizing that simply requiring release of all mako sharks is not enough. Ambitious catch reductions, including reductions of dead discards, are needed to effectively end overfishing and rebuild this stock. Our proposal requires that vessels release North Atlantic shortfin mako but allows some limited retention of the species, dependent on individual CPCs achieving the required reductions and meeting other conditions. It also requires the use of circle hooks and nylon monofilament line to help prevent the targeting of this species and improve the survivability of released makos. Given the extent of the reductions needed and adjustments that will be needed in the fishery, our proposal offers a two-phase process for achieving the reduced catch levels. The United States looks forward to gaining the necessary support and collaboration from other CPCs to pass this proposal in order to end overfishing immediately and rebuild this important and severely overfished stock.

The United States is once again proud to co-sponsor the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT" (PA4-806), which would strengthen catch and landings data and simplify the enforcement of ICCAT's ban on shark finning. This proposal has received widespread support in past years, and we urge CPCs to adopt it at this meeting.

Reducing the bycatch and mortality of tens of thousands of threatened and endangered sea turtles and other vulnerable species each year in ICCAT longline fisheries is a particularly important priority for the United States. For years, ICCAT has been working towards the adoption of measures that ensure effective bycatch mitigation for protected living marine resources without success. The best available science from the SCRS continues to show the effectiveness of circle hooks in reducing bycatch and increasing post-release survival of sea turtles and billfish in shallow-set longline fisheries. As a Commission, we need to do more to meet our responsibility to these species by not continuing to allow fishing practices for our target species at the detriment of bycatch species such as sea turtles. We must do better.

The United States has made concerted efforts within RFMOs to adopt and strengthen bycatch measures. Over the past three years, we have advocated for and seen improvements in the way RFMOs collect bycatch data, as well as how they develop and implement management responses. Working together, we can continue to strengthen bycatch governance. We were very pleased at the adoption at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) this year of a measure that mandated the use of circle hooks in the shallow-set longline fishery. We would like to see similar progress at ICCAT this year. Using the best scientific information available and following IATTC precedent, the United States is again introducing a proposal, the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bycatch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries” (PA4-812) with the aim of implementing the SCRS advice to conserve these important, protected species.

The United States has used circle hooks domestically for 15 years to reduce sea turtle bycatch and bycatch mortality in our pelagic longline fishery. We have consistently promoted the mandatory use of circle hooks and other related mitigation measures and are wholly committed to expanding their use broadly to further conserve these and other important species. Despite strong commitment to these objectives by many ICCAT members, several members continue to oppose adoption of binding conservation and management measures mandating the use of circle hooks.

When the relevant international organization for the conservation and protection of such resources, meaning ICCAT in this situation, has failed to establish effective measures for its members to implement to end or reduce such bycatch, the United States is obligated, under U.S. law, to ensure that countries whose fishing practices on the high seas have resulted in bycatch of protected living marine resources have adopted a regulatory program governing such fishing practices designed to end or reduce such bycatch that is comparable to that of the United States, including, as appropriate, the use of circle hooks.

To that end, over the next two years, the United States will work with our international partners, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to improve our understanding of their current mitigation practices for pelagic longline fisheries within ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC, and encourage the adoption of circle hooks and other related bycatch mitigation tools.

If we continue to not make multilateral progress in adopting an effective bycatch mitigation measure at ICCAT, and CPCs do not take independent action to do so, the United States will be required to take domestic action under our law to identify countries in our 2021 Report to Congress that have bycatch of protected living marine resources but have not adopted regulatory programs that are comparable to that of the United States.

Regarding Atlantic bluefin tuna, the United States remains committed to working toward completion of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process. Despite the recommendation of the SCRS to delay the process by one year to allow needed technical work to be conducted, we remain hopeful that steady progress will continue, and that the Commission will be able to adopt an interim management procedure for bluefin tuna by 2021.

With regard to ICCAT’s work to develop management procedures more generally, the United States has tabled a working document to guide discussions at this meeting on the timelines and work needed to achieve the Commission’s goals regarding MSE and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for bluefin tuna and other priority species. The road map that the Commission first developed in 2016 is now out of date, and it is important for the Commission to have a common and clear understanding of the steps needed over the next few years, including the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and the SCRS, to stay on track to meet the organization’s MSE goals. We are hopeful that this document will be updated over the course of this annual meeting to reflect an agreed way forward for each priority species.

Despite the many challenges that lie ahead this year, the United States is eager to build on the great progress made by the Commission in the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) in 2018 to improve ICCAT’s monitoring and control regime. We are committed to improving the safety of ICCAT observers and strongly support adoption of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures’ (IMM) proposal in this regard. The United States is also tabled a proposal to strengthen the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment* (Rec. 16-15) by closing several potential loopholes that could be exploited and contribute to IUU fishing.

Lastly, it is an ongoing priority of the United States to increase transparency and accountability to allow ICCAT to achieve its conservation and management objectives. As such, we look forward to continuing to take steps in ICCAT to strengthen adherence with ICCAT measures by both members and non-members, including improving the compliance review process and taking meaningful action to address non-compliance. This year, priorities in the Compliance Committee (COC) will be to consider implementation of minimum standards for scientific observer coverage, conduct an initial review of the billfish check sheets and a full review of updates to the shark check sheets, and consider implementation of catch limits and data reporting requirements. ICCAT has faced chronic non-compliance on certain issues, including poor implementation of bycatch mitigation requirements and reporting of bycatch and recreational fishery data, and it is time to look beyond the issuance of compliance letters to address such matters. We look forward to discussion of these important issues during the COC meeting this year and to continuing the effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of that body, including thorough mechanisms, such as the check sheets, that should help create meaningful compliance outcomes.

The United States looks forward to working constructively with all ICCAT members at this meeting to achieve success on these pressing issues.

3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Tuna conservation

What are the issues?

Effective management measures are needed to ensure bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches are maintained at sustainable levels.

Why are we concerned?

The 2018 assessment of bigeye tuna clearly shows that the stock is overfished and subject to overfishing. The 2019 assessment of yellowfin is more optimistic than the 2016 one, but this is due to changes in data, models and assumptions, rather than due to good management. The assessment shows that the stock has been declining and will soon become overfished if recent levels of catches continue. The total allowable catches (TACs) for both stocks have been exceeded substantially in recent years. Exceeding TACs will worsen status for both stocks and hinder the rebuilding of bigeye to healthy levels.

An added complication is that the catch limit is not allocated between fishing gears or Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) for yellowfin, and only partially allocated between CPCs for bigeye. As noted by Panel 1 last year, this lack of complete TAC accountability makes it very difficult to take corrective measures.

The SCRS has also indicated in the past that the 2-month FAD closure in the Gulf of Guinea has been largely ineffective. Fishing effort is redistributed to other areas, and the number of active vessels has been increasing (SCRS estimates that the number of large-scale purse seiners operating in this area has increased by 18% over the past 5 years).

SCRS also noted that the 2018 catches of skipjack in the eastern Atlantic were 28% above the recommended 2012-2013 level. Reducing purse seine fishing pressure on bigeye and yellowfin will likely benefit skipjack as well.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Adopt stock-specific management measures for yellowfin and bigeye consistent with SCRS advice and with the elements identified by Panel 1 in 2018. This includes appropriate and fully allocated TAC levels, capacity limits that are commensurate with the TAC allocations, provisions to ensure catches are in compliance with the TACs, and developing and adopting procedures to identify and sanction through the ICCAT Compliance Committee non-compliance with the current TAC allocations.

2. Adopt complementary measures for reducing the mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse seine fishery, such as strengthened FAD management, limitations on the use of supply and support vessels, expanded time/area closures, and effort controls such as a seasonal closure.
3. Strengthen its management of tropical tuna fisheries by adopting in-season monitoring of catches (including discards) to avoid overshooting of catch limits.

Our Top Asks for ICCAT in 2019

1. Adopt stock-specific tuna management measures that are consistent with SCRS advice; adopt complementary measures for reducing the mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse seine fishery; fully allocate the bigeye and yellowfin catch limits by gear and/or flag; and adopt provisions to ensure compliance.
2. Immediately address compliance with FAD data reporting, accelerate requiring fully non-entangling FADs, promote research into biodegradable FADs, and require the submission of FAD position data and FAD marking.
3. Ensure sufficient funding so that management strategy evaluation for tropical tunas continues.
4. Strengthen MCS measures, such as vessel monitoring systems, at-sea transshipment regulations and Port State Measures.
5. Require 100% observer coverage for large-scale purse seine and longline vessels, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment, within five years, and adopt new binding measures that will ensure the safety of human observers, including those on carrier vessels.

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

What are the issues?

In the Atlantic, FAD sets account for nearly 50% of tropical tuna catches - including 67% of skipjack catches. Comprehensive data on FAD deployments and usage are required to effectively manage the tropical tuna purse seine fishery. Ensuring that deployed FADs are non-entangling and moving towards biodegradable FADs is critical to mitigating ecosystem impacts.

Why are we concerned?

Only a few CPCs submit the required data, usually incompletely, thus hindering regional analyses by SCRS. In 2019, only 4 out of 9 CPCs that have large-scale purse seiners reported required FAD data. ICCAT FAD limits, the highest among all tuna RFMOs, may be affecting the sustainability and recovery of bigeye which is currently overfished and undergoing overfishing. ICCAT requires non-entangling FADs, but this measure and its compliance needs to be reinforced. Using biodegradable FADs is critical to reducing marine debris.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Review CPC compliance with FAD limits and reporting obligations in Rec 16-01 and take corrective measures, including by developing and adopting procedures to identify and sanction through the ICCAT Compliance Committee non-compliance with FAD data reporting requirements.
2. Reduce the 500 per-vessel limit on the number of active FADs, currently the highest of all tuna RFMOs. Other RFMOs have limits as low as 300 active FADs per vessel plus a maximum number of buoys that can be purchased annually.
3. Amend Rec 16-01 to transition towards the use of fully non-entangling FADs (i.e., without any netting in the submerged structure), and require fleets to remove entangling FADs found in the water.
4. Mitigate negative impacts on coastal habitats and marine ecosystems and FADs' contribution to marine litter by using biodegradable materials in FADs and designing mechanisms and incentives for recovering FADs.
5. Require the submission of FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys to national fisheries departments on a real time basis and national research institutes on a time delay basis of 3 months, where requested.

6. Adopt a FAD marking scheme based on the FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear to apply to all FAD deployments, regardless of vessel type.

Harvest strategies

What are the issues?

Harvest Strategies - which include target and limit reference points together with harvest control rules — provide pre-agreed rules for managing fisheries resources and acting on stock status changes. These pre-agreed rules must be robust to help rebuild stocks or avoid overfishing.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT has been developing harvest strategies and testing them through MSE, seeking to adopt them for priority stocks within a planned timeframe. The Commission needs to ensure that any additional resources required are available to ensure the timely adoption of these strategies.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

ICCAT should support the continuation of MSE for tropical tunas by funding it, as recommended by SCRS.

Bycatch and sharks

What are the issues?

ICCAT needs to improve measures and strengthen bycatch-mitigation efforts and maximize these vulnerable species' post-release survival in both purse seine and longline fisheries. In addition, science-based conservation and management measures to limit fishing mortality on sharks must be adopted and implemented. Data collection and reporting is essential.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT is the only tuna RFMO with no best-practice handling and release guidelines in its sea turtle or shark recommendations. ICCAT has also not adopted measures for mobulid ray conservation or to prohibit the intentional setting by purse seine vessels on whale sharks.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Adopt measures to mitigate the incidental catch and maximize the release survival of sharks, mobulid rays, and sea turtles, including handling-and-release best practices as have been adopted in other tuna RFMOs. For silky sharks, the main bycatch issue in FAD sets, adopt a combination of practices and incentives to reduce mortality and increase survival - such as using best practices for the live and safe release from the deck.
2. Strengthen ICCAT's shark-finning measure [Rec. 04-10] by requiring that all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached.
3. Adopt a Recommendation to prohibit deliberate purse seine setting around whale sharks, as has been done in WCPFC, IATTC and IOTC.
4. Follow the SCRS advice to manage shortfin mako shark stocks.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

Observer coverage and electronic monitoring

What are the issues?

Comprehensive observer coverage on vessels is critical to sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT only requires 100% observer coverage on tropical tuna purse seiners during the time/area 2-month FAD moratorium and 5% for longline fisheries, which is not being complied with. The SCRS has highlighted that the current 5% observer coverage requirement is inadequate to provide reasonable estimates of total bycatch. The paucity of data on longline catches and interactions with non-target species prevents assessments - hindering scientific input on effective conservation measures. Further, to ensure quality data from observer programs, observers must be able to do their jobs in a safe and professional environment.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Identify and sanction through the ICCAT Compliance Committee non-compliance with the current 5% longline coverage requirement. Within five years, require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for both longline and purse seine vessels.
2. Adopt a new binding measure to ensure human observer safety, including on carrier vessels, as has been done by IATTC and WCPFC.
3. Advance best practice e-monitoring and e-reporting standards, including for logbooks, with emphasis on longline vessels.

Transshipment

What are the issues?

If not transparently managed, transshipment at sea can enable Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. To ensure complete data collection and timely reporting and to combat IUU fishing, ICCAT must address its transshipment measure's deficiencies and loopholes.

Why are we concerned?

The ICCAT transshipment recommendation does not follow best practices on time frames for seeking authorization to transship at sea from the flag State, observer coverage, and deadlines for submitting completed transshipment declarations.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Amend the ICCAT Transshipment Recommendation 2016-15 to:
 - (i) Increase the advance notification of transshipment requirement to at least 48 hours.
 - (ii) Require fishing vessels to submit transshipment declarations to the ICCAT Secretariat and Flag State in near real-time, but no more than 24 hours after the transshipment event.
 - (iii) Require 100 percent observer coverage (human, electronic, or a combination) on both the fishing vessel and carrier vessel for all at-sea transshipping events.
 - (iv) Require all carrier vessels to be flagged to an ICCAT Member or, at a minimum, a Cooperating Non-Party;
 - (v) Establish a public list of all vessels authorized for at-sea transshipment activities.
 - (vi) Require reporting all at-sea transshipment events (such as notifications, declarations and observer reports) to the Secretariat, flag States of both the fishing and carrier vessels, and the relevant port and coastal States.
2. Develop electronic reporting standards for receiving vessels.

MCS Tools

What are the issues?

MCS tools are essential for sustainable fisheries management. For example, satellite Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) strengthen vessel compliance on the water, combat IUU fishing, and improve fisheries management by reducing uncertainty. Port state measures combat IUU fishing and ensure IUU fishing products do not enter the market.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT's MCS tools, such as its VMS and Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspections in Port, must be further strengthened in line with best-practice standards and the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, respectively.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Modernize its VMS measure [Rec. 18-10] in line with global best practices, such as providing VMS data to the Secretariat, SCRS scientists and the Compliance Committee, and developing a centralized or partly-centralized program.
2. Require all vessels authorized to conduct at-sea transshipment to have an operational VMS system onboard and provide VMS position data to the ICCAT Secretariat in near-real time with appropriate confidentiality protections.
3. Amend Recommendation 18-09 to align it with the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. ISSF urges all CPCs to ratify the 2009 FAO Agreement.

Compliance***What are the issues?***

ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment processes of the five tuna RFMOs, but it can be strengthened. A strong compliance process improves fisheries management.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT has enhanced its compliance assessment process, but procedural and policy improvements are still needed.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Codify Resolution 16-17 into a binding Recommendation, as soon as possible.
2. Require members to submit a compliance action plan for identified infractions.
3. Develop audit points or performance metrics for ICCAT measures to clarify members' obligations and reporting requirements for the Compliance Committee, such as been developed for sharks in Rec. 18-06.
4. Develop information-exchange mandates and systems between the ICCAT Compliance Committee and the Commission regarding measures with unclear obligations and/or reporting requirements.

Did you know?

ISSF is collaborating on biodegradable FAD research with fleets, coastal nations, and other stakeholders.

ISSF resources for vessels include skippers guidebooks on bycatch-mitigation techniques as well as reports on electronic monitoring and vessel monitoring systems.

ISSF offers guidelines for implementing non-entangling FADs. Three ISSF conservation measures focus on shark bycatch.

ISSF Global Priorities for Tuna RFMOs

Implementation of rigorous harvest strategies, including harvest control rules and reference points.

Effective management of fleet capacity, including developing mechanisms that support developing coastal state engagement in the fishery.

Science-based FAD management & non-entangling FAD designs.

Increased member compliance with all adopted measures, and greater transparency of processes reviewing member compliance with measures.

Strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures and increased observer coverage, including through modern technologies such as electronic monitoring and e-reporting.

Adoption of best-practice bycatch mitigation and shark conservation and management measures.

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) would like to convey to the distinguished delegations at the 26th Regular Meeting, our interest to continue the dialogue with ICCAT to strengthen our technical collaboration.

IAC objective is the protection, conservation, and recovery of the populations of sea turtles and those habitats on which they depend, taking into consideration the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the 16 member countries in the Convention. The IAC relies upon the best scientific information to advise its members to further international collaboration that will result in effective sea turtle conservation measures in the Western Hemisphere.

The environmental impact of activities such as fishing and exploitation of marine resources and marine turtles in the region is a priority in the agenda of the IAC Scientific Committee. The critically endangered East Pacific Leatherback, the North West Atlantic Leatherback and the threatened Loggerhead have prompted IAC to create working groups to address threats to their populations and provide scientific basis for their recoveries.

The IAC recognizes that ICCAT is an important partner in improving sea turtle conservation in the Atlantic. Furthermore, the IAC welcomes the 2012, and 2013 recommendation by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) that ICCAT collaborate with IAC on sea turtle by-catch assessment and mitigation by means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). IAC acknowledges the progress made by SCRS at the July 2017 meeting of its Sub-committee on Ecosystems to address sea turtle conservation in ICCAT fisheries, as well as their 2018 meeting in the evaluation of the progress of the scientific collaboration among ICCAT CPCs scientists on the sea turtle bycatch assessment in pelagic longline operating in the Atlantic Ocean.

The IAC 9th Conference of the Parties in 2019 adopted Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2 Conservation of Northwest Atlantic Leatherbacks, that instructs the IAC Secretariat to work with its Parties towards the establishment of an MoU with ICCAT. This will facilitate the collaboration of IAC Scientific Committee to support the important work that is being carried out by ICCAT SCRS.

With that goal IAC would like to submit text for an MoU to ICCAT Secretariat and Parties during the intersessional period, for consideration at the Commission meeting in 2020. The MoU will outline our interest in supporting the scientific work of the SCRS and the Commission to mitigate sea turtle by-catch consistent with ICCAT Recommendation 10-09.

IAC scientists have over 30 years of experience in matters such as fisheries interactions, by-catch mitigation, genetics, and population assessment that will support this collaboration.

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

The GFCM is very pleased to attend the ICCAT 26th Regular Meeting on behalf of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO. At the outset of my intervention, I would like to congratulate Spain for hosting the meeting in this beautiful setting as well as the ICCAT Secretariat for its excellent organization.

The GFCM and ICCAT have long been partner organizations. The history of cooperation between these two organizations goes back almost 30 years ago, when a joint working group was established to strengthen technical cooperation on data collection and issues of mutual interest. This is due to the fact that GFCM and ICCAT partly share the same geographical area of competence as well as many member States.

Over the years we have witnessed a need to further this cooperation, in particular in the context of UN SDG 14. It is evident that all organizations having a mandate relating to the oceans and their living marine resources must make efforts to join forces and cooperate in pursuing their shared objectives, while taking account of their respective mandates.

This has been the philosophy of the GFCM and we have already concluded some 15 memoranda of understanding. Most recently, the GFCM Members have underlined the relevance of concluding a memorandum of understanding with ICCAT, with a view to building upon a more formal cooperation arrangement.

The GFCM stands ready to enter into a memorandum of understanding with ICCAT should this course of action be approved during this regular meeting.

Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)

A Checklist for this year's meeting

Managers must act to conserve tropical tunas and mako sharks and end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

Overview

At its meeting in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 18 to 25 November, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) must adopt precautionary, science-based management procedures and take other overdue measures to ensure the long-term health of the fisheries it oversees.

The Commission, responsible for conserving and managing tunas, sharks, and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic, has a full agenda because inaction in 2018 compressed two years of work into this year's meeting. ICCAT must adopt a precautionary bigeye tuna recovery plan, conserve shortfin mako sharks, effectively manage billfishes, and institute policies to reduce or prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, among other issues.

When ICCAT decided to better protect eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin by allowing science rather than politics to drive management, that choice was quickly rewarded by evidence of significant population growth and resulting quota increases. The Commission should renew its commitment to this sort of precautionary, science-based management, rather than rolling over ineffective measures and delaying difficult decisions until future meetings.

To fulfil its mandate to protect the species it manages, ICCAT should take the following actions:

Adopt management procedures for Atlantic fisheries

To ensure healthy stocks and productive fisheries, ICCAT should renew its commitment to adopting management procedures, including carefully designed and tested rules that are automatically triggered based on a stock's status. ICCAT has made considerable progress in developing these procedures, also known as harvest strategies, for priority stocks. In accordance with Rec. 15-07, which established a five-year deadline for adopting management procedures for eight stocks, ICCAT adopted its first harvest control rule (HCR) for northern albacore in 2017 and identified management objectives for Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2018. In addition, management strategy evaluation (MSE) exercises are underway for albacore, bluefin, and North Atlantic swordfish.

Although the completion of the bluefin MSE has been delayed until 2021, progress on other priority stocks should continue. ICCAT should continue working on a management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish and begin identifying long-term management objectives for bigeye tuna. The Commission should also adopt short-term recovery plans for overfished species for which the MSE process is not yet underway, particularly for bigeye tuna and for marlins. In Palma de Mallorca, fisheries managers should dedicate adequate funding and time at intersessional meetings for all of the MSE work.

In particular, ICCAT members should:

- Revise Res. 18-03 to formalize management objectives for both bluefin stocks based on deliberations at the Panel 2 intersessional meeting.
- Adopt a bigeye recovery plan that limits the catch from all sources to 50,000 metric tons per year and includes management objectives for the stock.
- Adjust the billfish rebuilding plan to ensure that there is a high probability of recovering both blue and white marlin. This requires limiting catch of white marlin to 400 tons and blue marlin to 1500 tons per year.

Follow scientific advice for North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks

The shortfin mako shark is a long-lived, late-maturing shark and an important pelagic predator. In March, the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List reclassified shortfin makos as Endangered globally. In August, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora agreed to regulate the global trade of shortfin mako sharks. However, the status of the species is such that without effective management measures, sustainable trade might not even be possible. In the North Atlantic, the species is overfished, overfishing continues to occur, and the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) determined this year that its status is worse than previously assessed and the necessary reductions in catch will not be achieved under the current management system. SCRS scientists project that even if mortality from fishing is reduced to zero, the population will continue to decline until 2035.

They noted that reducing the fishing mortality for shortfin makos to 300 metric tons or less per year has only a 60 percent probability of recovering the stock within the next 50 years. Moreover, a total allowable catch of 300 metric tons would be difficult to allocate to ICCAT members, especially when dead discards and post-release mortality may add up to that amount.

The Commission has already prohibited retention of other sharks of conservation concern caught in ICCAT fisheries. To give North Atlantic shortfin makos the best chance of recovering, and to ensure that the southern stock does not experience the same rate of decline, ICCAT must:

- Prohibit retention of shortfin mako sharks in all Atlantic fisheries.

Ensure all eligible vessels have unique identifying numbers

IUU fishing worldwide accounts for up to 26 million tons of fish annually, worth up to \$23.5 billion. International Maritime Organization vessel identification numbers (IMO numbers) are essential in the fight against illegal fishing, by helping to improve monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing operations.

Rec. 13-13 requires vessels 20 meters long or larger to obtain IMO numbers in order to be added to ICCAT's authorized vessels list, which is required if vessels want to legally fish in the Convention area. Other ICCAT recommendations (e.g., on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin and on Mediterranean swordfish) require the provisions of Rec. 13-13 to apply to all ICCAT vessels. Fishing vessels of all hull construction and down to a length of 12 meters are now eligible to obtain IMO numbers and should have already done so. This year, member governments should:

- Ensure that all eligible authorized vessels have an IMO number and have submitted this information to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Improve transshipment regulation to ensure a legal and verifiable seafood supply chain

Current regulatory control and monitoring of transshipment is inadequate within the ICCAT Convention Area, where this activity rose by 44 percent between 2012 and 2018. As transshipments continue to increase, strengthening the verification and transparency of these activities remains critical.

Pew has identified many inconsistencies between data reported by the Regional Observer Program, ICCAT members, and the Secretariat. Additionally, we partnered with Global Fishing Watch to analyze automatic identification system (AIS) data and found discrepancies between detected carrier vessel activity and the activity reported to ICCAT, indicating that unauthorized transshipments involving ICCAT-sourced catch may have occurred in the Convention area.

To better track transshipment activity and to minimize opportunities for unauthorized transshipment to facilitate the laundering of illegally caught fish through the supply chain, ICCAT must update Rec. 16-15 on transshipment management. The update should:

- Require all vessels involved in transshipments be flagged to an ICCAT Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, or Fishing Entity.
- Mandate that transshipment authorizations and declarations be sent to all relevant authorities, including the Secretariat, in near real time.
- Mandate carrier vessels to notify the Secretariat of their intent to transship ICCAT-managed species upon entering the ICCAT Convention Area and confirm the presence of an ICCAT-certified observer and an operational vessel monitoring system onboard.
- Provide public access to historical ICCAT carrier and fishing vessel transshipment authorization lists.

Adopt minimum standards for electronic monitoring

One-hundred percent observer coverage of all longline operations is needed to ensure that all catches are verifiable and legal and to increase the quality and availability of scientific data for target and bycatch species.

Better longline observer coverage can be achieved by complementing human observers with electronic monitoring (EM) technology. To ensure that EM programs are effective and efficient, ICCAT should direct the SCRS to develop minimum standards and requirements for data collection, sharing, analysis, and reporting, and dedicate funding to build appropriate infrastructure. Once adopted, these standards will ensure EM programs help managers improve data integrity, ensure compliance with regulations, and supplement human observers to reach full coverage. The Commission should:

- Require 100 percent observer coverage, using a combination of human and electronic means, for all longline operations by 2021.
- Direct the SCRS to present a workplan for developing electronic monitoring standards at the 2020 Commission meeting.

3.4 STATEMENT REGARDING THE CONVENTION AMENDMENT PROCESS

Chinese Taipei

Three important documents relating to the ICCAT Convention amendment, “Protocol to Amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas”, “Recommendation by ICCAT on Fishes Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranches” and “Resolution by ICCAT Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention” are adopted at the same time at the plenary session of the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

Chinese Taipei would like to congratulate this great achievement made by every CPC. Special appreciation also goes to the Chair of the Commission, Mr. Raul Delgado, as well as the Madam Chair of the Convention Amendment Working Group, Mrs. Deirdre Warner-Kramer. This great moment cannot be reached without the excellent leadership of both of them.

The amendment of the ICCAT Convention is never an easy task. In the past 7 years, each delegation contributed their great efforts in addressing many issues related to the Convention amendments. Different opinions did exist among delegations during negotiations. However, with the collective wisdom and spirit of collaboration shown by all delegations, each delegation demonstrated its greatest flexibility, and finally overcame their differences and reached a very fruitful outcome to bring the existing ICCAT Convention in harmony with recent developments of international fisheries legal instruments, and accommodate all CPCs that have real fisheries interests in this region. We sincerely wish that this new amended ICCAT Convention can enter into force as soon as possible to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this organization for the conservation and management of ICCAT species.

We have participated in this organization as a cooperating non-Contracting Party/ Entity/Fishing Entity for more than 20 years, and have established close cooperation relationship with this organization and many other delegations to facilitate the work of ICCAT. We look forward to seeing the entry into force of the amended Convention in the earliest possible time, and will spare no effort to make more contributions and cooperation with this organization and all distinguished delegations in this organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2019

19-01

MISC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON FISHES CONSIDERED TO BE
TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES OR OCEANIC, PELAGIC,
AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY ELASMOBRANCHS**

RECALLING the work of the Working Group on Convention Amendment to clarify the scope of the Convention through the development of proposed amendments to the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING that the proposed amendments developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment included defining “ICCAT species” to include tuna and tuna-like fishes 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 fishes” shall be understood to include the species of the family Scombridae, with the exception of the genus *Scomber*, and the sub-order Xiphoidei.
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:

Orectolobiformes

Rhincodontidae

Rhincodon typus (Smith 1828) – Whale shark, Requin baleine, Tiburón ballena

Lamniformes

Pseudocarchariidae

Pseudocarcharias kamoharai (Matsubara 1936) – Crocodile shark, Requin crocodile, Tiburón cocodrilo

Lamnidae

Carcharodon carcharias (Linnaeus 1758) – Great white shark, Grand requin blanc, Jaquetón blanco

Isurus oxyrinchus (Rafinesque 1810) – Shortfin mako, Taupe bleue, Marrajo dientuso

Isurus paucus (Guitart Manday 1966) – Longfin mako, Petite taupe, Marrajo carite

Lamna nasus (Bonnaterre 1788) – Porbeagle, Requin-taupe commun, Marrajo sardinero

Cetorhinidae

Cetorhinus maximus (Gunnerus 1765) – Basking shark, Pélerin, Peregrino

Alopiidae

Alopias superciliosus (Lowe 1841) – Bigeye thresher, Renard à gros yeux, Zorro ojón

Alopias vulpinus (Bonnaterre 1788) – Thresher, Renard, Zorro

Carcharhiniformes

Carcharhinidae

Carcharhinus falciformis (Müller & Henle 1839) – Silky shark, Requin soyeux, Tiburón jaquetón

Carcharhinus galapagensis (Snodgrass & Heller 1905) – Galapagos shark, Requin des Galapagos, Tiburón de Galápagos

Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey 1861) – Oceanic whitetip shark, Requin océanique, Tiburón oceánico

Prionace glauca (Linnaeus 1758) – Blue shark, Peau bleue, Tiburón azul

Sphyrnidae

Sphyrna lewini (Griffith & Smith 1834) – Scalloped hammerhead, Requin marteau halicorne, Cornuda común

Sphyrna mokarran (Rüppell 1837) – Great hammerhead, Grand requin marteau, Cornuda gigante

Sphyrna zygaena (Linnaeus 1758) – Smooth hammerhead, Requin marteau commun, Cornuda cruz

Myliobatiformes

Dasyatidae

Pteroplatytrygon violacea (Bonaparte 1832) – Pelagic stingray, Pastenague violette, Raya-látigo violeta

Mobulidae

Manta alfredi (Krefft 1868) – NA*, NA, NA

Manta birostris (Walbaum 1792) – Giant manta, Mante géante, Manta gigante

Mobula hypostoma (Bancroft 1839) – Lesser devil ray, Mante diable, Manta del Golfo

Mobula japonica (Müller & Henle 1841) – NA, NA, NA

Mobula mobular (Bonnaterre 1788) – Devil fish, Diable de mer méditerranéen, Manta mobula

Mobula tarapacana (Philippi 1892) – Chilean devil ray, NA, NA

Mobula thurstoni (Lloyd 1908) – Smoothtail mobula, Mante vampire, Diablo chupasangre

* NA – Common name not available

3. The species set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above will be reviewed periodically and may be amended, as appropriate, upon the receipt of advice from the SCRS.

19-02

TRO

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE RECOMMENDATION 16-01 BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Interim conservation and management measures

1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for the years 2020 and 2021, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) with vessels that have been actively fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic will apply the following interim management measures with the objective of reducing current levels of fishing mortality of tropical tunas, in particular small bigeye and yellowfin, while the Commission obtains additional scientific advice to adopt a long-term multi-annual management and rebuilding programme.

Multi-annual Management, Conservation, and Rebuilding Programme

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

PART II
CATCH LIMITS

Catch limits for bigeye tuna

3. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be 62,500 t in 2020 and 61,500 t in 2021. The TAC for 2022 and future years shall be considered in 2021 on the basis of SCRS advice.
4. As an interim measure for 2020, the following provisions shall apply:
 - a) CPCs with catch limits greater than 10,000 t in para. 3 of Rec. 16-01, shall apply a 21% reduction to those catch limits.
 - b) CPCs that are not captured by (a) that have a recent average catch¹ of greater than 3,500 t, shall apply a catch limit that is 17% less than their recent average catch or their catch limit in para. 3 of Rec. 16-01.
 - c) CPCs that have a recent average catch of between 1,000 and 3,500 t shall apply a catch limit that is 10% less than their recent average catch.
 - d) Those CPCs with recent average catch of less than 1,000 t are encouraged to maintain catch and effort at recent levels.
5. The provisions of paragraph 4 of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future. CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation to their capacity and resources.

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

6. Small scale artisanal fishers shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs.
7. The annual quotas and catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long term rights and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
8. Korea may transfer up to 223 t of its bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to Chinese Taipei in 2020².
9. If the total catch exceeds in any year the relevant TAC specified in paragraph 3, the Commission shall review these measures.

Underage or overage of catch of bigeye tuna

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

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

11. Notwithstanding paragraph 10, if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:
 - a) In one year, then the amount deducted in the adjustment year shall be determined as 100% of the overage; and
 - b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the excess harvest.
12. For CPCs listed in Paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01, underage or overage of an annual catch limit in 2019 shall be added to/or deducted from their 2021 annual catch limit, subject to 10% of initial quota restrictions noted in paragraphs 9a and 10 of Rec. 16-01.

Monitoring of catch

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

TAC for yellowfin tuna

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

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

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

Fishing Plans

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

PART III CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Capacity limitation for tropical tunas

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

PART IV MANAGEMENT OF FADs

FAD management objectives

25. The general objectives for management of FADs and support vessels in the Convention area are defined as follows:

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

FAD closure

26. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions shall apply:

- i. Floating object (FOB): Any natural or artificial floating (i.e. surface or subsurface) object with no capability of moving on its own. FADs are those FOBs that are man-made and intentionally deployed and/or tracked. Logs are those FOBs that are accidentally lost from anthropic and natural sources.
 - ii. Fish-Aggregating device (FAD): Permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, and used to aggregate fish for subsequent capture. FADs can either be anchored (aFADs) or drifting (dFADs).
 - iii. FAD set: setting a fishing gear around a tuna school associated with a FAD.
 - iv. Operational buoy: Any instrumented buoy, previously activated, switched on and deployed at sea, which transmits position and any other available information such as eco-sounder estimates.
 - v. Activation: The act of enabling satellite communication services by the buoy supplier company at the request of the buoy owner. The owner then starts paying fees for communication services. The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been manually switched on.
27. In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for, or vessels supporting activities to fish for, bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs in the high seas or EEZs shall be prohibited during a two- and three-month period, split into 2020 and 2021, respectively, as indicated in paragraph 28 below:
28. 1 January to 28 February for 2020 and 1 January to 31 March in 2021, throughout the Convention area. This should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised based on advice by the SCRS taking into account monthly trends in free school and FAD-associated catches and the monthly variability in the proportion of juvenile tuna in catches. SCRS should provide this advice to the Commission in 2020.
29. In addition, each CPC shall ensure its vessels do not deploy drifting FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the closure period.

FAD limitations

30. CPCs shall ensure that, for vessels flying their flag, the following limits shall apply on the number of FADs with operational buoys at any one time according to definitions given in paragraph 26. The number of FADs with operational buoys will be verified through the verification of telecommunication bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:
- a) 2020: 350 FADs pervessel
 - b) 2021: 300 FADs pervessel

31. With a view to establishing FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile tropical tunas at sustainable levels, in 2021 SCRS should inform the Commission about the maximum number of FAD sets which should be established per vessel or per CPC. To support this analysis, CPCs with purse seine vessels shall urgently undertake to report to the SCRS by 31 July 2020 the required historical FAD set data. CPCs that do not report these data in accordance with this paragraph shall be prohibited from setting on FADs until such data have been received by the SCRS.

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

32. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is capable of verifying set type, species composition, and providing information on fishing activities to the SCRS.
33. Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the impact of support vessels on the catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2020.

FAD Management Plans

34. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 31 January each year.
35. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be the following:
 - i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and non-target species;
 - ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
 - iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g. number of deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).
36. The Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 1**.

FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs

37. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with or deploying FADs, collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:
 - a) Deployment of any FAD
 - i. Position
 - ii. Date
 - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
 - v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

- b) Visit on any FAD
 - i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy³, retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD⁴)
 - ii. Position
 - iii. Date
 - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - v. Log description or FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
 - vi. Buoy ID
 - vii. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)
- c) Loss of any FAD
 - i. Last registered position
 - ii. Date of the last registered position
 - iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID)

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

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

Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels

39. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:
- i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their flag;
 - ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
 - iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
 - iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
 - v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
 - vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
 - vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line with Task I and Task II requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

³ A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter with a FAD (opportunistic).

⁴ Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD's owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FAD's owner).

Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

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

PART V CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas

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

ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels

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

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

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

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

Recording of catch and fishing activities

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

Identification IUU activity

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

Observers

54. For observers on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the area east of meridian 20°/West longitude and north of parallel 28°/ South latitude, the following shall apply:
- Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the scientific observer to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the flag CPC which mandated the observer the information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.
55. For longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure a minimum of 10% observer coverage of fishing effort by 2022, through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** and/or an Electronic Monitoring system. For this purpose, the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM WG), in cooperation with the SCRS, shall make a recommendation to the Commission for endorsement at its 2021 Annual meeting on the following:

- a) Minimum standards for an electronic monitoring system such as:
 - i) the minimum specifications of the recording equipment (e.g. resolution, recording time capacity), data storage type, data protection
 - ii) the number of cameras to be installed at which points on board
- b) What shall be recorded
- c) Data analysis standards, e.g., converting video footage into actionable data by the use of artificial intelligence
- d) Data to be analyzed, e.g., species, length, estimated weight, fishing operation details
- e) Reporting format to the Secretariat

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

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

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

Port Sampling Programme

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

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

Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Candidate Harvest Control Rules

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

PART VII FINAL PROVISIONS

Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists

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

Confidentiality

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

Final Provisions

66. Actions required from the SCRS and the Secretariat:
- a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in draft recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas⁵ might have to reduce the catches of tropical tunas to the agreed levels; and the potential of such scheme to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in line with recommendations from the SCRS;
 - b) The ICCAT Secretariat shall work with the SCRS in preparing an estimate of capacity in the Convention area, to include at least all the fishing units that are large-scale or operate outside the EEZ of the CPC they are registered in. All CPCs shall cooperate with this work, providing estimates of the number of fishing units fishing for tuna and tuna-like species under their flag, and the species or species groups each fishing unit targets (e.g. tropical tunas, temperate tunas, swordfish, other billfish, small tunas, sharks, etc.); this work shall be presented to the next meeting of the SCRS in 2020 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration;

⁵ Presented as document PA1_505A/2019 and available upon request or on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/com2019/index.htm#en>

- c) The ICCAT Secretariat shall identify a Consultant to carry out an evaluation of the monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms in place in ICCAT CPCs. This work shall primarily focus on the evaluation of data collection and processing systems in each CPC, and the ability to produce estimates of catch and effort, and length frequency for all stocks under ICCAT management, with a focus on stocks for which input and/or output measures are in place; in preparing this work the Consultant shall evaluate how efficient the catch monitoring systems that each CPC has implemented are to achieve robust estimates of catches for the stocks subject to a TAC; the ICCAT Secretariat shall work with SCRS scientists to prepare a TOR for this work as soon as possible.
67. An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in 2020 to review existing measures and *inter alia* develop catch limits and associated catch verification mechanisms for 2021.
68. This Recommendation replaces Rec. 16-01⁶ and 18-01 and shall be reviewed by the Commission in 2021.
69. All CPCs commit to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2020.

⁶ Recommendation 16-01 is preserved as necessary for the cross-references herein.

Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

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

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

FAD logbook

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

- (1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
- (3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (4) I.e., deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.
- (5) dd/mm/yy
- (6) hh:mm
- (7) N/S/(in degrees and minutes) or °E/W/(in degrees and minutes).
- (8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.
- (9) Use a line per taxonomic group.
- (10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.
- (11) Unit used.
- (12) Expressed as number of specimen.
- (13) If no FAD marking or associated beacon ID is available, report all available information in this section which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

Annex 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

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

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
- (2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (3) E.g. GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.
- (4) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (5) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

Annex 5

Guidelines for reducing the ecological impact of FADs in ICCAT fisheries

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

Requirements for Catch Recording Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:

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

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

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

Minimum information in case of landing, transhipments:

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

Annex 7**Observer Programme**

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

In particular the observers shall:

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

Obligations of the observer

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

Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 17-02 BY ICCAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

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

1. The footnote ** relating to paragraph 2 (b) of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02) is amended as follows:
 - a) The first line of the footnote is replaced by the following text:

"From Japan to Morocco: 100 t for each of 2018, 2019 and 2021; and 150 t for 2020."
 - b) The following text is added at the end of the footnote:

"From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for 2020"

"From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t for 2020"

19-04

SWO

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

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2017 advice that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) could be set at 36,000 t to be reached in 2020 in a gradual stepwise way without undermining the success of the recovery plan;

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

ACKNOWLEDGING paragraph 4 of Recommendation 17-07 which states that the Commission shall establish a management plan for the stock in 2018;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS is developing a management strategy evaluation (MSE) process, with the aim to evaluate different management procedures that are robust to the main sources of uncertainty and that MSE process is expected to deliver candidate management procedures in the short but not immediate term (e.g. by 2021-22), the selection of the desired management procedure by the Commission could also take some time. Therefore, it is proposed to have an interim management objective that can be revisited at the time the Commission adopts harvest control rules (HCR). In this context, on the basis of the latest stock assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise (MSE) and after the management procedure, including HCR have been defined by the SCRS, the Commission may decide as from 2020 on changes to the management framework for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, as advised by SCRS;

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

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

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

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

Part I General Provisions

Objective

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

This objective shall be revisited and modified, if necessary, once Management Strategy Evaluation has made sufficient progress, when alternative management objectives can be considered, and Reference Points, Harvest Control Rules and/or Management procedures can be adopted.

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

Definitions

3. For purposes of this Recommendation:
 - a) “fishing vessel” means any powered vessel used for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
 - b) “catching vessel” means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
 - c) “processing vessel” means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
 - d) “auxiliary vessel” means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine vessel or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel.
 - e) “towing vessel” means any vessel used for towing cages.
 - f) “fishing actively” means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
 - g) “joint fishing operation” (hereinafter referred to in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key.
 - h) “transfer operations” means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of the cage with live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another, or between different cages in the same farm;

- any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage independently of the presence of a towing vessel.
- i) "control transfer" means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- j) "trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming.
- k) "trap CPC" means the CPC where a tuna trap is installed in the waters under its jurisdiction.
- l) "caging" means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
- m) "fattening" or "farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
- n) "farm" means a marine area clearly defined by geographical coordinates, used for the fattening or farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seine vessels. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and latitude for each one of the points of the polygon).
- o) "harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- p) "transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. However, unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seine, the trap or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as transshipment.
- q) "sport fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- r) "recreational fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- s) "stereoscopic camera" means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images for the purpose of measuring the length of the fish and assisting in refining the number and weight of bluefin tuna.
- t) "control camera" means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- u) "BCD or electronic BCD (eBCD)" means a bluefin catch document.
- v) "lengths of vessels" means overall lengths.
- w) "small-scale coastal vessel" is a catching vessel with at least three of the five following characteristics: a) length overall <12 m; b) the vessel is fishing exclusively inside the territorial waters of the flag CPC c) fishing trips have a duration of less than 24 hours d) the maximum crew number is established at four persons, or e) the vessel is fishing using techniques which are selective and have a reduced environmental impact.
- x) "control caging" means any additional caging being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number and or the average weight of fish being caged.
- y) "farming CPC" means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located.

Part II Management measures

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

4. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 49 a) of this Recommendation.
5. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for the years 2019-2020 shall be set at: 32,240 t for 2019 and 36,000 t for 2020, in accordance with the following quotascheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2019 (t)</i>	<i>Quota 2020 (t)</i>
Albania	156	170
Algeria	1,446	1,655
China	90	102
Egypt	266	330
European Union	17,623	19,460
Iceland*	147	180
Japan	2,544	2,819
Korea	184	200
Libya	2,060	2,255
Morocco	2,948	3,284
Norway	239	300
Syria	73	80
Tunisia	2,400	2,655
Turkey	1,880	2,305
Chinese Taipei	84	90
Subtotal	32,140	35,885
Unallocated Reserves	100	115
TOTAL	32,240	36,000

*Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined shall not exceed 411 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t).

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

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

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

The TAC shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2019 and in 2020.

6. The flag CPC may require a catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota of the vessel is deemed to be exhausted.
7. Carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. The CPC shall include this request in its fishing/capacity plan for endorsement by the Commission.

8. Carry-over within a farm of non-harvested live bluefin tuna from a previous year's catch is not authorized unless a reinforced system of control is implemented and reported to the Secretariat as an integral part of the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. Such reinforced system shall include at least the provisions defined in paragraphs 103 and 107. Further control measures will be examined at the intersessional Working Group meeting of Panel 2 referred to in paragraph 117.
9. Farming CPCs shall ensure that, prior to the start of a fishing season, a thorough assessment is made of any live bluefin tuna carried over after bulk-harvests in the farms under their jurisdiction. To this end, all carried-over live bluefin tuna from a catching year (i.e. fish that were not subject to bulk-harvest in the farms) shall be transferred to other cages using stereoscopic camera systems or alternative methods provided they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy. Carry-over of bluefin tuna from years that were not subject to bulk-harvest shall be controlled annually by applying the same procedure to appropriate samples based on risk assessment.
Full traceability of carried-over fish shall be ensured at all times. The measures to ensure such traceability shall be fully documented.
10. The transfer of quota between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned. Those transfers accepted by the CPCs concerned shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 48 hours before they enter into force.
11. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
12. If the catch of a CPC in any given year exceeds its allocation, the CPC shall pay back in the next subsequent management period in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ICCAT Recommendation 96-14.
13. In line with the MSE Roadmap, the SCRS shall continue its MSE work, testing candidate management procedures, including harvest control rules (HCRs), which would support management objectives to be agreed by the Commission. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice, and a dialogue process between scientists and managers, the Commission shall endeavour in 2021 to adopt a management procedure for the stock of Atlantic bluefin in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

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

14. By 15 February each year, each CPC with an allocated eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the Secretariat:
 - a) An annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 16-17.
 - b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in paragraphs 18-23.
 - c) A monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation.
 - d) An annual farming management plan as appropriate, that is in line with the requirements set out in paragraphs 24-27, including the authorized maximum input per farm and the maximum capacity per farm and the total amount of fish by farm carried over from the previous year, in accordance with paragraph 8.

15. For 2019 and 2020, prior to 31 March of each year and in line with paragraph 116 of this Recommendation, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyse and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 14. This obligation may be revised after 2020 to allow endorsement of the plans to be done by electronic means. If the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the automatic suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC. Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

Annual fishing plans

16. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on by-catch.
17. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the Secretariat at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification. Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers between by-catch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that information on the transfers is transmitted to the Secretariat at the latest when the transfer enters into force.

Capacity management measures

Fishing capacity

Adjustment of fishing capacity

18. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission in 2009. Those parameters should be reviewed by the SCRS no later than 2019 and each time that a stock assessment for eastern bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.
19. For that purpose each CPC shall establish, when appropriate, an annual fishing capacity management plan to be analysed and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally. Such plan shall adjust the number of catching vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to the catching vessels for the same quota period. Regarding small-scale coastal vessels, the minimum quota requirement of 5 t (catch rate defined by the SCRS in 2009) shall no longer be applicable and sectorial quotas may alternatively be applied to those vessels as follows:
 - a) If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota consumption of this fleet segment.
 - b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 above.
20. The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.
21. For the period 2019-2020 CPCs may authorize a number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.

22. The requirements for adjustments and for the number of traps defined in paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 shall not apply:
- a) if developing CPCs can demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS, and if such adjustments are included in their annual fishing plan in accordance to paragraph 14,
 - b) in the Northeast Atlantic, to those CPCs that are fishing mainly in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).
23. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 21, for 2019 and 2020, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraph 16, a different number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such adjustments shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Northeast Atlantic in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).

Farming capacity

24. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraphs 25 and 27. Revised farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 June each year. The Commission shall ensure that the total farming capacity in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the area.
25. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT in 2018.
26. Those developing CPCs without or with less than three tuna farms and that intend to establish new tuna farming facilities shall have the right to establish such facilities with a maximum total farming capacity of up to 1,800 t per CPC. To this end, they shall communicate to ICCAT by including those in their farming plan under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. This clause should be reviewed as from 2020.
27. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008. If a CPC needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live bluefin tuna imports.

Growth rates

28. The SCRS, on the basis of a standardized protocol to be established by the SCRS for the monitoring of recognizable individual fish, shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including in weight and size gains during the fattening period. Based on the result of the trials and other scientific information available, the SCRS shall review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c, and present those results to the 2020 Annual meeting of the Commission. In updating the growth table, the SCRS should invite independent scientists who have appropriate expertise to review the analysis. The SCRS shall also consider the difference among geographic areas (including Atlantic and Mediterranean) in updating the table. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the scientists tasked by the SCRS for the trials can have access to and, as required by the protocol, assistance to carry out the trials. Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS. If significant discrepancies are found between the SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis.

Part III Technical measures

Open fishing seasons

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

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

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

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

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

30. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred under paragraph 29 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.
31. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
32. CPCs shall establish open fishing seasons for their fleets other than purse seine vessels and vessels referred to in paragraph 31, and shall provide this information in their fishing plan defined in paragraph 16 to be analysed and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally.
33. Not later than 2020, the Commission shall decide to what extent the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified based on the SCRS advice without negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably.

Minimum size

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

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

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

Incidental catches of fish below minimum size

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

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

General rules on by-catches

38. All CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized by-catches as well as the methodology to calculate those by-catches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens) shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the Secretariat under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation and shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. Calculation in number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. For the small-scale coastal vessel fleet the amount of by-catch can be calculated on an annual basis.

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

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

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 77 to 82 and 108 shall apply to by-catch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of Recommendation 18-12.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

39. When CPCs allocate, where appropriate, a specific quota to sport and recreational fisheries; that allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries to account for possible dead fish. Each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.
40. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries.

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

41. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.

42. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 31 July each year.
43. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.
44. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.
45. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the North East Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation; b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC's quota.
46. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
47. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 46 shall include the following information:
 - a) Name of vessel, register number
 - b) ICCAT Record Number (if any)
 - c) Previous name (if any)
 - d) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

Part IV: Control measures

Section A - Records of vessels and traps

Use of aerial means

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

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

49. CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. That record should consist of two lists:
 - a) all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
 - b) all other fishing vessels used for the purposes of commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources other than catching vessels, authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

For vessels with a LOA >24 m (independently of the gear used excluding bottom trawlers) and for purse seine vessels, CPCs shall indicate number of vessels to the Secretariat as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraph 14 of this Recommendation and ICCAT shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

50. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the Secretariat: (i) at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49(a); and (ii) at the latest 15 days before the start of their operation the list of other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49(b). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT*.
51. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the Secretariat, providing:
- a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included on the record referred to in paragraph 49; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on either list referred to in paragraph 49, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included on the record, provided that the CPC concerned submitted to the Secretariat a request for an ICCAT number to be given to the vessel, and the requested number has been provided.
 - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

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

52. 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) (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
53. Without prejudice to paragraph 38 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 49 (a) and (b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation.

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

54. CPCs shall issue special authorisations and/or national fishing licences to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 45, 49 and 56. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 12**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorisation is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

55. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.

56. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the Secretariat, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 16 to 17, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 54.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

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

- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
- b) the period of 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 the Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
- e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch).

For all vessels that were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean but that caught bluefin tuna as by-catch, the following information shall be provided to the Secretariat:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
- b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.

58. Each CPC shall notify the Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 57 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The Secretariat shall forward such information without delay to the flag CPC for appropriate action, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Joint fishing operations

59. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorised, each purse seine vessel shall be equipped to fish for bluefin tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the requirements defined in 60 and 62. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated to purse seine vessels participating in the concerned JFO. Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for purse seine vessels, as referred to under paragraph 29 of this Recommendation.

60. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- the period of authorization of the JFO,
- the identity of the operators involved,
- the individual vessels' quotas,
- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and

- information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the Secretariat at least five working days before the start of the purse seine vessels fishing season as defined in paragraph 29.

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

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

Part IV: Control measures

Section B - Catches and transshipments

Recording requirements

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

Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators

65. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in **Annex 2** or through the CPCs reporting requirement.
66. Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 65 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.
67. Trap operators or their authorised representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
68. For catching vessels other than purse seine vessels and traps, masters shall transmit to their control authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 65 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

Designated ports

69. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorised and communicate a list of these ports to the Secretariat.
70. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that the following conditions are met:
 - a) established landing and transshipment times;
 - b) established landing and transshipment places; and
 - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with paragraph 73.
71. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 69 to 70. However, exceptionally, the transport of dead bluefin tuna, harvested from a trap/cage, to a processing vessel using an auxiliary vessel, is not prohibited.
72. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 69 the Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior notification of landings

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

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

CPCs may decide to apply these provisions only for catches equal or superior to three fish or one ton. They should provide this information in their monitoring control and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14.

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

All landings and harvest operations shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC including the target percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14 of this Recommendation.

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

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the Secretariat

74. CPCs shall send weekly catch reports by gear to the Secretariat. In the case of purse seine vessels and traps, the reports shall be as defined in paragraphs 65, 66 and 67. Total reported catches will be published by the Secretariat on a password protected area of the ICCAT web site during the second week of each month.
75. CPCs shall report to the Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

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

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

Transshipment

77. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 69 to 72.
78. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in **Annex 3**, according to the port state's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore, the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the data required in **Annex 3**.
79. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.
80. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port as per Recommendation 16-15. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the eBCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
81. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.
82. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Part IV: Control measures

Section C - Observer programmes

CPC Observer Programme

83. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
- 100% of towing vessels,
- 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

CPCs with less than five catching vessels of the first three segments defined above authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna shall ensure coverage by observers 20% of the time the vessels are active in the bluefin tuna fishery.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessels and traps compliance with this Recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears,
 - date of catch.
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting all the necessary data required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPC's observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2019 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspect of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC, and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. The SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPCs observer programmes.

ICCAT regional Observer Programme

84. An ICCAT regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100%:

- on all purse seine vessels authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seine vessels;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- during all transfers from one farm to another;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms; and
- during the release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea.

Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel/tugboat/trap or farm for which their services are required. In addition, to the extent possible, the Secretariat shall ensure that regional observers deployed have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag CPC of the vessel or the farming CPC or the trap CPC¹.

One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the whole period of caging operations. In cases of *force majeure*, and following confirmation by the farming CPC authorities, an ICCAT regional observer could be shared by more than one farm to guarantee the continuity of farming operations. However, the farming CPC authorities shall immediately request the deployment of an additional regional observer.

85. The ICCAT regional observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures, including access to stereoscopic camera footage at the time of caging that enables the measuring of length and estimating the corresponding weight;
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations and eBCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and eBCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not been respected, where applicable;
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

¹ The PA2 Intersessional Meeting in March 2019 agreed that: (i) the priority should be given to the difference in nationality first and language skill as a second requirement; and (ii) if it is not possible to find foreign observers with proper language skills, observers of the same nationality may be allowed. These agreements should be also respected when looking at para 5 and 6 in **Annex 6**.

Part IV: Control measures

Section D - Live fish transfers

Transfer authorisation

86. Before any transfer operation, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag CPC or farming CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:
- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
 - estimated time of transfer,
 - estimated quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
 - information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
 - name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
 - port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to each transport cage. If several transport cages need to be used when transferring a catch corresponding to one fishing operation, only one transfer declaration is required, but the numbers of each transport cage used need to be recorded in the transfer declaration, clearly indicating the bluefin tuna quantity transported in each cage.

Cage numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

Unique cage numbers shall be permanent and not transferable (i.e. numbers cannot be changed from one cage to another).

87. The flag CPC shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel or the towing vessel, the farming CPC authorities or the trap CPC authorities. Information regarding dead fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 11**.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the farming CPC or the trap CPC as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification.

Refusal of transfer authorisation and release of bluefin tuna

88. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the towing vessel, the farming CPC, or the trap CPC considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:
- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
 - b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, or had not been authorized to be caged and therefore not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,

- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this Recommendation, or
- d) the towing vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49.b) or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and/or, any other VMS equivalent tracking device,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC shall immediately issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate to inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to release the fish into the sea in accordance with **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

In the event of a technical failure of its VMS during the transport to the farm, the towing vessel shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS or a new operative VMS system shall be installed on board or used if already installed, as soon as feasible and not later than 72 hours, except in case of *force majeure* or legitimate operational constraints that should be communicated to the Secretariat. In the meantime, the master or his representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected and/or informed, communicate to the control authorities of the Flag CPC every 4 hours the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the fishing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.

Transfer declaration

- 89. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC, farming CPC or trap CPC, as appropriate, the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.
 - a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag CPC authorities of the vessel, the farming CPC authorities or the trap CPC authorities from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC- 20**/xxx/ITD).
 - b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
 - c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
- 90. The authorization for transfer by the flag CPC does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.

Monitoring by video camera of a transfer

- 91. For transfers of live bluefin tuna the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 8**.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. The SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

Verification by ICCAT regional observers and launching and conduct of investigation

- 92. The ICCAT regional Observer on board the catching vessel or trap, as referred to in the ICCAT regional Observer Programme (**Annex 6**) and paragraphs 84 and 85, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 86 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 89.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference in number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the farming CPC or the trap CPC and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated, except in cases of *force majeure*. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the eBCD shall not be validated.

However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel or trap to conduct a control transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the regional observer. If that voluntary control transfer is not performed with satisfactory results, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC shall initiate an investigation. If after that investigation, it is confirmed that the quality of the video does not permit estimation of the quantities involved in the transfer/caging, the enforcement authorities of the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC shall order another control transfer operation and provide the corresponding video record to the regional Observer. New transfers shall be conducted as control transfer(s)/control caging(s) until the quality of the video record allows estimation of the quantities transferred.

93. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations, including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraph 92. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative, where and as applicable. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and eBCDs and the reasons for disagreement, quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not been respected, where applicable.

Operators shall complete and transmit to their CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

Caging operations

Caging authorisations and possible refusal of an authorization

94. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical miles of farming facilities, shall be prohibited. To this end, geographical coordinates corresponding to the polygon where the farm is placed need to be available in the farming management plans transmitted to ICCAT under paragraph 24 of this Recommendation.
95. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC shall be informed by the competent authority of the farming CPC of the caging of quantities caught by its catching vessels or traps.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had insufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this Recommendation,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farming CPC to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 88 and **Annex 10**.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours/1 working day of the request, of the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessels, the trap CPC authorities, or of the farming CPC authorities if agreed with the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel or the trap CPC authorities. If no response is received within 24 hours/1 working day from the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel or the trap CPC authorities, the farming CPC authorities may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farming CPC.

Fish shall be caged before 22 August of each year unless the farming CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including *force majeure*, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted. In any case the fish shall not be caged after 7 September.

Bluefin tuna catch documentation

96. The farming CPC shall prohibit placing bluefin tuna in cages for farming that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.

Monitoring by video camera

97. The farming CPC shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by their enforcement authorities by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 8**.

Launching and conduct of investigations

98. In cases where there is more than a 10% difference in number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farming CPC in cooperation with the flag CPC of the catching vessel and/or the trap CPC where appropriate. The flag CPC of the catching vessel and/or the trap CPC and the farming CPC undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal, including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 99 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods provided they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy.

Measures and programmes to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged

99. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods that guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This programme using stereoscopic cameras shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 9**. In case of the use of alternative methods, those methods should be duly analysed by the SCRS, who should present its conclusions regarding their precision and accuracy for endorsement by the Commission during its Annual meeting before an alternative methodology can be considered valid for the purpose of monitoring the caging operations.

The farming CPC shall communicate the results of this programme to the flag CPC of the catching vessel and/or the trap CPC, and, to the ROP consortium. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and/or transferred, an investigation shall be launched by the flag CPC of the catching vessel and/or the trap CPC. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in **Annex 9**, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all caging operations from a JFO, or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and/or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel and/or the trap CPC authorities shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 88 and **Annex 10** and in the presence of enforcement authorities.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the eBCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the presence of a national enforcement authority and an ICCAT regional observer to monitor the release.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to the SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting.

100. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farming CPC authorities. Each transfer shall be recorded to control the number of specimens. National enforcement authorities shall monitor and control those transfers, including ensuring that each intra-farm transfer is recorded in the e-BCD system.
101. A difference greater than or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera at the moment of caging shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned and shall therefore be duly investigated.

Caging report

102. In addition to the caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2(b) of Rec. 06-07, the farming CPC shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the Secretariat.

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous sentence shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.

Intra-farm transfers and random controls

103. A traceability system in farms shall be required including the video-recording of internal transfers. On the basis of a risk analysis, random control measures shall be undertaken by the farming CPC authorities on bluefin tuna in farm cages between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Each CPC shall fix a minimum percentage of fish to be controlled, which shall be reflected in its control plan referred to under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. The results of those checks shall be communicated to ICCAT in April of the year following the corresponding quota period.

Access to and requirements for video records

104. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraphs 97 and 99 are made available to the national inspectors, as well as ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT regional and CPC observers at request.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

Part IV: Control measures**Section E – Tracking of fishing activities****VMS**

105. CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec.18-10).

The Secretariat shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and to the SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 109 to 112 of this Recommendation, the Secretariat shall make available the messages received from all fishing vessels under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 07-08).

The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT by fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after their period of authorisation, unless the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS by bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

Part IV: Control measures

Section F – Enforcement

Enforcement

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

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

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

Depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law such measures may include, in particular, suspension of the authorization or withdrawal from the ICCAT Record of Bluefin tuna Farming Facilities established in accordance with Rec. 06-07 and/or fines.

Part IV: Control measures

Section G - Market measures

Market measures

108. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:
- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* (Rec. 18-13) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 17-09 on the Application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 18-12) on the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC does not have a quota or catch limit for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC's fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 4 are exhausted.
 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with Recommendation 06-07.

Part V

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

109. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each Contracting Party agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.
110. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 109 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (Res. 00-20).
111. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the Contracting Party shall, on the basis of risk assessment have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel. If a Contracting Party does not deploy its inspection vessel or conducting joint operations, the Contracting Party shall report the result of the risk assessment and its alternative measures in its inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14.
112. In cases where enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag Contracting Party inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail in their territory, in their jurisdictional waters and on board their inspection platform.

Part VI Final provisions

Availability of data to the SCRS

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

Safeguards

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

Review clause

115. For the first time in 2020 and, in any case, after the stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that confirms the full recovery of the stock, the Commission following the scientific advice provided by the SCRS, shall decide on the continuity of this management plan or on its possible revision.
116. Notwithstanding paragraph 115, ICCAT will hold an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 each year in March in order to:
 - a) Review, and if appropriate, endorse the annual fishing, capacity management, farming and inspection plans sent to ICCAT under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation;
 - b) Discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and, as appropriate, propose draft amendments to it for consideration at the Annual meeting.
117. Potential additional measures to further strengthen the control and traceability measures for bluefin tuna shall be discussed at the Working Group meeting of Panel 2 established pursuant to Resolution 19-15.

Evaluation

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

Exemptions for CPCs with a landing obligation for bluefin tuna

119. The provisions in this Recommendation prohibiting retention on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of bluefin tuna do not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of such fish is confiscated in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs concerned shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs. The quantities of bluefin tuna in excess of the quota allocated to the CPC, in accordance with this derogation shall be deducted the following year from the CPC quota in accordance with para 12.

Repeals

120. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing A Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 18-02).

Annex 1**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels fishing under paragraph 35**

1. CPCs shall limit:
 - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
 - The maximum number of its small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of its vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
 - The maximum number of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49 (a) of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number, which shall be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Logbook requirements

A - Catching Vessels

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (by midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number, international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seine vessels this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transhipment:

1. Dates and port of landing/transhipment
2. Products
 - a) species and presentation by FAO code
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transhipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
 - a) Species identification by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their logbook:
 - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - amount of catches taken on board,
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
 - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO
 - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
 - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in a).

B - Towing Vessels

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessels shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.

3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

C - Auxiliary Vessels

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

D - Processing Vessels

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transhipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transhipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transhipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transhipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

Annex 3

No. Document

ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

Carrier vessel		Fishing Vessel	Final destination:
Name of vessel and radio call sign:		Name of the vessel and radio call sign:	Port:
Flag:		Flag:	Country:
Flag CPC authorization No.		Flag CPC authorization No.	State:
National Register No.		National Register No.	
ICCAT Register No.		ICCAT Register No.	
IMO No.		External identification:	
		Fishing logbook sheet No.	

Departure	Day 	Month 	Hour 	Year 2_ 0_	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's
Return					From: △	name:
Tranship.					To: △	Signature:
					Signature:	Signature:

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kg or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit || Kg. LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Annex 4

ICCAT Transfer Declaration

Document No.			
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation No. ICCAT Register No. External identification: Fishing logbook No. JFO No. eBCD No.	Trap name: ICCAT Register No.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register No. External identification:	Name of destination farm: ICCAT Register No.: Cage Number:
2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION			
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
Number of individuals:	Species:		
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:		Observer Names	ICCAT No. Signature
Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:			
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS			
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.
Farm State transfer authorisation No:	External I.D.:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.
Farm State transfer authorisation No:	External I.D.:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.
Farm State transfer authorisation No:	External I.D.:	Cage No.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
4 - SPLIT CAGES			
Donor Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Donor Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.

Annex 6**ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 84 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm or trap observed, to the extent possible.

Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farming CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) As regards observers on purse seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose, the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
 - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iv) issue a daily report of the transfer activities of purse seine vessels;

- v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
 - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
 - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
 - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
 - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and eBCDs, including through the review of video records;
 - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and eBCDs;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
 - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and eBCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 91 and 92;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
 - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals. For all individuals tagged with electronic tags, conduct full biological sampling (otoliths, spine and genetic sample) following guidelines by the SCRS.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seine vessels and of the farms and traps and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

Obligations of the flag CPCs of purse seine vessels and farm and trap State

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag CPCs of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages 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 7 of this Programme.
 - 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 CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State, trap State or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Observer fees and organization

- 12. a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seine vessel owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the Secretariat and the Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
 - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c) fishing in a closed area;
 - d) fishing during a closed season;
 - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
 - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
 - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
 - q) transshipment at sea.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.

3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 18-08), taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the Commission and issued by the Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this Annex.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he/she may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.

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

12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT Recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag CPC of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this Recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Rec. 19-09 and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
 - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
 - b) the arrangements set out in this Recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
16.
 - a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
 - b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
17. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his/her report.
18. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag CPC.
19. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

20. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

 <p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ICCAT</p> <p>INSPECTOR IDENTITY CARD</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>Contracting Party: _____</p> <p>Inspector Name: _____</p> <p>Card No.: _____</p> <p>Issue Date: _____ Validity five years</p>	 <p style="text-align: right;">ICCAT</p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">CPC Authority Inspector</p>
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Minimum standards for video recording procedures**Transfers**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer operation that shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. If the inspection services are present during the transfer they shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each videorecord.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel or trap to conduct a control transfer. Such voluntary control transfer must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving cage into another cage, which must be empty. For those cases where the origin of the fish is a trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the trap to the receiving cage could be sent back to the trap and the control transfer is cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer.

Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT caging authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each videorecord.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.

- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. For those cases when the origin of the fish is a purse seine vessel, the new caging operation must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving farm cage into another farm cage, which must be empty.

Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by paragraph 99 of this Recommendation shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary, provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel or the trap CPC authorities, or the farming CPC authorities.

Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. Within 15 days from the caging date, the farming CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
 - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
 - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
 - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.

- ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.
- ii.3 Caging report including:
- general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, eBCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage filename;
 - algorithm used to convert length into weight;
 - comparison between the amounts declared in the eBCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: $(\text{Stereoscopic System} - \text{eBCD}) / \text{Stereoscopic System} * 100$);
 - margin of error of the system;
 - for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.
- iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.
- iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
 - the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 88 and **Annex 10**;
 - after the release operations took place, the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the eBCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.
- iv. For any relevant modification of the eBCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall not be higher to those in Section 2.
- v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant eBCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The eBCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The eBCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The eBCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Release Protocol

The release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT regional observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from transport cages or traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer of the trap CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to its CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 88.

Annex 11**Treatment of dead fish**

During fishing operations by purse seine vessels, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the flag CPC's quota.

Recording/treating of dead fish during first transfer

- a) The eBCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The eBCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated eBCD.

- b) A split of the eBCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split eBCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to eBCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.

Minimum Information for Fishing Authorisations

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and numbers)

B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorisation, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this Recommendation and/or from national legislation.

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

19-05

BIL

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH
REBUILDING PROGRAMS FOR BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN/ROUNDSALE SPEARFISH**

RECALLING the 2000 blue marlin stock assessment, which found that the stock was below B_{MSY} (overfished) with fishing mortality above F_{MSY} (overfishing occurring), and subsequent assessments, most recently in 2018, confirming that the stock remains in this state;

ACKNOWLEDGING the 2019 white marlin/roundscale spearfish stock assessment, which found that overfishing is not occurring, but the stock remains overfished after more than twenty years of management by ICCAT;

AWARE OF measures adopted by the Commission over the last 20 years to improve the status of blue marlins and white marlins, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* (Rec. 00-13), *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin stocks* (Rec. 12-04), and subsequent recommendations;

UNDERSTANDING, however, the 2019 SCRS advice that total catches of blue marlin should be reduced to 1,750 t or less to provide at least a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2028 and that total catches of white marlin/roundscale spearfish should not exceed 400 t to support rebuilding;

ACKNOWLEDGING that dead discards are not accounted for in the annual limits in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04);

AIMING to establish limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that take into account reported dead discards;

UNDERSCORING the existing obligations of CPCs to require the collection of data on dead and live discards in their domestic observer and logbook programs under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 11-10), consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* (Rec. 16-14), and to report these data to ICCAT;

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

1. CPCs shall implement measures to end overfishing of blue marlin as soon as possible and to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish stocks to their respective B_{MSY} levels as follows:

Annual limits and related provisions

2. An annual limit of 1,670 t for blue marlin and of 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish is established beginning in 2020. Landings limits shall be implemented as follows:

<i>Blue Marlin</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Brazil	159.8
China, P.R.	37.9
Chinese Taipei	126.2
Côte d'Ivoire	126.2
European Union ¹	403.8
Ghana	210.3
Japan	328.1
Korea Rep.	29.4
Mexico	58.9
S. Tomé & Príncipe	37.9
Senegal	50.5
Trinidad and Tobago	16.8
Venezuela	84.1
TOTAL	1,670

<i>White Marlin/Roundscale 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. Tomé & Príncipe	20
Trinidad and Tobago	15
Venezuela	50
TOTAL	355

The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale 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/roundscale spearfish combined.

3. a) Any excess of the annual landings limits established in paragraph 2 shall be deducted from the respective landings limits during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026

¹ The following transfer of annual landings limit shall be authorized for blue marlin: From EU to Trinidad & Tobago: 2 t.

- b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a) above, if any CPC exceeds its landings limit during any two consecutive years, its landings limit shall be reduced on or before the adjustment year by at least 125% of the excess harvest, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate.
- c) Starting with 2020 catches, any underharvest by a CPC of its annual landings limit may not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

Live release requirement and retention allowances

4. To the extent possible, CPCs shall require pelagic longline vessels and purse seine vessels flying their flag to promptly release blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are alive at haul-back, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members, in a manner that causes the least harm and maximizes post-release survival.
5. CPCs shall encourage the implementation of the minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures, as specified in **Annex 1** while giving due consideration to the safety of the crew. The fishing vessels should have readily available on deck and easily accessible by crew, a lifting device, bolt cutter, dehooker/disgorger and line-cutter for safe release of live marlins caught.
6. CPCs should ensure that captain and crew members of their fishing vessels are adequately trained, aware of and use proper mitigation, identification, handling and releasing techniques and keep on board all equipment necessary for the release of marlins in accordance with the minimum standards for safe handling procedures as specified in **Annex 1**. Nothing in this measure shall prevent CPCs from adopting more stringent measures.
7. CPCs shall endeavor to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/roundscale spearfish in their ICCAT fisheries.
8. CPCs may authorize their pelagic longline and purse seine vessels to catch and retain on board, transship, or land blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are dead, within their landing limit.
9. For CPCs that prohibit dead discards, the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale 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 2, on the condition that such prohibition be clearly explained in their Annual Report. This provision shall be applicable only to commercial fisheries.
10. Blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are caught for local consumption by developing coastal CPCs, or by other CPCs' small island, artisanal, subsistence, and small-scale coastal fisheries are exempted from Paragraph 4 provided these CPCs (a) submit Task I and Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS and (b) in the case of non-developing coastal CPCs, notify the Commission of their claim to this exemption and measures taken to limit application of this exemption to such fisheries.
11. For recreational and sport fisheries:
 - a) CPCs shall take appropriate measures to ensure that any released fish are released in a manner that causes the least harm.
 - b) CPCs shall establish minimum sizes for retention that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm Lower Jaw-Fork Length (LJFL) for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/roundscale spearfish.
 - c) CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/roundscale spearfish caught in recreational and sport fisheries.

Observer programme

12. CPCs shall collect catch data on blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, including live and dead discards, through logbooks and scientific observer programs as required by Rec. 11-10 and Rec. 16-14. CPCs shall include their estimates of total dead and live discards in their Task I Nominal Catch data submission.
13. CPCs shall establish or maintain data collection programs in recreational and sport fisheries, including a minimum of 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish tournaments, to ensure that catches are reported in accordance with existing ICCAT reporting obligations.

Data collection and reporting

14. CPCs shall provide their estimates of total live and dead discards of blue marlin, white marlin/roundscale spearfish, based on fishing logbooks, landing declarations, or equivalent document for the sport/recreational fisheries, as well as scientific observer reports, as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process.
15. Starting with the reporting of 2020 catches, failure to report Task I data, including dead discards, for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish in accordance with established ICCAT requirements will result in a prohibition of retention of these species in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of Non Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations* (Rec. 11-15).
16. No later than 2020, CPCs shall present to the SCRS the statistical methodology used to estimate dead and live discards. CPCs with artisanal and small-scale fisheries shall also provide information about their data collection programs.

The SCRS shall review these methodologies and if it determines that a methodology is not scientifically sound, the SCRS shall provide relevant feedback to the CPCs in question to improve the methodologies.

The SCRS shall also determine if one or more capacity building workshops are warranted to help CPCs to comply with the requirement to report total live and dead discards. If so, the Secretariat in coordination with the SCRS should begin organizing the SCRS-recommended workshop(s) in 2021 with a view to convening them as soon as practicable.

17. The SCRS shall evaluate the completeness of Task I and II data submissions, including estimates of total dead and live discards, and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by industrial fisheries (including longline and purse seine), artisanal fisheries and recreational fisheries. If after conducting such evaluation, the SCRS determines that significant gaps in data reporting exist, the SCRS should explore approaches to estimate the level of unreported catches to include in future stock assessments in order to enhance the basis on which to provide management advice to the Commission.

SCRS work and request for scientific advice

18. The SCRS shall continue its work to further improve data collection initiatives 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 to inform future decisions by the Commission.
19. 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. The Secretariat and CPCs are also encouraged to collaborate with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) on fishery statistics on ICCAT species.

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 next white marlin/roundscale spearfish and blue marlin stock assessments.

20. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), in cooperation with the SCRS, shall work to develop recommendations on the following issues for consideration at the 2021 annual meeting of the Commission:
- a) Minimum standard for an electronic monitoring system such as:
 - (i) the minimum specification of the recording equipment (e.g. resolution, recording time capacity, data storage type, data protection)
 - (ii) the number of cameras to be installed at which points on board
 - b) What shall be recorded
 - c) Data analysis standards, e.g., converting video footage into actionable data by the use of artificial intelligence
 - d) Data to be analyzed, e.g., species, length, estimated weight, fishing operation details
 - e) Reporting format to the Secretariat

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

21. The SCRS shall, in collaboration with CPCs, explore potential technical changes to the terminal gear (such as hook shape, hook size, leader type, etc.) and fishing practices (e.g., timing, soaking time, bait, depths, areas) that could reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality (at-vessel and post-release). As part of this process, the SCRS in collaboration with CPCs shall design and implement a study(ies) to compare the effects of hook shape and size on catch rates (considering both hooking and retention rates), at-haulback mortality, and post-release mortality. The experimental design should account for the influence of leader material types and consider potential operational differences among regions and fleets.
22. The SCRS shall conduct assessments for blue marlin in 2024 and white marlin/roundscale spearfish in 2025.

Compliance

23. Consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Billfish Caught in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-05), CPCs shall submit details of their implementation of this measure through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, and of their compliance with this measure using the billfish check sheet.

Repeals and review clause

24. In 2022, the Commission shall review any new scientific advice from the SCRS and consider adjustments, such as the adoption of additional conservation and management measures or review of the landing limits, as appropriate.
25. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04).

Minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures²

The following steps should be followed to reduce stress and injury to incidentally caught marlins and round scale spearfish specimens for a maximum probability of survival while minimizing the safety risk to the crew. Skippers and crew should always put their personal safety first when releasing marlins and other large fish. Wear gloves and avoid working around the spear-shaped bill. These basic guidelines do not replace stricter safety rules established by CPCs national Authorities.

- Stop the vessel or substantially reduce its speed.
- Secure the far side of the longline mainline to the boat to avoid that any remaining gear in the water pulls on the line and the animal.
- Bring the marlin as close to the vessel as possible without putting too much tension on the branchline to avoid that a released hook or branchline breaks could shoot hook, weights and other parts toward the vessels at high speed.
- Do not remove the alive marlin from the water boatside, while safely removing the hook.
- Limit the number of manipulation.
- Do not gaff the fish in the body.
- If possible, avoid grabbing the marlin by the body and use gloves to grab the marlin by its snout or a snooter.
- In case the hook is visible, lightly flicking the branchline to try dislodging the hook.
- Where feasible rig a measuring device so the fish can be roughly measured in the water (e.g. mark a pole, leader and float; mark the gunwale of the boat with measurements marks).
- If the marlin is vigorously twisting and spinning making it too dangerous to use a dehooker/disgorger or the marlin swallowed the hook that cannot be seen, then use a long-handled line cutter and cut the leader/line as close to the fish as safely possible so that they are not trailing large amounts of line that could reduce post-release survival.
- Help revive the fish by slowly towing it in the water until its colour or energy returns (5 minutes or more). Most highly migratory species must keep water flowing over their gills to breathe. With the boat in gear, slowly move forward while keeping the fish's head in the water.
- If hooked, and hook is visible in the body or mouth, use a bolt cutter to remove the hook barb, and then remove the hook.
- Don't wrap your fingers, hands or arms in the line when bringing a marlin to the boat – you might get pulled overboard.
- Don't lift them using the branchline, especially if hooked.
- Do not lift using thin wires or cables or by the tail alone.

² <https://www.bmis-bycatch.org/index.php/mitigation-techniques/safe-handling-release>

- Poisson F, Wendling B, Cornella D, Segorb C., 2016. Guide du pêcheur responsable : Bonnes pratiques pour réduire la mortalité des espèces sensibles capturées accidentellement par les palangriers pélagiques français en Méditerranée. Projets SELPAL et RéPAST. 60 pages.
- Poisson F., Vernet A. L., Séret B., Dagorn L. Good practices to reduce the mortality of sharks and rays caught incidentally by the tropical tuna purse seiners. EU FP7 project #210496 MADE, Deliverable 7.2., 30p.
- AFMA (2016) Shark and Ray Handling Practices - A guide for commercial fishers in southern Australia
- NOAA fisheries, 2017, Careful Catch and Release Brochure. 2 pages.

19-06

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK OF SHORTFIN
MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

CONSIDERING that shortfin mako is caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

CONCERNED by the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that there will be a need for CPCs to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to monitor the future status of this stock, including total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

KNOWING that the result of the SCRS indicates that shortfin mako shark catches of 700 t are expected to immediately end overfishing, and catches of 500 t or less are expected to rebuild the stock by 2070;

COMMITTED to immediately taking actions to end overfishing of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock with a high probability, as the first step in the development of a rebuilding plan;

CONSIDERING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) calls for the Commission to immediately adopt management measures, 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;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Rec. 11-13 calls for the Commission to adopt a plan to rebuild stocks in the red zone of the Kobe plot, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

ACKNOWLEDGING that according to SCRS studies, the survival rate after release of shortfin mako shark could be up to 77%;

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 vessels flying their flag to promptly release North Atlantic shortfin mako in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - (1) For vessels whose length is greater than 12 m,
 - a) the vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which can identify whether the fish is dead or alive;
 - b) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
 - c) the observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant and its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort; and
 - d) when shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases shall be recorded by the observer or estimated from the records of the electronic monitoring system.

- (2) For vessels whose length is equal or smaller than 12 m,
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako provided that:
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel; and
 - b) the retention of shortfin mako does not exceed the fishing vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer is on board and this is verified by mandatory logbooks and landing inspection conducted on the basis of risk assessment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive, when a CPC's domestic law requires a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and of at least 210 cm fork length for females.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the fishermen may not draw any profit from such fish, may retain on board and land incidental by-catch of North Atlantic shortfin mako.
6. The observer is also encouraged to collect biological samples such as muscular tissues (for stock identification), reproductive organ with embryo (for identification of pregnancy cycle and reproductive output) and vertebrae (for estimation of growth curve). The biological samples collected by the observer should be analyzed by CPCs concerned and the result should be submitted to the SCRS by CPCs concerned.
7. CPCs shall endeavour to take further measures than those contained in this recommendation with the aim to stop overfishing and to rebuild the stock.
8. A Panel 4 intersessional meeting shall be convened in 2020 to develop and propose additional measures towards achieving conservation and management objectives for this stock. Panel 4 shall also develop appropriate requests for future work by the SCRS in this regard, as well as mechanisms to ensure the collection and provision of the requisite data by CPCs.
9. CPCs that authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall provide to the Secretariat the amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards and live releases in 2019 one month prior to the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting.
10. CPCs shall also report the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako estimated based on the total fishing effort of their relevant fleets using data collected through observer programs or other relevant data collection programs. CPCs that do not authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall also record through their observer programs the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako and report it to SCRS.
11. The Commission, at its 2020 annual meeting, shall adopt a new management recommendation for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the scientific advice from the SCRS and the results of the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to B_{MSY} within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with their regulatory procedures.

19-07

BYC

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-12 ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

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 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks* (Rec. 07-06), including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

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;

RECOGNIZING that Atlantic blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) are caught in large numbers in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

CONSIDERING that following the stock assessment undertaken in 2015, the SCRS report states that despite the positive signs of the stock status of the North Atlantic stock of blue shark, a high level of uncertainty in data inputs and in model structural assumptions remains and, therefore, the possibility of the stock being overfished and overfishing occurring could not be ruled out;

NOTING that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results;

RECOGNIZING that the average of the total reported catch during the period 2011-2015 was 39,102 t;

SEEKING, therefore, to ensure that total catch does not exceed 39,102 t through establishment of an annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC);

RECALLING the provisions of *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13), notably the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities set out in part III, and the need to ensure that these are applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner;

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

1. To ensure the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark stock in the Convention area, the following shall apply;

TAC and catch limits for blue shark

2. An annual TAC of 39,102 t for North Atlantic blue shark is established. The annual TAC may be revised subject to a decision of the Commission based on the updated advice of the SCRS in 2021, or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided by the SCRS.

3. The following CPCs shall be subject to the following catch limits:

<i>CPC</i>	
EU	32,578 t
Japan	4,010 t
Morocco	1,644 t

- a) All other CPCs shall endeavor to maintain their catches at recent levels.
- b) If in any year the total catches of the North Atlantic blue shark exceed the TAC, the Commission shall review the implementation of these measures. Based on the review and the results of the next stock assessment scheduled for 2021 or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided to the SCRS, the Commission shall consider introduction of additional measures.

Recording, reporting, and use of the catch information

4. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels catching North Atlantic blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 03-13).
5. CPCs shall implement data collection programmes that ensure the reporting of accurate North Atlantic blue shark catch, effort, size and discard data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II data.
6. CPCs shall include in their shark implementation check sheet submitted to ICCAT pursuant to Recommendation 18-06 information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage North Atlantic blue sharks.

Scientific research

7. CPCs are encouraged to undertake scientific research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history, migrations, post-release survivorship and behavioral traits of blue sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.
8. In the light of the results of the next stock assessment of North Atlantic blue shark, the SCRS shall provide, if possible, options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.

Implementation and review

9. This recommendation shall be reviewed in light of the outcomes of the next stock assessment of the North Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS in 2021.
10. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 16-12).

19-08

BYC

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT

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 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks* (Rec. 07-06), including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

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;

RECOGNIZING that Atlantic blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) are caught in large numbers in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

CONSIDERING that in the last stock assessment of South Atlantic blue shark stock, all scenarios with the Bayesian surplus production model estimated that the stock was not overfished and that overfishing was not occurring. However, also noting that the estimates obtained with the state-space surplus production model formulation were generally less optimistic, predicting that the stock could be overfished and overfishing could be occurring in some cases;

NOTING that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results;

CONSIDERING that given the uncertainty in stock status results for the South Atlantic blue shark, the SCRS strongly recommends the adoption of a precautionary approach for this stock;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that in order to protect and manage the South Atlantic blue shark, the SCRS recommends that the average catch of the final five years used in the assessment model (28,923 t for 2009-2013) could be used as an upper limit;

ACKNOWLEDGING that catches of blue shark in the South Atlantic have significantly increased in recent years, to values higher than the catch limits recommended by the SCRS;

RECOGNIZING the need to stabilize the exploitation patterns for this fishery, in particular to avoid large fluctuations of catches in the future, to the extent possible.

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels fish blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area shall implement management measures to ensure the conservation of the South Atlantic blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in line with ICCAT's Convention objective.

Catch limits for blue shark

2. An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,923 t for South Atlantic blue shark is established. The Annual TAC may be revised subject to a decision of the Commission based on the updated advice of the SCRS in 2021, or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided by the SCRS.
3. On the basis of the stock assessment results, an allocation of the future TAC shall be decided by the Commission by 2021.

Recording, reporting, and use of the catch information

4. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels catching South Atlantic blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 03-13).
5. CPCs shall implement data collection programmes that ensure the reporting of accurate South Atlantic blue shark catch, effort, size and discard data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II.
6. CPCs shall include in their shark implementation check sheet to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage South Atlantic blue sharks.

Scientific research

7. CPCs are encouraged to undertake scientific research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history, migrations, post-release survivorship and behavioural traits of blue sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.
8. In the light of the results of the next stock assessment of South Atlantic blue shark, the SCRS shall provide, if possible, options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.

19-09

GEN

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON VESSEL SIGHTINGS

RECOGNIZING the ongoing efforts by ICCAT and its CPCs to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing for ICCAT species;

AWARE that those efforts will be informed and supported by an effective mechanism for CPCs and their flagged vessels to gather and report information on sightings of foreign-flagged vessels or vessels without nationality that may be operating in the Convention Area in a manner contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures;

NOTING, therefore, the utility of combining and updating the *Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 94-09) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* (Rec. 97-11);

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall collect, through enforcement and surveillance operations conducted by their competent authorities in the Convention area, as much information as feasible when a foreign-flagged vessel or vessel without nationality is sighted as engaged in fishing or fishing related activities (e.g., transshipment) that are presumed to be illegal, unreported, and unregulated, as defined under paragraph 1 of Recommendation 18-08. An indicative list of information to be collected is included in the sighting information sheet (**Annex**), which should be used for transmitting information on vessel sightings to the Executive Secretary as specified below.
2. When a vessel is sighted pursuant to paragraph 1 the sighting CPC shall without undue delay notify and provide any recorded images of the vessel to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC or flag non-CPC of the sighted vessel, and:
 - a) If the sighted vessel is flagged to a CPC, the flag CPC shall, without undue delay, take appropriate action with respect to the vessel in question. Both the sighting CPC and the flag CPC of the sighted vessel shall provide, as appropriate, information on the sighting to the Executive Secretary, including details of any follow-up actions taken.
 - b) If the sighted vessel is flagged to a non-CPC, is of indeterminate flag, or is without nationality, the sighting CPC shall, without undue delay, provide to the Executive Secretary all appropriate information related to the sighting.
3. When a vessel is sighted pursuant to paragraph 1 and there are reasonable grounds to suspect the vessel is without nationality, a Contracting Party is encouraged to board the vessel to confirm its nationality. If the vessel is confirmed to be without nationality, a competent authority of the Contracting Party is encouraged to inspect the vessel, consistent with international law and, if evidence so warrants, the Contracting Party is encouraged to take such action as may be appropriate, in accordance with international law. Any Contracting Party that conducts a boarding of a vessel operating without nationality shall notify the Executive Secretary without undue delay.
4. CPCs are encouraged, upon the consent of the flag State, to board and inspect vessels of non-CPCs conducting fishing or fishing related activities for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species, in waters of the Convention Area beyond national jurisdiction. Appropriate information collected from such boardings shall be reported to the Executive Secretary. If a CPC concludes, following boarding and inspection under this paragraph, that the non-CPC vessel was not, in fact, undermining ICCAT conservation measures, the vessel shall not be subject to the presumption under paragraph 1 of Rec. 98-11.

5. CPCs should encourage their fishing and support vessels that operate in the Convention Area to collect and report relevant information to their appropriate domestic authorities to support the vessel sighting process set forth in this Recommendation.
6. The Executive Secretary shall promptly forward any information received pursuant to this Recommendation to all CPCs and report it to the Commission for consideration at the next ICCAT annual meeting.
7. CPCs are encouraged to notify the Executive Secretary of their points of contact to facilitate cooperation and other appropriate actions under this recommendation. The Executive Secretary shall publish this information on the ICCAT website.
8. This recommendation replaces and repeals Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management *Measures* (Res. 94-09) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* (Rec. 97-11).

Annex

SIGHTING INFORMATION SHEET					
1. Date of Sighting:	Time	Day	Month	Year	
2. Position of Vessel Sighted:					
Latitude		Longitude			
3. Name of the Vessel Sighted:					
4. Flag Country:					
5. Port (and Country) of Registry:					
6. Type of Vessel:					
7. International Radio Call Sign:					
8. Registration Number:					
9. ICCAT Serial Number:					
10. IMO Number:					
11. Estimated Length Overall and Gross Tonnage:				m	GT
12. Fishing Gear Description (if applicable):					
Type:			Estimated quantity (units)		
13. Nationality of Captain:			Officer:	Crew:	
14. Vessel Situation (Please check):					
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing		<input type="checkbox"/> Cruising		<input type="checkbox"/> Drifting	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplying		<input type="checkbox"/> Transshipping		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
15. Type of Activities of the Vessel Sighted (Please describe):					
16. Description of vessel:					
17. Other Relevant Information:					
18. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED BY:					
NAME:					
TITLE:					
MEANS OF SIGHTING (including vessel/aircraft name, where appropriate):					
DATE: (Month)		(Day)	(Year)		
SIGNATURE:					

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OBSERVERS IN
ICCAT'S REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMS**

UNDERSCORING that safety of life at sea is a longstanding objective of international maritime governance, that observers collect data that are essential to the functions of the Commission, and that the health, safety, and welfare of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

RECALLING the regional observer programs (ROPs) established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment* (Rec. 16-15) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 19-04);

CONCERNED that ICCAT recommendations establishing these ROPs do not include requirements that adequately protect the health, safety, and welfare of observers;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for comprehensive and consistent requirements in ICCAT to protect the health, safety, and welfare of observers, in particular to supply necessary safety equipment and to provide or ensure proper training and to establish emergency procedures with respect to ICCAT ROPs;

RECALLING that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1995, sets forth safety training standards for personnel serving onboard seagoing fishing vessels;

NOTING the commitments in international law, including the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, with regard to the development of an international maritime search and rescue plan for the rescue of persons in distress at sea;

NOTING existing contracts between the ICCAT Secretariat and ICCAT ROP observer providers that include observer health and safety requirements as well as associated materials establishing procedures for the implementation of such requirements;

ALSO RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on harmonisation and improved observer safety* (Res. 19-16);

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

The following shall apply to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of observers deployed pursuant to ICCAT ROPs established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment* (Rec. 16-15) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 19-04):

1. The observer provider shall provide or ensure observers have received safety training before they are deployed on a vessel for the first time and at appropriate intervals thereafter. Such training program must, at a minimum, meet the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards.
2. Before deploying an observer on a vessel for a trip, the observer provider shall ensure the observer is issued the following safety equipment:
 - a) an independent two-way satellite communication device suitable for use at sea and a waterproof personal life-saving beacon, which may consist of a single device such as a Satellite Emergency Notification Device, or a combination of an independent two-way satellite-based device, (e.g. an inReach messaging device) and a personal locator beacon (e.g., a ResQ Link device); and
 - b) other safety equipment, such as personal flotation devices (PFDs) and immersion suits, appropriate to the specific fishing operations and activities, including ocean area and distance from shore.

3. The observer provider shall have a designated contact point for deployed observers to use in cases of emergency.
4. The observer provider must have an established procedure for contacting and being contacted by the observer and the vessel, and, if necessary, for contacting the competent authority of the flag CPC or non-CPC. This procedure must provide for regularly scheduled contact with observers to confirm their health, safety, and welfare status and clearly describe the steps that must be taken in the event of various emergencies, including situations where an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that puts his or her health or safety at risk, has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel, or if the observer requests to be removed from the vessel prior to the conclusion of the trip.
5. Flag CPCs or non-CPCs shall ensure their vessels that carry observers under an ICCAT ROP are outfitted with appropriate safety equipment for the entirety of each voyage, including the following:
 - a) A life raft of sufficient capacity for all persons onboard and with a certificate of inspection that is valid throughout the observer's deployment;
 - b) Life jackets or survival suits of sufficient number for all persons onboard, and compliant with relevant international standards, such as, where applicable, the Cape Town Agreement; and
 - c) A properly registered Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) and a Search and Rescue Transponder (SART) that will not expire until after the observer deployment ends.

CPCs may choose to exempt their vessels less than 12m in length overall (LOA) and operating within 5 nm of the baseline from the requirement to have an EPIRB.

6. The observer provider shall not deploy an observer on a vessel unless and until the observer is allowed to inspect all vessel safety equipment and document and report its status to the observer provider; observers shall not be deployed on vessels with outstanding safety discrepancies, in particular if the vessel does not meet the requirements of paragraph 5. If, during deployment, the observer provider or flag CPC or non-CPC determines that a serious risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the observer exists, the observer shall be removed from the vessel unless and until the risk is addressed.
7. Flag CPCs and non-CPCs with vessels carrying observers deployed under an ICCAT ROP shall develop and implement an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to be followed in the event an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health, safety, or welfare, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed. Such EAPs must include, *inter alia*, the elements in **Annex 1** of this Recommendation.

These EAPs shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary for posting on the ICCAT web site as soon as possible after the entry into force of this recommendation. New or amended EAPs shall be provided to the Executive Secretary for posting when they become available.

8. Beginning on 1 January 2021, vessels flagged to CPCs or non-CPCs that have not submitted EAPs shall not be eligible to carry an observer from an ICCAT ROP. Further, should available information indicate that an EAP is not consistent with the standards set out in **Annex 1**, the Commission may decide that the deployment of an observer on a vessel of the concerned flag CPC or non-CPC shall be delayed until the inconsistency has been sufficiently addressed.
9. The Commission may also decide that a vessel is ineligible to carry an ICCAT regional observer where the flag CPC or non-CPC has previously failed to investigate any reported instances of observer interference, harassment, intimidation, assault, or unsafe working conditions or, where warranted, to take appropriate corrective action, consistent with their domestic law.

10. The observer provider and flag CPCs and non-CPCs with vessels carrying observers deployed under an ICCAT ROP shall submit to the Executive Secretary reports on observer incidents triggering provisions of the EAP, including any corrective action taken by the flag CPC or non-CPC. The Executive Secretary shall transmit such reports to the Commission, consistent with applicable confidentiality rules, for its review at each annual meeting or, where warranted, more frequently.
11. Flag CPCs and non-CPCs shall cooperate to the maximum extent possible with and provide for the participation of, as appropriate and consistent with domestic law, the CPC or non-CPC of the observer in search and rescue operations and investigations of cases where the observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel.
12. The Executive Secretary shall notify concerned flag CPCs and non-CPCs that a condition of participating in any ICCAT ROP is the development, implementation, and submission of an EAP as described in paragraphs 7 and 8 above.
13. Nothing in this recommendation shall prejudice the exercise of discretion by the observer provider not to deploy an observer on a vessel because of concerns about risk to the observer's health, safety, or welfare.
14. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the rights of relevant CPCs and non-CPCs to enforce their laws with respect to the safety of observers consistent with international law.
15. This recommendation shall be reviewed three years after its adoption, taking into account any guidance from FAO on standards related to fisheries observer safety as requested by the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters.

Elements of ROP Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

1. In the event that an ROP observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases all fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the appropriate Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC), flag CPC or non-CPC, and the observer provider;
 - c) immediately commences search and rescue if the observer is missing or presumed fallen overboard, and searches for at least 72 hours, unless the observer is found sooner, or unless instructed by the flag CPC or non-CPC to continue searching⁷;
 - d) immediately alerts other vessels in the vicinity by using all available means of communication;
 - e) cooperates fully in any search and rescue operation;
 - f) whether or not the search is successful, promptly returns to the nearest port for further investigation, as agreed by the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider;
 - g) promptly provides a report on the incident to the observer provider and appropriate flag State authorities; and
 - h) cooperates fully in all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and quarters of the deceased or missing observer.
2. In addition, in the event that an ROP observer dies while deployed, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall require that the fishing vessel ensure that the body is well-preserved for the purposes of an autopsy and investigation.
3. In the event that an ROP observer suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the flag CPC or non-CPC, observer provider, and relevant MRCC to advise if a medical evacuation is warranted;
 - c) takes all reasonable actions to care for the observer and provide any medical treatment available and possible on board the vessel;
 - d) where necessary and appropriate, including as directed by the observer provider, if not already directed by the flag CPC or non-CPC, facilitates the disembarkation and transport of the observer to a medical facility equipped to provide the required care, as soon as practicable; and
 - e) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the cause of the illness or injury.
4. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 through 3, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall ensure that the appropriate MRCC, observer provider, and the Secretariat are immediately notified of the incident, actions taken or underway to address the situation, and any assistance that may be required.

⁷ In the event of force majeure, CPCs and non-CPCs may allow their vessels to cease search and rescue operations before 72 hours have elapsed.

5. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe an ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed such that their health or safety is endangered and the observer or the observer provider indicates to the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged that they wish for the observer to be removed from the fishing vessel, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board;
 - b) notifies the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider of the situation, including the status and location of the observer, as soon as possible;
 - c) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the observer in a manner and place, as agreed by the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider, that facilitates access to any needed medical treatment; and
 - d) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the incident.
6. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed but neither the observer nor the observer provider wishes that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board as soon as possible;
 - b) notifies the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider of the situation as soon as possible; and
 - c) cooperates fully in all official investigations into the incident.
7. If any of the events in paragraphs 1 through 5 occur, port CPCs or non-CPCs shall facilitate entry of the fishing vessel to allow disembarkation of the ROP observer and, to the extent possible, assist in any investigations if so requested by the flag CPC or non-CPC.
8. In the event that, after disembarkation from a fishing vessel of an ROP observer, an observer provider identifies, such as during the course of debriefing the observer, a possible situation involving assault or harassment of the observer while on board the fishing vessel, the observer provider shall notify, in writing, the flag CPC or non-CPC and the Secretariat.
9. If notified, under paragraph 5b, 6b, or 8, that an observer has been assaulted or harassed, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall
 - a) investigate the event based on the information provided by the observer provider and take any appropriate action in response to the results of the investigation;
 - b) cooperate fully in any investigation conducted by the observer provider, including providing the report to the observer provider and appropriate authorities of the incident; and
 - c) promptly notify the observer provider and the Secretariat of the results of its investigation and any actions taken.
10. CPCs shall also encourage vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations involving an ROP observer.
11. Where requested, relevant observer providers and CPCs or non-CPCs shall cooperate in each other's investigations, including providing their incident reports for any incidents indicated in paragraphs 1 through 6 to facilitate any investigations as appropriate.

19-11

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ABANDONED, LOST OR
OTHERWISE DISCARDED FISHING GEAR**

RECALLING that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 target 1 calls for States to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) constitute a significant part of marine pollution;

RECOGNIZING that ghost fishing conducted by ALDFG constitutes an unmanaged and unsustainable exploitation of marine resources that leads to undesirable mortality of marine life;

AWARE that retrieving ALDFG will contribute to reducing marine pollution;

CONVINCED that the fishing industry can contribute significantly to reducing the amount of ALDFG;

NOTING ICCAT Recommendation 03-12 which requires CPCs to mark their fishing gears;

FURTHER NOTING that the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations' Committee on Fisheries endorsed Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear at its thirty-third session and further work to address ALDFG including the development of a comprehensive global strategy to tackle issues relating to ALDFG;

ALSO AWARE of the need for an obligation for fishermen not only to mark the fishing gear, but also to report it when abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded, as well as to try to retrieve the gear where possible;

ACKNOWLEDGING that retrieving ALDFG without knowing the position of the gear will be challenging;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that to prevent ghost fishing, efforts should be undertaken to retrieve ALDFG;

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

1. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels authorized to fish species managed by ICCAT in the Convention area are prohibited from abandoning and discarding fishing gear except for safety reasons, and taking into account the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and development of fisheries for such stocks, and, in particular, with respect to artisanal and small-scale fisheries.
2. For the purpose of this Recommendation, fishing gear is understood to mean fishing gear that poses a significant risk of ghost fishing when abandoned, lost or discarded in the ICCAT Convention area¹.
3. Each CPC shall ensure that:
 - a) vessels 12 metres and above fishing for ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, entitled to fly its flag, have equipment² on board to retrieve lost fishing gear; and
 - b) the master of a vessel that has lost fishing gear or part of it shall, to the extent possible, make every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible.

¹ The provisions in this Recommendation do not apply to longline gear.

² Equipment used to retrieve ALDFG could be a simple anchor attached to a strong rope or wire, or otherwise as defined in the CPCs' domestic law.

4. If the lost fishing gear cannot be retrieved, the master of the vessel shall notify the flag CPC within 24 hours, or within 24 hours of returning to port when at-sea reporting is not possible, of the following:
 - a) the name and call sign of the vessel;
 - b) the type of lost fishing gear;
 - c) the quantity of fishing gear lost;
 - d) the date and time when the fishing gear was lost;
 - e) the position where the fishing gear was lost; and
 - f) the measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost fishing gear.
5. Following retrieval of lost fishing gear, the master of the vessel shall notify the flag CPC within 24 hours, or within 24 hours of returning to port when at-sea reporting is not possible, of the following:
 - a) the name and call sign of the vessel that has retrieved the fishing gear;
 - b) the name and call sign of the vessel that lost the fishing gear (if known);
 - c) the type of fishing gear retrieved;
 - d) the quantity of fishing gear retrieved;
 - e) the date and time when the fishing gear was retrieved; and
 - f) the position where the fishing gear was retrieved.
6. The flag CPC shall, without delay, notify the Executive Secretary of the information referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5. A summary of this information shall also be included in the CPCs' Annual Report to ICCAT.
7. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the information provided by CPCs on the ICCAT secure website.

19-12

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AN INTEGRATED ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM**

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19) adopted by the Commission in 2016;

NOTING that the reporting requirements of the Commission are numerous and change over time and that any such system must, by its nature, be broad in scope and dynamic;

RECOGNISING the progress made to date by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group and the Secretariat in the initial development of the system;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the substantial scale of the project requires work beyond the initial target completion date of 2019;

DESIRING to continue to find ways to enhance the effective functioning of the Commission, including by reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements for both the Secretariat and the CPCs and increasing access to valuable information;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The deadline for completion by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group of the first phase of the online reporting system in relation to the elements of the required CPC Annual Reports shall be extended to 2021. The Working Group will present to the Commission for its consideration a prototype of the system in relation to this first phase in 2020, with the aim of completing necessary refinements in 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. To further the work on the first phase, the Online Reporting Technology Working Group shall meet at least once in 2020 and shall also continue to work virtually as required in order to meet the deadlines in paragraph 1 for production of a prototype as well as the completed first phase of the system.
3. The Working Group shall remain active following the completion the first phase of the system until such time as the Commission decides otherwise. The tasks of the Working Group after 2021 shall be:
 - a) To oversee the incorporation into the online reporting system of any new Annual Report requirements;
 - b) To determine any redundant requirements for which reporting is no longer necessary and;
 - c) With appropriate input from the Commission, to oversee development of additional system modules covering other ICCAT reporting requirements in order to establish a comprehensive and fully integrated online reporting system;
 - d) And other tasks as the Commission may identify.
4. In carrying out the above tasks, the Working Group shall work in consultation with the SCRS, Compliance Committee, and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission as necessary and appropriate.
5. The Working Group shall continue to provide annual updates to the Commission regarding its activities, including presenting its proposal(s) for the content and format of the online reporting system and related modules for Commission consideration in order to inform their design and development.
6. This Recommendation supplements the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19).

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2019

19-13

MISC

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT REGARDING PARTICIPATION BY
FISHING ENTITIES UNDER THE AMENDED ICCAT CONVENTION**

RECALLING that, at its 18th Special Meeting in 2012, ICCAT adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Working Group to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention* (Rec. 12-10);

NOTING that one of the areas for which the Working Group was directed by the Commission to formulate proposed amendments (Annex 1 of the 2012 Recommendation) was “Non-party participation;”

RECALLING that the reference to “Non-party participation” reflected, *inter alia*, the will of the Commission to provide for an enhanced level of participation by “Fishing Entities” in the Commission for the purpose of strengthening the effective conservation and management of ICCAT species;

RECOGNIZING that the Working Group has, in accordance with its mandate, developed a series of “proposed amendments to the Convention with respect to the items identified in Annex 1” (of the 2012 Recommendation);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that this series of proposed amendments includes Annex 2 concerning Fishing Entities;

RECALLING that this Annex provides that, “Any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for purposes of this Annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, V, VII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII of the Convention;”

NOTING that this resolution is adopted concurrent with the amended Convention;

The Commission hereby establishes and reaffirms that:

1. Chinese Taipei is the only Fishing Entity that has received Cooperating Status within ICCAT prior to 10 July 2013; and therefore,
2. Chinese Taipei is the only Fishing Entity that has met the qualifications specified in Annex 2 to the Convention; and therefore,
3. Upon entry into force of the amended Convention, including Annex 2, no Fishing Entity other than Chinese Taipei is to be eligible to participate in the work of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of that Annex.

19-14

SWO

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

RECALLING 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 (HCR) through management strategy evaluations (MSE);

ANTICIPATING the transition to using management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for swordfish and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, consistent with the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

ACKNOWLEDGING the Kobe Strategy Matrix as a harmonized format for RFMO science bodies to convey advice and that current management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish predate the Kobe Process, omitting benchmarks for fishing mortality (Rec. 17-02);

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to complete an MSE for North Atlantic swordfish by 2022;

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

SEEKING to advance the development of management procedures, as agreed by the Commission pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

NOTING that dead discards of swordfish may occur due to compliance with minimum size limits, the MSE process could be an opportunity to confirm initial SCRS advice that size limits in North Atlantic swordfish fisheries may not be achieving their purposes;

FURTHER NOTING ICCAT's need to commit to developing final operational management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish in advance of their presentation to the Commission in 2021;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for North Atlantic swordfish. Operational objectives are to be based on the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. Panel 4 should, preferably during a 2021 intersessional meeting, use these conceptual objectives to develop initial operational management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish. A final set of operational management objectives would be proposed to the Commission for adoption in 2021. To facilitate this development, the following candidate management objectives should be considered:
 - a. Stock Status
 - The stock should have a greater than []% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix;

- b. Safety
 - There should be a less than [__]% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}^1 ;
 - c. Yield
 - Maximize overall catch levels; and,
 - d. Stability
 - Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than [__]%
3. In the development of the operating models, the Commission would like the SCRS to allow for the evaluation of minimum size limits as strategies to achieve management objectives.
 4. In developing initial operational management objectives, the candidate management objectives in paragraph 2 may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate. Further, Panel 4 will need to consider the inclusion of timeframes.
 5. Panel 4 will provide its recommendations for initial management objectives to the SCRS Swordfish Species Group for review and consider any SCRS input before forwarding objectives to the Commission for consideration at its 2021 annual meeting.
 6. This resolution will be repealed upon adoption of final operational management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish by the Commission.

¹ Recommendation 17-02, paragraph 6, identifies $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ as the interim limit reference point to be used when assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission.

19-15

TOR

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING AN ICCAT WORKING GROUP
ON BLUEFIN TUNA CONTROL AND TRACEABILITY MEASURES**

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

NOTING that paragraphs 8 and 117 of Recommendation 19-04 calls for a discussion on potential additional measures for further strengthening the control and traceability of live bluefin tuna;

FURTHER NOTING that ICCAT has adopted Recommendation 17-06 establishing an interim conservation and management plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna;

CONSIDERING that additional measures on control and traceability may be required to reinforce the efforts made over the past years for the recovery of bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area;

CONSIDERING that the constitution of a Working Group under Panel 2 would contribute to facilitate progress on control and traceability measures on bluefin tuna through the discussion and exchanges drawing on the expertise available from all the Contracting Parties concerned;

RECOGNIZING that this Working Group should be initiated without delay;

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

1. A Working Group is established:
 - a. to identify the weaknesses and loopholes that may reduce the effectiveness of the ICCAT control and traceability measures in force for the bluefin tuna fishery, from catching to post-harvest trade activities;
 - b. to recommend to Panel 2 amendments to those measures, and/or additional measures, to strengthen the control and traceability of the ICCAT bluefin tuna fisheries; and
 - c. to prevent any IUU fishing activities and the trading of illegal bluefin tuna.
2. In carrying out the following tasks, the Working Group will mainly focus on the control and traceability measures applied to live Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna as foreseen in paragraphs 8 and 117 of the Recommendation 19-04. In particular, the Working Group will:
 - a. assess in the ICCAT Recommendations in force all the measures related to the control and traceability of live bluefin tuna, from the catching to the post-harvesting trade activities;
 - b. identify the existing weaknesses and/or loopholes, including the lack of sufficient technical and operational details;
 - c. identify specific corrective and/or additional measures to address those weaknesses and/or loopholes; and
 - d. report, and as appropriate, submit to Panel 2 recommendations to adopt the corrective and /or additional measures referred to in subparagraph c.

3. After having been discussed by the Working Group, any corrective and/or additional measures identified under paragraph 2 shall be presented to Panel 2. The measures related to the current electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme (eBCD) shall be referred by Panel 2 to the PWG/eBCD Technical Working Group to evaluate their implementation and consider advice on necessary developments. Any new measure shall enter into force when the Commission adopts the related functionalities.

4. The Working Group will be assisted by the ICCAT Secretariat in its work and will be Chaired by the European Union. The Working Group shall hold a meeting back-to-back with the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 before the ICCAT Annual Meeting in November 2020. The Commission shall decide on the need for additional meetings of the Working Group at its 2020 Annual Meeting.

19-16

GEN

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON HARMONISATION AND IMPROVED OBSERVER SAFETY

NOTING the regional observer programmes (ROP) established by ICCAT;

RECALLING that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (IMO STCW-F), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1995, sets forth safety training standards for personnel serving on board seagoing fishing vessels;

ALSO RECALLING, where applicable, the 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and to provide a level playing field for industry, and acknowledging that ratification of this agreement will address and increase observer safety through appropriate safety standards for vessels, safety equipment and communication equipment;

NOTING the challenges faced by observers in relation to health, safety and welfare;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the fourth meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters (JWG 4), which recommended that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) consider how to promote fisheries observer safety globally through the most appropriate process and that this process should review available information and existing national and regional measures on the safety, security and working and living conditions of fisheries observers under existing observer programmes and be informed by the IMO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and other relevant Organizations and stakeholders, taking into account the views expressed by the participants of JWG 4.

RECOGNISING that challenges relating to health and safety for observers are global and solutions should be harmonised to the extent possible in order to ensure a level playing field and facilitate implementation at a national level;

EMPHASISING that improved dialogue at the national level between the competent authorities and their fishing vessel operators is warranted;

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

1. The Commission will evaluate the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters held in Torremolinos, Spain, 23-25 October 2019, and consider appropriate follow-up actions.
2. CPCs will commit themselves to strengthening the dialogue with their fishing vessel owners, crew and operators with a view of raising awareness of the health and security challenges confronting observers, thus enhancing cooperation between crew members and observers.

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RESOLUTION 18-11 BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF INSPECTION PERSONNEL IN FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT

RECALLING Ref. 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 7 of Recommendation 19-04 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, both relating to areas beyond national jurisdiction;

FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention and the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Ref. 02-31);

NOTING the important role of the trap and farming related activities in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, part of these activities taking place within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties concerned;

NOTING that joint inspection activities have been carried out by Contracting Parties in the Atlantic and other oceans;

FURTHER NOTING that voluntary exchange of fisheries inspectors for bluefin tuna trap and farming related activities would equally benefit from an exchange of best practices and inspection expertise on such activities between Contracting Parties directly involved;

NOTING that for bluefin tuna trap and farming activities, the fisheries inspector should only be authorized to observe the related control operations of the hosting Contracting Party and exchange of practices, information and experiences related to bluefin tuna trap and farming activities;

RECOGNIZING that exchanges of inspectors and observers through a voluntary pilot program will contribute to the capacity of Contracting Parties, particularly developing Contracting Parties, to conduct at sea inspections in ICCAT fisheries;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that extending the voluntary pilot program to bluefin tuna trap and farming related activities would also contribute to the capacity of the Contracting Parties directly involved in the control of such activities;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the voluntary exchange of inspectors is subject to the domestic legislations of the Contracting Parties in force;

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

Program objectives

1. A pilot program is established for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel to:
 - a) participate in boarding and inspection activities as inspectors or as observing members of the inspection party (hereinafter referred to as “observers” for purposes of this Resolution) conducted by Contracting Parties in fisheries managed by ICCAT pursuant to their existing authorities;
 - b) allow fisheries inspectors from Contracting Parties directly involved in bluefin tuna trap and farming activities, to observe, on a reciprocal basis, the inspection activities conducted with a previous agreement by the hosting Contracting Party;

- c) facilitate exchanges that are intended to allow the sharing of information, best practices and expertise needed to strengthen at-sea inspection, traps and farming related control activities, capabilities and capacities, enhance cooperation and collaboration among Contracting Parties on these important areas of fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance, and inform future discussions on this issue within ICCAT.
2. On the conclusion of a standing or ad hoc bilateral agreement or arrangement referred to in paragraph 10, the pilot program referred to in paragraph 1 applies to vessels in areas beyond national jurisdiction or to bluefin trap and/or farming activities.

Participation and points of contact

3. All Contracting Parties are encouraged to participate in the pilot program referred to in paragraph 1 and may join or leave it at any time.
4. Contracting Parties interested in participating in the pilot program should submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary the following information when applicable:
- a) National authority responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate,
 - b) National authority responsible for the bluefin tuna trap and farming activities, and
 - c) Designated point(s) of contact (POC) within that authority with responsibility for program implementation, including name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary will make the information provided under paragraph 4 available on the public portion of the ICCAT website, taking into consideration national personal data protection rules.

Pilot program process and procedures

6. Contracting Parties that have elected to participate in the pilot program should communicate with one another to identify opportunities for exchanges of inspectors or observers at sea pursuant to this pilot program.

Contracting Parties participating in the pilot program for BFT trap and farming activities, should ensure that the inspectors exchanged under this program are only authorized by the hosting Contracting Party to observe the related control operations.

7. Contracting Parties:
- a) deploying patrol vessels in fisheries managed by ICCAT should consider their participation in the pilot program in developing patrol plans and strive, where possible, to arrange patrols that can accommodate one or more personnel from other Contracting Parties.
 - b) developing inspection plans on their bluefin tuna trap and farming related activities, should consider inviting other Contracting Parties engaged in such activities to send inspectors to observe control related activities in their trap and farms and,
 - c) will provide relevant information to other participating Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in order to determine their interest in an exchange of inspectors or observers, either on a particular patrol or on a bluefin tuna trap and/or farm, that may be planned in the future.
8. Contracting Parties wishing to place inspectors or observers on another Contracting Party's inspection vessel, or wishing to observe a bluefin tuna trap and/or farming inspection activity, should contact the POC of the Contracting Party that has provided information under paragraph 7, to indicate its interest.

9. When a Contracting Party has provided notice of its interest in an exchange of personnel under paragraph 8, the concerned Contracting Parties should consult to determine whether such an exchange could be accommodated, taking into consideration operational and administrative limitations, as well as training, expertise, operational and information on safe, security, medical and physical requirements, authorization for the venue of the inspections and inspection capacities.

Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessel(s) should make special efforts to accommodate requests from developing Contracting Parties, in particular.

10. Contracting Parties that have chosen to establish an exchange of personnel under this pilot program should enter into a standing or *ad hoc* bilateral agreement or arrangement to address relevant details of the deployment, including for the purpose of sea boarding and whether the scope of the agreement should be limited to inspections in areas beyond or within national jurisdiction or include national EEZs, or only the site of the bluefin tuna trap and/or farm.

The bilateral agreement or arrangement should also determine the role of personnel deployed under the arrangement or agreement, as well as further provisions for the cooperative deployment of inspectors or observers and the use of vessels, aircraft or other resources for fisheries surveillance and control purposes, and the protection of law enforcement sensitive or otherwise confidential or protected information from inappropriate disclosure.

11. The Contracting Party of the inspection personnel deployed should be responsible for all issues associated to safety, medical and physical requirements during the deployment.

Reporting and review

12. Contracting Parties who engage in such exchanges should coordinate reporting to the Commission annually on any activities carried out under the pilot program for consideration by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG). Contracting Parties are also encouraged to provide information related to joint inspection activities at sea undertaken outside the context of this pilot program, as appropriate.
13. This pilot program should be reviewed no more than 3 years after adoption.

Repeals

14. This Resolution repeals *Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT* (Res. 18-11).

OTHER DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED IN 2019**6.1 ROAD MAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) AND HARVEST CONTROL RULES (HCR)**

This schedule is intended to guide the development of harvest strategies for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07 (North Atlantic albacore, North Atlantic swordfish, eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and tropical tunas). It builds on the initial roadmap that was appended to the 2016 Annual Meeting report. It provides an aspirational timeline that is subject to revision and should be considered in conjunction with the stock assessment schedule that is revised annually by the SCRS.* Due to the amount of cross-disciplinary dialogue that may be needed, intersessional Panel meetings and/or meetings of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) may be necessary. The aspirational nature of this timeline assumes adoption of a final management procedure for northern albacore in 2020 and interim management procedures for bluefin tuna and northern swordfish in 2022 and tropical tunas as soon as 2023, however the exact timeline for delivery is contingent on funding, prioritization, and other work of the Commission and SCRS.

* For 2015 through 2019, roadmap reflects progress to-date in some detail. For 2020 onward, more general steps for the SCRS and Commission are anticipated pending outcomes of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
2015	- Commission established management objectives in Rec. 15-04			
2016	- SCRS conducted stock assessment - SCRS evaluated a range of candidate HCRs through MSE - PA2 identified performance indicators			- Commission identified performance indicators (Rec. 16-01)
2017	- SCRS evaluated the performance of candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators developed by PA2 - SWGSM narrowed the candidate HCRs and referred to Commission - Commission selected and adopted an HCR with associated TAC at the Annual Meeting (Rec. 17-04)	- SCRS conducted stock assessment - Core modeling group completed development of modeling framework	- SCRS conducted stock assessment	- SCRS reviewed performance indicators for YFT, SKJ, and BET - SWGSM recommended a multispecies approach for development of MSE framework
2018	- SCRS contracted independent expert to complete peer review of MSE code - Call for Tenders issued for peer review - SCRS tested the performance of the adopted HCR, as well as variations of the HCR, as requested in Rec. 17-04 - SCRS developed criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances	- SCRS conducted joint MSE meeting on BFT/SWO - SCRS reviewed but could not adopt reference set of OMs - SCRS began testing candidate management procedures (MPs) - SWGSM considered qualitative management objectives - BFT WG reviewed progress and developed detailed road map - Commission adopted conceptual management objectives (Res. 18-03)	- SCRS conducted joint meeting on BFT/SWO MSE - SCRS contracted MSE technical expert to develop OM framework, define initial set of OMs, and conduct initial conditioning of OMs - SWGSM considered qualitative management objectives	- SCRS contracted with technical experts: start development of MSE framework (phase I) - SCRS conducted bigeye tuna stock assessment

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCRS addressed recommendations of the peer reviewer - SCRS updated performance of the interim HCR and variants - SCRS produced consolidated report on MSE <p>1. COMM: PA2 to consider possible approaches that could be useful in developing guidance on a range of appropriate management responses if exceptional circumstances occur, including those implemented by other RFMOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCRS held three BFT MSE Technical Group meetings with significant progress but advised at least one additional year of work needed - SCRS continued to evaluate candidate MPs - At intersessional meeting, PA2 reviewed and developed initial operational management objectives and identified performance indicators - SCRS to hold December webinar to review OM progress <p>1. COMM: PA2 to review MSE progress and advise the Commission on next steps, including need for an update of the stock assessment to provide TAC advice for at least 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWO Species Group meeting - SCRS contracted with technical expert to develop initial MSE framework - Commission to consider, and if possible, adopt conceptual management objectives at the Annual Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCRS conducted yellowfin tuna stock assessment
2020	<p>1. COMM (PA2) to develop guidance intersessionally on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur</p> <p>2. COMM (PA2) to review interim HCR and recommend MP to the Commission for possible adoption at the Annual Meeting</p>	<p>1. SCRS to conduct stock assessment update and develop TAC advice for 2021 and 2022</p>	<p>1. SCRS to continue development of MSE framework, including the finalization of operating model conditioning and the uncertainty grid.</p> <p>2. SCRS to develop example candidate MPs.</p>	<p>1. SCRS to conduct skipjack data preparatory meeting</p> <p>2. SCRS to continue MSE development.</p>

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
	3. SCRS to conduct NALB stock assessment (in June)	2. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE code		
	4. SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	3. SCRS to propose criteria for determining exceptional circumstances		3. COMM (PA1) to review and provide feedback on MSE progress either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting. <i>(Alternatively could take place in 2021)</i>
	5. COMM to: a. review and endorse guidance developed intersessionally on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances b. review the interim HCR and adopt a long-term MP, including the TAC, at the Annual Meeting.	4. COMM (PA2) – Intersessional Meeting (March)		4. COMM (PA1) to recommend initial operational management objectives and to review and revise the performance indicators agreed by the Commission in 2016, either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting. <i>(Alternatively could take place in 2021)</i>
		4. COMM to review candidate MPs at the Annual Meeting		
		5. COMM to set TACs for at least 2021, based on stock assessment update, at the Annual Meeting		
2021	1. SCRS to continue intersessional work		1. SCRS to continue development and testing of candidate MPs	1. SCRS to continue development and testing of candidate MPs

<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
		2. SCRS to propose criteria for determining exceptional circumstances	2. SCRS to conduct skipjack stock assessment (timing to be determined)
		3. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE code	3. SCRS to conduct bigeye data preparatory meeting (timing to be determined)
		4. COMM (SWGSM/PA4) to recommend initial operational management objectives and identify performance indicators either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting	4. SCRS to conduct bigeye stock assessment (timing to be determined)
	1. COMM (SWGSM/PA2) intersessionally to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review MSE progress, review preliminary candidate MP results, and provide feedback to SCRS; - [recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators]; and - develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur 	5. COMM (SWGSM/PA4) to review MSE progress, example candidate MP results, and provide feedback to SCRS, either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting	
	2. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE process		

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
		3. SCRS to complete MSE, incorporating feedback from Commission through PA2/SWGSM		
		4. SCRS to provide final advice to the Commission on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances	6. SCRS to conduct stock assessment	
		5. COMM (SWGSM/PA2) and SCRS to refine MP(s) and to review and finalize, as needed, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur	7. COMM (SWGSM/PA4) to review results of performance of initial candidate MPs either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting	5. COMM (SWGSM/PA1) to review MSE progress, preliminary candidate MP results, and provide feedback to SCRS either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting
		6. COMM to: a. review and endorse guidance developed intersessionally on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances, and b. adopt an interim MP at the Annual Meeting, including a 3-year TAC		6. COMM (PA1) to finalize operational management objectives and performance indicators at the Annual Meeting

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
2022	1. SCRS to continue intersessional work		1. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE process	1. SCRS to continue MSE development, including developing and evaluating candidate MPs
				2. SCRS to propose criteria for determining exceptional circumstances
				3. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE code
			<p>2. SCRS to provide final advice to the Commission on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances</p> <p>3. COMM (SWGSM/PA4) and SCRS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refine MP(s) and to review and finalize, as needed, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur; - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators <p>(early in 2022)</p>	<p>4. COMM (SWGSM/PA1) to develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.</p> <p>5. COMM to review candidate MPs at the Annual Meeting</p>

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
			4. SCRS to complete MSE, incorporating feedback from Commission through PA4/SWGSM	
			5. COMM to: a) review and endorse guidance developed intersessionally on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances, and b) adopts an interim MP at the Annual Meeting, including the TAC	
2023 and beyond*	1. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock. The first benchmark assessment is scheduled for 2023.	1. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock	1. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock	1. SCRS to complete MSE, incorporating feedback from Commission through SWGSM/PA1
	2. On the predetermined timescale for MP setting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	2. On the predetermined timescale for MP setting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	2. On the predetermined timescale for MP setting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	2. SCRS to provide final advice to the Commission on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances
				3. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE process

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
	3. COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting	3. COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC based on the MP at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting	3. COMM to set TAC based on the MP at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting	4. COMM (SWGSM/PA1) and SCRS to refine MP(s) and to review and finalize, as needed, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur
				5. COMM to: a) review and endorse guidance developed intersessionally on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances, and b) adopt interim MP(s) at the Annual Meeting, including TACs, where applicable
2024 and beyond*	See 2023 row	See 2023 row	See 2023 row	1. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock
				2. On the predetermined timescale for MP setting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances
				3. COMM to continue use of the MP to set management measures at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting

*Assumes that the workplan is accomplished as described.

LIST OF ACRONYMS:

BET = Bigeye tuna

BFT = Bluefin tuna

BFT WG = SCRS' Bluefin Tuna Working Group

HCR = Harvest Control Rule

MP = Management Procedure

MSE = Management Strategy Evaluation

OM = Operating Model

SCRS = Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

SWGSM = Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers

TAC = Total Allowable Catch

TRO = Tropical tunas

6.2 PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

The Contracting Parties to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, done at Rio de Janeiro on 14 May 1966 (hereinafter “the Convention”),

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a Working Group to develop amendments to the ICCAT Convention* [Rec. 12-10] and the resulting draft proposals for amendment developed through this Working Group,

TAKING NOTE of the *Resolution by ICCAT regarding participation by fishing entities under the amended ICCAT Convention* [Res. 19-13] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on fishes considered to be tuna and tuna-like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs* [Rec. 19-01], which are integral components of the proposals for amendment and were adopted by the Commission in conjunction with the finalization of this Protocol,

CONSIDERING that the proposals for amendment to the Convention set out herein involve new obligations,

EMPHASIZING the importance of completing their respective internal acceptance procedures expeditiously in order that this Protocol may enter into force for all Contracting Parties as soon as possible,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Preamble to the Convention shall be amended to read as follows:

“The Governments whose duly authorized representatives have subscribed hereto, considering their mutual interest in the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory found in the Atlantic Ocean, and desiring to co-operate in maintaining the populations of these fishes at levels that will permit their long term conservation and sustainable use for food and other purposes, resolve to conclude a Convention for the conservation of these resources, and to that end agree as follows:”

Article 2

Articles II and III of the Convention shall be amended to read as follows:

“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.

Article III

1. The Contracting Parties hereby agree to establish and maintain a Commission to be known as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”, which shall carry out the objectives set forth in this Convention. Each Contracting Party shall be a Member of the Commission.
2. Each of the Members of the Commission shall be represented on the Commission by not more than three Delegates. Such Delegates may be assisted by experts and advisors.

3. 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 two-thirds majority of the Members of the Commission present and casting affirmative or negative votes, each Member of the Commission having one vote. Two-thirds of all the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.
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 all the Members of the Commission or by decision of the Council as constituted in Article VI.
5. At its first meeting, and thereafter at each regular meeting, the Commission shall elect from among the Contracting Parties a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman who shall not be re-elected for more than one term.
6. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the Commission otherwise decides.
7. The official languages of the Commission shall be English, French and Spanish.
8. The Commission shall have authority to adopt such rules of procedure and financial regulations as are necessary to carry out its functions.
9. The Commission shall submit a report to the Members of the Commission every two years on its work and findings and shall also inform any Member of the Commission, whenever requested, on any matter relating to the objectives of this Convention.”

Article 3

A new Article IV shall be added to the Convention, which shall read as follows:

“Article IV

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under this Convention, shall act to:

- (a) apply the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management 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) ensure fairness and transparency in decision making processes, including with respect to the allocation of fishing possibilities, and other activities; and
- (e) 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.”

Article 4

Articles IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of the Convention shall be renumbered as Articles V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX, respectively, and amended to read as follows:

“Article V

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention:

- (a) The Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory, hereinafter referred to as "ICCAT species", and such other species caught while fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area, taking into account the work of other relevant international fishery-related organizations or arrangements. Such study shall include research on the above-mentioned species, 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 ICCAT species.
 - (b) 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 Members of the Commission and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any public or private institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget and with the cooperation of concerned Members of the Commission, independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations.
 - (c) The Commission shall ensure that any information received from such institution, organization, or individual is consistent with established scientific standards regarding quality and objectivity.
2. The carrying out of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include:
- (a) collecting and analysing statistical information relating to the current conditions and trends of ICCAT species in the Convention area;
 - (b) studying and appraising information concerning measures and methods to ensure maintenance of the populations of ICCAT species in the Convention area at or above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield and which will ensure the effective exploitation of these species in a manner consistent with this yield;
 - (c) recommending studies and investigations to the Members of the Commission; and
 - (d) publishing and otherwise disseminating reports of its findings and statistical, biological and other scientific information relative to ICCAT species in the Convention area.

Article VI

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 of the Contracting Parties, as well as to the equal right of the Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council.
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.

Article VII

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. Each Panel in such case:

- (a) shall be responsible for keeping under review the species, group of species, or geographic area under its purview, and for collecting scientific and other information relating thereto;
- (b) may propose to the Commission, upon the basis of scientific investigations, recommendations for joint action by the Members of the Commission; and
- (c) may recommend to the Commission studies and investigations necessary for obtaining information relating to its species, group of species, or geographic area, as well as the co-ordination of programmes of investigation by the Members of the Commission.

Article VIII

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Secretary who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, subject to such rules and procedures as may be determined by the Commission, shall have authority with respect to the selection and administration of the staff of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall also perform, *inter alia*, the following functions as the Commission may prescribe:

- (a) coordinating the programmes of investigation carried out pursuant to Articles V and VII of this Convention;
- (b) preparing budget estimates for review by the Commission;
- (c) authorising the disbursement of funds in accordance with the Commission's budget;
- (d) accounting for the funds of the Commission;
- (e) arranging for co-operation with the organizations referred to in Article XIII of this Convention;
- (f) preparing the collection and analysis of data necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Convention, particularly those data relating to the current and maximum sustainable yield of stocks of ICCAT species; and
- (g) preparing for approval by the Commission scientific, administrative and other reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Article IX

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 maintaining or restoring the abundance of the stocks of those species at or above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;
 - (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 become effective for the Members of the Commission 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;
 - (ii) at the initiative of the Commission with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has been established but a proposal has not been approved by the Panel;
 - (iii) on a proposal that has been approved by an appropriate Panel; or
 - (iv) 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 the Members of the Commission four months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Members of the Commission, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commission at the time the 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 Member of the Commission in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) or (ii) above, or any Member of the Commission which is also a member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(iii) or (iv) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the period established pursuant to paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for those Members of the Commission who raised the objection.
- (b) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Members of the Commission within the period established pursuant to paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for any Member of the Commission.
- (c) A Member of the Commission presenting an objection in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, the reason for its objection, which shall be based on one or more of the following grounds:
- (i) the recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or other relevant rules of international law;
 - (ii) the recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting Member of the Commission;
 - (iii) the Member of the Commission cannot practicably comply with the measure because it has adopted a different approach to conservation and sustainable management or because it does not have the technical capabilities to implement the recommendation; or
 - (iv) security constraints as a result of which the objecting Member of the Commission is not in a position to implement or comply with the measure.
- (d) Each Member of the Commission that presents an objection pursuant to this Article shall also provide to the Commission, to the extent practicable, a description of any alternative conservation and management measures, which shall be at least equally effective as the measure to which it is objecting.
4. Any Member of the Commission objecting to a recommendation may at any time withdraw that objection, and the recommendation shall become effective with respect to such Member of the Commission immediately if the recommendation is already in effect, or at such time as it may become effective under the terms of this Article.

5. The Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate to all the Members of the Commission the details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this Article and of each withdrawal of such an objection, and shall notify all the Members of the Commission of when any recommendation comes into effect.”

Article 5

A new Article X shall be added to the Convention, which shall read as follows:

“Article X

1. Every effort shall be made within the Commission in order to prevent disputes, and the parties to any dispute shall consult each other in order to settle disputes concerning this Convention by amicable means and as quickly as possible.
2. Where a dispute concerns a matter of a technical nature, the parties to the dispute may jointly refer the dispute to an *ad hoc* expert panel established in accordance with the procedures to be adopted by the Commission. The panel shall confer with the parties to the dispute and shall endeavour to expeditiously resolve the dispute without recourse to binding procedures.
3. If any dispute arises between two or more of the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, best efforts shall be made to have the dispute resolved by peaceful means.
4. Any such dispute that is not resolved through means set out in the paragraphs above, may be submitted to final and binding arbitration for settlement, at the joint request of the parties to the dispute. Prior to jointly requesting arbitration, the parties to the dispute should agree on the scope of the dispute. The parties to the dispute may agree that an arbitral tribunal be constituted and conducted in accordance with Annex 1 of this Convention or in accordance with any other procedures that the parties to the dispute may decide to apply by mutual agreement. Any such arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with this Convention, international law and relevant standards recognized by the parties to the dispute for the conservation of living marine resources.
5. The dispute settlement mechanisms set out in this Article shall only apply to disputes that relate to any act, fact, or situation that occurs after the date of the entry into force of this Article.
6. Nothing in this Article shall prejudice the ability of the parties to any dispute to pursue dispute settlement under other treaties or international agreements to which they are parties, in lieu of dispute settlement as provided for in this Article, in accordance with the requirements of that treaty or international agreement.”

Article 6

Articles IX, X, and XI of the Convention shall be renumbered as Articles XI, XII, and XIII respectively, and amended to read as follows:

“Article XI

1. The Members of the Commission agree to take all action necessary to ensure the enforcement of this Convention. Each Member of the Commission shall transmit to the Commission, biennially or at such other times as may be required by the Commission, a statement of the action taken by it for these purposes.

2. The Members of the Commission agree:
 - (a) to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need for the purposes of this Convention;
 - (b) when their official agencies are unable to obtain and furnish the said information, to allow the Commission, through the Members of the Commission, to obtain it on a voluntary basis direct from companies and individual fishermen.
3. The Members of the Commission undertake to collaborate with each other with a view to the adoption of suitable effective measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention.
4. The Contracting Parties undertake to set up a system of international enforcement to be applied to the Convention area except the territorial sea and other waters, if any, in which a State is entitled under international law to exercise jurisdiction over fisheries.

Article XII

1. The Commission shall adopt a budget for the joint expenses of the Commission for the biennium following each regular meeting.
2. (a) Each Member of the Commission shall contribute annually to the budget of the Commission an amount calculated in accordance with a scheme provided for in the Financial Regulations, as adopted by the Commission. The Commission, in adopting this scheme, should consider *inter alia* each Member of the Commission's fixed basic fees for Commission and Panel membership, the total round weight of catch and net weight of canned products of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fishes and the degree of economic development of the Members of the Commission.
 - (b) The scheme of annual contributions in the Financial Regulations shall be established or modified only through the agreement of all the Members of the Commission present and voting. The Members of the Commission shall be informed of this ninety days in advance.
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.
4. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall notify each Member of the Commission of its yearly assessment. The contributions shall be payable on January first of the year for which the assessment was levied. Contributions not received before January first of the succeeding year shall be considered as in arrears.
5. Contributions to the biennial budget shall be payable in such currencies as the Commission may decide.
6. At its first meeting the Commission shall approve a budget for the balance of the first year the Commission functions and for the following biennium. It shall immediately transmit to the Members of the Commission copies of these budgets together with notices of the respective assessments for the first annual contribution.
7. Thereafter, within a period not less than sixty days before the regular meeting of the Commission which precedes the biennium, the Executive Secretary shall submit to each Member of the Commission a draft biennial budget together with a schedule of proposed assessments.
8. The Commission may suspend the voting rights of any Member of the Commission when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years.

9. The Commission shall establish a Working Capital fund to finance operations of the Commission prior to receiving annual contributions, and for such other purposes as the Commission may determine. The Commission shall determine the level of the Fund, assess advances necessary for its establishment, and adopt regulations governing the use of the Fund.
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.
11. The Commission may accept contributions, other than provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article, for the prosecution of its work.

Article XIII

1. The Contracting Parties agree that there should be a working relationship between the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. To this end the Commission shall enter into negotiations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with a view to concluding an agreement pursuant to Article XIII of the Organization's Constitution. Such agreement should provide, *inter alia*, for the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to appoint a Representative who would participate in all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, but without the right to vote.
2. The Members of the Commission agree that there should be co-operation between the Commission and other international fisheries commissions and scientific organizations which might contribute to the work of the Commission. The Commission may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations.
3. The Commission may invite any appropriate international organization and any Government which is a member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations and which is not a member of the Commission, to send observers to meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies."

Article 7

Article XII of the Convention shall be renumbered as Article XIV. Paragraph 2 of this Article shall be amended to read as follows:

- "2. At any time after ten years from the date of entry into force of this Convention, any Contracting Party may withdraw from this Convention on December thirty-first of any year including the tenth year by written notification of withdrawal given on or before December thirty-first of the preceding year to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations."

Article 8

Article XIII of the Convention shall be renumbered as Article XV. Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be amended to read as follows:

- "1. (a) At the initiative of any Contracting Party or of the Commission itself, the Commission may propose amendments to this Convention. Any such proposal shall be made by consensus.
- (b) The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy of the text of any proposed amendment to all the Contracting Parties.
- (c) Any amendment not involving new obligations shall enter into force for all Contracting Parties on the thirtieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties.

- (d) Any amendment involving new obligations shall enter into force for each Contracting Party accepting the amendment on the ninetieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon acceptance by it. Any amendment considered by one or more Contracting Parties to involve new obligations shall be deemed to involve new obligations and shall take effect accordingly.
- (e) A Government which becomes a Contracting Party after an amendment to this Convention has been opened for acceptance pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be bound by this Convention as amended when the said amendment comes into force.”

Article 9

A new Article XVI shall be added to the Convention, which shall read as follows:

“Article XVI

The Annexes form an integral part of this Convention and a reference to this Convention includes a reference to the Annexes.”

Article 10

Articles XIV, XV, and XVI of the Convention shall be renumbered as Articles XVII, XVIII, and XIX, respectively, and amended to read as follows:

“Article XVII

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Government of any State which is a Member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Any such Government which does not sign this Convention may adhere to it at any time.
2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval by signatory countries in accordance with their constitutions. Instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
3. This Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence by seven Governments and shall enter into force with respect to each Government which subsequently deposits an instrument of ratification, approval, or adherence on the date of such deposit.
4. This Convention shall be open for signature or adherence by any inter-governmental economic integration organization constituted by States that have transferred to it competence over the matters governed by this Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of those matters.
5. Upon the deposit of its instrument of formal confirmation or adherence, any organization referred to in paragraph 4 shall be a Contracting Party having the same rights and obligations in respect of this Convention as the other Contracting Parties. Reference in the text of this Convention to the term “State” in Article XI, paragraph 4, and to the term “Government” in the Preamble and in Article XV, paragraph 1, shall be interpreted in this manner.
6. When an organization referred to in paragraph 4 becomes a Contracting Party to this Convention, the member states of that organization and those which adhere to it in the future shall cease to be parties to the Convention; they shall transmit a written notification to this effect to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Article XVIII

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall inform all Governments referred to in Article XVII paragraph 1 and all the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article of deposits of instruments of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or adherence, the entry into force of this Convention, proposals for amendment, notifications of acceptance of amendments, entry into force of amendments, and notifications of withdrawal.

Article XIX

The original of this Convention shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations who shall send certified copies of it to the Governments referred to in Article XVII paragraph 1 and to the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article.”

Article 11

Two Annexes shall be added to the Convention, which shall read as follows:

“ANNEX 1

PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. The arbitral tribunal referred to in Article X paragraph 4 should be composed, as appropriate, of three arbitrators who may be appointed as follows:
 - (a) One of the parties to the dispute should communicate the name of an arbitrator to the other party to the dispute that should, in turn, within a period of forty days following that notification, communicate the name of the second arbitrator. In disputes between more than two Members of the Commission, parties that have the same interest should jointly appoint one arbitrator. The parties to the dispute should, within a period of sixty days following the appointment of the second arbitrator, appoint the third arbitrator, who is not a national of either Member of the Commission and is not of the same nationality as either of the first two arbitrators. The third arbitrator should preside over the tribunal;
 - (b) If the second arbitrator is not appointed within the prescribed period, or if the parties are not able to concur within the prescribed period on the appointment of the third arbitrator, that arbitrator may be appointed, at the request of the parties to the dispute, by the Chair of the Commission within two months from the date of receipt of the request.
2. The decision of the arbitral tribunal should be made by a majority of its members, which should not abstain from voting.
3. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute. The parties to the dispute should comply with the decision without delay. The arbitral tribunal may interpret the decision at the request of one of the parties to the dispute.

ANNEX 2**FISHING ENTITIES**

1. After the entry into force of the amendments to this Convention adopted on 18 November 2019, only the fishing entity that had attained by 10 July 2013 Cooperating Status in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission, as reflected in Resolution 19-13 adopted concurrent with this Annex, may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. Such commitment shall become effective thirty days from the date of receipt of the instrument. Such fishing entity may withdraw such commitment by a written notification addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Commission. The withdrawal shall become effective one year after the date of its receipt, unless the notification specifies a later date.
2. In case of any further amendment made to this Convention pursuant to Article XV, the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of the amended Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. This commitment of a fishing entity shall be effective from the dates referred to in Article XV or on the date of receipt of the written communication referred to in this paragraph, whichever is later.
3. The Executive Secretary shall notify the Contracting Parties of its receipt of such commitments or notifications; make such notifications available to the Contracting Parties; provide notifications from the Contracting Parties to the fishing entity, including notifications of ratification, approval, or adherence and entry into force of this Convention and its amendments; and keep safe custody of any such documents transmitted between the fishing entity and the Executive Secretary.
4. The fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed, through the submission of the written instrument referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it may participate in the relevant work, including decision making, of the Commission, and shall, *mutatis mutandis*, enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, V, VII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII of this Convention.
5. If a dispute involves the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed its commitment to be bound by the terms of this Convention in accordance with this Annex and cannot be settled by amicable means, the dispute may, with the mutual agreement of the parties to the dispute, be submitted, as the case may be, to an ad hoc expert panel or, after seeking to agree on the scope of the dispute, for final and binding arbitration.
6. The provisions of this Annex relating to the participation of the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 are only for the purposes of this Convention.
7. Any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for the purposes of this Annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, V, VII, IX, XI, XII, and XIII of this Convention.”

Article 12

The original of this Protocol, the English, French and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It shall be open for signature in Palma de Mallorca, Spain on 20 November 2019 and thereafter in Rome until 20 November 2020. The Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not signed this Protocol may nevertheless deposit their instruments of approval, ratification, or acceptance at any time. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall send a certified copy of this Protocol to each of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Article 13

This Protocol shall enter into force for each Contracting Party to the Convention accepting it on the ninetieth day after the deposit with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of an instrument of approval, ratification, or acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party to the Convention upon approval, ratification, or acceptance by it. A government which becomes a Contracting Party to the Convention after this Protocol has been opened for signature pursuant to Article 12 above shall be considered as having accepted this Protocol.

Article 14

Following the entry into force of this Protocol for those three-fourths of the Contracting Parties to the Convention that have deposited an instrument of approval, ratification or acceptance with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Contracting Parties to the Convention that have not deposited their instruments of approval, ratification, or acceptance shall be deemed to remain Members of the Commission. The Commission shall adopt measures to ensure its orderly functioning until this Protocol enters into force for all Contracting Parties to the Convention. A Contracting Party to the Convention for which this Protocol has not yet entered into force may nonetheless choose to implement these amendments provisionally, and may notify the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization to this effect.

Done at Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 18 November 2019

6.3 FOLLOW-UP OF THE ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - PLENARY SESSIONS

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PLE	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
Draft Amended ICCAT Convention	2. Urge its Members, following the conclusion of the work of the WG on Convention Amendment, to make all necessary efforts to ensure that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention enter into force as soon as soon as possible.	COM	X		Agreement on text has been reached. Protocol to be signed at forthcoming Commission meeting in 2019.	Finalise and sign protocol.	Completed, now awaiting signature of CPs.	
Pollution, Waste and Discarded Gears	57. The Panel notes the measures adopted by ICCAT to date and recommends that ICCAT expands the range of its measures addressing these policy matters. In this regard, the Panel would refer to CCAMLR CM 26-01 on general environmental protection during fishing.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration. FAD WG is also addressing this issue, and should be guided by Panel 4. Work also being carried out through Kobe process.	A proposal on discarded gear was adopted in 2019.		Status changed from red to green.
Previously Unregulated Fisheries	58. Considering the important role played by the sport and recreational fisheries in a number of key fisheries, notably billfishes, the Panel recommends that: a) the Working Group is re-activated to complete its mandate; and	COM	X	S	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	Lack of the submission of relevant information on recreational fisheries by many CPCs has limited the utility of this Working Group.		
	b) mechanisms are developed by ICCAT to engage this sector in the deliberations of ICCAT on management and control measures for these fisheries.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	CPCs have an important role in engaging their stakeholders on ICCAT matters.		

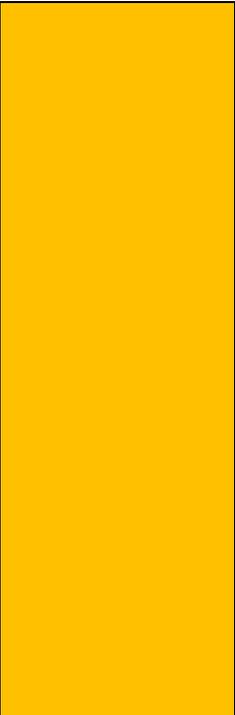
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Some progress has been made in individual Panels.		
	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Has been done for some species.		

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>Has been discussed in some cases, but needs to be considered on a case by case basis and may not be appropriate to all measures.</p>	<p></p>	<p>See comment PWG from IMM WG.</p>
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Decision-Making	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.		
Confidentiality	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM	X	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.	All Commission documents are now open to the public. Only data sets containing fine scale data made available on the grounds of confidentiality are considered confidential, but PWG suggests that the rules be revised.		See comment PWG from IMM WG.
Relationship to Cooperating Non- Members	100. Considers formalising the procedure for inviting non-CPCs.	COM	X	M	Refer to COC for consideration.	Was considered by COC but no major changes to current practices were recommended.	No further action considered necessary.	Status changed from red to green.

Cooperation with Other RFMOs and Relevant International Organisations	103. Continues and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other tuna RFMOs in the context of the Kobe process and otherwise, in particular on the harmonization of their conservation and management measures.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider ways to enhance cooperation with other tuna RFMOs.	Input from the Secretariat should help inform this discussion. Future of Kobe process discussed in 2018, and online reporting working group will take this into consideration.	Actions will be ongoing, but procedures are already in place, hence no further specific actions necessary?	
	104. Continue and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental bodies, in particular in relation to the conservation and management of sharks.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider how to enhance cooperation with other IGOs on sharks and other matters.	Work is ongoing with GFCM, WECAFC and OSPAR. ICCAT will also follow UN BBNJ process, and continue to participate in the Common Oceans project of FAO. MoU with IAC to be considered in 2020.	Actions will be ongoing, but procedures are already in place, hence no further specific actions necessary?	
	105. Considers becoming a member of the IMCS Network.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	ICCAT is a member of TCN, but currently no discussion has taken place regarding joining IMCS Network.		
	106. Considers making more information on its cooperation with other RFMOs and intergovernmental bodies available on a dedicated part of the ICCAT website.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider what, if any, additional information to put on the website. The Secretariat would post any identified information.	Plans to revise format of Tuna-Org website being explored with ABNJ Phase II.		

<p>Presentation Scientific Advice</p>	<p>116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.</p>	<p>Now enshrined in new Convention text.</p>	<p>P.A. should continue to be implemented, but will become part of Convention once Protocol enters into force.</p>	
<p>Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat</p>	<p>117. The Panel recommends that clear guidelines / processes on how the scientific resources of the Secretariat should be allocated to species should be agreed.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to consider appropriate action, including referring to SCRS for input on this matter.</p>	<p>SCRS to revisit strategic plan. Needs further consideration by STACFAD.</p>		<p>To include on STACFAD sheet for 2020.</p>
<p>Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat</p>	<p>118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>See SCRS Comments. SCRS does not agree with outsourcing the full assessment, but supports the incorporation of external experts.</p>		<p>See comments SCRS-BIL SG.</p>

<p>SCRS Long-Term Strategy</p>	<p>122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be funded through the regular budget.</p>	<p>Linked to 117. Currently under consideration by STACFAD.</p>		
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<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>1. Urges its CPCs to make all necessary efforts to bring the work of the WG on Convention Amendment to a successful conclusion. This also includes agreement:1. b) on a (de facto) provisional application of some or all amendments to the ICCAT Convention from the time of their adoption.</p>	<p>CWG</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>Issue would need to be considered once Convention amendments are agreed.</p>	<p>Protocol adopted, now awaiting signatures and entry into force.</p>	<p>No further action necessary.</p>	
<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>90. Ensures that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention relating to decision-making and opt-out procedures are provisionally applied from the moment of their formal adoption.</p>	<p>CWG</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>See Recommendation 1(b) for proposed action.</p>	<p>To be decided once current package is adopted.</p>		

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

- Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
- Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
- Green – Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines

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 Wednesday 20 November 2019 by its Chair, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**).

4. Review of the progress on follow-up of the second performance review of ICCAT and consideration of necessary action

The Chair summarized the progress and work carried out during 2019 to follow up on the recommendations issued as a result of the second performance review. He presented a discussion document to address recommendations 108, 109 and 126, which contained the first steps proposed to develop an overarching capacity building strategy for ICCAT. The document summarized the different capacity building funds and programmes that aim to improve data collection and the capacity to implement the MCS measures in place, taking into account the special needs of developing CPCs: Meeting Participation Fund, Scientific Capacity-building Fund and the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Fund, as well as the different options for establishing a mechanism to obtain updated information on the actual needs of CPCs for effective implementation of conservation and management measures.

To address recommendation 86 of the second performance review, the document "Proposal on utilization of a cover note to accompany recommendations that involve new conservation and management measures for ICCAT" was presented, which included a template for a cover note to accompany each new Recommendation and is contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**. This cover note should indicate, among others, the implementation period of the Recommendation, the resources required for its implementation and its potential impact on the Secretariat's workload. During the discussion it was agreed that use of the template will be voluntary during the 2020 meeting.

Finally, to address recommendation 130 of the second performance review, concerned with review and assessment of the Secretariat's human resources, the information was presented again of the three external consultancies that had been contacted by the Secretariat in order to audit ICCAT to assess whether the Secretariat's workload is excessive and in line with staffing levels and profile. Following the discussions, it was decided to continue with this work and to review the outcome in 2020.

The progress to date by STACFAD with follow-up of the second performance review of ICCAT is included in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**.

5. Reports from the Secretariat

5.1 2019 Administrative Report

The 2019 Administrative Report was presented by the STACFAD Chair. The report summarised the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2019, highlighting the substantial work load experienced over the year. The Chair informed that The Gambia had signed the ICCAT Convention and was now a full member. He also notified that Vanuatu had communicated its withdrawal from the Convention, which will be effective on 31 December 2020. The Chair also signalled that the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 2019 by the Commission had been circulated within the timeframes stipulated in Article VIII.2 of the Convention, and referred to the numerous intersessional meetings and ICCAT Working Group meetings and training courses which took place in 2019. He also made reference to the ICCAT meetings at which ICCAT was represented, and signalled that Annex 1 to the Administrative Report contained the summaries of these meetings. He also informed that the Secretariat continues to send annually two letters of reminder regarding compliance with budgetary obligations.

The Chair informed that the appointment of Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary, had been confirmed after the one-year probation period, to complete the five-year mandate. He also informed of the following appointments at the Secretariat: Mr. Alberto Thais Parrilla took up the position of Compliance Officer in August 2019, replacing Ms. Carmen Ochoa, who left the position in September 2019; Dr Valérie Samedy took up the position of VMS Manager/Technical Officer in October 2019; and in May and June 2019, respectively, Mr. Manuel Maestre and Mr. José Sanz joined the Secretariat as software developers of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) project.

Finally, the Chair listed the different voluntary contributions made to the trust funds by several CPCs.

The 2019 Administrative Report was adopted.

5.2 2019 Financial Report

Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of the Department of Administration and Finance, presented the Secretariat's 2019 Financial Report. He indicated that the 2018 auditor's report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2019, and that the financial report set out the situation of the Commission's budgetary statements at 25 October 2019, as well as those of the trust funds managed by the Secretariat.

He also signalled that the Working Capital Fund stood at 43.91% of the total budget. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements and informed that expenses incurred amounted to 68.58% and the revenue received amounted to 74.40% of the budget approved for 2019. As to the situation of extra-budgetary funds, he informed that expenses had been incurred in the amount of €699,421.14 and that €1,169,743.07 of revenue had been received.

In addition, he highlighted that four new contributions had been received from the following Contracting Parties after the date of the report i.e. 25 October 2019: Angola (€18,679.58), Ghana (€34,094.00), Liberia (€8,042.54), and Syria (€3,638.15). He also encouraged delegations to meet their financial commitments so as to end the financial year with the Working Capital Fund within the stipulated range.

Finally, he indicated that the costs estimated by the Secretariat until year-end amounted to €1,302,011.53 and that, once the revenue referred to above has been received and if no new revenue is received before year-end, the Working Capital Fund will stand at 13.04% of the budget (€522,780.98).

The 2019 Financial Report was adopted.

5.3 Review of progress in 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. He highlighted that seven Contracting Parties could have had their voting rights suspended (Article X of the ICCAT Convention). He requested that the CPCs included in the document contact the Secretariat to regularise their situation and to provide payment plans.

He also indicated that the document presented the total debt of the Contracting Parties which amounted to €2,189,185.06, which has a direct effect on the activities of the Secretariat and the Commission. A letter will therefore be sent to the authorities of the countries concerned requesting them to provide concrete action plans in relation to the outstanding debt, as was done in 2011.

Libya informed that it had proceeded to pay its outstanding contributions.

The Executive Secretary signalled that the Secretariat had been taking on more and more tasks, that it is necessary to have the appropriate means to carry out the tasks in adequate conditions, and that these are diminished when CPCs do not fulfil their budgetary obligations.

6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of the mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities

6.1 Meeting Participation Fund

Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of the Department of Administration and Finance, presented the document "Meeting Participation Fund", which informed about the financial situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). He indicated that the balance of the fund had been low in 2019, but thanks to voluntary contributions from Canada (€75,000.00), the United States (€57,087.65) and the European Union (€28,000.00), it had been possible to cover all the requests received.

For 2020, the fund will have a carryover from 2019 of €20,000.00, an allocation of €200,000.00 charged to Chapter 13 of the budget, and the funds that will be provided under a grant agreement with the European Union which has yet to be formalised.

Delegates were requested to comply adequately with the steps and deadlines for financing requests in order to optimise fund resources.

Uruguay highlighted the importance of this fund within the Commission to achieve equality of opportunity between CPCs, thereby maintaining optimal levels of organization.

The European Union confirmed that it intended to make a voluntary contribution of €200,000.00 to the fund.

7. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed

This item was summarised in the document "Proposal on utilization of a cover note to accompany recommendations that involve new conservation and management measures for ICCAT" and the discussions that took place are included in point 4 of this report.

8. Consideration of the financial implications of SCRS requests

The Chair reminded that the Commission's budget included a chapter to provision the Strategic Research Programme and that for 2020, €150,000.00 of funds were requested. He indicated that at 25 October 2019, this fund had a carryover of €417,340.78.

The SCRS Chair presented the document "SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2020" which summarized the SCRS activities that required funding. These activities were ordered by Working Group and broken down into biology, fisheries indicators, assessments and MSE.

Several delegations, including Japan, the United States, the European Union, Uruguay and Honduras called for a more detailed breakdown and for priority and essential activities to be identified.

The European Union reminded that in the future all scientific activities, including the GBYP, should be included in the Commission's regular budget.

Several delegations such as El Salvador, Honduras, Brazil and Guatemala also requested that the tropical tunas MSE process be classed as priority.

Following several clarifications, the SCRS Chair informed that the activities would be classified in order of priority and that they would be included as such in the budget.

In the second session, the SCRS Chair presented a budget detailing the amounts required by activities and species.

The European Union welcomed the detailed information presented and requested that, in view of the very high budget, priority be given to some activities to reduce the amount of some headings. The EU suggested postponing the work on the tropical tunas MSE process until 2021, given that not much progress has been made to date. The EU also indicated that in the case of small tunas, the requested budget could be covered by in kind contributions from CPCs.

Regarding the MSE processes, Canada indicated that many processes were being developed and that work should focus on albacore and bluefin tuna, the United States signalled that the start of the tropical tunas MSE process could be postponed, and Japan signalled that priority should be given to the MSE process, each species being considered separately. However, all CPCs agreed that the roadmap that is being developed at different levels, should indicate the procedure, and that discussions should be postponed until the roadmap has been approved.

Uruguay asked whether there was overlap between AOTTP research activities and those included in the SCRS budget.

The Assistant Executive Secretary replied that the amount allocated under the heading of tropical tunas biology corresponded to the awards for recovery of AOTTP tags, following the programme's completion.

The United States indicated that, regardless of the specific activities with financial implications, it should be agreed whether these activities should be included or not in the regular budget, i.e. how the activities approved are going to be financed.

The Chair proposed to wait for the proposals from the panels so as to know what has to be envisioned. He also signalled that some CPCs had undertaken to provide voluntary contributions to finance some of them.

The Executive Secretary explained that, with the amount included in the regular budget (€150,000.00) and the commitments undertaken by the European Union and the United States, the priority activities for 2020 were covered. He also signalled that there should be discussion on how requests for 2021 are going to be financed.

The European Union confirmed that that it would make a voluntary contribution to cover 2020 activities, but that it could only cover priority activities.

The SCRS Chair indicated that work would continue and that he would present a new list of activities.

In the third session, a new document was presented (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7**) which contained the priority activities of the SCRS and reflected a 25% reduction with respect to the previous version. It was signalled that the budget that had been presented was only for 2020 and that the SCRS had wished to carry out all the activities proposed, but that carrying out the activities presented would be a good start.

The budget was approved.

9. Consideration of other programmes/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding

9.1 Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

It was reminded that the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme has a budget of €15,000,000.00, to which the European Union contributes up to a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%) and the remaining 10% must be financed through voluntary contributions from ICCAT Contracting Parties or through the ICCAT Working Capital Fund.

The contract signed with the European Union for AOTTP establishes that the contribution for the fifth year will be provided following completion of all the activities and submission of the supporting documents, i.e. the contribution will be received on contract completion (November 2020). Therefore, from November 2019 to November 2020, the programme will not have liquidity.

In order to continue with the activities until contract ends and receive the final contribution from the European Union, it would be necessary for the Commission to establish measures to solve the programme's cash flow issue.

It was informed that the Secretariat had made enquiries with a banking entity regarding potential provision of the necessary funds, which are estimated to be €1,200,000.00. The credit line contemplated in this option would involve an additional expense by way of banking costs, which would have to be covered by ICCAT, since they would not be included in the AOTTP budget.

Another option would be that the balance of the Working Capital Fund would be available to the Secretariat to provide the AOTTP with liquidity. Given that it is foreseeable that the balance of the Working Capital Fund would not be sufficient, the Secretariat also proposed that the Commission allow making the balances of the trust funds available, provided that this does not affect the development of their activities, so as to have liquidity as needed.

The Secretariat noted that it would be more beneficial and viable to approve the second option, since this would not involve incurring an extra-budgetary expense for ICCAT by way of bank interest, which would have to be paid to the entity providing the credit. In addition, it would be possible to ensure continuance of all the activities of the trust funds, since the Secretariat would be able at all times to choose the fund for providing the liquidity, based on the activities required and to be carried out in 2020.

As discussed with the European Union, it is estimated that the final contribution would be provided a month after submission of the programme's final reports and supporting documents. Therefore, it is envisaged that by December 2020, the contribution would have been received and would appear in the Commission's accounts, which is when all the funds would be regularised.

CPCs with arrears were urged to settle their debts with the Commission as soon as possible, which would provide more leeway regarding the cash flow situation of the AOTTP.

The United States expressed its support for the second option, on the condition that the CPCs providing the funds are consulted before they are used and that they are immediately returned following receipt of the contribution from the European Union.

Japan seconded this proposal by the United States.

The STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary expressed their appreciation to the Committee regarding the flexibility for managing the balances of the funds.

10. Review of the Report on the Discussions of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing

The Chair presented the Report on the Discussions of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing, which is contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7**. He explained that the Group had discussed the following topics: regarding the situation of CPCs with payment arrears, it was discussed that CPCs that were more

than two years in arrears should submit an arrears payment plan. Regarding how to improve the situation of the Meeting Participation Fund, it was discussed that CPCs that assigned more than four delegates to the same meeting could not benefit from the MPF, and that applicants should confirm their definitive travel itineraries at least 30 days prior to the start of the meeting and that the MPF would only cover the cheapest flight in economy class. Regarding the establishment of a new level of observer fees to address the budgetary burden of the annual Commission meetings, it was discussed that except for official CPC delegates, observers and fisheries operators should pay a participation fee to cover the additional expenses incurred as a result of their attendance, and that all non-member cooperators should make an annual contribution of 50% of the amount that they would pay if they were full members. Finally, it was discussed that the workload of the Secretariat staff should be assessed by an external human resources consultancy.

Uruguay signalled the high price of the conditions in which the annual meeting is held. Regarding the MPF, it indicated that on numerous occasions, delegations from developing countries did not know until the last minute whether they would receive financing to attend, and therefore the 30-day deadline could not apply. He also signalled that in practice the Secretariat already purchased economy class tickets.

The European Union indicated that it supported the proposed changes for the MPF. In relation to observer fees, it indicated that the Commission meeting was a large-scale meeting that should become a self-financing event. Although the European Union had provided financial support to organise annual meetings, including the 2019 edition, it would not be in a position to do so in future. Observer fees could be revised so that industry representatives who are not part of their countries' official delegation but attend as observers should be required to pay the relevant fees, as NGOs do (i.e. only the official members of Contracting Party delegations as notified to the Secretariat would not pay). The European Union also considered that observer fees should be increased to better reflect actual costs although there could be some flexibility in fixing the exact level. Having fewer participants would make it easier to find suitable venues and for CPCs to host the annual Commission meetings. As to the issue of Secretariat workload assessment, it indicated that progress was needed on this important topic and that in its view, this matter should be referred to the 2020 annual meeting, at which time the Commission will have at its disposal the conclusions of the consultants and will be able to make informed decisions. The analysis should take into account the competitiveness of the remuneration offered to ICCAT staff compared to other international organisations to ensure that ICCAT can retain quality staff.

The Chair informed that the Working Group would continue to work on the issue of fees for participation by observers and others attending meetings. He also suggested that in the future, the option would be reviewed of submitting a more consolidated budget for Chapter 3, which would include an increase in funds to cover part of the costs of the annual and intersessional meetings, i.e. increase the resources of this chapter to cover a large proportion of the costs and assist the host country.

Regarding the MPF, the United States indicated that available resources should be improved without reducing participation. As to observer fees, it signalled that the increase should be balanced, so that participation is not restricted only to observers with sizeable resources. In relation to fees for other observers, such as cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, the United States expressed its concern that too large an increase may lead to some parties not wishing to cooperate. As to review of the workload of the Secretariat, the United States indicated that in 2018 the Secretariat had suggested that this review be carried out by the company offering the lowest bid, and the United States backed this option.

The Chair signalled that the Virtual Working Group would continue to work in 2020 since it had not been possible to make concrete proposals and that specific documents would be prepared for presentation in 2020 Annual meeting.

11. Adoption of budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2020/21

11.1 ICCAT budget

The Executive Secretary presented the document "Explanatory Note on the ICCAT Budget for Financial Years 2020 and 2021" with the budget and contributions for the period 2020 and 2021. He highlighted that the budget for financial year 2020 that was being presented contained a 5.34% increase compared to 2019,

as well as a 5.00% increase for 2021 with respect to 2020. He indicated that a new chapter called “Services that require specialist external consultancy” was being presented for approval. He explained that the Secretariat was currently in the process of signing many scientific contracts, and therefore requested that funds be available to cover the legal advice for formalisation of these contracts, among other potential enquiries, and to develop management quality improvement procedures manuals.

He also indicated that the AOTTP would end in 2020 and that some residual activities would need to be ensured following conclusion of the programme, which would also require financing over the coming three years.

Furthermore, he explained that, as agreed at previous meetings, chapter 13, which is devoted to travel, has been gradually increased so as to include in the budget, travel by the ICCAT and SCRS Chairs, annual financing of the MPF and travel by rapporteurs and officers.

Finally, he signalled that the first phase of the IOMS had been financed through voluntary contributions, and that, given the importance of this system, the creation had been requested of a new chapter in the regular budget which would enable the continuance of this work.

The Chair signalled that the increase in budget was directly reflected in the contributions, but that this increase was very limited in comparison with the increase in the requests received by the Secretariat.

The United States expressed its support for continuance of the process to include regular activities within the Commission’s regular budget, through gradual and constant increases, and indicated that the funds allocated to scientific work should be increased to support priorities identified by the SCRS, even if this involved a decrease in other headings. The United States also signalled that discussions should start on how to finance the annual Commission meeting, since it is very difficult to secure financing, and the United States requested that CPCs participate in the discussions on how to share meeting costs.

The Chair signalled the importance of holding the annual meeting and that financing through the regular budget should be available for its organization.

The European Union indicated its support for the proposed budget and noted that the increases for 2020 and 2021 are necessary to reduce reliance on voluntary contributions. The European Union expressed support for the continuation of the gradual transition to financing regular activities from the regular budget.

Japan also welcomed continuing the approach of increasing the budget gradually and signalled that there should be discussion on how to assist host countries with the financing of the annual meeting. It added that an integral approach would be necessary which should also take cost reduction into account. As to Chapter 9, legal advice, it indicated that scientific as well as legal aspects should be taken into account in the preparation of contracts.

The Executive Secretary explained that the Secretariat did not wish to take on staff, but sought to be able to contact experts for the purpose of drawing up standard contracts, and making legal enquiries. This would be through issue of a call for tenders to select a firm or local expert, specialising in both national and international law.

Algeria indicated that staff could be hired to provide legal services for the purpose of validating the documents to be approved by the Commission. This proposal was seconded by Gabon, Angola and Senegal.

The Executive Secretary clarified that the Secretariat does not have the authority to interpret the measures approved and that the expenditure requested under Chapter 9, referred to legal advice on specific matters to ensure that the Secretariat is carrying out tasks correctly, in terms of legally protecting the Secretariat.

The Chair indicated that the prospect of having permanent legal advice would be explored next year.

In the third session, another version of the document “Explanatory Note on the ICCAT Budget for Financial Years 2020 and 2021 (revised)” was presented, which reflected the changes in panel membership (incorporation of Russia and Senegal into Panel 2, as well as The Gambia and Sierra Leone into Panel 4) and the update of the United Nations exchange rate for November 2019.

The budget was approved (**Tables 1-7** are included in **ANNEX 7**).

11.2 eBCD system budget

The Chair informed that the eBCD budget had been presented to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), contained in point 4 of the Report of the Technical Working Group on the Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation Programme (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). The budget established an approach to start to incorporate the internal IT knowledge of the eBCD system and to gradually eliminate the reliance on TRAGSA through the hire of information technology experts. For 2020, in addition to the extension of the contract with TRAGSA (support and system maintenance + activities to develop the web application by the Working Group), the eBCD budget also included the hire of two experts to carry out the new activities and the support and system maintenance.

The European Union indicated that the proposed recruitments would be more expensive than continuing the current set-up and that, even if two people are hired, there would still be a need to rely on external expertise from TRAGSA. It also doubted that two people would be able to carry out the work. The European Union proposed that a proper cost benefit analysis and long-term plan be drafted for consideration by CPCs in advance of the next annual meeting.

The United States indicated that more time would be required to make the changeover, and that just one person could be hired for daily operations, and that the programming changes could be carried out outside of TRAGSA.

Japan expressed its preference to maintain the contract with TRAGSA and for the transition to be made gradually, since it is an important step.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the level of funds that appeared in the budget was the minimum, and requested more guidance on this matter.

The second version of the document was referred to the plenary sessions for approval and is contained in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7**.

12. Election of Chair

Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey) was re-elected for another two-year term as the STACFAD Chair.

13. Other matters

Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of the Department of Administration and Finance, announced that this would be his last Commission meeting, but that he would continue to work at the Secretariat for a while to ensure an orderly transfer of the department's responsibilities.

The Chair and the Executive Secretary expressed their appreciation for his excellent work and dedication to the Secretariat over the past 45 years, which was seconded by all the delegates.

13.1 Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures

The Chair presented the document "Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures", which had already been presented, in part, in other forums. The document contained a list of Recommendations that had been repealed by the measures adopted in 2018 and that had not been included in the 2019 Compendium.

14. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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

Table 1. 2020-2021 ICCAT Budget (Euros).

Chapters	2019	Increase	2020	Increase	2021
1. Salaries	1,728,031.33	0.41%	1,735,160.67	3.00%	1,787,215.49
2. Travel	26,520.00	13.12%	30,000.00	3.00%	30,900.00
3. Commission meetings (annual)	163,200.00	22.55%	200,000.00	3.00%	206,000.00
4. Publications	28,050.00	0.00%	28,050.00	3.00%	28,891.50
5. Office Equipment	15,300.00	0.00%	15,300.00	3.00%	15,759.00
6. Operating Expenses	142,800.00	0.00%	142,800.00	3.00%	147,084.00
7. Miscellaneous	7,752.00	0.00%	7,752.00	3.00%	7,984.56
8. Coordination of Research					
a) Salaries	1,124,881.65	-2.73%	1,094,165.50	3.00%	1,126,990.47
b) Travel to improve statistics	26,520.00	-13.27%	23,000.00	3.00%	23,690.00
c) Statistics-Biology	17,850.00	0.00%	17,850.00	6.44%	19,000.00
d) Computer-related items	39,780.00	0.00%	39,780.00	3.07%	41,000.00
e) Database maintenance	26,010.00	0.00%	26,010.00	3.81%	27,000.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	26,520.00	24.43%	33,000.00	1.52%	33,500.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	78,030.00	0.00%	78,030.00	3.00%	80,370.90
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,339,591.65</i>	<i>-2.07%</i>	<i>1,311,835.50</i>	<i>3.03%</i>	<i>1,351,551.37</i>
9. Services requiring specialized external consultancy (i.e., legal advice, total quality management project, etc.)			25,000.00	3.00%	25,750.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	61,710.00	0.00%	61,710.00	3.00%	63,561.30
11. Strategic Research Programme					
a) Strategic Research Programme	150,000.00	0.00%	150,000.00	3.00%	154,500.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>	<i>3.00%</i>	<i>154,500.00</i>
12. Compliance					
a) Compliance database maintenance	250,000.00	-88.00%	30,000.00	3.00%	30,900.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>250,000.00</i>	<i>-88.00%</i>	<i>30,000.00</i>	<i>3.00%</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>
13. Travel					
a) Travel by ICCAT/SCRS Chairs	18,500.00	170.27%	50,000.00	3.00%	51,500.00
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	72,000.00	177.78%	200,000.00	45.00%	290,000.00
c) Travel by ICCAT Officers (Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties)	-	-	30,000.00	3.00%	30,900.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>90,500.00</i>	<i>209.39%</i>	<i>280,000.00</i>	<i>33.00%</i>	<i>372,400.00</i>
14. Online Management System					
a) Online Management System	-		200,000.00	3.00%	206,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>-</i>		<i>200,000.00</i>	<i>3.00%</i>	<i>206,000.00</i>
15. Contingencies	5,100.00	0.00%	5,100.00	3.00%	5,253.00
TOTAL BUDGET	4,008,554.98	5.34%	4,222,708.17	5.00%	4,433,750.22

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2020-2021.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2017	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	4,483	2,504	48	0	48	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	C	4,299	2,402	3,382	2,428	5,810	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	4,527	2,529	47	0	47	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	16,804	9,388	539	0	539	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,773	2,666	19,748	0	19,748	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	9,840	5,497	51,112	13,141	64,253	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	44,941	25,107	2,407	0	2,407	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,180	1,777	24,901	1,892	26,793	X	-	-	X	2	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	B	8,525	4,763	6,693	0	6,693	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,674	935	5,479	0	5,479	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	48,417	27,049	31,356	0	31,356	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	2,021	1,129	126	0	126	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,389	2,452	20,991	5,287	26,278	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	38,565	21,545	9	0	9	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	7,417	4,144	41	0	41	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Gambia, The	D	492	275	0	0	0	-	-	-	X	1	Gambia, The
Ghana	C	1,609	899	86,058	21,500	107,558	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	9,878	5,518	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	4,536	2,534	13,124	0	13,124	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	8,651	4,833	96	0	96	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	763	426	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	701	392	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,466	1,378	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	71,246	39,802	14	0	14	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	38,112	21,292	26,560	0	26,560	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	30,165	16,852	2,065	0	2,065	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	584	326	467	0	467	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	C	9,698	5,418	1,383	1,167	2,550	X	X	-	X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,066	1,713	8,964	957	9,921	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	C	1,141	637	14,861	5,330	20,191	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	8,921	4,984	1,466	0	1,466	X	X	-	X	3	Mexico
Namibia	D	5,026	2,808	4,737	0	4,737	X	X	X	X	4	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	2,208	1,234	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,968	1,099	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	74,716	41,741	34	0	34	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	14,407	8,049	17,763	0	17,763	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,988	1,669	0	0	0	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	10,654	5,952	1,659	0	1,659	X	X	-	-	2	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	7,236	4,042	1,997	0	1,997	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,832	1,023	2,738	0	2,738	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,025	573	31,234	199	31,433	X	X	-	X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	463	259	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	6,137	3,428	4,562	0	4,562	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1,414	790	34	0	34	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	17,028	9,513	2,838	0	2,838	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	3,461	1,934	12,560	2,190	14,750	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,558	5,898	19,520	0	19,520	-	X	-	X	2	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	35,010	19,559	240,611	307,007	547,618	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	39,437	22,032	492	0	492	X	-	-	-	1	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	59,421	33,196	10,263	9,527	19,790	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	17,189	9,603	0	0	0	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	3,302	1,845	81	0	81	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	18,194	10,164	6,414	1,071	7,485	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

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

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2020 (Euros).

		Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.111 US\$ (11/2019)									
Contracting Party	Group ^a	Catch + Canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + Canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel Membership ^e	Variable fees for Member ^f	Variables fees Catch-Canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party
Albania	D	48	1	0.37%	4.17%	900.00	900.00	1,892.57	339.60	4,032.17	Albania
Algérie	C	5,810	2	1.97%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	11,384.28	26,268.73	Algérie
Angola	D	47	2	0.37%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	332.53	5,871.38	Angola
Barbados	C	539	0	0.18%	1.41%	900.00	0.00	4,061.48	1,056.13	6,017.61	Barbados
Belize	C	19,748	4	6.71%	7.04%	900.00	3,600.00	20,307.41	38,694.81	63,502.22	Belize
Brazil	B	64,253	4	55.53%	22.73%	900.00	3,600.00	46,485.32	227,146.47	278,131.80	Brazil
Canada	A	2,407	3	0.38%	12.50%	900.00	2,700.00	102,168.38	6,262.67	112,031.04	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	26,793	2	9.10%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	52,498.98	67,383.43	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	B	6,693	4	5.78%	22.73%	900.00	3,600.00	46,485.32	23,661.02	74,646.34	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	5,479	2	1.86%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	10,735.71	25,620.16	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	31,356	1	4.99%	6.25%	900.00	900.00	51,084.19	81,583.79	134,467.98	Curaçao
Egypt	D	126	2	0.98%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	891.45	6,430.31	Egypt
El Salvador	C	26,278	1	8.93%	2.82%	900.00	900.00	8,122.97	51,489.88	61,412.84	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	9	3	0.00%	12.50%	900.00	2,700.00	102,168.38	23.42	105,791.79	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	41	2	0.01%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	80.34	14,964.78	Gabon
Gambia, The	D	0	1	0.00%	4.17%	900.00	900.00	1,892.57	0.00	3,692.57	Gambia, The
Ghana	C	107,558	1	36.54%	2.82%	900.00	900.00	8,122.97	210,752.28	220,675.24	Ghana
Grenada	C	0	0	0.00%	1.41%	900.00	0.00	4,061.48	0.00	4,961.48	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	13,124	2	4.46%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	25,715.55	40,600.00	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	96	2	0.03%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	188.11	15,072.55	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	0.00	5,538.86	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	0.00	5,538.86	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	0.00	5,538.86	Honduras
Iceland	A	14	1	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	900.00	51,084.19	36.43	52,920.61	Iceland
Japan	A	26,560	4	4.23%	15.63%	900.00	3,600.00	127,710.47	69,105.29	201,315.76	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	2,065	4	0.70%	7.04%	900.00	3,600.00	20,307.41	4,046.22	28,853.63	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	467	2	3.64%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	3,304.04	8,842.90	Liberia
Libya	C	2,550	3	0.87%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	4,996.54	24,842.47	Libya
Maroc	C	9,921	3	3.37%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	19,439.50	39,285.43	Maroc
Mauritania	C	20,191	3	6.86%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	39,562.83	59,408.76	Mauritania
Mexico	C	1,466	3	0.50%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	2,872.52	22,718.45	Mexico
Namibia	D	4,737	4	36.89%	10.42%	900.00	3,600.00	4,731.43	33,514.42	42,745.85	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	4.17%	900.00	900.00	1,892.57	0.00	3,692.57	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	0.00	5,538.86	Nigeria
Norway	A	34	2	0.01%	9.38%	900.00	1,800.00	76,626.28	88.46	79,414.75	Norway
Panama	B	17,763	4	15.35%	22.73%	900.00	3,600.00	46,485.32	62,795.56	113,780.88	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	0.00	5,538.86	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	1,659	2	0.56%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	3,250.69	18,135.14	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	1,997	3	0.68%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	3,912.98	23,758.91	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,738	2	21.32%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	19,371.43	24,910.29	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	31,433	3	10.68%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	61,590.74	81,436.67	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	6.25%	900.00	1,800.00	2,838.86	0.00	5,538.86	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	4,562	3	35.53%	8.33%	900.00	2,700.00	3,785.14	32,276.29	39,661.43	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.26%	4.17%	900.00	900.00	1,892.57	240.55	3,933.12	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,838	2	0.96%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	5,560.86	20,445.31	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	14,750	2	5.01%	4.23%	900.00	1,800.00	12,184.45	28,901.58	43,786.03	Tunisie
Turkey	B	19,520	2	16.87%	13.64%	900.00	1,800.00	27,891.19	69,006.88	99,598.07	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	547,618	4	87.16%	15.63%	900.00	3,600.00	127,710.47	1,424,823.13	1,557,033.60	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	492	1	0.08%	6.25%	900.00	900.00	51,084.19	1,280.11	54,164.30	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	19,790	4	3.15%	15.63%	900.00	3,600.00	127,710.47	51,490.73	183,701.20	United States
Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.63%	900.00	2,700.00	16,245.93	0.00	19,845.93	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	81	0	0.63%	2.08%	900.00	0.00	946.29	573.08	2,419.36	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	7,485	3	6.47%	18.18%	900.00	2,700.00	37,188.26	26,460.89	67,249.14	Venezuela

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

Table 4. Contributions by group 2020. Fees Expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Panels^b	Catch + Canning^c	% of each Party^d	% of the Budget^e	Fees^f	Panels fees^g	Other fees^h	Total feesⁱ
A	9	23	628,280	---	58.75%	8,100.00	20,700.00	2,452,041.05	2,480,841.05
B	5	17	115,714	3.00%	15.00%	4,500.00	15,300.00	613,606.23	633,406.23
C	22	49	294,336	1.00%	22.00%	19,800.00	44,100.00	865,095.80	928,995.80
D	17	31	12,840	0.25%	4.25%	15,300.00	27,900.00	136,265.10	179,465.10
TOTAL	53	120	1,051,170		100.00%	47,700.00	108,000.00	4,067,008.17	4,222,708.17

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

Table 5. Contracting Party Contributions 2021 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Group ^a	Catch + Canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + Canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel Membership ^e	Variable fees for Member ^f	Variables fees Catch-Canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party
	Albania	D	48	1	0.38%	4.26%	894.00	894.00	1,919.60	339.42	4,047.02	Albania
	Algérie	C	5,810	2	1.97%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	12,000.88	27,527.26	Algérie
	Angola	D	47	2	0.37%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	332.35	5,893.75	Angola
	Barbados	C	539	0	0.18%	1.41%	894.00	0.00	4,281.46	1,113.33	6,288.79	Barbados
	Belize	C	19,748	4	6.71%	7.04%	894.00	3,576.00	21,407.30	40,790.59	66,667.89	Belize
	Brazil	B	64,253	4	55.53%	22.73%	894.00	3,576.00	48,893.53	238,913.96	292,277.48	Brazil
	Canada	A	2,407	3	0.38%	12.50%	894.00	2,682.00	107,804.36	6,608.14	117,988.50	Canada
	Cabo Verde	C	26,793	2	9.10%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	55,342.43	70,868.81	Cabo Verde
	China, People's Rep. of	B	6,693	4	5.78%	22.73%	894.00	3,576.00	48,893.53	24,886.79	78,250.32	China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	5,479	2	1.86%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	11,317.18	26,843.56	Côte d'Ivoire
	Curaçao	A	31,356	1	4.99%	6.25%	894.00	894.00	53,902.18	86,084.26	141,774.44	Curaçao
	Egypt	D	126	2	0.99%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	890.97	6,452.37	Egypt
	El Salvador	C	26,278	1	8.93%	2.82%	894.00	894.00	8,562.92	54,278.67	64,629.59	El Salvador
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	9	3	0.00%	12.50%	894.00	2,682.00	107,804.36	24.71	111,405.07	France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	41	2	0.01%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	84.69	15,611.07	Gabon
	Gambia, The	D	0	1	0.00%	4.26%	894.00	894.00	1,919.60	0.00	3,707.60	Gambia, The
	Ghana	C	107,558	1	36.54%	2.82%	894.00	894.00	8,562.92	222,167.03	232,517.95	Ghana
	Grenada	C	0	0	0.00%	1.41%	894.00	0.00	4,281.46	0.00	5,175.46	Grenada
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	13,124	2	4.46%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	27,108.35	42,634.73	Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	96	2	0.03%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	198.29	15,724.67	Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	0.00	5,561.40	Guinea, Rep. of
	Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	0.00	5,561.40	Guinée-Bissau
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	0.00	5,561.40	Honduras
	Iceland	A	14	1	0.00%	6.25%	894.00	894.00	53,902.18	38.44	55,728.62	Iceland
	Japan	A	26,560	4	4.23%	15.63%	894.00	3,576.00	134,755.45	72,917.39	212,142.84	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	2,065	4	0.70%	7.04%	894.00	3,576.00	21,407.30	4,265.37	30,142.67	Korea, Rep. of
	Liberia	D	467	2	3.66%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	3,302.25	8,863.65	Liberia
	Libya	C	2,550	3	0.87%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	5,267.17	25,969.01	Libya
	Maroc	C	9,921	3	3.37%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	20,492.38	41,194.22	Maroc
	Mauritania	C	20,191	3	6.86%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	41,705.63	62,407.47	Mauritania
	Mexico	C	1,466	3	0.50%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	3,028.10	23,729.95	Mexico
	Namibia	D	4,737	4	37.13%	10.64%	894.00	3,576.00	4,799.01	33,496.24	42,765.24	Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	4.26%	894.00	894.00	1,919.60	0.00	3,707.60	Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	0.00	5,561.40	Nigeria
	Norway	A	34	2	0.01%	9.38%	894.00	1,788.00	80,853.27	93.34	83,628.61	Norway
	Panama	B	17,763	4	15.35%	22.73%	894.00	3,576.00	48,893.53	66,048.72	119,412.25	Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	0.00	5,561.40	Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	C	1,659	2	0.56%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	3,426.76	18,953.14	Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	1,997	3	0.68%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	4,124.91	24,826.76	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,738	2	21.46%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	19,360.92	24,922.33	São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	31,433	3	10.68%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	64,926.61	85,628.45	Senegal
	Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	894.00	1,788.00	2,879.40	0.00	5,561.40	Sierra Leone
	South Africa	D	4,562	3	35.76%	8.51%	894.00	2,682.00	3,839.21	32,258.78	39,673.98	South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.27%	4.26%	894.00	894.00	1,919.60	240.42	3,948.02	Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,838	2	0.96%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	5,862.05	21,388.43	Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	14,750	2	5.01%	4.23%	894.00	1,788.00	12,844.38	30,466.94	45,993.33	Tunisie
	Turkey	B	19,520	2	16.87%	13.64%	894.00	1,788.00	29,336.12	72,581.83	104,599.95	Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	547,618	4	87.16%	15.63%	894.00	3,576.00	134,755.45	1,503,421.60	1,642,647.05	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	492	1	0.08%	6.25%	894.00	894.00	53,902.18	1,350.73	57,040.91	United Kingdom (O.T.)
	United States	A	19,790	4	3.15%	15.63%	894.00	3,576.00	134,755.45	54,331.15	193,556.60	United States
	Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.63%	894.00	2,682.00	17,125.84	0.00	20,701.84	Uruguay
	Venezuela	B	7,485	3	6.47%	18.18%	894.00	2,682.00	39,114.82	27,831.71	70,522.53	Venezuela

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

The withdrawal of the Republic of Vanuatu from the Convention will become effective on 31 December 2020.

Table 6. Contributions by group 2021. Fees Expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Panels^b	Catch + Canning^c	% of each Party^d	% of the Budget^e	Fees^f	Panels fees^g	Other fees^h	Total feesⁱ
A	9	23	628,280	---	59.00%	8,046.00	20,562.00	2,587,304.63	2,615,912.63
B	5	17	115,714	3.00%	15.00%	4,470.00	15,198.00	645,394.53	665,062.53
C	22	49	294,336	1.00%	22.00%	19,668.00	43,806.00	911,951.05	975,425.05
D	16	31	12,759	0.25%	4.00%	14,304.00	27,714.00	135,332.01	177,350.01
TOTAL	52	120	1,051,089		100.00%	46,488.00	107,280.00	4,279,982.22	4,433,750.22

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

Table 7. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>2015 Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>2016 Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>2017 Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Parties</i>
Albania	40 t		40	47 t		47	56 t		56	Albania
Algérie	3,844	1,758	5,602	3,439	2,306	5,745	2,864	3,220	6,084	Algérie
Angola	15 t		15	8 t		8	119 t		119	Angola
Barbados	469 t		469	511 t		511	637 t		637	Barbados
Belize	22,117 t		22,117	17,073 t		17,073	20,054 t		20,054	Belize
Brazil	47,795 t	13,141 coo	60,936	51,028 t	13,141 coo	64,169	54,513 t	13,141 coo	67,654	Brazil
Canada	2,585		2,585	2,356		2,356	2,281		2,281	Canada
Cabo Verde	38,337 co	1,892 co	40,229	22,463 t	1,892 coo	24,355	13,902 t	1,892 coo	15,794	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	5,842		5,842	7,049		7,049	7,189		7,189	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	1,259 t		1,259	2,692 t		2,692	12,487 t		12,487	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	29,305	0	29,305	34,827	0	34,827	29,937	0	29,937	Curaçao
Egypt	155 t		155	99 t		99	124 t		124	Egypt
El Salvador	11,263 co	5,287 co	16,550	27,861 t	5,287 coo	33,148	23,848 t	5,287 coo	29,135	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	9 t		9			0			0	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	37 t		37	22 t		22	64 t		64	Gabon
Gambia, The			0			0			0	Gambia, The
Ghana	90,596	20,000	110,596	81,536	20,000	101,536	86,043	24,500	110,543	Ghana
Grenada			0			0			0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	12,619 co		12,619	11,414 t		11,414	15,340 t		15,340	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	132 co	0 co	132	60 t		60			0	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of			0			0			0	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau			0			0			0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	37	0	37	6	0	6	0		0	Iceland
Japan	27,225		27,225	24,929		24,929	27,525		27,525	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	851 t		851	2,804 t		2,804	2,540 t		2,540	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	299 t		299	432 t		432	671 t		671	Liberia
Libya	1,150	950	2,100	1,400	1,200	2,600	1,600	1,350	2,950	Libya
Maroc	9,285 t	957 coo	10,242	8,044 t	957 coo	9,001	9,563 t	957 coo	10,520	Maroc
Mauritania	5,330	5,330	10,660	23,119	5,330	28,449	16,134	5,330	21,464	Mauritania
Mexico	1,262	0	1,262	1,598	0	1,598	1,537	0	1,537	Mexico
Namibia	5,152	0	5,152	5,963		5,963	3,097		3,097	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	8		8	44		44	51		51	Norway
Panama	13,634 t		13,634	22,547 t		22,547	17,109 t		17,109	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of			0			0			0	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,039	0	1,039	2,279	0	2,279	1,660	0	1,660	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	1,498		1,498	1,941		1,941	2,552	0	2,552	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	3,183 t		3,183	2,546 t		2,546	2,485 t		2,485	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	18,532 t	199 coo	18,731	35,635 t	199 coo	35,834	39,534 t	199 coo	39,733	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	6,423 t		6,423	3,785 t		3,785	3,479 t		3,479	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	22 t		22	40 coo		40	40 t		40	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	3,065	0	3,065	2,836	0	2,836	2,613	0	2,613	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	9,395 t	2,190 coo	11,585	10,557 t	2,190 coo	12,747	17,727 t	2,190 coo	19,917	Tunisie
Turkey	6,554		6,554	41,476		41,476	10,531		10,531	Turkey
Union Européenne	233,655	329,981	563,636	240,089	291,933	532,022	248,090	299,107	547,197	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	411		411	606		606	459		459	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	10,243	9,415	19,658	10,142	10,485	20,627	10,403	8,682	19,085	United States
Uruguay			0			0			0	Uruguay
Vanuatu	81		81			0			0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	5,222	1,367	6,589	6,712	1,363	8,075	7,309	483	7,792	Venezuela
TOTAL	629,975	392,467	1,022,442	712,015	356,283	1,068,298	696,167	366,338	1,062,505	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (S17-01757).

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 2 July 2019.)

ANNEX: Legends

Table 2

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t
b	GNP: Gross National Product per capita in US\$. Source: UNCTAD / GNP with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1,70 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2013-2014-2015 Catches (t)
d	Average 2013-2014-2015 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

Table 3 and 5

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

Table 4 and 6

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

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 5.1 2019 Administrative Report
 - 5.2 2019 Financial Report
 - 5.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
7. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed
8. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests
9. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding
10. Review of progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing
11. Adoption of Budget and Contracting Party contributions for the period 2020/2021
12. Election of Chair
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Proposal on utilization of a cover note to accompany Recommendations that involve new conservation and management measures for ICCAT

Cover Note Template

Title of the Draft Recommendation:

Paragraph(s) of New Reporting Obligation(s):

Brief Description of New Reporting Obligation(s):

Describe if any Overlapping Obligations in Other Recommendation(s):

Description of Expected Service(s) from the Secretariat:

Estimated Total Costs to the Secretariat (including Staff Time required):

Final Assessments on Potential Implications of the Proposed New Measure(s):

1. Are the necessary financial resources available for a full implementation of the proposed measure?
 Yes No Unknown
In the case of “no” or “unknown” please specify the proposed solution below:

Additional Comments by the Secretariat:

2. Does the staff have the necessary time available for a full implementation of the proposed measure?
 Yes No Unknown
In the case of “no” or “unknown” please specify the proposed solution below:

Additional Comments by the Secretariat:

3. Are any external sources of expertise or advice required to respond successfully to the requirements of the measure (i.e., for assisting CPCs, reviewing the quality of the statistics available, collection, processing, and reporting of data, as well as implementation of monitoring systems)?
 Yes No Unknown
If “No” or “Unknown” please specify the proposed solution below:

If “Yes”, please reflect on the required additional work in call for tenders and any possible cost implications, below:

Additional Comments by the Secretariat:

4. Specify the proposed timeframe for implementation below (also indicate whether a different specific timeframe is proposed for Developing States CPCs)

5. Specify the overall assessment (on how the measure will improve reporting efficiency, avoid redundancy and reduce unnecessary burden to CPCs., etc.) below:

Final Comments by the Secretariat:

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7

Follow-up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review – STACFAD

Not started/little progress
 Progress/requiring additional work
 Completed/significant progress made

	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>Observations / Comments</i>	<i>Actions to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following Annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
ICCAT Basic Texts	3. The Panel recommends that ICCAT make consolidated versions of individual basic ICCAT instruments available on the ICCAT website.	STAC-FAD	S	Refer this and related recommendations, in particular those concerning revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and observer rules, to STACFAD for consideration and appropriate action, including	Mail voting procedures (Rule 9) need particular attention. In addition, several other recommendations from the Performance Review relate to revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and should be considered as a package by STACFAD.	The 6th revision of ICCAT Basic Texts and updated version of Staff Rules & Regulations were posted on ICCAT web-site following the 2017 Commission meeting. The Basic Texts reflects	Progress to require additional work following adoption of Convention.	

<p>Decision Making</p>	<p>92. Reviews its Rules of Procedure, among other things to integrate its 2011 Deadlines and Guidelines for the Submission of Draft Proposals, Rec. 03-20 and Res. 94-06.</p>			<p>providing advice to the Commission on the timing for posting of these documents on the ICCAT website.</p>		<p>further changes to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure concerning mail voting. A revised version of the Basic Texts will need to be published in line with the outcomes of the Convention amendment process.</p> <p>The STACFAD needs to continue work intersessionally and consider this again at the 2020 annual meeting.</p>		
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Transparency	94. Considers codifying its practices on participation by NGOs - which are consistent with international minimum standards and comparable to those of other tuna RFMOs - by amending the ICCAT Observer Guidelines and Criteria or the ICCAT Rules of Procedure.	M			No action has yet to be taken in regard to review of the policy on NGOs' attendance at ICCAT meetings.	Not started/little progress.	
	95. Considers requiring Contracting Parties that object to an application by an NGO for Observer Status with ICCAT to provide their reasons in writing.	S			The STACFAD may need to further consider this recommendation at the 2019 Annual meeting. To date, no difficulties have been encountered as all NGOs which meet the criteria have been accepted.		
	96. Considers that closing formal ICCAT meetings to observers requires an explicit and reasoned decision supported by a simple majority of Contracting Parties.	S/M					

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting</p>	<p>COM - to be considered by all bodies</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM. A global standard (application) may not be appropriate and could be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket coverage for all recommendations.</p>	<p>Some Recommendations have made specific provisions to take this into account.</p>	
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	requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.							
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	86. The Panel recommends that before the adoption of each new recommendation, there should be an assessment as to the likely impact on the Secretariat's workload that its implementation implies.	STAC-FAD		Refer to STACFAD to develop options for implementing this recommendation.	Option 1 - The Secretariat with guidance from the STACFAD shall develop a "cover note" template that would be embedded in a new recommendation with a view to indicating <i>inter alia</i> , the timeframe for implementation, the resources it will require to achieve implementation and the potential impact on the Secretariat's workload.	This will be implemented on a trial basis in 2020.	This was discussed and agreed in 2018. A template is to be developed for trial use in 2020.	
Decision Making	89.Revises the opt-out procedures included in Res 12-11 and the most recent text of the Amended ICCAT Convention to bring them more in line with modern opt-out procedures used by RFMOs that have been recently established or that have recently amended their constitutive instruments.	STAC-FAD	M - re/ Res. 12-11; NOAC - re/ Conv. amendment opt-out provisions.	Refer recommendation to revise Res. 12-11 to STACFAD for consideration.	The opt-out procedures developed by the CWG was a topic of intense negotiation. No further actions are considered necessary until such time the Commission adopts such procedures.		No further action required at present.	

Participation and Capacity Building	108. Considers pursuing capacity building initiatives to strengthen participation in ICCAT meetings in a broader sense - including for key ICCAT positions - for instance by human resource development (e.g. by training courses on participation in, and chairing of, intergovernmental negotiations and bodies).	STAC-FAD	S/M	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on this issue.	Option 1 = Organization of regional workshops / consultation meetings by Commission Chair to provide inputs to formulize an overarching strategy built on needs of Developing CPCs. Option 2 = To this end, SWGSM Terms of Reference could be amended to incorporate focused actions to be undertaken by SWGSM towards identification of specific mechanisms and strategies for streamlining capacity building and assistance works in ICCAT.	The STACFAD needs to work intersessionally and further consider this recommendation at the 2020 Annual meeting.	Not started/little progress.
	109. Develops an overarching strategy for capacity building and assistance programs, which integrates the various existing capacity building initiatives.			Refer to STACFAD to undertake a review of its capacity building and assistance work and advise on how to improve it.	Option 3 = The Secretariat with guidance from the STACFAD shall develop a Terms of Reference for establishment of an ad hoc working group (or an internal		

					correspondence group) with the mandate to develop an overarching strategy on capacity building to that end.			
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<p>Total Quality Management Process</p>	<p>126. The Panel recommends that ICCAT provides training in efficient chairing meetings to current Chairs and to new ones when they assume their duties.</p>	<p>STAC-FAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options for acquiring such training and on financial aspects; the Secretariat should assist STACFAD in considering this matter as needed.</p>	<p>Option 1 = The Secretariat shall facilitate and organize bilateral meetings between outgoing/incoming chairs with a view to ensuring continuity of the works, efficiency and transfer of knowledge to the incoming chairs.</p> <p>Option 2 = Whenever there is a new assignment or a change in current assignment of chairs of ICCAT's main and subsidiary bodies, the ICCAT Secretariat shall undertake to provide a two days training on procedural and substantive roles of the chairs and in efficient chairing meetings to current chairs and to new ones when they assume their duties.</p>	<p>The STACFAD may wish to consider this recommendation at the 2020 Annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress.</p>	
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					Option 3 = In order to avoid creating an additional workload on the Secretariat, outsource such task to an external training company.			
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<p>Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat</p>	<p>118.The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>It was noted that the proposed changes on the current structure and functioning of SCRS would require further deliberations in future meetings of SCRS. (2018 SCRS REPORT)</p>	<p>This item is primarily pending SCRS and COM action. The STACFAD may wish to consider this Recommendation at the 2020 Annual meeting, following the outcomes of the Meeting on SCRS Process and Protocol.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress.</p>	
<p>Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>119.The Panel recommends that specific mentoring projects to include trainees in stock assessment teams be implemented.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits of this idea and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.</p>	<p>SCRS has conducted some training on stock assessment techniques in the past.</p>	<p>This item is primarily pending SCRS action. The STACFAD needs to consider any financial implications.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	

<p>Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>120. The Panel recommends that ICCAT develop specific mechanisms to ensure that more scientists with knowledge of the fisheries participate in stock assessment meetings and are directly involved in assessment teams.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise CPCs/ Commission on key participants needed at science meetings and any other relevant matters. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.</p>	<p>It was noted that the proposed changes on the current structure and functioning of SCRS would require further deliberations in future meetings of SCRS. (2018 SCRS Report)</p>	<p>This item is primarily pending SCRS action. The STACFAD needs to consider any financial implications.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress.</p>	
<p>Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>121. The Panel also recommends that formal training in stock assessment be provided, possibly in cooperation with other organizations.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess the financial implications.</p>	<p>Several sessions were organized by SCRS to improve the capacity in MSE processes with the involvement of external experts / in cooperation with other organizations at different times. The proposed changes on the current structure and functioning of SCRS would require further deliberations in future meetings of SCRS. (2018 SCRS Report)</p>	<p>STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation following discussion/ conclusion by SCRS.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	

<p>SCRS Long-Term Strategy</p>	<p>122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be funded through the regular budget.</p>	<p>In 2017, the financing of SCRS was included in the regularization process of the Commission's budget (Chapter 11 – Strategic Research Programme) and the new budget maintained the inclusion of the funds allocated for SCRS activities and of other expenses that had been financed through the Working Capital Fund.</p> <p>In 2015, SCRS recommended to develop a formal process to establish a scientific research quota to facilitate required research to improve the science. However, ICCAT has not yet approved such a fund.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to continue to consider this recommendation, but SCRS priorities are considered when allocating research funds.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	
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<p>Implementation Res 11-17</p>	<p>125. The Panel recommends that ICCAT considers adopting a system with scientists from external organisations, universities or otherwise are contracted to review SCRS assessments.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to review and update the current TORs for these reviewers.</p>	<p>A mechanism already exists for external reviewers to participate in SCRS stock assessments.</p>	<p>This recommendation is primarily pending SCRS action.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	
<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>127. The Panel recommends that a Working Capital Fund equivalent to 70% of the Annual Budget is prudent. This fund needs to be kept at that level in the interest of sound financial management. It should also be borne in mind that there are no guarantees that the costs of Annual meetings and scientific programmes etc., will continue to be financed by extra budgetary funds.</p>	<p>STAC-FAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options.</p>	<p>The level of working capital fund (WCF) has been set by ICCAT at 15% of the total annual budget. This level is now recommended by the Panel to be advanced to 70% of the Annual Budget in the interest of a sound financial management. STACFAD needs to provide advice to the Commission for adoption of a more practical and realistic level of WCF.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress.</p>	

<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>128. The Panel, taking account of the clear progress made by ICCAT in reducing outstanding debts on annual contributions by CPCs, recommends that ICCAT consider erasing CPCs debts for annual contributions outstanding for more than two years i.e. debts before 2015. This measure would alleviate the debt burden for certain Developing States. However, in parallel, ICCAT should amend its financial procedures and introduce an automatic sanction whereby, if the previous two years' contributions have not been paid in full by the following Annual meeting, then the right to vote and be a quota holder is withdrawn for that CPC, until those debts are acquitted in full.</p>	<p>STAC-FAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options.</p>	<p>Total amount due from pending contributions of Contracting Parties has reached to a level above 2 million Euros. Article X of the Convention and Rule 9 of ICCAT Rules of Procedure stipulates that the Commission may suspend the voting rights of any Contracting Party when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years.</p>	<p>Previously, in such situations, CPCs were invited to propose a payback plan to pay their arrears over several years. The Commission may again wish to consider this option to facilitate payment. Discussion in 2019 was inconclusive and further work is needed on this, although intersessional work is ongoing in the context of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress.</p>	
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>129. The Panel also recommends that ICCAT consider cost recovery to finance key parts of their activities and thereby reduce the CPCs budgetary contributions and/or expand ICCAT's activities (e.g. the High Seas Inspection Scheme). This cost recovery approach is based on the principle that the vessels of CPCs, which benefit from access to profitable fisheries, should share the financial burden for the science and monitoring programmes, which are crucial for the sustainability of those resources. An annual fee could be envisaged which would be paid per vessel of a certain size to ICCAT, via if necessary, the Flag CPC.</p>	<p>STAC-FAD</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD consider and advise on options.</p>	<p>STACFAD needs to decide on the draft proposed addition to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 for an EBCD System Funding Scheme (STF-207/2018).</p> <p>Option 1 = The Secretariat with guidance from the STACFAD shall develop a Terms of Reference for establishment of an <i>ad hoc</i> working group (that may be considered in the form of an internal correspondence group) with the mandate to develop a cost-recovery policy towards a sustainable financial position at ICCAT.</p>	<p>Initial discussion at 2018 meeting, intersessional work has been ongoing during 2019; further discussion will be required at the 2020 meeting.</p>	<p>Initial discussion at 2018 meeting, intersessional work during 2020.</p>	
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>130. The Panel recommends, in line with good management practice, that ICCAT reviews every five years, through an independent human resources consultancy company, the staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat and, if necessary, adjust it to accurately reflect current and programmed workloads. In that review, the company should also review the staff assessment process.</p>	<p>STAC-FAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on financial and other considerations. Contracting process would be undertaken by the Secretariat</p>	<p>The nature of workload question in the Secretariat needs to be identified first. In this regard, ICCAT Secretariat has taken initiative to make a preliminary examination in the interim period, and contacted a few HRs consultancy companies to receive proposals for an independent review of the staffing profile, staff assessment process and workload of the Secretariat.</p>	<p>STACFAD agreed to this at the 2019 Annual meeting. The Secretariat will proceed as agreed and present the results at the 2020 meeting. Linked to Recommendation 86 above.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	
<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>131. The Panel recommends that STACFAD be responsible for the terms of reference and the follow-up to the report of the consultancy.</p>	<p>STAC-FAD</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Please refer to the above-cited observations.</p>	<p>See 130 above.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>		

SCRS Research Activities Requiring Funding for 2020/

2020 SCRS Requests

Research Programme	<i>Biolog (inc. tagging and rewarding)</i>			<i>Fishery indicators</i>			<i>Assessment</i>			<i>MSE</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	Requested	Assigned	%	Requested	Assigned	%	Requested	Assigned	%	Requested	Assigned	%	Requested	Assigned	%
Working Group															
Tropicals Tunas	€ 50,000.00	€ 15,000.00	-70%	€ 45,200.00	€ 45,200.00	0%	€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00	0%	€ 125,000.00	€ 50,000.00	-60%	€ 230,200.00	€ 120,200.00	-48%
Swordfish	€ 310,000.00	€ 245,000.00	-21%	€ 20,000.00	€ 20,000.00	0%				€ 90,000.00	€ 90,000.00	0%	€ 420,000.00	€ 355,000.00	-15%
Small Tunas	€ 125,000.00	€ 110,000.00	-12%							€ 20,000.00	€ 0.00	-100%	€ 145,000.00	€ 110,000.00	-24%
Sharks	€ 125,000.00	€ 125,000.00	0%										€ 125,000.00	€ 125,000.00	0%
Ecosystems							€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00	0%				€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00	0%
Billfish	€ 65,000.00	€ 48,000.00	-26%	€ 87,000.00	€ 29,000.00	-67%							€ 152,000.00	€ 77,000.00	-49%
Albacore	€ 70,000.00	€ 45,000.00	-36%	€ 52,000.00	€ 52,000.00	0%	€ 5,000.00	€ 5,000.00	0%	€ 50,000.00	€ 40,000.00	-20%	€ 177,000.00	€ 142,000.00	-20%
Stock Assessment Methods				€ 20,000.00	€ 20,000.00	0%							€ 20,000.00	€ 20,000.00	0%
SUB-TOTAL	€ 745,000.00	€ 588,000.00	-21%	€ 224,200.00	€ 166,200.00	-26%	€ 25,000.00	€ 25,000.00	0%	€ 285,000.00	€ 180,000.00	-37%	€ 1,279,200.00	€ 959,200.00	-25%
GBYP	€ 1,090,000.00			€ 728,000.00						€ 182,000.00			€ 2,000,000.00		0%
AOTTP	€ 710,400.00			€ 236,800.00			€ 236,800.00						€ 1,184,000.00		0%
TOTAL	€ 2,545,400.00	€ 2,388,400.00	-6%	€ 1,189,000.00	€ 1,131,000.00	-5%	€ 261,800.00	€ 261,800.00	0%	€ 467,000.00	€ 362,000.00	-22%	€ 4,463,200.00	€ 4,143,200.00	-7%

This 2020 science budget proposal was developed based on the assumption that the Commission will contribute a total of €150,000. The remaining amount requires voluntary contributions from ICCAT CPCs.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7

Report on the discussions of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF)

The Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF), pursuant to decision adopted by STACFAD at the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission in 2018, has set out its virtual deliberations through internal correspondence as from May 2019.

In response to ICCAT Circular #1921/19, the Secretariat has established a virtual network to facilitate exchange of views, online dialogue and working procedures on 24 May 2019. Subsequently, experts from eight CPCs (Algeria, Canada, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Turkey, Uruguay and the USA), as well as the Chair of STACFAD, the Executive Secretary and Secretariat staff have been involved in deliberations of the VWG-SF through electronic correspondence.

In its first round of correspondence, the VWG-SF has sought to address, as a matter of priority, the following issues with a view to proposing alternative solutions to STACFAD on dealing with some of the outstanding financial issues:

- Situation of CPCs' arrears: Defining a potential recovery strategy;
- Improving the situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) by the following:
 - Improving the optimization of the use of this Fund
 - Potential solutions to increase the financial resources for MPF in regular budget
- Setting a new level for observer fees in a way to cope with the budgetary burden of annual Commission meetings
- Matters relating to the operational effectiveness of the Secretariat, i.e.;
 - Workload assessment of the Secretariat through an external HR consultancy
 - Prospects for future financing of IOMS within the Commission's regular budget
 - Financial implications of proposed management and conservation measures
- Follow-up of recommendations from the second Performance Review of ICCAT

This report merely intends to provide information on progress status of discussions as of the date of 15 November 2019. A compendium of comments and suggestions made by the members of the VWG-SF against each topic given above have been presented in the following sections.

Situation of CPCs' Arrears: Defining a Potential Recovery Strategy

From among several suggestions communicated by the members of the VWG-SF on this particular topic, the following ones have stood out despite the fact that no substantial discussions could be made and no conclusion was reached as a result of the internal correspondence:

- The CPCs having arrears of regular contributions of more than two years shall submit the Commission a recovery or payback plan with a specific timeline to pay their arrears over several years.
- Under the above-mentioned document, a CPC should apply only one pay plan as to its arrears pertinent to a specified period (e.g., from 2015 to 2017) with reasonable number of payback years (i.e., up to X years) and shall make a commitment to continue with its regular payments of the normal dues for current year (e.g. 202X).
- For those CPCs failing to implement the aforementioned payback plan, Article X(8) of the Convention shall be applied, based on a decision taken by the Commission.

Furthermore, given the adverse impact of late contribution payments on the Commission, it is recommended to proceed with further assessments to be able to identify alternative compensation measures that may include reasonable interest payments, etc.

Situation of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

From among several suggestions communicated by the members of the VWG-SF on this particular topic, the following ones have stood out despite the fact that no substantial discussions could be made and no conclusion was reached as a result of the internal correspondence:

- A new line will be added to Eligibility Criteria of the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund, as follows;
 - A CPC assigning more than [four] official delegates to a Commission or a non-Commission meeting through utilization of their own means or financial sources other than the Fund shall not be eligible to benefit from the "Special Meeting Participation Fund" for that meeting with a view to receiving a funding support for travel costs of its formal delegates.
- A new line will be added to the *Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund*, as follows;
 - Applicants must make definite their flight itinerary no less than [30] days prior to commencement of the meeting.
 - Only the most cost-effective fare of the economy class shall be covered by the Fund.

Furthermore, given the adverse impact of precarious situation of the Fund in terms of limited sources hampering a broader utilization by developing States, it is recommended to proceed with further projections and assessments to be able to establish a specific mechanism to replenish the Fund through guaranteed budgetary contributions.

Setting a New Level for Observer Fees

From among several suggestions communicated by the members of the VWG-SF on this particular discussion topic, the following ones have stood out despite the fact that no substantial discussions could be made, thus no agreed conclusion was reached yet, as a result of the internal correspondence:

- The new observer fee will be set as 300 Euros / person for 2020 and 600 Euros / person for 2021, including any delegate that is not staff of the CPC fisheries management authority, neither staff of the national scientific advisory body.
- "Guidelines for Observer Status" will be updated to bring a clarification to "identification of members of delegations who should not be subject to participation fees", as follows;
 - Except for the Official Delegates of the CPCs, Observers and Fishing Operators will be required to pay a fee for their participation at the meetings of the Commission, which will contribute to the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary.

Furthermore, given the adverse impact of precarious financial situation of ICCAT, it may be considered to make an arrangement in a way that all Cooperating non-Members should make an annual contribution that is 50% of the amount that would be payable if they were full members (i.e. a procedure similar to identified in para. 64 of WCPFC7 Summary Report).

To this end, projected annual contributions of non-Members' to be calculated by the Secretariat will be reviewed at the next session of STACFAD in 2020 with a view to incorporating a new rule to ICCAT's Financial Regulations.

Workload Assessment of the Secretariat through a Human Resources Consultancy

The VWG-SF has been asked to present an opinion whether or not the Secretariat should resume its exercise undertaken in 2018 for an external consultancy in 2020 that will be mandated to make a thorough assessment of the current workload of the Secretariat and advise on the required improvements about workload distribution and HR issues. No decision could be taken at this stage as a result of the internal correspondence, leading to a need for further considerations and deliberations on the matter by the VWG-SF.

Prospects for Future Financing and Enhancement of the IOMS

The VWG-SF has acknowledged that the new reporting system would help to reduce unnecessary reporting burden leading to a progress in data submission, data quality and data completeness.

On the other hand, the VWG-SF has also been asked to present an opinion on prospects for future financing of IOMS and to present an opinion whether or not IOMS could be enhanced in a way to produce an automated analysis on the financial impacts of new reporting obligations. No agreement was reached as a result of the internal correspondence; thus it requires further consideration and deliberations.

Financial and Workload implications of the Proposed Management Measures

The VWG-SF has been asked to present an opinion on the following approach to assess financial and workload implications of the proposed conservation and management measures. No conclusion could be reached as a result of the internal correspondence and therefore it requires further consideration and deliberations.

Proposed Approach:

In 2019 for trial purposes and effective from 2020, the following template (now contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**) will be used as a cover note to accompany the proposed draft recommendations on conservation and management measures. The cover note will be completed and provided by the proponent(s) of the recommendation and the Secretariat will be able to attach any comments and contributions as deemed necessary to this note.

As to the following template developed, the Secretariat suggested that it might need to be granted a possibility to carefully review these proposals to see all their implications before getting back to the Commission on a consistent analysis.

Situation and proposed level of the Working Capital Fund (WCF)

The VWG-SF has been asked to present an opinion on the following proposal as part of a recommendation from the performance review of ICCAT:

- The level of Working Capital Fund shall be maintained at a level of at least [30]% of the approved annual budget until the Commission determines a more appropriate level based on prevailing circumstances.

Although 30% of the budget has been suggested based on the updated WCF level in 2018, it was recognized that more evaluations by the Secretariat are required regarding the funds necessary to be able to make the Secretariat work at least a couple of months (i.e. 3, 4 or more months). Thus, no decision could be taken at this stage as a result of the internal correspondence, leading to a need for further considerations and deliberations on the matter by the VWG-SF.

Follow-up of the recommendations from the Second Performance Review of ICCAT

The VWG-SF has been asked to present an opinion on the following proposed amendments to some of the current procedural documents in line with a number of recommendations from the ICCAT performance review panel. Although some suggestions received from the members of VWG-SF incorporated, no final decision could be taken at this stage as a result of the internal correspondence, leading to a need for further deliberations on the matter by the VWG-SF.

- In order to address the performance review recommendation 92 (i.e.; Reviews its Rules of Procedure, among other things to integrate its *2011 Deadlines and Guidelines for the Submission of Draft Proposals*, Rec. 03-20 and Res. 94-06), the following additions will be made to Rule 8 of ICCAT's Rule of Procedure:

Rule 8 – Agenda

1. A provisional agenda for each regular meeting shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman and be attached to the notice dispatched by the Executive Secretary in accordance with Rule 2, paragraph 2.
2. Any proposal concerning:
 - a) amendments to the Rules of Procedure;
 - b) amendments to the Financial Regulations;
 - c) decisions to set up and modify (except membership) panels under Article VI of the Convention;
 - d) amendments to the Convention under Article XIII, paragraph 1, of the Convention;

must, in order to form the subject of a decision by the Commission, have been placed on the provisional agenda. In the case of regular meetings, any proposal of this nature must, furthermore, have been discussed in an explanatory memorandum addressed to member countries at least 60 days before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting.
3. The provisional agenda for a special meeting shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman on the basis of the items relating to the purpose for which the meeting is to be called. The Executive Secretary shall circulate such agenda together with the notice dispatched by him in accordance with Rule 3, paragraph 2.
4. Any proposal, except for one prescribed in paragraph 2 of this Rule, for which the SCRS advice is not required or for which SCRS advice was given in previous years should be submitted to the Secretariat one month before the opening of the meeting, together with a brief explanation if required. Such proposals will be translated by the Secretariat and circulated two weeks before the meeting. In the event that the Party(ies) making the proposal receive comments from other Contracting Parties and wish to amend their proposal before discussion at the meeting, the revised version should be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible, and not later than the first day of the meeting. The proposals can be revised as often as necessary following first discussion.
5. Any proposal which requires the most recent available scientific advice should be sent to the Secretariat, if possible, at least one week in advance of the meeting, and otherwise no later than five days before the end of the Meeting. These will be translated by the Secretariat and distributed by the first day of the annual meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter. The proposals can be revised as often as necessary following first discussion.
6. Cooperating Parties may attend the meetings of ICCAT as observers. Any non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that seeks to be accorded the status of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall apply to the Executive Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an ICCAT annual meeting, to be considered at that meeting.

() As regards para 5 above, the time limit specified (i.e. one week, no later than five days) does not allow time a) for translation; b) for cost analysis and c) most importantly, small delegations to fully consider the impact of the measures on their fisheries and hence to be in a position to make an informed decision especially in the case of large volume proposals that often have extensive modifications.*

- In order to address the performance review recommendations 94, 95 and 96 (i.e.; Considers codifying its practices on participation by NGOs - which are consistent with international minimum standards and comparable to those of other tuna RFMOs - by amending the ICCAT Observer Guidelines and Criteria or the ICCAT Rules of Procedure), the following additions will be made to Rule 5 of ICCAT's Rule of Procedure:

Rule 5 – Observers

The Commission may invite international organizations and any Government which is a Member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations and which is not a member of the Commission, to send observers to its meetings. Observers may, with the authorization of the Chairman, address the meeting to which they are invited and otherwise participate in its work, but without the right to vote.

The Commission may also invite, upon request, non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission to attend such of its meetings as the Commission may specify in accordance with the procedures defined in the Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status of the Commission. The list of the NGOs wishing to be invited will be submitted beforehand by the Executive Secretary to the members of the Commission, no later than 45 days before the meeting. If one of the members of the Commission objects giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will then be subject to decision of the Commission out of meeting by written procedure. Once an NGO has had its application for Observer status approved, such observer status shall remain in effect for future sessions unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Meetings of the Commission shall be open to participation by observers unless the Commission otherwise decides based on an explicit and reasoned decision supported by a simple majority of Contracting Parties.

- In order to address the performance review recommendations 108, 109 and 120 (i.e.; Considers pursuing capacity building initiatives to strengthen participation in ICCAT meetings in a broader sense & Develops an overarching strategy for capacity building and assistance programs, which integrates the various existing capacity building initiatives); the following addition will be made to “Terms of Reference of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)” to incorporate focused actions to develop an overarching capacity building and assistance strategy for ICCAT:

Amendment to Paragraph 2 of Rec. 14-13

2. The objective of the SWGSM is to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists, by establishing a forum to exchange views and to support the development and effective implementation of management and capacity building strategies, in particular through, inter alia:
 - a) The development of a general framework to guide establishment, review and update of management objectives and strategies, which
 - i. is consistent with the Convention objectives, the ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches;
 - ii. defines the role and the responsibilities of both fisheries managers and scientists (SCRS) and possible interactions and feedbacks; and
 - iii. allows for reflecting both conservation and socio-economic considerations.
 - b) Ways to improve managers and scientists' mutual understanding of concepts related to management strategies, including:

- i. the adoption of Limit and Target Reference Points (LRPs and TRPs);
 - ii. the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs);
 - iii. the application of Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE).
- c) The analysis of case studies, exchanges and feedbacks on ongoing experiences.
- d) The identification of opportunities / approaches that would enhance the available data.
- e) The identification of research needs and priorities, in the light of discussions on SCRS annual work programmes and on the Strategic Plan on Science and including possible social and economic research topics.
- f) The promotion of an efficient use of scientific resources and information.
- g) The identification of the specific mechanisms to ensure that more scientists with knowledge of the fisheries and MSE process participate in stock assessment meetings and are directly involved in assessment teams.

Conclusion

It is primarily up to the STACFAD to evaluate the utility of the VWG-SF and decide on its destiny whether to continue its activities in line with the terms of reference adopted in 2018.

Notwithstanding, the Commission has devoted a number of priority goals for STACFAD in the context of ICCAT performance review and given that STACFAD has usually no opportunity to meet frequently during the interim periods, it is recommendable that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finance may continue its work and deliberations until a significant progress is achieved on each of the above-mentioned topics in line with the overall objective of creating a sustainable financial position for ICCAT.

Furthermore, it is also advisable to ensure a broader participation by more CPCs in the 2020 deliberations of the VWG-SF, which shall always be open to new attendance. In particular, involvement of capacity building and assistance experts from CPCs who may contribute to the works of VWG-SF intended for developing an overarching strategy for capacity building in ICCAT, is considered important.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7

**Explanatory note on the eBCD system budget
for financial years 2020 and 2021 (revised)**

This document contains the revisions to the eBCD system budget that has been proposed by the Secretariat for 2020 and 2021, as well as the update of the United Nations exchange rate for November 2019, which modifies the contributions of the Commission members that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

OPTION A:

The proposal that is presented as Option A contains the expenses necessary to extend the contract with TRAGSA for the next two years, without any hiring to carry out the new activities, support, and maintenance of the system at the Secretariat. The budget that is presented includes:

- Support and maintenance of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System. A budget of €275,000.00 is requested.
- Developments of the website application ("Flexible" allocation): development activities requested by the working group. A budget of €200,000.00 is requested to cover the following activities:
 - a) Website services: A budget of €50,000.00 is requested.
 - b) Other activities not yet defined: A budget of €100,000.00 is requested for new developments.

OPTION B:

The proposal that is presented as Option B contains the expenses necessary to extend the contract with TRAGSA and start the transition process to carry out the new activities, support and maintenance of the system at the Secretariat **through hire of a person**. The budget that is presented includes:

- Support and maintenance of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System. A budget of €275,000.00 is requested.
- Developments of the website application ("Flexible" allocation): development activities requested by the working group.
 - a) Website services: A budget of €50,000.00 is requested.
 - b) Other activities not yet defined. A budget of €100,000.00 is requested for new developments.
- Salaries: a new hire will be responsible for carrying out the new activities, and support and maintenance of the system. A budget of €80,000.00 is requested.

Taking into account all the revisions, the total expenses budget for the eBCD system for 2020 will be €305,000.00 (total expenses budget minus the 2019 carryover: €505,000.00 - €200,000.00) and that of 2021 will be €505,000.00.

The Secretariat has prepared two other options, including in the salaries chapter:

- Two hires - Option C: a total budget for 2020 of €385,000.00 and for 2021 of €585,000.00.
- Three hires - Option D: a total budget for 2020 of €465,000.00 and for 2021 of €665,000.00.

The details of these options are available from the Secretariat.

Table 1. 2020-2021 eBCD system budget (Euros).

eBCD system fund	2020	%	2021
Support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system	275,000.00	0.00%	275,000.00
Developments in the web application ("Flexible" allotment): Development activities requested by the Working Group (WG)			
a) Adapt the system to allow access to NCP	0.00	0.00%	0.00
b) Web services	50,000.00	-100.00%	0.00
c) Other developments as required*	100,000.00	50.00%	150,000.00
Salaries	80,000.00	0.00%	80,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	505,000.00	0.00%	505,000.00
BALANCE OF 2019 ICCAT BUDGET ALLOCATED TO THE EBCD	200,000.00	-100.00%	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	305,000.00	65.57%	505,000.00

* Note, these amounts may be subject to change depending on decisions taken during the 2019 and 2020 Commission meetings.

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the 2020-2021 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	Average Catch ^b (2016-2017)	% Average Catch ^b	No. of Trade ^c	% No. of Trade ^c	Import weight ^d	% Import weight ^d	Contracting Parties
Albania	D	50.90	23.72%	3	37.50%	0.00	0.00%	Albania
Algérie	C	743.03	12.26%	17	0.49%	0.00	0.00%	Algérie
Canada	A	468.88	3.00%	2,611	5.10%	15.63	0.04%	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	B	59.13	4.00%	28	2.15%	2.95	100.00%	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	D	111.50	51.97%	3	37.50%	0.00	0.00%	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	A	0.00	0.00%	1	0.00%	0.03	0.00%	France (St. P. & M.)
Iceland	A	3.09	0.02%	3	0.01%	0.00	0.00%	Iceland
Japan	A	2,090.17	13.35%	8,456	16.52%	32,154.79	88.28%	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	171.14	2.82%	647	18.70%	3,622.08	100.00%	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	C	1,499.28	24.74%	40	1.16%	0.00	0.00%	Libya
Maroc	C	1,962.25	32.38%	2,598	75.11%	0.00	0.00%	Maroc
Mexico	C	44.50	0.73%	109	3.15%	0.00	0.00%	Mexico
Norway	A	47.33	0.30%	106	0.21%	11.92	0.03%	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	D	52.15	24.31%	2	25.00%	0.00	0.00%	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	C	1,640.78	27.07%	48	1.39%	0.00	0.00%	Tunisie
Turkey	B	1,419.50	96.00%	1,272	97.85%	0.00	0.00%	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	12,029.33	76.86%	32,671	63.84%	2,991.54	8.21%	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	0.23	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	1,012.28	6.47%	7,329	14.32%	1,249.34	3.43%	United States

a), b), c), d): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 3. 2020 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

		Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.111 US\$ (11/2019)									
Contracting Party	Group ^a	% Average Catch ^b	% No. of Trade ^c	%Import weight ^d	Basic fee ^e	Average Catch ^f	No. of Trade ^g	Import weight ^h	Total fees ⁱ	Contracting Party	
	Albania	D	23.72%	37.50%	0.00%	630.00	40.55	84.97	0.00	755.51	Albania
	Algérie	C	12.26%	0.49%	0.00%	630.00	534.01	28.54	0.00	1,192.56	Algérie
	Canada	A	3.00%	5.10%	0.04%	630.00	2,346.35	5,327.86	33.62	8,337.84	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	B	4.00%	2.15%	100.00%	630.00	204.44	146.81	5,112.00	6,093.24	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	51.97%	37.50%	0.00%	630.00	88.83	84.97	0.00	803.80	Egypt
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	630.00	0.00	2.04	0.06	632.10	France (St. P. & M.)
	Iceland	A	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	630.00	15.46	6.12	0.00	651.58	Iceland
	Japan	A	13.35%	16.52%	88.28%	630.00	10,459.56	17,254.85	69,143.17	97,487.59	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	2.82%	18.70%	100.00%	630.00	122.99	1,086.38	4,356.00	6,195.37	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	C	24.74%	1.16%	0.00%	630.00	1,077.52	67.16	0.00	1,774.69	Libya
	Maroc	C	32.38%	75.11%	0.00%	630.00	1,410.26	4,362.30	0.00	6,402.56	Maroc
	Mexico	C	0.73%	3.15%	0.00%	630.00	31.98	183.02	0.00	845.00	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.30%	0.21%	0.03%	630.00	236.85	216.30	25.64	1,108.78	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	24.31%	25.00%	0.00%	630.00	41.55	56.64	0.00	728.19	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	27.07%	1.39%	0.00%	630.00	1,179.22	80.60	0.00	1,889.82	Tunisie
	Turkey	B	96.00%	97.85%	0.00%	630.00	4,907.56	6,669.19	0.00	12,206.76	Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	76.86%	63.84%	8.21%	630.00	60,196.76	66,666.66	6,432.77	133,926.19	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	630.00	1.15	0.00	0.00	631.15	United Kingdom (O.T.)
	United States	A	6.47%	14.32%	3.43%	630.00	5,065.62	14,955.16	2,686.49	23,337.26	United States

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

Table 4. 2020 contributions to the eBCD system by Group for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Fees expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Average Catch^b	No. of Trade^c	Import weight^d	% of each Party^e	% of the Budget^f	Basic Fees^g (Euros)	Average Catch^h (Euros)	No. of Tradeⁱ (Euros)	Import weight^j (Euros)	Total fees^k (Euros)
A	8	15,651.31	51,177.00	36,423.25	---	87.25%	5,040.00	78,321.75	104,429.00	78,321.75	266,112.50
B	2	1,478.63	1,300.00	2.95	3.00%	6.00%	1,260.00	5,112.00	6,816.00	5,112.00	18,300.00
C	6	6,060.97	3,459.00	3,622.08	1.00%	6.00%	3,780.00	4,356.00	5,808.00	4,356.00	18,300.00
D	3	214.54	8.00	0.00	0.25%	0.75%	1,890.00	170.93	226.58	0.00	2,287.50
TOTAL	19	23,405.45	55,944.00	40,048.29		100.00%	11,970.00	87,960.68	117,279.58	87,789.75	305,000.00

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

Table 5. 2021 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

						Exchange rate: 1 €=		1.111 US\$ (11/2019)			
Contracting Party	Group ^a	% Average Catch ^b	% No. of Trade ^c	%Import weight ^d	Basic fee ^e	Average Catch ^f	No. of Trade ^g	Import weight ^h	Total fees ⁱ	Contracting Party	
	Albania	D	23.72%	37.50%	0.00%	630.00	193.56	405.59	0.00	1,229.15	Albania
	Algérie	C	12.26%	0.49%	0.00%	630.00	975.35	52.14	0.00	1,657.48	Algérie
	Canada	A	3.00%	5.10%	0.04%	630.00	3,914.65	8,888.99	56.09	13,489.73	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	B	4.00%	2.15%	100.00%	630.00	348.40	250.19	8,712.00	9,940.60	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	51.97%	37.50%	0.00%	630.00	424.04	405.59	0.00	1,459.63	Egypt
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	630.00	0.00	3.40	0.10	633.51	France (St. P. & M.)
	Iceland	A	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	630.00	25.80	10.21	0.00	666.01	Iceland
	Japan	A	13.35%	16.52%	88.28%	630.00	17,450.70	28,787.94	115,358.24	162,226.88	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	2.82%	18.70%	100.00%	630.00	224.64	1,984.21	7,956.00	10,794.85	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	C	24.74%	1.16%	0.00%	630.00	1,968.04	122.67	0.00	2,720.71	Libya
	Maroc	C	32.38%	75.11%	0.00%	630.00	2,575.77	7,967.50	0.00	11,173.27	Maroc
	Mexico	C	0.73%	3.15%	0.00%	630.00	58.41	334.28	0.00	1,022.69	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.30%	0.21%	0.03%	630.00	395.16	360.87	42.77	1,428.80	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	24.31%	25.00%	0.00%	630.00	198.33	270.39	0.00	1,098.72	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	27.07%	1.39%	0.00%	630.00	2,153.78	147.21	0.00	2,930.99	Tunisie
	Turkey	B	96.00%	97.85%	0.00%	630.00	8,363.60	11,365.81	0.00	20,359.40	Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	76.86%	63.84%	8.21%	630.00	100,432.07	111,226.44	10,732.42	223,020.93	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	630.00	1.92	0.00	0.00	631.92	United Kingdom (O.T.)
	United States	A	6.47%	14.32%	3.43%	630.00	8,451.46	24,951.14	4,482.12	38,514.72	United States

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

Table 6. 2021 contributions to the eBCD system by Group for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Fees expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Average Catch^b	No. of Trade^c	Import weight^d	% of each Party^e	% of the Budget^f	Basic Fees^g (Euros)	Average Catch^h (Euros)	No. of Tradeⁱ (Euros)	Import weight^j (Euros)	Total fees^k (Euros)
A	8	15,651.31	51,177.00	36,423.25	---	87.25%	5,040.00	130,671.75	174,229.00	130,671.75	440,612.50
B	2	1,478.63	1,300.00	2.95	3.00%	6.00%	1,260.00	8,712.00	11,616.00	8,712.00	30,300.00
C	6	6,060.97	3,459.00	3,622.08	1.00%	6.00%	3,780.00	7,956.00	10,608.00	7,956.00	30,300.00
D	3	214.54	8.00	0.00	0.25%	0.75%	1,890.00	815.93	1,081.58	0.00	3,787.50
TOTAL	19	23,405.45	55,944.00	40,048.29		100.00%	11,970.00	148,155.68	197,534.58	147,339.75	505,000.00

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

Table 7. Eastern and western bluefin tuna catch figures (in t) for 2016 and 2017 of the members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Parties	2015			2016			2017			Parties
	East	West	Total	East	West	Total	East	West	Total	
Albania	40.75		40.75	45.79		45.79	56.00		56.00	Albania
Algérie	370.20		370.20	448.39		448.39	1,037.67		1,037.67	Algérie
Canada		530.59	530.59		466.11	466.11		471.65	471.65	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	45.08		45.08	53.89		53.89	64.38		64.38	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	155.19		155.19	99.33		99.33	123.67		123.67	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)		9.34	9.34		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	France (St. P. & M.)
Iceland	37.43		37.43	5.76		5.76	0.42		0.42	Iceland
Japan	1,385.92	345.52	1,731.44	1,578.37	345.49	1,923.86	1,910.65	345.83	2,256.48	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	0.00		0.00	161.08		161.08	181.19		181.19	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	1,153.45		1,153.45	1,367.80		1,367.80	1,630.75		1,630.75	Libya
Maroc	1,498.10		1,498.10	1,783.30		1,783.30	2,141.20		2,141.20	Maroc
Mexico		53.00	53.00		55.00	55.00		34.00	34.00	Mexico
Norway	8.29		8.29	43.80		43.80	50.86		50.86	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	39.65		39.65	47.39		47.39	56.91		56.91	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	1,247.83		1,247.83	1,490.60		1,490.60	1,790.95		1,790.95	Tunisie
Turkey	1,091.10		1,091.10	1,324.30		1,324.30	1,514.70		1,514.70	Turkey
Union Européenne	9,120.82		9,120.82	10,974.35		10,974.35	13,084.30		13,084.30	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)		0.21	0.21		0.00	0.00		0.46	0.46	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States		898.80	898.80		1,026.70	1,026.70		997.86	997.86	United States
TOTAL	16,193.81	1,837.46	18,031.27	19,424.15	1,893.30	21,317.45	23,643.64	1,849.80	25,493.44	TOTAL

Catch figures (in t) based on Compliance Table tabled at 2018 annual meeting (COC-304D/2018).

ANNEX: Legends

Table 2

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t
b	Average catches (t) for 2016-2017
c	Total number of trades in the eBCD system 2016-2017
d	CPC's overall volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system (The relevant trade and import data from the eBCD system shall reflect the same time period used to determine the relevant catch and canning data pursuant to paragraph 1(b)(ii).)

Table 3 and 5

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of the CPC's Atlantic bluefin tuna catch within its Group
c	Percentage of number of CPC's trades in the eBCD system within its group
d	Percentage of CPC total volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system within its group
e	Basic fee (US\$700)
f	Fee in proportion to live weight of bluefin tuna for the Contracting Party
g	Fee in proportion to the number of CPC trades in the eBCD system
h	Fee in proportion to the CPC volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system
i	Total contribution

Table 4 and 6

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Total volume of bluefin tuna catch by Group
c	Total number of trades by Group in the eBCD system
d	Total volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna by Group, as recorded in the eBCD system
e	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group as per the Madrid Protocol
f	Percentage of the budget financed by each Group
g	Basic fees within each Group
h	Fees: 30% based on total live weight of bluefin tuna catch (43% if there are no trade and import data)
i	Fees: 40% based on the total number of trades (57% if there are no trade and import data)
j	Fees: 30% based on the volume of imported bluefin tuna (0% if there are no trade and import data)
k	Total contribution

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4***REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL AND MEETING OF PANEL 1*****1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Shep Helguilè (Côte d'Ivoire). The Chair introduced the ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel. Mr. Manel welcomed the participants and observers to this intersessional meeting and extended the support of the Secretariat in facilitating the discussions at the intersessional meeting.

2. Nomination of the rapporteur

Mr. Larry Redd, Jr. (United States) was designated as the rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

This year Panel 1 held a two day intersessional meeting, from 16 to 17 November, preceding the Commission meeting. It was decided that only one report covering all sessions of Panel 1 would be produced.

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary described the meeting arrangements and noted that Panel 1 comprises the following 41 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The meeting was also attended by two other CPCs i.e. The Gambia, and Turkey. In addition, one Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Entity and Fishing Entity, Chinese Taipei, was in attendance, as well as one Intergovernmental Organization and eleven Non-Governmental Organizations.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, provided an overview of the status of stocks considered by this Panel, including the results of the 2019 stock assessment for yellowfin tuna. The SCRS Chair noted concern that the bigeye tuna stock is overfished and subject to overfishing, citing that current catches give low probability of rebuilding. Dr Melvin explained that there is a need for a reduction in catches to stop overfishing and improve the overfished status of bigeye tuna.

The latest assessment results of the 2019 stock assessment for yellowfin tuna indicated that the stock was not overfished and not subject to overfishing, although the F/F_{MSY} was just under 1.0. He emphasized that the stock biomass demonstrated a declining trend towards an overfished status.

Dr Melvin also presented the results of the last assessment of skipjack from 2014, noting in particular that catches of eastern skipjack exceeded the SCRS advised level in 2016-2018 by 6%, 11%, and 28% respectively. Dr Melvin explained the management recommendations for each stock and responses to the Commission, prior to opening the floor for questions.

One CPC asked whether the SCRS had taken into account the increasing trend of recruitment in stock projections for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and whether and how such data would be utilized for future stock projections. Dr Melvin responded that, for those stocks that have indices for recruitment, any increasing trend would be incorporated through the last year of available data included in the stock assessment, but any recent increases since the assessment would not be included. However, those increases would be in the next assessment.

One CPC noted that the preliminary results showed low mixing rates of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tunas. This CPC asked if the low mixing rate could be used when looking at how to protect the juveniles, for example more targeted time/area closures. Additionally, this CPC asked the Chair to elaborate on the issues with the joint longline index, and how those issues would be addressed in the future. Dr Melvin responded that 2019 was the first year of use for the joint longline index, which overcame issues related to contradictions when combining multiple indices. The SCRS Chair noted that there was still a fair amount of work underway and he could not provide much information but would follow up in the future with CPCs. Regarding the mixing/time area closure, Dr Melvin informed CPCs that this approach has not been used to define specific area closures, but it could and should be used if the Commission wanted to move in that direction.

One CPC recalled the analysis from the decision support tool presented by the SCRS in 2018 regarding the effect of MSY on various gear types. Additionally, this CPC asked if the Chair could offer any advice regarding amplification of the skipjack tuna catches on the current stock status. Dr Melvin noted increases in skipjack tuna catch would likely result in an increase in yellowfin and bigeye tuna catches, which would likely have a negative effect on all stocks.

One CPC noted that the responses from the SCRS Chair indicated the effectiveness of time/area closures had not been proven. This CPC asked if any closure or equivalent measure was effective. The CPC also asked whether the SCRS has investigated different measures such as minimum catch size, or if a Commission mandate was needed for the SCRS to work on this issue. Dr Melvin responded that time/area closures can be efficient if there is a size distribution among areas. The Chair noted that the earlier closed area and time was not effective as the fishery shifted outside of the closure. The Chair further noted that a closure that protected juveniles and where there was no movement of effort outside of the closed area, could be an excellent tool. Finally, Dr Melvin indicated that there has not been much effort to look at a minimum size, although he noted that, in general, the less you take of the smaller fish the more you have of the bigger fish.

Ghana strongly advocated that fish aggregating device (FAD) closures be looked at holistically.

One CPC asked the SCRS Chair what kind of guidance the SCRS would need from the Commission to complete its task of looking at other management measures based on input and not only output measures. In response to this question, the SCRS Chair suggested that the Commission could provide additional guidance on the possible location and length of time/area closures (e.g., a full year closure or specific timeframe), noting that certain areas during specific seasons may provide more effective protection for certain species. However, because tropical tunas are mixed, there will always be impacts on one to the other.

Finally, one CPC stressed the need for CPCs to work together to improve the stock status and recovery of tropical tunas, particularly bigeye tuna.

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

Item 6 was closed without discussion, noting that work to address the Second Performance Review recommendations was being taken up under other agenda items (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**).

7. Review of compliance tables

The Chair of Panel 1 referred CPCs to the compliance tables for tropical tunas (**Appendix X to ANNEX 9**). No issues were raised, and the Chair closed item 7 as all issues had been worked out during the meeting of Compliance Committee.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

The Chair of Panel 1 opened this agenda item, noting that there were four documents: a “Second Draft Proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas”, a proposal by the Chair; “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, a proposal by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Mexico; “Draft Proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, a document offering input on the Chair’s proposal by Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal; and “Draft Proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, a document offering input to the Chair’s proposal by the European Union. Each document was presented, followed by a discussion about the best approach for the meeting. Some CPCs suggested that all proposals, including the Central American proposal, be included in the discussion. In an effort to advance discussions, several CPCs suggested that working from the Chair’s proposal would provide the best approach. Although some CPCs agreed with this approach, a number of CPCs felt that the Chair did not properly consider the Central American proposal. They urged the Chair and Panel 1 members to reconsider the approach going forward. The Chair encouraged all proponents to work together to merge key elements from all documents with the proposal provided by the Chair. During these internal discussions, it was agreed that the tropical tunas proposal to be developed during the 2019 annual meeting would be an interim measure, with a review mechanism based on SCRS advice.

It was suggested by multiple CPCs that the Chair present his proposal point by point, allowing CPCs to discuss. There were lengthy discussions regarding the bigeye tuna TAC, the allocation table, FAD management, and FAD closures. Several CPCs proposed TACs of 60,000, 62,500, or 65,000 t. One CPC suggested a two-phase step-down in the TAC over a three-year period, of 55,000 t in the first year and 50,000 t in years 2 and 3. As there was not yet consensus regarding a specific TAC, a few CPCs suggested that the Chair draft a TAC and allocation table for CPCs to discuss going forward.

Regarding yellowfin tuna, CPCs agreed with the existing provisions of the Chair’s proposal. Regarding the issue of limiting fleet capacity and support/supply vessels for purse seiners, there was general agreement that measures needed to be implemented to reduce juvenile mortality; however, many CPCs could not agree with proposed limitations on purse seiners or longliners. One CPC suggested amending the definition of “support vessels” and highlighted that CPCs with one purse seine vessel should be allowed to have a support vessel. Regarding FAD management, the European Union urged members to consider the SCRS advice and explore management measures for both floating objects (FOBs) and FADs. A few CPCs expressed that the core issue of management measures needed to focus on FADs and not FOBs.

Some CPCs suggested an Atlantic-wide FAD closure of 2-3 months while others suggested a closure of 4 months. One CPC proposed a FAD closure of 5 months. Some CPCs suggested a closure for all fisheries, not just purse seine fisheries, while a number of other CPCs emphasized the purpose of the closure was to protect small fish and, therefore, a FAD closure was most appropriate. Due to significant disagreement regarding the timeframe for a FAD closure, the Chair noted that he would work on a document taking all input into consideration, but he urged CPCs to undertake informal, small working group discussions. This suggestion was met with some agreement, but a few CPCs stressed the need for transparency in the informal, small working group discussions, in particular, allowing for the inclusion of all interested CPCs.

Regarding the reduction of FAD deployments and sets per vessel, there was general agreement regarding the need to limit the use of FADs. Many CPCs agreed with the Chair’s proposal to decrease the number of FAD deployments per vessel over a three-year period. A few CPCs suggested a FAD limitation of 400 sets

per vessel, noting that more scientific advice was needed. Some CPCs suggested the need to limit FAD sets as well. In response to a question, the Secretariat responded that it has only received the required FAD set data from one purse seine fleet. Several CPCs expressed concern that required data were not being provided, and there was agreement that this should be addressed in the measure. Regarding observer coverage and electronic monitoring, most CPCs expressed support for increased observer coverage and working towards increased use of electronic monitoring to complement human observer programs. Some CPCs expressed a need for a regional observer program for purse seine vessels, and many CPCs called for 100% observer coverage on support vessels.

In a subsequent session of Panel 1, the Chair presented a reflections document based on the input received so far. This document contained a proposed TAC of 61,500 t over a three-year period. It also included an allocation table that featured four different scenarios based on the average catch levels over the past 5 years, with reductions ranging between 20-65 percent, for all CPCs in the table with and without Ghana. Some CPCs agreed with the Chair's proposal and supported a TAC of 61,500 t. Many CPCs did not agree with the proposal submitted by the Chair. Some CPCs felt the Chair's proposed TAC was too low and again requested that the TAC be established at 65,000 t, while several others pushed for a TAC lower than 61,500 t. A few CPCs voiced concerns that potential changes to the allocation table could violate coastal State rights and urged Panel 1 members to take into account the special situation of developing coastal States. A few CPCs informed the group that they did not have historical catches and wanted to safeguard their ability to develop fisheries. A few CPCs suggested that all countries should be included in the allocation table, noting sacrifices needed to be made by all CPCs to recover the bigeye tuna stock. After a lengthy debate, some CPCs felt that the key issues of contention needed to be addressed further in an informal working group. Several CPCs supported the suggested approach to allocation proposed by a group of West African CPCs. It featured an allocation table similar to Recommendation 15-16, with two tables developed on a 50/50 TAC split between coastal developing States and all other CPCs, with special rights for artisanal fisheries. The South African delegation offered to assist the Chair by working with all CPCs to further develop the Chair's proposal, including incorporating key elements from the EU, West African and Central American proposals, in manner that would meet all CPCs' needs and respect the scientific advice. Many CPCs expressed support for this approach. The Chair stressed the importance of this work for addressing the key issues surrounding tropical tunas, including considering the need for an intersessional meeting in 2020 focused on allocation.

Following these smaller working group discussions there was general convergence from many CPCs for a TAC of 62,500 and 61,500 t, in 2020 and 2021, respectively; this would be followed by a new bigeye tuna stock assessment in 2021, allowing the SCRS to give scientific advice regarding the TAC for 2022 and subsequent years. Several CPCs expressed a willingness to go along with these TACs but emphasized that their ability to ultimately agree was tied to other elements of the proposal, in particular measures to protect juvenile bigeye and yellowfin. One CPC called for a three-year step down to 60,000 t, and a FAD closure of a minimum of 4 months.

There were some suggested editorial changes and deletions to the Chair's proposal facilitated by South Africa. One CPC expressed concern regarding overages/underages, suggesting that the initial year of adjustment apply to 2018. Concern was expressed by several CPCs that the initial adjustment year could not be retroactive to 2018. One CPC countered this argument noting that for other species the adjustment year can apply to the previous year, even if it was retroactive in practice. Several CPCs noted that due to the severe status of the stock, there should not be carryover of quota to the next year. Other CPCs suggested a smaller carryover percentage of 5 percent instead of the 15 percent carryover as featured in the text. The Chair suggested that this topic be discussed by the informal working group. CPCs continued to work through the proposal, finding agreement on many points. However, regarding observer coverage, there continued to be varying opinions. Some CPCs expressed that observer coverage levels and FAD measures were a package. Some CPCs expressed that 10 percent observer coverage on longline vessels was not nearly enough, citing that the scientific advice from the SCRS recommended 20 percent coverage. Again, the Chair suggested that this issue, in addition to measures regarding confidentiality, be addressed in the informal working group. Many CPCs urged other Panel 1 members to show maximum flexibility to reach consensus and avoid a vote, suggesting that the Chair outline key elements that needed to be addressed by the informal working group. Several CPCs suggested that issues regarding catch allocation in 2020, FAD deployments per vessel, and a FAD closure timeframe be the priority of discussion, as there was already agreement regarding a TAC and intersessional meeting for 2020. Given the importance of this intersessional meeting, Brazil requested that ICCAT finance participation of two people per delegation from developing CPCs, through the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF).

Following the informal working group discussions, the South African delegation informed the Chair that there was general support among CPCs for a number of key elements of the measure, including a full Atlantic-wide closure for 2 months in 2020 and 3 months in 2021; FAD deployment limits of 350 and 300 per vessel for 2020 and 2021, respectively; and catch limit measures for 2020 only. CPCs that catch above 10,000 t will reduce catch by 21 percent; CPCs that catch above 3,500 t will reduce by 17 percent; CPCs that catch between 1000 - 3,500 t will reduce by 10 percent; and small harvesters averaging below 1000 t per year were requested to maintain catch and effort at recent levels. One CPC noted that they had a catch of zero but were interested in developing a bigeye tuna fishery and expressed concern with the current language. In an attempt to clarify the proposed catch limits, a few CPCs stressed that the text did not have affirmative limits for those CPCs averaging below 1000 t catch in recent years. The United States expressed concern with paragraphs 4(c) and 4(d) but indicated its willingness to go along with the language as drafted, as long as it is understood and reflected in the record that paragraph 5 applies to future small harvester limits as well, and that paragraph 4(d) is not understood to prejudge the outcome of future allocation discussions. The United States further noted for the record that the current small harvester limit is 1,575 t.

There was debate regarding the reference years for current catch levels – in particular, whether it would entail a period between 2014 through 2017, or 2014 through 2018. Following this debate, CPCs agreed that a footnote needed to be added under paragraph 3 which reads as follows, “recent average catch for the purposes of paragraph 4 means the annual average catch for the 4 year period 2014-2017 or the average of real catches for the 5-year period 2014-2018 if in that period the catch was equal to zero in any of those years.” One CPC expressed a concern, citing a potential 38 percent decrease in bigeye tuna quota, and requested CPCs to allow for a 10 percent carryover of quota instead of a 5 percent carryover as suggested in the proposal. Additionally, China and the European Union requested a transfer of quota from Japan, and Chinese Taipei also requested such a transfer from other CPCs. Korea stated they would transfer 223 t to Chinese Taipei in 2020. A number of concerns with other provisions were raised, and CPCs agreed to remove a number of paragraphs where consensus could not be reached, with agreement that issues that could not be resolved during this Panel 1 meeting should be discussed at the 2020 intersessional meeting. With the amendments proposed on the floor, the measure was forwarded to the Plenary for final review and adoption. Rec. 19-02 is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

The Chair noted that there were no outdated measures that needed to be identified as the current measures were negotiated for a three-year period.

10. Research

Dr Melvin summarized the ongoing and future research of the SCRS regarding tropical tunas, particularly an update to the activities of the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). Due to ongoing discussions during Panel 1, Dr Melvin suggested that there could be a change in the future assessment schedules for both skipjack and bigeye tunas. Several CPCs felt that the MSE process for tropical tunas needed to proceed slowly, noting the potential complexities surrounding a multi-species MSE process for tropical tunas. One CPC expressed that an MSE for tropical tunas should be the priority of research for the SCRS while several CPCs urged the SCRS to continue moving forward with the tropical tunas MSE in the future. Dr Melvin assured CPCs that, although funding had been reduced, the requested funds would be enough to ensure that the SCRS could move forward. There was agreement to proceed with the MSE process as reflected in the MSE roadmap.

11. Election of Chair

Item 11 was deferred to the Plenary for action.

12. Other matters

Statements were made to Panel 1 by the following Contracting Parties: Brazil, the EU, Gabon, Liberia, and the United States (**Appendices 3-7 to ANNEX 8**). Statements were also made by the observers Europêche^{1*}, International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), and Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), and a joint statement was made by Fishery Improvement Plan, Organización de Productores de Atún Congelado (OPAGAC) and the World Wildlife Fund*.

No other matters were raised.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Panel agreed to adopt its report by correspondence.

After thanking the Secretariat, interpreters, and CPCs for their hard work, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

^{1*} Statement not included, but available in original language upon request from the Secretariat.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1. Opening of the meeting

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

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Fiona Harford (European Union) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Panel reviewed the draft agenda. In response to a question from the United States, the Chair clarified that the “Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)” would be discussed under agenda item 5. The European Union requested Panel 2 to allow them to present its proposal for a “Draft Resolution amending the Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT” because the EU could not present this proposal at the first session of PWG due to technical problems with the microphones and this proposal had been briefly discussed at the 2019 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2. There was no opposition. Norway indicated that they would raise bluefin tuna catches by remotely operated underwater vehicles under agenda item 13.

With these understandings, the agenda was adopted without amendment (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary reported that Panel 2 now comprises the following 27 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (P.R), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Senegal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, and Venezuela.

Senegal and the Russian Federation had expressed their wish to become members of Panel 2 and the Panel welcomed them as new Panel members.

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

Dr Gary Melvin, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), presented the Executive Summaries on the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of albacore and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic stocks of bluefin tuna. Dr Melvin also provided a short summary of the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP) and progress on management strategy evaluation (MSE) relevant to bluefin tuna and northern albacore. These summaries can be found in sections 9.4 and 9.5, 10.1, and 15.1 and 15.2 of the 2019 SCRS Report, respectively.

5.1 Albacore

5.1.1 North Atlantic albacore

The next stock assessment for North Atlantic albacore is due in 2020. The stock was last assessed in 2016. The SCRS reviewed the updated fisheries indicators and the MSE framework in 2019. The SCRS Chair noted that it was found to be of high quality and robust to uncertainty according to the peer reviewer. Recommendations to improve the MSE framework were being incorporated in 2019 and did not cause any major changes in the results from those for the interim HCR.

5.1.2 Mediterranean albacore

Catches of Mediterranean albacore have been decreasing since 2016 after a major jump in the period 2014-2016. The stock was last assessed in 2017, which indicated that it is likely that the stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing. He noted, however, that the stock status is highly uncertain.

5.2 Bluefin tuna

The SCRS Chair presented an update of the GBYP activities, some new scientific knowledge, and MSE related work. The SCRS did not finalise the operating models in 2019 as scheduled due to technical issues. Given the lack of the expected progress in MSE, it was recommended to conduct a strict update of the 2017 stock assessment for the TAC advice for 2021 and to continue progress on MSE. The Chair also advised that the SCRS did not expect to need additional input from Panel 2 or SWGSM regarding MSE until the end of 2020 at the earliest.

5.2.1 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the stock assessment conducted in 2017, which indicated that the stock is not experiencing overfishing. The SCRS is aware of the existence of unquantified IUU catches which should be quantified and taken into account. Fishery indicators were updated, which did not indicate a reason to alter current management advice. In light of this, the SCRS noted its view that the stepped increase for 2020 included in Rec. 18-02, with a TAC set at 36,000 t, could be maintained.

5.2.2 Western Atlantic

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the stock assessment conducted in 2017, which indicated that overfishing is not occurring. Catches have been increasing since 2012, tracking the increasing TAC but staying below the TAC. Fishery indicators were as predicted but the steep drop in the Canadian acoustic index requires further examination. The SCRS advised that it did not see a reason to alter the current management advice outlined in Rec. 17-06.

5.3 Responses of the SCRS to the Commission requests

The SCRS Chair presented the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission:

1. The SCRS was requested to continue and refine its MSE work for bluefin tuna, testing candidate management procedures, including Harvest Control Rules (HCR).

This response is presented in points 19.1 and 19.2 of the 2019 SCRS report.

2. The SCRS was requested to review annual catch rates by fleet segment and gear. Rec. 18-02, paragraph 18.

This response is presented in point 19.8 of the 2019 SCRS report.

3. The SCRS was requested to review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the maximum growth rates for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c, and present those results to the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Commission. Rec. 18-02, paragraph 28.

This response is presented in point 19.9 of the 2019 SCRS report.

5.4 Comments on the SCRS presentation

5.4.1 North Atlantic albacore

The European Union noted that in 2018, the SCRS identified criteria for exceptional circumstances for the North Atlantic albacore stock (2019 SCRS report, point 15.2) and asked whether these are definitive and can be used to trigger action. The SCRS Chair explained that the criteria were finalised to the degree possible in 2019 and that the Commission could use what had been provided so far to help decide on appropriate action to take in the event of exceptional circumstances occurring. This process, however, would inevitably require additional dialogue between managers and scientists.

China expressed appreciation for the progress on North Atlantic albacore and support for a full assessment of this stock in 2020 to facilitate the MSE process. It referred to its ongoing work to update CPUE indices using longline vessel data and stressed the importance of consistent data collection.

5.4.2 Bluefin tuna

CPCs asked several questions that focused on the development and timing of the MSE as well as on mixing rates between the eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks.

Norway noted that, contrary to earlier assumptions, the latest genetic studies show that there are more eastern stock caught in the West Atlantic than western stock caught in the East Atlantic. It asked whether this has an impact on setting the TAC for both stocks and whether the results of these studies regarding the mixing of stocks are reflected in the MSE work. On satellite tagging, Norway asked whether numbers are weighted in relation to the stock size. The SCRS Chair confirmed that mixing is already considered in the BFT MSE process and will have to be taken into account in the setting of TACs after the MSE process is implemented. As regards satellite tagging and weighting, the SCRS Chair noted that there are concerns about the number of tags, with the majority of tagged fish being released in the West Atlantic, which may skew the resulting information. There is a need to improve tagging for the eastern stock with funding for satellite tagging allocated under the GBYP and national programmes. The SCRS Chair confirmed that weighting is used in the MSE process and that mixing forms part of that process.

The United States highlighted the importance of properly reflecting mixing between the western stock and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock in the MSE, noting that it is essential to understand its implications. The United States asked about progress in studies to evaluate mixing (microchemistry and genetics). On weighting and tagging, the United States noted that fish released with tags and recaptured in the Gulf of Mexico are assumed to be 100% western stock. The SCRS Chair confirmed that it is likely that there is more eastern stock in the West Atlantic than the other way around. The SCRS Chair indicated that some of the MSE delays related to getting genetic data, but that microchemistry and genetic information is included in the MSE framework and the different levels of mixing that are occurring need to be considered.

On the issue of the review of annual catch rates by fleet segment and gear, Japan indicated that this information is important for capacity management and asked if the SCRS has information on how 'best catch rates' were calculated in the past.

The SCRS Chair explained that the SCRS had been unable to determine how 'best catch rates' had been calculated in the past and that a number of different interpretations can be given to this concept.

The Panel Chair clarified that the objective of the exercise is to calculate whether each CPC's capacity is commensurate with its fishing opportunities and noted that the average amount of catch expected per category of fishing gear and vessel size would suffice for this purpose. In response to Japan's query, the Secretariat indicated that the past calculation of the catch rates by the SCRS utilized a combination of data sources, including VMS. The Secretariat also informed that it would try to look for the past records for the catch rates at that time.

The European Union noted that earlier in the year it had submitted information on how to calculate catch rates and on the need to do it at regional level and asked that this matter be prioritised in 2020 by the SCRS arguing that this parameter is crucial to evaluate that capacity is commensurate with fishing opportunities as required by the bluefin tuna management plan.

Norway recalled that it had raised the issue of capacity calculation on several occasions and expressed disappointment about the lack of progress. Catch rates and consequently capacity calculations are based on catches in the Mediterranean during the spawning season when the stock is concentrated, whereas the stock has a very different behaviour in the Northeast Atlantic where it is present during the feeding season. Because this results in different catch rates, capacity calculations should be based on the areas to which they will be applied.

The Panel Chair invited Norway to submit its information to the SCRS for future consideration. Norway confirmed that it would present this information to the SCRS.

5.5 Road Map for the development of MSE and HCR

The United States referred to the “Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)”, which the United States introduced in the Plenary session. The United States reiterated that the road map aims to guide the development of harvest strategies for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07 (North Atlantic albacore, North Atlantic swordfish, eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and tropical tunas). Building on the initial 2016 road map, the road map provides an aspirational timeline to be considered in conjunction with the stock assessment schedule and proposes, in particular, to extend the MSE process for bluefin tuna for another year with a goal of completing the process in 2020.

The European Union expressed appreciation for the road map presented by the United States, noting that there is a real need for prioritisation, considering the workload of the SCRS.

Discussion on action to be taken was deferred to agenda item 9.

6. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Panel Chair reviewed the actions taken during the intersessional meeting held in Madrid, Spain, 4-7 March 2019, which are described in the [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), explaining that the meeting had consisted of two parts.

Part 1 of the meeting had reviewed the fishing, farming, inspection, and capacity management plans submitted by each CPC. These were approved during the intersessional meeting for all CPCs except Syria, who was not in attendance. Questions that arose on Syria’s plan were forwarded by email for response. Syria subsequently addressed the questions posed and revised its plan, which was endorsed by correspondence. Extensive discussions took place on the clarification of provisions of Rec. 18-02 and on requirements and procedures for the submission of data and information collected under CPC observer programmes. Other matters discussed included a European Union paper on terms of reference to establish an ICCAT Working Group on bluefin tuna control and monitoring measures, a European Union paper on the reciprocal exchange of inspectors for random controls for farming, the review of best catch rates and information on the use of growth rates by Japan. Part 2 of the meeting addressed the MSE process for bluefin tuna, in particular initial operational management objectives and performance indicators.

In follow-up to discussions at the Panel 2 Intersessional meeting, the European Union introduced its proposal for a “Draft Resolution amending the Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT”, which aims to extend the pilot programme to bluefin tuna trap and farming activities in order to strengthen the control of these activities through increased transparency and exchange of best practice. Exchanges of inspection personnel could be developed on the basis of the experience gained during the 2019 campaign and an ICCAT Working Group on bluefin tuna control and inspection should be established in parallel.

Europêche together with Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable de Atún Rojo (APCCR) expressed the view that all CPCs should apply the eBCD to their internal trade.

WWF called for further work to address gaps in the bluefin tuna control framework and in this regard welcomed the European Union’s proposal to establish a Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures.

The Panel Chair invited CPCs to contact the European Union directly with any questions. The Panel endorsed the report of the 2019 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2. Next steps with regard to the report and the other items discussed under agenda item 6 were taken up under agenda item 9.

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

The Chair indicated that none of the recommendations listed in “Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review – Panel 2” (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8**) are specifically related to Panel 2. Regarding recommendation 91, which calls for a review of working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair, the Panel agreed to examine this in the light of the outcome of allocation negotiations in 2020. The Panel also noted that progress had been made on recommendations 114 and 115, but that further work was needed on the MSE process for northern Atlantic albacore and bluefin tuna. The Panel agreed that the completion status for these three recommendations should remain ‘progress made/requiring additional work’. On the recommendation that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should be implemented more readily (recommendation 116), the Panel noted that the completion status should be changed to ‘completed’ once the MSE process is completed.

8. Review of compliance tables

The Panel Chair noted that unlike in 2018, no Compliance Committee meeting had been held immediately prior to the ICCAT Annual Meeting, hence no issues were referred by the Compliance Committee to Panel 2.

The Panel Chair invited CPCs to raise any issues concerning compliance issues or interpretation issues affecting compliance. No issues were raised.

9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

9.1 North Atlantic Albacore

9.1.1 MSE process for North Atlantic Albacore

The United States referred to its draft MSE and HCR roadmap, and summarized progress to date for northern albacore, which is the most advanced of the MSE processes, as well as proposed work for 2020. Pending items include Commission discussion of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur and review of the interim HCR, and adoption of a long-term management procedure. Additional input is needed to speed up work because the TAC allocations end in 2020 and a stock assessment is due then.

The Chair reminded the Panel that actions to be taken under exceptional circumstances should be finalized in 2020 and there should be a preparatory discussion this year. To facilitate discussion, Canada introduced its “Information Paper NAFO Exceptional Circumstances Protocol” which sets out an example of an exceptional circumstances protocol and actions to be taken that could be informative to ICCAT’s management strategy evaluation (MSE) process for North Atlantic albacore. In the case of North Atlantic albacore, the SCRS adopted criteria that could be used to judge whether exceptional circumstances exist. The NAFO Exceptional Circumstances Protocol could be a source of inspiration for further discussions in the context of the North Atlantic albacore MSE.

After a brief discussion, the Panel Chair expressed his intention to produce a draft protocol, taking into account other examples such as that for NAFO and the CCSBT meta-rule process for the consideration of exceptional circumstances. Panel 2 Members welcomed this and requested the Panel Chair, if possible, to circulate it before the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2020.

9.2 Bluefin tuna

9.2.1 MSE process for bluefin tuna

The United States indicated that the stock assessment should be updated to provide TAC advice for at least 2021, and, if adopted in 2021 as hoped, the MPs should be used to set TACs for 2022 and beyond.

The European Union noted that given the uncertainty about when the management procedure will be ready, the 2020 assessment should provide suitable advice for the 2021 and 2022 TACs, and maybe even for the 2023 TAC.

Canada noted that advice was needed for two years (2021 and 2022), if not three years. Japan and Mexico indicated that TAC advice is needed for two years. Canada also proposed that a meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) be held as early as possible in 2021 to feed into the MSE process. Japan proposed to hold the dialogue meeting back-to-back with the Intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2021. The European Union and Norway indicated that it would be more logical to have the meeting in 2020 if the operating model is ready then, otherwise in 2021.

The Chair indicated there was general consensus that the SCRS should provide TAC advice for 2021 and 2022 and that a decision on holding an intersessional SWGSM versus Panel 2 meeting should be deferred until the 2020 annual meeting, depending on progress made in the MSE process.

In response to a question from the Panel Chair about the timing of the peer review, the SCRS Chair explained that the review of the code should take place in 2020 to ensure correct outputs and that the overall peer review could be carried out in 2021. The United States expressed support for this approach and noted that appropriate funding will need to be included in the budget.

9.2.2 Growth rates in farmed bluefin tuna

Japan introduced its “Growth rate observed in farmed bluefin tuna farmed in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean”. As a major market State for farmed bluefin tuna, Japan closely monitors eBCDs. Its analysis of eBCD data on average weight at caging and harvesting has shown growth rates that are sometimes substantially higher than the rates established by the SCRS in 2009, which were already likely to be overestimated. Although only caging and harvesting data for exports to Japan were analysed, Japan expressed concern about the growth rates since they suggest that the weight of caged fish could be seriously underestimated. Japan proposed that the SCRS update the 2009 growth rates table based on data from trials with individual fish identification by tagging and establish specific length-weight conversion formula for some regions and seasons, in particular for the Atlantic coast in May. Japan also encouraged other market States to monitor growth rates observed in the farmed bluefin tuna they import and proposed that the Secretariat analyse growth rates using eBCD data. Japan thanked all farming CPCs for their cooperation and dialogue on this important matter and encouraged them to explore the use of an artificial intelligence (AI) technology to analyse footage from stereoscopic cameras.

Morocco and Turkey stated that they shared Japan’s concerns about the difference in growth rates. Morocco explained that it had provided growth rates information to Japan and that further work was needed to determine whether the SCRS table requires updating or if there is a problem with monitoring and control. Although the size/weight relation needs to be reviewed for each season, this does not explain all the differences in growth rates. Morocco also underlined that, if used properly, stereoscopic cameras can determine growth rates. Although tagging is theoretically the best way to monitor individual fish, it is not possible to measure the bias and uncertainty of any impact of tagging on fish behaviour. Morocco noted that it is the role of the SCRS to select appropriate methodologies and expressed support for Japan’s proposals to establish specific length-weight conversion formulas, to request the Secretariat to analyse growth rates using eBCD data, and to encourage market CPCs to monitor growth rates in imported farmed bluefin tuna.

The European Union agreed that the SCRS growth rates table needs to be updated urgently and stated that the amended Rec. 18-02, paragraph 28 mandated the SCRS to do this. The European Union noted that it shared the objectives expressed by Japan but had reservations about the methodology used for the tagging trials, which should be reviewed by the SCRS. The SCRS should also determine what action should be taken to address tagging mortality and Panel 2 should revert to this issue at its intersessional meeting in 2020.

Turkey indicated that it complied with the SCRS growth rates and had not encountered any problem to date, noting that it had submitted growth rates information to the 2019 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 and wished to participate in any future work on this matter.

The Panel endorsed the Panel Chair’s proposal to discuss this issue at its 2020 intersessional meeting.

9.2.3 Monitoring and control of bluefin tuna farming

The Panel Chair opened the floor for discussion on a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna (BFT) Control and Traceability Measures”, submitted by the European Union.

The European Union proposed that the group meet two times per year, back-to-back with the Panel 2 Intersessional Meeting and the Annual Meeting.

Japan stated that the European Union’s proposal presented a good opportunity to review current control and traceability measures and to address any loopholes. Japan asked the European Union to provide preliminary information on the Tarantelo case. This would be useful to identify loopholes. Japan proposed meetings in 2020 with a decision on further meetings to be taken at a later stage.

Morocco reiterated its view that further work is needed to clarify the provisions of Rec. 18-02 and welcomed the initiative, proposing that two meetings of the group take place in 2020, then one meeting per year thereafter. The United States agreed that there was a need to engage in the work proposed by the European Union but contended that this matter should be dealt with by Panel 2, which has the necessary expertise and mandate. Algeria supported the proposal to create a working group where CPCs can reflect on control and traceability measures but noted that information was needed on who will lead the group and funding, participation and interpretation arrangements. Tunisia expressed appreciation for the European Union’s proposal and suggested to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Integrated Management Measures (IMM) to work on these issues.

WWF welcomed the European Union’s proposal and offered to share ideas, while expressing the view that Observers should be allowed to participate.

The European Union recalled that its proposal was a response to the outcome of the 2019 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 where it was requested to propose terms of reference for the working group. Since the judicial process in the Tarantelo case was still ongoing at the highest court in Spain (Audiencia Nacional), it was not possible to provide preliminary results. The European Union stated that it intends, among others, to bring to the working group proposals to overcome loopholes identified during fact-finding missions in some Member States on the use of eBCDs, and noted that back-to-back meetings would bring efficiency gains but the frequency of meetings could be revisited.

The Panel Chair invited the European Union to take note of Japan’s request for information about the Tarantelo case and proposed to extend the duration of the next Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, noting that five days should suffice and that this would enable CPCs and Observers to attend, ensure availability of interpretation and achieve efficiency gains. The meeting agenda would incorporate elements from paragraph 2 of the European Union’s proposal. Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia, Japan, Algeria and the United States supported the Panel Chair’s proposal. Tunisia also proposed to hold the working group before the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 to enable the latter to discuss the results. The United States reiterated its view that the proposed work should be incorporated in the agenda of the next Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, noting that procedurally, the IMM did not have a mandate to establish the working group and that this had to be done at Commission level.

The European Union insisted on the need for a dedicated discussion separate from the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 to ensure sufficient time for discussion. The European Union also noted that paragraph 116 of Rec. 18-02 explicitly called for the establishment of a working group to discuss potential additional measures to further strengthen the traceability of live bluefin tuna.

After extensive discussion, there was consensus to hold the working group meeting back-to-back with the 2020 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, with 2.5 days allocated to each meeting, starting with the working group. The agenda of the working group will focus on issues identified in paragraph 2 of the European Union’s proposal. The subsequent Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 will review the conclusions of the working group in addition to its other business.

The European Union revised the proposal based on the input received from CPCs and proposed it to the Chair of the Working Group. The Panel endorsed this “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures”.

9.2.4 Amendments to Recommendation 18-02

The Panel Chair presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”. The Panel reviewed the editorial changes proposed by the Panel Chair and agreed to revert to the original text for those changes where CPCs raised concerns. Morocco welcomed the improvements introduced by this exercise but noted that there was still scope to improve the clarity of some provisions of Rec. 18-02 and called for further work in this regard.

The Panel also reviewed a number of substantive amendments to Rec. 18-02. The Panel endorsed the amendments to paragraph 116 to reflect the discussion on the establishment of an ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures (as summarised under 9.2.3) since the previous text had been ambiguous.

In relation to Norway’s “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 18-02 on establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea (Amendment)”, the Panel agreed that no changes were needed to Rec. 18-02 for the envisaged research on maintaining the high quality of bluefin tuna meat, during and after purse seine catch operations, but that Norway should submit, as part of their fishing and management plans, the relevant information for consideration by Panel 2 and report to the SCRS on the results of the research. The draft recommendation was withdrawn by Norway.

The Panel Chair noted that three CPCs had expressed requests for quota allocations.

Senegal introduced its request for an allocation of 5 t for research purposes in view of incidental catches of bluefin tuna beyond their theoretical ecological limit of Cap Blanc (21°N). In response to a question from the United States, Senegal explained that the main aim of the request was scientific but that the eBCD requirements would be applied where necessary.

The Panel Chair proposed to follow the same approach as for Mauritania (paragraph 5 of Rec. 18-02) and to allocate a quota from the unallocated reserve. The Panel Chair recalled that the eBCD requirements apply to all catches that are traded internationally or consumed domestically.

Norway asked whether CPCs with a research quota from the unallocated reserve are required to report on research results, noting that CPCs with a regular quota allocation that use some of that allocation for research are required to do so. The Panel Chair explained that Mauritania had not been required to submit a fishing plan for its research allocation or to report on research results.

The European Union was of the view that quota holders and non-quota holders are not in the same situation and that the additional burden on quota holders to meet these requirements was minimal.

The United States proposed to encourage the reporting of research results by all CPCs.

The Panel endorsed a research allocation of 5 t for Senegal and encouraged all CPCs including Norway to submit research results to the SCRS. The Panel agreed that CPCs that use some of their regular allocation for research purposes are to include a description of their research in their fishing and management plans.

Namibia introduced its request for a research allocation, noting that its longline vessels operating in the South Atlantic occasionally, though rarely, bycatch bluefin tuna when targeting albacore. The SCRS Chair explained that there was a very low probability that this bycatch came from the eastern stock of bluefin tuna and that it was likely to concern southern bluefin tuna. The Panel Chair noted that this matter should therefore be addressed by the CCSBT rather than ICCAT.

Namibia and the Russian Federation expressed their interest in obtaining a regular quota allocation, although they were not in a position to provide more details at this stage. The Panel Chair invited Namibia and the Russian Federation to submit fishing plans to the Panel 2 Intersessional Meeting in 2020 in view of a discussion on a possible allocation at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

In response to a question from Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS), the Panel Chair explained that paragraph 39 of Rec. 18-02 required CPCs with sport and recreational fisheries to establish a quota - even if their fishery were catch and release - in order to account for possible dead fish.

The Panel endorsed the amended Rec. 18-02.

10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above

The Panel Chair proposed to maintain Rec. 96-14 since there was no agreement to insert the language of this Recommendation regarding payback in case of overharvest in the revised Rec. 18-02. For the same reason, the United States proposed to maintain Supplemental Rec. 01-13 and to revisit the matter next year. The Panel agreed to maintain these Recommendations and also noted that Rec. 17-07 had been repealed and replaced by paragraph 119 of Rec. 18-02.

11. Research

11.1 Albacore

The SCRS current and proposed future research activities for albacore can be found in Appendix 13 of the 2019 SCRS Report.

11.1.1 North Atlantic albacore

The 2020 North Atlantic albacore workplan will focus on stock assessment, including an update of the surplus production model, preparation of catch summaries, update of CPUE indices and evaluating those against the standards provided by Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM). The SCRS also intends to implement a four-year comprehensive Research Programme with the main research objectives of improving knowledge of the biology and ecology, of improved monitoring of stock status and to develop a MSE framework. In addition, the SCRS recommended that the stock assessments (North Atlantic and South Atlantic) planned in 2020 will require external expertise on surplus production models.

11.1.2 Mediterranean albacore

The SCRS in 2020 will focus on improving knowledge of the biology (reproduction, growth and age) and ecology, improving the monitoring of stock status and exploring alternative stock assessment methods suitable for data poor stocks.

11.2 Bluefin tuna

SCRS current and proposed research activities related to the GBYP and the MSE/HCR roadmap for bluefin tuna can be found in Appendices 6 and 16 of the 2019 SCRS Report, respectively. In 2020, work will continue on GBYP with continuation of key elements related to fishery independent indices, data recovery, tagging, biological studies and modelling/MSE development. Other work will include a feasibility study for the application of acoustic surveys to the development and validation of fishery independent indices, a workshop on close-kin methodologies, the development and application of habitat models in CPUE standardization, and the continued implementation of the study on bluefin tuna growth in farms.

11.2.1 Atlantic bluefin tuna

The SCRS intends to progress on MSE (one Working Group meeting), conduct of a strict update stock assessment VPA (BFT-E and W) and Stock Synthesis (BFT-w), work with the WGSAM on incorporating habitat modelling and environmental considerations into CPUE standardisation, and develop a longline index for the Gulf of Mexico.

12. Election of Chair

The Chair explained that the election of the Chair formed part of a larger discussion on Chair positions. The Panel deferred the matter for consideration by the plenary session.

13. Other matters

Norway informed the Panel about the mortality of one bluefin tuna following an encounter with a remotely operated underwater vehicle (robot) used to service offshore oil and gas installations in its EEZ. In accordance with its approach to bluefin tuna going into salmon farms, Norway does not intend to count this mortality against its quota allocation. There were no comments from CPCs on this issue.

A statement was made by Europêche, and a joint statement was made by Europêche and Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable de Atún Rojo (APCCR) (**Appendix 11 and 12 to ANNEX 8**).

14. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair thanked all participants for their hard work and adjourned the meeting. The Panel 2 report was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Saasa Pheeha (South Africa), the Chair of Panel 3.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**) was adopted without any changes.

4. Review of Panel membership

Panel 3 comprises the following 12 members: Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, United States and Uruguay.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, reviewed with the Panel the outcome of the latest stock assessment (carried out in 2015) of southern albacore. At that time, the SCRS concluded that the stock was not overfished or subject to overfishing. As a result of that assessment, a TAC of 24,000 t was established in 2016. Total landings reported since 2002 have always been below the TAC, except for 2011. In 2018, these increased with respect to previous years, but remained well below the established TAC. Therefore, it is possible that the stock is still not overfished and is not undergoing overfishing. The next stock assessment will be carried out in 2020.

In the 2020 assessment, the SCRS intends to update the surplus production models with respect to the 2016 assessment. Efforts will be maintained to produce the new standardised CPUE series in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM). The SCRS has not issued any recommendations.

Dr Melvin indicated that the SCRS reviews every year the report of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) to know the research on southern bluefin tuna and the stock assessments that have been carried out. The CCSBT is responsible for assessment of the status of southern bluefin tuna. A slight increase has been noted for catches since 2010; in previous years, there was a downwards trend. The catch distribution has not varied much and it can be said that the exploitation rate of this stock is moderate. The stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. The stock abundance is low compared to other BFT stocks.

During the round of interventions, South Africa asked the Secretariat whether there was a MoU between the CCSBT and ICCAT. The Secretariat confirmed that there was a memorandum regarding transshipment. Dr Melvin also confirmed that the figures for this stock are the most recent ones, that these have been obtained from the CCSBT website, and that these are updated annually.

Japan on taking the floor indicated that in the presentation of Dr Melvin, the TAC indicated of 20,000 t is a typing error, the correct value being 24,000 t.

6. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

There are no additional comments or changes under this item.

7. Review of the Compliance Tables

The Compliance Tables for southern albacore and the transfers of underage from 2018 were reviewed by the Panel (**Appendix X to ANNEX 9**). Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), the European Union, Japan, South Africa, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei informed the Panel of their intention to transfer underage. It was agreed that the CPCs must inform the Commission at the latest during ICCAT's Annual Meeting. In the meantime, CPCs are encouraged to submit early requests for transfers of underage. In addition, South Africa indicated that it would transmit to the Secretariat an updated version of its compliance table reflecting the transfer of 800 t of its quota to Japan in 2019.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

The Panel did not propose any new measures. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern albacore catch limits for the period 2017 to 2020* (Rec. 16-07) remains in effect.

9. Identification of obsolete measures in view of item 8 above

No obsolete measures were identified for review.

10. Research

Dr Melvin indicated that there was no request for research on southern albacore at this stage, but that the assessment was scheduled for 2020. The intention is to update the CPUE series.

11. Other matters

The possibility was indicated that a new Panel 3 chair could be elected. This matter was left open, since there were no requests.

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The meeting was adjourned and the report was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT ON THE SESSION MEETINGS OF PANEL 4

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 4, Dr Fabio Hazin (Brazil).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

The Panel appointed Ms. Jill Hamilton (United States) as Rapporteur.

4. Review of panel membership

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Panel 4 membership. The Panel comprises the following members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Sierra Leone and The Gambia became members of Panel 4 at this meeting.

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

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr Gary Melvin, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, swordfish, small tunas, and sharks.

5.1 White marlin

The SCRS Chair presented detailed results of the 2019 white marlin assessment. He provided an overview of white marlin biology, showing that stocks are distributed throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean, and occasionally in the Mediterranean. Known spawning grounds are in the Tropical Northwest Atlantic (off east Florida, between La Hispaniola and Cuba, and north of Puerto Rico), the Equatorial Atlantic (off northeast Brazil), and in the Southwest Atlantic (off southern Brazil). In 2018, the preliminary reported catch of white marlin was 314 t, below the TAC of 400 t. The SCRS Chair noted that white marlin landings reported to ICCAT include roundscale spearfish, and studies in the West Atlantic show a ratio of 23-27% roundscale spearfish to white marlin. There is little information on this species ratio in the eastern Atlantic.

Nine indices of abundance were used in the white marlin assessment, including from longline, gillnet, and recreational fisheries. The state of the white marlin stock was evaluated using surplus production models (JABBA) and integrated models (SS3). Results showed that relative biomass has been well below MSY for 30 years, and using data from 2017, that the stock of Atlantic white marlin is overfished but overfishing is not occurring. MSY is estimated at 1,495 t for the stock, and it has a high probability of being in the yellow quadrant of the Kobe plot (99%). The SCRS Chair noted the high uncertainty with regard to data and productivity of the stock.

The SCRS expressed concern about the significant increase in the contribution from fishing by artisanal and small-scale fleets to the total white marlin harvest. Artisanal and small-scale fleets are not fully accounted for in the current ICCAT statistics, and such data limitations preclude any analysis of the current measures. Additionally, the SCRS expressed concern that the misidentification of spearfishes in the white marlin catches has contributed to uncertainty in the stock assessment results.

The SCRS Chair presented information on the effects of circle hooks. Research has demonstrated that in some longline fisheries the use of non-offset circle hooks resulted in a reduction of billfish mortality, while the catch rates of several of the target species remained the same or were greater than the catch rates observed with the use of conventional J hooks or offset circle hooks. The SCRS has advised the Commission to consider the use of circle hooks and the release of all marlins that are alive at haulback in ways that maximize their survival. The SCRS noted that more countries have started reporting data on live releases since 2006; however, there is not enough information on the proportion of fish being released alive to evaluate the effectiveness of the ICCAT recommendation relating to the live release of white marlin.

The SCRS Chair recommended that steps be taken to ensure that monitoring and reporting of all landings and discards, including live releases, occur as required. He noted that this will likely require improvements to the observer programs of many CPCs, as well as the implementation of discard estimation methods using those data.

Finally, it was noted that efforts should be made, building on previous work, to fully account for the catches of artisanal and all recreational fisheries. The SCRS Chair advised that given the overfished status of the white marlin stock and the uncertainties in the data, the Commission, at a minimum, should ensure that catches do not exceed the current TAC until the stock has fully recovered.

5.2 Other billfish: Blue marlin and sailfish

The SCRS Chair presented a summary for blue marlin and sailfish, which were not assessed in 2019. In 2018, reported blue marlin catch was 1,436 t, below the TAC of 2,000 t. The results of the stock assessment in 2018 (using catch data through 2016) showed that the stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. Catches of 1,750 t or less are expected to end overfishing and provide at least a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2028. The SCRS also recommended that if the Commission wants to further reduce fishing mortality and reduce the chance of exceeding any established TAC, the Commission could consider doing so by modifying Rec. 15-05 so that fishermen are always required to release all marlins that are alive at haulback through methods that maximize their survival.

For sailfish, the eastern stock had a reported catch of 1,183 t in 2018, lower than the TAC of 1,271 t. The western stock had a catch of 1,250 t, higher than the TAC of 1,030 t. The last assessment of both stocks was in 2016 (using catch data through 2014); the 2016 assessment showed that the eastern stock is overfished but overfishing status is uncertain, and the western stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing.

The SCRS did not have enough time to fully review the information regarding mortality of live discards for blue and white marlin/roundscale spearfish (as mandated in Rec. 18-04, paragraph 10); this item will be addressed in the work plan for 2020. The SCRS Chair also presented SCRS recommendations for further scientific work, including the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research (EPBR), two regional workshops for statistical correspondents on artisanal fisheries data collection, and the development of a feasibility study on an application for mobile phones to collect and report fisheries data on artisanal fisheries in collaboration with local scientific institutions.

5.3 Swordfish

The SCRS Chair presented a summary on three stocks of swordfish: North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Mediterranean. In 2018, catch of North Atlantic swordfish was 8,858 t, under the TAC of 13,200 t, and the catch of South Atlantic swordfish was 10,404 t, under the TAC of 14,000 t. Based on the 2017 stock assessment, the North Atlantic swordfish stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The South Atlantic swordfish stock is overfished, and overfishing is close to occurring. The SCRS Chair noted that the current TACs in Rec. 17-02 and Rec. 17-03 should ensure both stocks have at least a 50% probability of being in the green by 2028 and stated that the SCRS recognizes that this advice does not account for removals associated with the actual mortality of unreported dead and live discards, quota carryovers (15% in the North and 30% in the South Atlantic), quota transfers across the North and South stock management boundaries, nor the total cumulative quotas, which exceed the TAC.

In 2019, the SCRS advanced work on an overall framework for the North Atlantic swordfish MSE and continued developing the technical specifications of the Operating Model (OM). A contractor was hired to work with the Swordfish Species Group. For 2020, the Swordfish Species Group will continue the work on OM conditioning with diagnostics and start the development of candidate Management Procedures. Noting the progress on the North Atlantic swordfish MSE, the SCRS recommended that the Commission continue to support this process.

For Mediterranean swordfish, the reported catch for 2018 was 7,079 t, below the TAC of 10,185 t. The stock was determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring, and the SCRS recommendations have not changed since the last assessment in 2016. In order for rebuilding to occur, there will be a need for substantial reductions in harvest, as current quotas correspond to fishing mortality levels that are higher than F_{MSY} . Additionally, to address the uncertainty regarding future recruitment, the SCRS Chair emphasized the need to increase monitoring of landings and discards, also taking into account that since the establishment of minimum catch sizes, the discard levels of undersized swordfish may have increased. Further information regarding differences in the exploitation pattern among the different longline gears is also essential for improving assessment estimates and MSE.

5.4 Small tunas

The SCRS Chair provided an overview of small tuna catches. Small tunas can reach high levels of catches and values in some years, have high relevance from a social and economic point of view, are important for many coastal communities as a main source of food, and there is likely an underestimation of total landings, due to the difficulties in data collection. The SCRS Chair noted that in 2019, Southeast Atlantic little tunny and Northwest Atlantic wahoo stocks show some signs of overfishing and deserve special attention in the future.

Currently, management recommendations are not provided for small tunas. Due to the nature of small tuna fisheries (i.e. multi-gear, multi-species, artisanal fisheries, etc.), information on fisheries data is difficult to collect. However, the SCRS Chair stated that proper monitoring programs should be implemented by the CPCs. Although the SCRS has improved in applying a range of data-limited models to these fisheries, the robustness needs to be evaluated before they can be used to provide management advice to the Commission.

The SCRS recommended continuing support to the Small Tunas Year Program, a workshop for aging and reproduction, a regional workshop for small tuna data limited MSE, AOTTP funding for additional tagging of wahoo and little tunny, and the revision of the ICCAT Manual for small tuna species.

5.5 Shortfin mako

Updated projections for North Atlantic shortfin mako were carried out in 2019 with Stock Synthesis models only, using two different productivity hypotheses. Although there is substantial uncertainty in the future productivity assumption for this stock, the projections through 2070 (two mean generation times) show that there is a long lag time (~20 years) between when management measures are implemented and when stock size starts to rebuild, due to the biology of the species. In addition, the length of the projection period (50 years) requested by the Commission implies that estimates at the end of the projection period are highly uncertain. The SCRS emphasized that the Kobe II Strategy Matrix (K2SM) does not capture all the uncertainties associated with the fishery and the biology of the species, and that therefore, the results of the K2SM should be interpreted with caution.

The SCRS reviewed the likelihood of success of several aspects of Rec. 17-08, specifically, an alternative TAC, minimum size limit, and live release measures. The SCRS noted that fixed TACs with size regulations accelerated stock recovery, however, these projections implicitly assumed that fish released below the size limit had 100% post-release survival. The SCRS also explored the effect of live release regulations (through reduction in fishing mortality but considering a post-release mortality rate of 25%) and found that all scenarios resulted in population declines until 2035, and that the biomass that supports MSY was only reached by 2070 for a scenario when fishing mortality is zero.

Projections revealed that if fishermen are unable to avoid catching shortfin makos and the discarded fish have a substantial mortality rate, then it is necessary to greatly decrease the retained catch to allow the stock to rebuild. The SCRS Chair stated that size limits and other strategies to release live sharks must be accompanied by a reduction in retained catch. The SCRS thus concluded that a live release approach may be a way to reduce F if discard mortality rates are low, but other management measures such as reduction of soak time, time-area closures, and safe handling and best practices for the release of live specimens may also be required to further reduce incidental mortality. The SCRS also noted that a slot limit that protects some mature age groups may be appropriate.

The SCRS Chair noted that 2019 is the first full year during which Rec. 17-08 applied, and reported 2019 catches will not be available for review until July 2020. Additionally, the SCRS had insufficient information to determine which ICCAT recommendations regarding possible conservation measures (Rec. 17-08) were implemented for which fleet, making it difficult to evaluate the effect of the possible conservation measures by fleet in the projections. A general evaluation of the effect of the conservation measures was undertaken, however. It showed that they appear insufficient to rebuild the stock within the specified timeframe.

For the North Atlantic stock, given the vulnerable biological characteristics and the pessimistic projections, the SCRS recommended that the Commission adopt a non-retention policy without exception in the North Atlantic as it has already done with other shark species caught as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries. The SCRS further stated that reporting all sources of mortality is an essential element to decrease the uncertainty in stock assessment results. Although the reporting of dead discards is already part of the ICCAT data reporting obligations, this requirement has been ignored by many CPCs. The SCRS emphasized the need for CPCs to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts by species, including but not limited to total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUEs using observer data.

For the South Atlantic stock, there is a significant risk that this stock could follow a similar history to that of the northern stock. To avoid this situation and considering the uncertainty in the stock status, the SCRS recommended that, at a minimum, catches should not exceed the minimum catch in the last five years of the assessment (2011-2015).

The SCRS Chair presented responses to Commission requests. For North Atlantic shortfin mako, the SCRS advised that continued fishing at the current catch level (2,388 t in 2018) will not allow the stock to rebuild by 2070 and overfishing will continue. The resolution of data submitted to ICCAT to conduct a spatial/temporal analysis of the northern stock does not allow for the identification of areas of high interactions that would be practical for the implementation of closed areas. Higher resolution data would be needed. The SCRS Chair stated that there is ongoing research investigating the use of circle hooks as a mitigation measure to reduce mortality.

5.6 Other sharks

The SCRS Chair presented a summary for other sharks not assessed in 2019, including porbeagle, blue shark, and 21 other species of sharks and rays. While global statistics on sharks have improved, the SCRS Chair stated that statistics are still insufficient to provide quantitative advice on stock status for most stocks with sufficient precision to guide fishery management toward optimal harvest levels. An ecological risk assessment for 20 stocks of pelagic sharks and rays was done in 2012, with the main results showing that the most vulnerable stocks include bigeye thresher, longfin and shortfin mako, porbeagle, and night sharks, and that the least vulnerable stocks include scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and pelagic stingray.

The SCRS Chair presented SCRS general recommendations for sharks. Precautionary management measures should be considered for shark management, 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. The SCRS strongly urged CPCs to provide the corresponding statistics, including discards (dead and alive), of all ICCAT fisheries, including recreational and artisanal fisheries, and reiterated that the CPCs should provide estimates of shark catches in both ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries for species that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory within the ICCAT Convention area. Finally, the SCRS recommended that the magnitude of shark entanglements in FADs should be investigated, and methods for mitigating shark bycatch in fisheries also need to be investigated and applied.

For the South Atlantic blue shark stock, the SCRS strongly recommended that the Commission consider a precautionary approach. The SCRS Chair stated that if the Commission chose to use the same approach taken for the North Atlantic stock, the average catch of the final five years used in the assessment model (28,923 t for 2009-2013) could be used as an upper limit. For the North Atlantic blue shark stock, the SCRS Chair stated that uncertainty in the data inputs and model structural assumptions was high enough to prevent the SCRS from reaching a consensus on a specific management recommendation.

For porbeagle shark, the SCRS recommended that fishing mortality should be kept at levels in line with scientific advice and with catches not exceeding the current level. New targeted porbeagle fisheries should be prevented, porbeagles retrieved alive should be released following best handling practices to increase survivorship, and all catches including live releases and dead discards should be reported.

The SCRS recommended that the Commission provide funding for the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP) for Year 6 to complete work on South Atlantic shortfin mako age and growth and shortfin mako genetics, continue work on the reproductive biology of porbeagle and shortfin mako, and continue work on movement and habitat characterization of silky, oceanic whitetip, and hammerhead sharks through satellite tagging. In addition, the SCRS recommended that the Commission request designing and implementing a study to compare the effects of circle versus J hooks on retention rates, catch rates, and at haulback mortality of sharks. The experimental design should account for the influence of leader material types (wire versus nylon) and consider possible regional and fleet operational differences.

5.7 Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch

In 2019, the SCRS's main work on ecosystems and bycatch included revisions and updates of the data used in bycatch analysis, and the start of a scientific collaboration for sea turtles, including a workshop planned for 2020. Further work included collaborative processes of assessing the impact of longline fisheries on bycatch of seabirds (including a 2019 workshop), and the SCRS Chair noted that work to evaluate the effectiveness of the seabird bycatch mitigation measures will be completed in 2020.

5.8 Questions from the Panel

The European Union (EU) had several questions for the SCRS Chair. Regarding white marlin, the EU asked why stock biomass does not seem to be recovering, despite low catch levels in recent years. They also asked why projections were not shown in this new assessment. Regarding circle hooks, they noted that references to this gear in the SCRS report are made on a single-species basis and shared their hope that the upcoming Joint t-RFMO Working Group on Bycatch would help to consider this issue more holistically. Furthermore, they asked the Chair to elaborate on the impacts of circle hooks and J hooks on sea turtle retention rates, swordfish, and shortfin mako sharks, and asked what tradeoffs should be considered instead of looking at impacts on a single-species basis. For shortfin mako sharks, the EU asked why the SCRS presented only one management option while several options were in line with the Convention amendment and what conservation benefits would be associated with discarding dead fish.

The SCRS Chair explained that unreported catch is one possible reason why the white marlin stock is not recovering. The SCRS Vice Chair, Rui Coelho (EU) expanded on this, stating that the white marlin stock has had lower than expected productivity over the past 20 or so years. Overfishing has stopped, but given the uncertainties, the SCRS recommends keeping the TAC at the current level until the stock has recovered. Regarding circle hooks, the Vice Chair stated that the EU questions are complicated, as different advice exists for the use of circle hooks, bait material, and other approaches, and their effects on catch rates and mortality rates for different species. The Vice Chair stated that circle hooks seem to cause less mortality on sea turtles and marlins but could possibly cause higher retention of sharks. He stated the need for additional meta-analysis and anticipated a discussion of these issues at the Joint t-RFMO meeting in December 2019. Regarding shortfin makos, the SCRS Vice Chair explained that their recommendation for no retention was related to several factors, including the lengthy recovery timeframe for the species and the need for substantial reductions in mortality. Regarding discarding dead fish, he stated that there is no benefit as this mortality has already occurred. However, in developing its advice, the SCRS concluded that a no retention policy was considered the best management approach to ensure that all CPCs release shortfin mako brought to the boat alive and make every effort to avoid incidental encounters with shortfin mako.

The United States noted that the TAC levels shown in the shortfin mako Kobe matrix are intended to include all mortalities, including fish dead at haulback, any retention, and post-release mortalities. Under current fishing practices, it is estimated that nearly half of shortfin mako do not survive the interaction with longline gear. The United States asked, therefore, whether it is correct that, to achieve a TAC that ends overfishing and begins to rebuild the stock, other changes to fishing practices beyond simply releasing makos would be required, such as changes to terminal fishing gear, improved release practices, or changes to the location and timing of fishing to avoid shortfin mako. The United States also asked whether, given research that has demonstrated that circle hooks generally hook sharks in the corner of the mouth, as compared to J-hooks which often damage or hook in the gut, at-haulback and post-release survival would be improved with the use of circle hooks. Looking at recent data, the SCRS Vice Chair confirmed that a simple no retention policy would still result in about 1200 t of mortality and that other changes to fishing practices would be needed to reduce mortality further. He also noted that there has been scientific literature showing that shortfin mako retention with circle hooks would be higher, but overall the mortality at haulback would be lower, and reiterated that more research on the tradeoffs of circle hooks would be beneficial.

Japan commented regarding the need for an ecosystem-based approach, referred to a recent meta-analysis presented to the SCRS, and suggested that the SCRS should look at the effects of potential gear modifications on numerous species instead of providing advice that relates to effects on a single species. Japan then asked the SCRS about the extent to which sea turtle mortality would decrease through the use of circle hooks and finfish bait. The SCRS Vice Chair confirmed that the use of circle hooks and finfish bait have been studied and shown to reduce interactions with sea turtles and to increase their survivability.

Canada asked the SCRS to elaborate on the benefits of a no retention policy for shortfin mako, including the removal of economic incentives for fishing, and eliminating the problem of determining if a mako is dead at haulback. The SCRS Vice Chair confirmed this, noting those questions were more related to implementation issues rather than scientific issues, adding that it is hoped that a no-retention policy would encourage fleets to avoid areas of high concentration and move their effort to different areas.

Uruguay asked if the SCRS has identified fleets that target their effort on shortfin mako, and areas where catches of newborns, pups, juveniles, and adult females with offspring exist. The SCRS Vice Chair responded that most of the data on shortfin mako comes from longline fleets, and of these data, the size distribution is mostly juveniles or young adults. Data on pregnant females remain unknown.

Finally, China asked the SCRS Vice Chair if it is possible to conduct a stock assessment for shark species that are not retained. The SCRS Vice Chair responded that it is possible to do a stock assessment in such cases, but it could require some assumptions based on the best available information provided by the CPCs (e.g., on live releases and dead discards).

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

The Chair read the recommendations of Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review – Panel 4, and asked if there were any specific comments from delegations. Uruguay requested that the Chair also read the comments that the Secretariat included in the document and noted that the Panel need not agree with all of the recommendations. Japan suggested that this item be reviewed later in the Panel 4 agenda, and the Chair clarified that he thought it was important for the Panel to keep the recommendations in mind as they are negotiating proposals. The United States stated that ICCAT cannot expect to rebuild stocks when such a significant amount of catch goes unreported and unaccounted for each year. They stated that the Compliance Committee should apply penalties for non-reporting of data, including non-compliance with any required bycatch mitigation measures. The Chair stated his view that the new Online Reporting System that is under development will greatly help CPCs improve compliance with the many data reporting obligations of ICCAT.

No additional comments or questions were raised by CPCs.

The progress to date made by Panel 4 on the follow up of the second performance review recommendations are included in **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8**.

7. Review of compliance tables

Regarding Mediterranean swordfish, the Secretariat stated that the 3% reduction in the Mediterranean swordfish TAC agreed in Rec. 16-05 has been applied by most CPCs and that an updated version of the compliance tables would be made available for CPCs' review.

The United States expressed concern that it is the only CPC reporting any recreational catches of blue marlin and white marlin, despite other CPCs acknowledging that they have these fisheries in their waters. Concern was also expressed about the gaps in reporting of dead discards, as highlighted by the SCRS.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

8.1 Introduction of proposals

The Chair identified the proposals for the Panel's consideration, and proponents presented each document.

8.2 Swordfish

Canada introduced a "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for North Atlantic Swordfish". Morocco presented a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish". This recommendation requested that a transfer of quotas from Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco be approved. The Chair also took note of two fishing management plans for North Atlantic swordfish.

The United States and Japan suggested edits to Canada's proposal, and Canada produced a revised version, which was adopted by consensus. Morocco's proposal was also adopted.

8.3 Marlins

Two proposals were submitted for marlins. The European Union introduced "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish Stocks", noting its similarities to the EU proposal in 2018. Their proposal included the release of marlins at haulback in ways to maximize survival, with an exception for small-scale fishing vessels, and a reduced TAC from 2,000 t to 1,750 t for blue marlin. The TAC for white marlin would remain unchanged at 400 t. Canada asked for clarification as to whether dead discards would be counted against landing limits. In response, the EU clarified that as there were landing limits, this would not be the case. China asked if the minimum standards for safe handling and live release outlined in the proposal's Annex were best practices implemented by the EU fleet. In response, the EU clarified that the standards were proposed based on several sources to be found in the footnote of the Annex.

The United States then introduced a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish", co-sponsored by Brazil and Panama. The United States noted that ICCAT has not established a formal rebuilding program for marlins, despite the fact that both stocks have long been overfished. Their proposal would reduce the blue marlin TAC to 1,500 t, and white marlin/roundscale spearfish to 300 t, in order to account for unreported catches, dead discards, post-release mortality, and other unquantified sources of mortality.

Norway asked for clarification on Paragraph 6, which referred to CPCs that prohibit dead discards, asking if that provision would allow for the TAC to be exceeded. The European Union asked two questions regarding why the provisions were only mandatory for longline and purse seine vessels, and why longline and purse seine vessels that are allowed to retain marlins, provided there are observers or an EMS system on board, would not be permitted to sell the carcass. Japan asked for clarification as to why, if dead discards are prohibited, these retained catches would not be counted against the landings limit, and if this exception could be applied to recreational vessels. Morocco asked if amounts for local consumption would be included in catch limits.

In response to Norway's and Japan's questions regarding dead discards, the United States stated that it was not the intention for catches to exceed the TAC, and that the TAC was reduced to 1,500 t (below the 1,750 t recommended by the SCRS) in order to provide a buffer that would cover mortality that would otherwise be unaccounted for. The United States also clarified that it was not the intent for Paragraph 6 to provide for an exception that would exempt recreational catches from counting against respective landings limits.

The Pew Charitable Trusts voiced support for the marlin proposals, which would end overfishing and aim to improve fisheries data, and encouraged the Commission to adopt rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin. They stated that they are particularly interested in the proposal presented by the United States. *Europêche* commented that recreational fisheries should be regulated equally alongside pelagic longline vessels. In addition, they did not agree with the proposal from the United States concerning a prohibition on the sale of marlins.

The Chair suggested that delegations work together to combine the two proposals, and a joint proposal, "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish", was presented. A number of CPCs provided comments to this version and, at a later session, the United States presented a revised joint proposal with the EU, incorporating those comments. The measure, among other things, established an annual limit of 1,670 t for blue marlin and 355 t for white marlin/spearfish. The United States stated that, consistent with advice from SCRS, the TACs in this proposal are set at levels designed to provide a buffer for reported dead discards. The Panel agreed the revised joint proposal by consensus and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

8.4 Blue sharks

The European Union introduced two proposals on blue sharks; a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 16-12 on Management Measures for the Conservation of the North Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries", and a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of South Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries". For North Atlantic blue shark, the first proposal recommended a TAC of 39,100 t. For South Atlantic blue shark, referencing increased catches that exceeded levels suggested by the SCRS, the second proposal recommended setting a TAC of 28,923 t, corresponding to average catches from 2009 through 2013.

Japan asked if the TAC proposed by the European Union for North Atlantic blue shark was consistent with SCRS advice. The most recent stock assessment for blue shark took place in 2015. At that time, the SCRS determined that the stock was not overfished, and overfishing was not occurring; however, the level of uncertainty was high enough to prevent the SCRS from reaching a consensus on a specific management recommendation.

Norway asked if the proposal for the North Atlantic blue shark would include bycatch or only directed fisheries. The EU responded that it is intended to cover both target catch and bycatch. Norway questioned whether the level of TAC, as proposed, represented a precautionary approach. Norway inquired further about the basis of TAC allocation, and whether it would take into account the rights of coastal States and the zonal attachment of the stocks. They also asked if the quota allocation scheme would take bycatch into account, to which the European Union responded that they planned to have an "Others" category in the TAC allocation to accommodate other CPCs that encounter blue sharks incidentally.

The Shark Trust and Ecology Action Center, representing a group of organizations, urged CPCs to establish hard catch limits for blue sharks in both oceans at or lower than SCRS-advised limits.

The "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 16-12 on Management Measures for the Conservation of the North Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries" was later introduced by the EU with revisions based in input from CPCs, including requests by China to reference the "shark implementation check sheet" and that the TAC referred to catch levels in the time period between 2011 and 2015. With these revisions, this proposal on North Atlantic blue shark was agreed by the Panel and referred to the Commission for adoption.

Following small modifications for consistency, the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of South Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries” was also agreed by the Panel and referred to the Commission for adoption.

8.5 Sharks

Mexico introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, with the support of 28 co-sponsors. They stated that landing sharks with the fins attached is now widely seen as a best practice, and that this recommendation is necessary to strengthen enforcement of ICCAT’s existing ban on shark finning and to improve the collection of species-specific data that can be used for scientific purposes. Ultimately, the proposal was co-sponsored by 33 CPCs. Japan and China stated that they were not in a position to support this proposal, and the proposal was not adopted.

Three different proposals were initially introduced for shortfin mako sharks. Senegal introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation of Atlantic Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, which at the time of introduction, was co-sponsored by The Gambia, Canada, Gabon, Panama and Liberia. The European Union presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”. The United States introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, co-sponsored by Curacao.

Senegal’s proposal prohibited retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako and set the South Atlantic shortfin mako TAC at 2,001 t, which would be reviewed if total catch exceeds 2,001 t for two years. Norway questioned the reference to the IUCN Red List in the preamble of the proposal in particular because bluefin tuna is listed as an endangered species on this list although not considered as threatened by the SCRS. Norway held the view that a reference to the SCRS advice would be more appropriate. In response, Senegal stated that they could remove the language referencing the IUCN. Norway shared that they on some rare occasions have shortfin mako as bycatch in their fisheries and asked if it would be possible to take samples of the dead fish within the framework of national scientific programmes, or if this would be prohibited. Norway also asked for clarification on the details of subsequent stock assessment timing, to which the SCRS Vice Chair responded that the last stock assessment was carried out in 2017, using data from 2015. There was no set date yet for the next assessment, however the SCRS Vice Chair stated that the Commission could request this. Japan asked how this proposal would amend existing Rec. 17-08; Senegal explained that it would be repealed.

The EU presented their proposal, noting their intention to strengthen the recommendation adopted in 2017. This proposal aimed to establish a TAC of 500 t, with retention permitted only for specimens already dead at haulback and when there was an observer on board. The EU emphasized a proactive release policy, and the proposal for enhanced observer coverage and electronic monitoring. The proposal would also require mini data-loggers to be installed on gear during selected time periods. They requested SCRS advice on these initiatives, as well as on potential shortfin mako nurseries, pupping spots, hotspots, and other geographic areas of importance to the stock.

In response to the EU proposal, several CPCs raised questions and concerns. Norway asked why the EU proposed set a TAC contrary to the scientific advice, which they understood to imply a TAC of zero retention. The EU stated that the TAC is not contrary to opinions provided by the SCRS in the Kobe matrix. Norway asked the SCRS to clarify their recommendation, to which the SCRS Vice Chair confirmed that their advice was a non-retention policy without exceptions. In response, the EU stressed that decisions regarding the level of acceptable risk for shortfin mako are ultimately up to the Commission.

Norway recalled that the EU proposal related to mako shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries and therefore might concern bycatches in the bluefin tuna fisheries, Norway therefore asked if the EU planned to amend Rec. 18-02, in which a 20% observer coverage requirement only applied to vessels over 15 meters. The EU responded that that proposal was specific to the shortfin mako shark fishery, and, therefore, it did not pertain to Rec. 18-02. The United States asked how the elements of the EU proposal would effectively reduce catches to a 500t level when the proposal did not require any changes in fishing practices or gear modifications. The EU responded that its proposal would give an incentive to the fishing sector to work together to reduce the catch of shortfin mako.

The United States introduced their proposal which they stated was, in essence, a no-retention proposal, coupled with required reductions in catch by 80% in 2020 and by 85% in 2022. They stated their concern that a simple ban on retention would not go far enough to reduce mortality and that when sharks are cut off the line, many are unaccounted for. Under that proposal, a TAC would be 700 t in 2020 and stepped down to 500 t by 2022, to end overfishing while taking into account the magnitude of adjustments needed in fisheries. Retention would be prohibited until the CPC achieves its required catch reduction levels.

The EU questioned the proposal's reduction target of 80% and 85%, and if these levels were to be attained through avoiding the actual hooking of fish, or if it accounted for the release of live animals and dead discards. The United States responded that dead discards were included. The EU asked if data on dead discards and live releases would only be collected through observer programs or also through fishing logbooks. The United States acknowledged that data collection reporting requirements also included data collected through logbooks and noted that this could be clarified. Finally, the EU suggested that 2022 would be too soon for the SCRS to review the effectiveness of the proposal.

Norway asked the United States if, given that the 700 t TAC only had a 41% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2070, they considered their proposal to be utilizing a precautionary approach. The United States explained that a TAC of 700 t would end overfishing immediately, and that a TAC of 500 t is projected to have a greater than 50% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2070. Morocco asked the SCRS Chair to share the impact of monofilament leaders and circle hooks on shortfin mako mortality. The SCRS Chair stated that the SCRS had not yet specifically addressed this matter. The SCRS Chair added that it was likely that monofilament would have a very different bite-off rate, which would have an effect on whether the animal made it to the vessel.

Several observers also provided comments on the topic of shortfin mako. *Europêche* stated that they believed a total retention ban would bring no conservation benefits to the species, and expressed concern with the use of circle hooks as a bycatch mitigation measure. Defenders of Wildlife, speaking on behalf of several NGOs, stated that collectively, these organizations remained deeply concerned with the status of shortfin mako. They urged ICCAT to completely ban retention of the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako. Humane Society International stated their comments on behalf of many NGOs that the conversation should continue if consensus had not been reached, particularly in regards to the use of circle hooks. The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation urged the Commission to follow the SCRS advice and to use a precautionary approach for decisions regarding shortfin mako.

Despite requests from the Chair and efforts by the CPCs to consolidate the three proposals into one document, ultimately, this could not be achieved and no consensus on a new recommendation could be reached. Seeking a way forward, the Chair asked the CPCs to consider a one-year extension of Rec. 17-08 and presented the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries". The Chair noted that the proposal included a provision for an intersessional Panel 4 meeting in 2020 to revitalize the CPCs' efforts to find consensus on a rebuilding program. Japan noted that they would not be able to attend this intersessional meeting and asked for assurance that any country that would not participate in the intersessional meeting would have the right to express its views at the next annual meeting. The Chair assured the Panel members that this was the case. China stated that they also would not attend the meeting. The United States stated that they could agree to the Chair's proposal, given the severely depleted nature of the stock and the need to ensure that Rec. 17-08 would not expire without any new measures in place. Gabon noted its concern that an extension of current measures did not go far enough to protect the stock. Norway also expressed serious concerns as the CPCs did not seem ready to follow the scientific advice. Given concerns expressed, the Panel agreed to forward this proposal to the Plenary for further consideration and possible adoption.

8.6 Sea turtles

The United States presented a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bycatch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Combine, Streamline, and Amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)", co-sponsored by Belize, Brazil, Curaçao, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Senegal, and Mexico. The proposal incorporated language recently adopted by the IATTC, to reduce sea turtle bycatch, consistent with SCRS advice. The United States explained that that proposal streamlined existing sea turtle bycatch requirements and included a menu of options to increase post-release survival of sea turtles, including the use of large circle hooks, the use of finfish bait, or other measures considered to be effective by the SCRS. The proposal called for CPCs to choose one of the options appropriate for their shallow-set longline fisheries. It also included a geographic exclusion for regions where sea turtles are not found.

Canada stated that they have been using large circle hooks in their pelagic longline fisheries and have had positive results for sea turtles and marlins. With small revisions to Footnote 1, Canada stated that they could support the proposal.

Japan stated that, since 2003, the Japanese longline fleet had been contributing to the conservation of sea turtles by gradually decreasing its effort levels in the Atlantic Ocean. They indicated that Japanese fishermen tried to use circle hooks in the past but gave up the usage because of the low CPUE for target species, and that many fishermen find squid bait to be more effective in attracting the target catch. Japan stated that they were not in a position to support that proposal.

Uruguay stated concerns regarding the use of the word “mortality” instead of “catch” in the proposal, and noted that some populations of threatened and endangered marine turtles were growing. They suggested that because longline vessels also encountered marine turtles at deeper depths, shallow-set and deep-set longline fleets should not be differentiated in the proposal. The EU agreed that the proposal should not apply only to shallow-set longline fisheries, and also suggested that the proposal should address bycatch in gillnet fisheries.

The Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) emphasized that the use of circle hooks can reduce incidental capture, due to the anatomical placing of these hooks. They stated that resolutions to require the use of circle hooks or finfish bait have also been adopted by the WCPFC and the IATTC, and they encourage ICCAT to implement the best scientific advice provided by the SCRS to reduce bycatch and increase post-release survival of sea turtles within the ICCAT Convention area. The Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP) stated that they were very concerned about bycatch in longline fisheries, due to unsustainable catch levels of sea turtles. They expressed support for the U.S. proposal and noted the need for capacity building.

With input from many CPCs, the United States presented a revised version of the proposal, with additional co-sponsors Canada, Gabon and El Salvador. Uruguay raised questions on the preamble of the updated proposal, including a request for a word other than “comatose” when referring to sea turtle state. Uruguay also stated that, while they had expressed some concerns about requiring the use of circle hooks, they did not want to be an obstacle to that proposal. The EU expressed additional concerns that the proposal did not take effort by all longline fleets, deep-set as well as shallow-set, into account. They suggested that the issue be revisited next year taking additional information into account. Despite efforts to reach consensus, this proposal was, therefore, not adopted.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

The Panel 4 Chair raised suggested actions from the Secretariat on streamlining ICCAT conservation and management measures, which included the suggestion to combine two recommendations pertaining to seabirds. It was agreed in 2018 that these two recommendations, Rec. 07-07 and Rec. 11-09, could be combined for ease of implementation and reporting.

The United States stated that they did not think there was sufficient time to give the proposal enough attention that year and suggested that work to evaluate the proposal could be completed by 2020. Japan suggested that the proposal be adopted at that meeting. The United States noted that they would not object to the proposal and responded with a specific suggestion to insert and update a paragraph from Rec. 11-09 that had been removed in the Secretariat’s proposal.

Ultimately, the Chair stated that there was not sufficient time to reach consensus on the proposed consolidated version of Rec. 07-07 and Rec. 11-09, and it was not adopted. The Chair suggested addressing the issue next year, with a revised version of the document at the next Commission meeting.

10. Research

The SCRS Chair introduced the research items included in the agenda, many of which were identified during the SCRS presentation to Panel 4. The SCRS Chair stated that for billfish, there was ongoing work to address knowledge gaps; areas of prioritization included research with respect to growth and ageing techniques for billfish and improved data collection in small-scale fisheries through development of a mobile app. For swordfish, the SCRS put a high priority on biological studies of the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks. With respect to North Atlantic swordfish, the SCRS was continuing to advance its work on the MSE. For small tunas, which cover a broad spectrum of species, the general focus of the SCRS was to improve the overall biological information in respect to growth, maturity, and other factors. A workshop was proposed to look at ageing and reproduction. Additionally, continued funding for the AOTTP was proposed, additional tagging for wahoo and small tunas, and the revision of the ICCAT Manual for small tuna species. For sharks, the SCRS will focus on completion of work on shortfin mako age and growth, reproductivity of porbeagle, satellite tags for silky sharks, and other research efforts. Finally, the SCRS Chair noted intended research to compare the use of circle and J hooks across taxa, including the influence of the leader type, and undertaking a collaborative workshop to look at the effects of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles.

Brazil asked when the next blue shark assessment would take place, to which the SCRS Vice Chair responded that there was an assessment tentatively planned for 2021, and that in the following year a stock assessment would be conducted for porbeagle.

11. Election of Chair

Dr Fabio Hazin (Brazil) was re-elected as Chair of Panel 4 for the coming two-year term.

12. Other matters

Statements were made by Européche, Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), and a joint statement was made by Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and The Shark Trust (**Appendices 14-16 to ANNEX 8**).

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence. The 2019 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

Panel Agendas

Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of compliance tables
9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above
11. Research
12. Election of Chair
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 3

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
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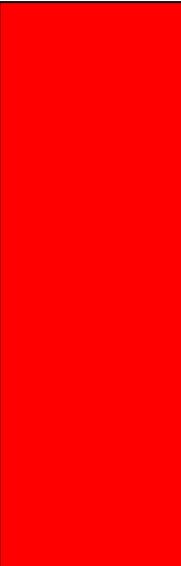
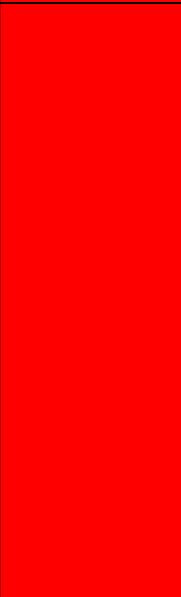
Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 1

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
Green – Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines

<i>Report chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>PA1</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>Observations</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>	<i>Observations of Chair of PA1</i>
Bigeye	13. The Panel recommends that, in view of the current poor status of the stock, the sustainable management of the tropical tunas should be a key immediate management priority for ICCAT. The same commitment devoted to eastern bluefin by ICCAT, should now be addressed to the tropical tuna stocks.	PA1	X	S	Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01 and Rec. 19-02) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.	Paragraph 6 of Recs. 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.	In 2019, a multi-annual management plan was agreed, even though additional work on quota allocation is necessary and some measures may require review/strengthening in the future.	Progress to require additional work.	

<p>14. The Panel notes that the lowered TAC has only a 49% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2028 and recommends that the TAC be decreased further to increase the probability of rebuilding in a shorter period.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 6 of Recs. 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.</p>	<p>The TAC has been reduced for 2020 and 2021 and could be revised following future advice from the SCRS.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	
<p>15. The Panel, noting that ICCAT has established a working group on FADs, recommends that ICCAT prioritise this work and, in parallel, pursue the initiative across all tuna RFMOs to pool the information, knowledge and approaches on how to introduce effective management of FADs into the tropical tuna fisheries on a worldwide scale.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Work on matters related to FADs is already underway, in particular within the context of the FAD WG. This should continue and Panel 1 should consider this work when discussing conservation and management measures for tropical tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Technical WG was established within the FAD joint tRFMO WG to conduct some preliminary work as agreed during the 1st meeting of the FAD joint rRFMO. Work continued in 2019 with a second meeting of the WG. The recommendations adopted by these working groups should be reviewed and potentially reassessed by PA1 to issue recommendations to ICCAT.</p>		

<p>Bigeye</p>	<p>16. The Panel notes that, according to the SCRS, the area and time closure has not worked and therefore its impact on reducing juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin, is negligible. The Panel recommends that this policy needs to be re-examined and this can, in part, be done through initiatives on limiting the number and use of FADs.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for consideration when reviewing conservation and management measures for the tropical tunas fishery.</p>	<p>Additional information on this matter is expected from SCRS and FAD Working Group which has already started work on this issue.</p>	<p>The SCRS will conduct an analysis to be presented to the Commission. CPCs should provide the necessary data for carrying out this type of analysis.</p>		<p>No consensus on the space-time closure.</p>
<p>Yellowfin</p>	<p>19. The Panel recommends that a quota allocation scheme be adopted by ICCAT to manage the fishery, as is already the case for bigeye.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 as revised by Rec. 16-01 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review YFT management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 11 of Recs. 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.</p>			<p>No measures taken despite overrun of TAC.</p>

<p>Skipjack</p>	<p>22. The Panel recommends that vessels which fish bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in the Convention area should be covered by Rec. 15-01. For reasons that are not clear to the Panel, skipjack fisheries in the West Atlantic seem to be outside the remit of Rec. 15-01.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01). The Panel should further review SKJ management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from next assessment.</p>		<p>No further actions required as the combination of fishery methods are different in the East and the West Atlantic. For the Western SKJ Stock no actions for the fleet are required under Rec. 15-01 as the combination of fishery methods are different from the Eastern Stock.</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>	
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<p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>	<p>6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.</p>	<p>Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.</p>	<p>To be taken into account as the Commission develops new management recommendations.</p>	<p>Development of the 2019 multi-annual plan allows catches by small-scale fishers. Is any additional action required by Panel 1 on this issue?</p>	<p>Provision to be envisaged in a future recommendation.</p>
<p>Bigeye</p>	<p>12. The Panel recommends that bigeye, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multifishery approach.</p>		
<p>Yellowfin</p>	<p>18. The Panel recommends that yellowfin, which is fished in association with juvenile bigeye and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multifishery approach.</p>		

<p>Skipjack</p>	<p>21. The Panel recommends that skipjack, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer matter to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multifishery approach.</p>		
<p>Rebuilding Plans</p>	<p>47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current reactive management to re-redress the status of stocks through rebuilding plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.</p>		<p>MSE for tropical species is included in the roadmap by the SCRS and the Commission, but it should be treated with care.</p>		

Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.		Rec. 19-02 allows developing countries to indicate their aspirations, so these can be taken into account in future allocations.		
	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.		The current plan only establishes allocations for one year.		

	<p>65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.</p>	COM	X	S/M	<p>Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.</p>		<p>To be taken into consideration in future quota allocations/catch limits for tropical tunas.</p>		
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Integrated MCS Measures	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.	Rec. 19-02 provides for an increase in observer coverage, as well as electronic monitoring testing.		
	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	X	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5a; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.		No consensus on this matter.

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.</p>	<p>Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate.</p>	<p>The online working group should maybe provide additional direction, but Panel 1 has not carried out any streamlining.</p>		
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<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>This has been taken into account in some cases, but not in others.</p>		
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<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>The implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.</p>	<p>An observation: Transparency, openness and participatory opportunities for all CPCs taken into account the ICCAT criteria in the allocation of fishery opportunities. Item not related to COC / or Friends of the Chair.</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>	
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Presentation Scientific Advice	114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.		See 47 above.		
	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.		ICCAT has started MSE process for 3 main tropical tuna species in 2018.		
Presentation Scientific Advice	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.	Related to Rec. 43.	Panel 1 will take this recommendation into account in the development of new management measures.		

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Brazil to Panel 1**

Let us start by thanking you, once more, for all your efforts, as Chair of Panel 1, to achieve consensus on a much-needed conservation measure to ensure the recovery of the overexploited bigeye tuna stock, which has been much appreciated. As we stated in our letter, in response to your request for the position of CPCs regarding catch limits, we have been very concerned by the lack of reference to the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities, reflected in ICCAT Resolution 15-13 (previously 01-25), in the ongoing negotiations. So, let us take this opportunity to make our position crystal clear, at the very beginning of this Panel 1 meeting, Mr. Chairman: Brazil will not accept any quota allocation that is not decided in a transparent manner, taking full account of the criteria this Commission agreed to, almost 20 years ago, in 2001. We understand, however, that the literal application of the criteria, in a form of a mathematical equation, though possible, would probably be too complex and not practical to achieve in the short-term. We fully recognize that, and we are, therefore, flexible on the ways we can collectively find to take the criteria duly into account. But, please, be aware, Mr. Chairman, my delegation will not accept, by any means, the criteria we agreed to 20 years ago being ignored, as it would be the case, for instance, if a disproportionate weight is given to historical catches. It is very sad, indeed, that we still have to emphasize this, as strongly as we have been doing, but it is quite necessary, unfortunately, since the neglect of the ICCAT criteria is not unprecedented in the rather recent history of this Commission. Much to the contrary, the lack of transparency and the disrespect for the rules we have agreed to, have forced CPCs to resort to the objection clause; a situation, we hope, will not have to happen again with tropical tunas this year.

Having made our position clear, Mr. Chairman, on the need to respect the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities in this negotiation, we believe it is useful to also repeat here some historical background that needs to be taken into account in this process, as well as the applicable international law.

The history of the trigger

Let us start by reviving our memories on the history of the trigger for developing States that was included in the conservation measures for tropical tunas. The first time catch limits were imposed for bigeye tuna by the Commission was in 2002, during the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission, by Recommendation 02-01 on bigeye tuna conservation measures, a year after the adoption of the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing opportunities. At that time, the position of the Brazilian delegation was that no exercise of allocation of quotas should happen outside the application of the criteria, then recently adopted, for the allocation of fishing opportunities, as clearly expressed in our opening statement at that meeting: *...the Brazilian Delegation comes to Bilbao convinced that two aspects must be taken into account in all upcoming negotiations: (a) no total allowable catch to be agreed upon should be raised above levels recommended by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, and (b) no allocation of quotas should be settled without taking into due consideration the allocation criteria already agreed upon by the Commission.* Both commitments remain fully valid until today, Mr. Chairman. If there is one thing we are proud of in the history of our participation in this Commission, it is our coherence and respect of principles. On that occasion, however, as a compromise not to hinder the urgent need to impose catch limits on Contracting Parties that were already fishing most of the bigeye tuna catches in the Atlantic Ocean and were still increasing their catches, with the argument that the exercise to apply the ICCAT criteria would not be possible at that meeting due to the shortness of time (very convenient and repeated over and over, by the way), we agreed to Recommendation 02-01. But did so with the clear understanding that the right of developing States to develop their fisheries for bigeye tuna and the consequent need to properly apply the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing opportunities were embedded in Paragraph 3:

3- The provision of paragraph 1 (limiting the catches) will not apply to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose reported 1999 catch, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, was less than 2,100 t.

Brazilian catch in 1999 was 2,024 t, so it should be clear where the 2,100 t figure came from. So, Brazil did compromise on its commitment not to agree to the establishment of catch limits or quotas without proper application of the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing opportunities, in the benefit of consensus, but did not compromise, and never will, on the right of Brazil, as well as of any other developing State, to develop their own fisheries for such stock, as enshrined by international law. The same exclusion clause was kept in an updated Recommendation adopted in 2004 (Rec. 04-01). In 2009 (Rec. 09-01), that exclusion clause was finally turned into a trigger of 3,500 t, requiring the Commission to engage in a proper quota allocation exercise whenever a developing CPC exceeded that limit:

– For developing coastal CPCs not shown in the Table in 4 a) of the Recommendation [04-01], if the catch exceeds 3,500 t in 2010, an appropriate catch limit shall be established for that CPC for the following years.

The message was again very clear: we would not accept a quota allocation, unless it were done taking duly account of the ICCAT Criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities.

That clause was then updated in 2011 (11-01), and repeated subsequently:

b) if the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal CPC not listed in paragraph 11 above exceeds 3,500 t for any one year, a catch limit shall be established for that developing CPC for the following years. In such a case, the relevant CPC shall adjust its fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities.

So, the trigger was NOT created TO LIMIT the capacity of developing states to develop their own fishery for bigeye tuna, which would not only have been unfair but unlawful according to UNFSA and other instruments of international law, but to avoid a fully-fledged exercise of properly allocating the fishing possibilities by duly applying the criteria agreed by the Commission, due to an alleged lack of time and/or commitment by CPCs.

The international law

Mr. Chairman, to properly frame the forthcoming negotiations on the bigeye tuna quotas it is also fundamental to recall the legal background of international law. Starting with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - UNCLOS, Article 116, on the rights to fish on the high seas, establishes that all States have the right for their nationals to engage in fishing, but subject to, inter alia, the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal States. In Article 119, on the conservation of the living resources of the high seas, UNCLOS states that in determining the allowable catch and establishing other conservation measures for the living resources in the high seas, States shall take measures which are designed, on the best scientific evidence available to the States concerned, to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States. The same article also requires the States concerned to ensure that conservation measures and their implementation do not discriminate in form or in fact against the fishermen of any State.

In the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement, there is an entire section, Part VII, on the special requirements of Developing States, including Article 24, obliging States to take into account, in particular, the vulnerability of developing States which are dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources, including for meeting the nutritional requirements of their populations; the need to avoid adverse impacts on, and ensure access to fisheries by, subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and to ensure that conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States. Article 25 requires all States to cooperate, inter alia, to enhance the ability of developing States, to conserve and manage straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and to develop their own fisheries for such stocks; and to enable them to participate in high seas fisheries for such stocks, including facilitating access to such fisheries. That article is reiterated in Article 5 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which, in its Article 7, also calls upon States, when adopting conservation and management measures, to take into account the interests of fishers, including those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The FAO Conference, in its resolution adopting the Code, also URGED all States, in implementing its provisions, to take into account the special requirements of developing countries.

In 2014, the FAO Committee on Fisheries adopted the Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, which, among over a hundred paragraphs recognizing the importance of small-scale fisheries for food security and poverty alleviation, call upon States to adopt measures to facilitate equitable access to fishery resources for small-scale fishing communities, including, as appropriate, redistributive reform.

In the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/288, on the Future We Want, United Nations Member States not only urged the identification and mainstreaming of strategies that further assist developing countries, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, but also committed themselves to observe the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets, by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolks and their communities, particularly in developing countries. More recently, member States of the United Nations agreed on the Sustainable Development Goals, requiring States, in Goal 14b, explicitly to provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, a requirement that was just reiterated by the 33rd FAO Committee on Fisheries, as reflected in Paragraph 66 of the report of the meeting that took place in July, last year.

Finally, in the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities, the Commission agreed, when allocating fishing possibilities, to take into account: 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; 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; and 11) the socio-economic contribution of the fisheries for stocks regulated by ICCAT to the developing States.

All the legal background provided above, therefore, Mr. Chairman, make the priority treatment that should be given to small-scale fisheries and developing coastal States very clear, with many solid reasons for that. One of them is the lack of a strong domestic market that makes these nations much more vulnerable to unilateral trade sanctions, like the one Brazil is presently suffering, unjustly and unfairly, due to technical allegations. We are not prohibited to export only seafood from capture fisheries, but all seafood, including from aquaculture activities. But this is not unprecedented. We have faced technical barriers to trade in the past, such as the obligation to have every lot of swordfish tested for histamine by High-Performance Liquid Chromatography. In the case of small-scale fisheries, their vulnerability is also directly linked to their lack of mobility, differently from large industrialized fishing vessels that can easily move from one region to another, even between different oceans, as indeed happens quite often. Fishing communities cannot move that way and depend ultimately on the fishery resources they fish for food security. By giving priority to small-scale fisheries we are, therefore, protecting livelihoods, not profits.

The present distribution of quotas

Presently, bigeye tuna quotas are distributed among 7 CPCs, which together (57,762 t) accounts for 89% of the TAC of 65,000 t. If we consider the priority treatment that should be given to a) coastal States; b) developing States; and c) artisanal and small-scale fisheries, we would realize that, presently: a) 63% of the quotas are given to distant water fishing nations; b) 83% are given to developed countries; and c) almost 100% is given to industrialized fisheries. This quota distribution is, clearly, not only unfair and unequitable, but definitely not in conformity with international law. That is CLEAR, Mr. Chairman.

<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
Total	57,762

Referring specifically, Mr. Chairman, to the quota expectation you requested from CPCs in your letter, and recognizing that historical catches is one of the criteria adopted by ICCAT (4. Historical catches of qualifying participants), Brazil is prepared to accept the history of catch in the past 5 years as a basis (but

by no means 10 years), if and only if, the criteria related to the presence of the stock in the EEZ of the country, if the CPC is coastal or not, the nature of the CPC, if it is developing or not, and the nature of the fishery, if it is artisanal/ small scale or not, to a minimum, also be taken into account. Considering the average catch in the past 5 years, one of the simplest ways to achieve that would be, for instance, to add to that mean catch 10% if the CPC is coastal, plus 10% if it is a developing State and plus 10% if the fishery is artisanal/ small scale. Considering the average catch of Brazil in the past 5 years, equal to 6,550 t, for example, and adding to it 10% for being coastal (7,205.0 t), 10% for being a developing State (7,925.5 t) and 10% for having an artisanal fishery (8,718.0 t), this would bring the figure of our expectation to 8,718 t. Curiously, that level is very close to the average of the 7 countries with the largest mean catches over the past 5 years, which equal 8,756 t, and compared to those 7 countries Brazil ranks 4th, which clearly shows our commitment to a fair quota allocation.

For 60 years Brazil has struggled to develop its tuna fisheries, without much success, except for the coastal fishery for skipjack. Finally, through an unexpected and surprising manner, Brazilian artisanal fishers themselves, with no help from the government or research institutions, found an efficient way to participate in the fishery for tropical tunas. This is a fishery done by artisanal boats, with a wooden hull, most of them from 12 to 16 m total length. All the fishing is done by handline and, therefore, the fish is caught one by one, with almost no bycatch or impact on the marine ecosystem. Most of the boats are owned by the fishers themselves, whose whole asset in life is the boat they own. This fishery is not about making profit, Mr. Chairman, it is about making a living; it is not about an economic enterprise, it is about livelihoods and fishing communities, who are striving to feed their families. It is about food security and nutrition. This is a small-scale fishery of a coastal developing State. We really hope we meant everything we have agreed in international law and instruments over the past half a century, since 1973, when the first United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was held, and that, consequently, the rights of Brazilian small-scale fishers be respected and reflected in a meaningful participation in the quotas that will be allocated. We are coming to the Panel 1 meeting, as usual, in a very positive and constructive mood, but we will not accept that our legitimate right to develop our own fishery for tropical tunas, as a developing coastal State with an artisanal fishery, be denied. We are prepared to negotiate quotas, but we will not negotiate principles or rights, already fully recognized by international law. This is our standing regarding the quota allocation, Mr. Chairman.

Regarding the TAC, we stick to the same position Brazil has always had in the Commission, clearly spelled out in our opening statement back in 2002, in Bilbao, already referred to in this document: No total allowable catch to be agreed upon should be raised above levels recommended by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

Despite the unnegotiable defense of our legitimate right as a developing coastal State with an artisanal fishery to develop our fishery for tropical tunas, we fully share the SCRS concerns over the critical situation of the bigeye tuna stock and consequently we have been assuming our share of sacrifice to reduce our catches and better manage this fishery. In November 2017, the Brazilian Government started to take very serious measures to improve our governance of this fishery, having published no less than four normative instructions, as listed below, only in the past year. These mandatory rules, among other things FROZE Brazilian fishing capacity for ALL tuna species (P. 89), prohibiting the publication of any new fishing licenses, including licenses for building new fishing boats, for any modality of fishing methods targeting tunas or tuna-like species, while the number of artisanal boats authorized to fish with handline in associated schools was limited to 250 (a reduction close to 20% of the previous level). More recently, after a public call establishing the conditions for issuing the new fishing licenses to this new modality of fishing, the number of authorized boats was FURTHER reduced to 152, which is about HALF of the previous number (about 300). Besides, under the Normative Instruction 44, the ports that will be allowed to land tunas in the entire country will be restricted, so that monitoring will be greatly facilitated. Due to the measures adopted by the Brazilian Government since 2017, our catches of bigeye tuna were reduced from 7,258 t, in 2017, to 5,096 t, in 2019, a reduction of 30%, one of the largest of ALL THE CPCs. Of the 20 CPCs with catches above 100 t in 2018, by the way, only 10 reduced their catches, while the other half increased. Besides, about half a million American dollars (US\$ 500,000.00) were invested in research, with a priority given to tropical tunas. All this has required a tremendous effort from the Brazilian Government and an enormous sacrifice by the Brazilian fisheries sector, showing, without a shadow of a doubt, we hope, Mr. Chairman, the strength of our commitment for the conservation of the Atlantic bigeye tuna. Be assured, Mr. Chairman, that this commitment is only paralleled by our commitment to defend our legitimate fishing rights, as a developing coastal State with an artisanal fishery for bigeye tuna.

**Recent management measures taken by the Brazilian Government
regarding the fishery for tropical tunas**

09/11/2018: Portaria interministerial 59A

Prohibits the use of FADs to fish for tunas;
 Prohibits fishing in the vicinity of oceanographic buoys at distances less than 200 m;
 Prohibits tying the fishing boat to oceanographic buoys;
 Makes the use of VMS mandatory to all boats fishing for tunas larger than 10 m (to be enforced on 09/11/2019);
 Limits the number of boats authorized to fish with handline in associated schools to 250, with the process of establishing the new license and licensing all the interested boats to be completed within one year (until 09/11/2019);
 Makes the authorization to fish for tunas with handline in associated schools exclusive, i.e. boats that are authorized to fish with such a permit can't have any other fishing license;
 Limits the amount of bycatch of boats authorized to fish with handline in associated schools to 20% of the total catch (it prevents using the fishing license for other fishing modalities);
 Establishes the obligation for all fishing boats authorized to fish for tunas and tuna-like species to land their catches in specifically authorized ports.

09/05/2019: Portaria SAP/MAPA 89:

Prohibits the emission of any new fishing licenses, including licenses for building new fishing boats, for any modality of fishing methods targeting tunas or tuna-like species, except BAFHAS (already frozen at 250, by Portaria 59A).

02/10/2019: Instrução Normativa 44, plus Edital

Calls for all ports interested to be authorized to land tunas and tuna-like fish to send all required documentation;
 Calls the owners of fishing boats interested in having a specific license to fish for tunas by handline in associated schools to present their documentation until 18/10/2019 (including proof of delivery of fishing logsheets), for the specific fishing licenses to be published by 02/11/2019.

04/11/2019: Portaria 5.174

In response for a call to boat owners to issue a specific license to fish for tunas by handline in associated schools (Normative Instruction 44), the Brazilian Government authorized only 152 fishing boats, a number that is about HALF of the present fleet of 300 boats.

Complementary measures:

January 2018:

The Brazilian Government invested about US\$ 500,000.00, at the time of an extremely harsh economic situation, for 2018-2019, in the scientific subcommittee of the Standing Committee for the Management of the Tuna Fisheries to undertake several scientific studies on tunas caught by Brazilian vessels, with priority for tropical tunas, and active participation in ICCAT Scientific Projects, including the AOTTP, sharks, billfishes and swordfish.

June 2019:

The Brazilian Government approved a National Plan for the Management of the Tuna Fisheries.

Statement by the European Union to Panel 1

In 2019, the ICCAT Scientific Committee (SCRS) has again highlighted the urgency in adopting new management measures to allow the recovery of bigeye tuna. The EU strongly regrets that despite positive engagement by the Parties during an intersessional meeting of Panel 1 (PA1) earlier in 2018, ICCAT was not able to make substantial progress during its Annual meeting in November 2018 on this stock.

This failure to agree on new management measures not only further delayed any potential recovery of the stock of bigeye tuna, but it unfortunately also reflects poorly on the capacity of the ICCAT Commission to take action in the context of stocks for which many CPCs express shared interests.

One of the critical elements discussed during the 2018 Annual meeting concerned the rights of developing coastal States to develop their fishery for tropical tuna. While this was not disputed by any CPCs in 2018, it nevertheless took up most of the time available in Panel 1 and technical discussions on the needed conservation and management measures could only be conducted in an ad-hoc working group operating on the margins of the meeting of Panel 1. It is essential for the success of this year's discussions that negotiations on fishing opportunities and on the required conservation and management measures proceed in parallel but separate tracks and they both receive sufficient attention and time under the careful leadership of the Chair of Panel 1.

As regards fishing opportunities, the European Union has listened carefully to the demands from developing coastal States and understands their legitimate desire to develop their fisheries for this resource. To guarantee the future of this fishery we must however fulfil our mandate for sustainable management of the stocks that ICCAT has been entrusted with by adopting a new management regime for tropical tunas that ensures that the stock is restored to levels that will allow exploitation in line with Convention objectives.

As one of the CPCs with an existing allocation for bigeye tuna, the EU would be required to make sacrifices to facilitate the establishment of fishing opportunities for CPCs with no established allocation. This would have some important consequences for many segments of the EU fleets, including small-scale artisanal fishermen operating in the EU outermost regions. Nonetheless, the EU is prepared to give serious consideration to the request for a new allocation key and to help accommodate these requests, provided this in turn can lead to establishing a new and more effective management regime for bigeye tuna and for tropical tuna in general. The European Union will therefore approach these negotiations in an open and constructive way with the objectives of reaching a satisfactory and balanced outcome.

For the EU to be in a position to voluntarily forfeit some of its existing fishing rights, it will however be critical to receive sufficient guarantees that these efforts will not be futile and that the overall package of measures to be adopted will have a realistic chance of leading to the recovery of the stock of bigeye tuna and prevents overfishing of tropical tuna in general.

In particular, it would be unconceivable to make concessions on fishing opportunities if in turn the respect of the TAC cannot be guaranteed under a new plan. As the SCRS has noted under the current recommendation catches in 2016-2017 exceeded the TAC by 20% and by 13% in 2018, contributing to further declines in stock size since 2015. In fact, although the TAC has been lowered repeatedly, the total catch removed from the stock has exceeded the TAC because it does not affect all countries that can catch bigeye tuna. In other words, the current system of management of the TAC has failed, by promoting overfishing without making those CPCs currently without catch limits accountable for their catches. The only way to address this problem is by ensuring that each CPC is subject to clear fishing limits under a new scheme of TAC allocation. The inclusion of the CPCs that can catch bigeye tuna under the TAC does not need to jeopardise the future development of fisheries by developing coastal States, but it is an absolutely crucial element to ensure that the TAC can be effectively implemented. Failing to do this would result in continuing overfishing and ignoring the scientific advice.

The **fishing capacity** is another crucial issue to be considered if any new management measures are to be successful. The discussions we had in the context of the 2018 Annual meeting, and the positions some Parties took regarding the right to develop fisheries without limit and without checks and balances in ICCAT, are clearly not consistent with the shared responsibility all CPCs have for sustainably managing this stock and raises questions as to ICCAT's ability to manage the stocks under its responsibility. Instead, ICCAT must draw inspirations from the way it has handled similar challenges encountered in the recent past, such as for Eastern and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna (BFT). The management of this fishery has many similarities with the management of tropical tunas, including the involvement of many developing coastal States. Nevertheless, one of the critical aspects of the successful recovery plan for BFT was that the participants in these fisheries all assumed responsibility in terms of the management of their fishing capacity and agreed to introduce ambitious control measures. Each CPC has therefore regularly presented, even in the context of very unstable political situations and sometimes-ongoing conflicts, its fishing and capacity plans, demonstrating that the fishing capacity was commensurate with the fishing opportunities. The collective evaluation of these fishing plans by ICCAT CPCs has allowed building confidence among CPCs that the measures were implemented fairly by all Parties, and ultimately helped secure the recovery of the stock and the significant increase in TAC that has occurred in recent years. The submission of fishing and capacity plans by CPCs intending to fish on tropical tunas, and their verification by ICCAT, are therefore a key element required to secure a successful rebuilding plan and without such plans, it would be difficult to justify potential sacrifices by the EU.

As coastal States, with collectively the greatest coastline in the ICCAT Convention Area and also the greatest EEZ in Atlantic (even without including the Mediterranean), the EU Member States are particularly important stakeholders, with a long history of involvement in the fisheries for Atlantic tropical tuna. These fisheries have a significant importance for fishing communities in several EU Member States with a strong reliance on these resources. The EU has always been acutely aware of this reliance and of the importance to manage these resources sustainably. The EU fleets are often misperceived as being only made of large pelagic industrial vessels, when in fact most of the operators involved in tropical tuna fisheries, particularly in the EU outermost regions of the Azores, the Canaries and Madeira, are operating small scale coastal vessels using sustainable fishing methods. These fisheries have a huge importance in supporting the coastal communities in these areas.

Important efforts have been made over the years to collect information on these fisheries and to study them, and the involvement of EU scientists continues to be very significant to this day. For instance, the EU recently promoted the development of the AOTTP program, with the main objectives of collecting new scientific information to support the rational management of the tropical tuna resources, contribute to the food security and economic growth of the Atlantic coastal States, and contribute to developing the scientific expertise of these coastal States. The EU financial contribution to this program is just under 13.5 million Euro over five years, emphasizing the importance of these fisheries for the Union and the commitment of the EU to support ICCAT's objectives.

More generally, the input from the EU scientists into the work of SCRS on tropical tunas remains unmatched. Since 2014, the EU and its Member States supported the attendance of scientific experts over 150 times. This participation resulted in the submission of 96 SCRS papers, and 42 peer reviewed publications. In addition, the EU supported 11 MSc theses dedicated to tropical tunas, and another 16 PhD theses, four of which were conducted by candidates from developing coastal States (one from Brazil, one from Morocco, and 2 from Côte d'Ivoire). These efforts by the EU to support capacity building in developing coastal States were also re-enforced by regular voluntary contributions to ICCAT to facilitate the participation of scientists and delegates to ICCAT meetings. In addition, the EU also provides annual voluntary contributions to support the scientific process in ICCAT, to a level of approximately 2 million Euro per year.

The European Union is therefore a strategic stakeholder in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT and will have a crucial role to play in reaching a potential agreement on new management measures for these fisheries. Once again, the EU will engage in this process in a very constructive way with the clear objective of finding an agreement which can provide assurances in terms of the sustainable management of these resources and in particular in terms of the recovery of the stock of bigeye tuna.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Gabon to Panel 1**

With a coastline of some 800 km, an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that covers 213000 km² and a continental shelf of over 46000 km², Gabonese waters are relatively rich in resources, in particular offshore where pelagic fish are found.

The tuna fishery in the Cap Lopez region has been very active (baitboats, purse seiners and longliners) since the 1960s. Fishing is carried out by foreign purse seiners under agreements running from May to October each year. In addition, the catches taken by these purse seiners account for close to 20% of the catches taken in the East Atlantic between 2013 and 2016, making the Gabonese EEZ one of the most strategic areas.

Today, Gabon wishes to redirect this fishery by developing it at national level. This will enable Gabon, *inter alia*, to meet the need of the population in terms of animal proteins, as well as to create employment and to make a profit from this resource. To do so, a dedicated fisheries dock has been built, which encourages foreign tuna vessels to land in Libreville. In addition, we have a processing plant which will enhance the value of tuna in the future. In parallel, a purse seiner is currently engaged in the process for allocation of the Gabonese flag.

In light of the stock status of tropical tunas, in particular bigeye tuna, Gabon has implemented measures to ensure transparency and rational management of stocks, thereby limiting the negative impact of fishing under FADs in its EEZ.

In addition, in the hope of seeing this resource rebuilt as soon as possible in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13), Gabon supports the TAC reduction measure and the adoption of a reasonable rebuilding rate and other measures which will bring this stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix.

Consequently, it is our strong wish that the TAC that is adopted at the 26th ICCAT session be shared out among the CPCs in a spirit of equity and transparency.

In light of the above and pursuant to the guidelines of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which grants a privilege to coastal States in relation to access to fisheries resources and the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13), Gabon wishes to obtain a quota for bigeye tuna.

Reassured that Gabon's request will be taken into account,

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Liberia to Panel 1**

The Convention of the United Nations on the Law of the Sea grants privilege to coastal States the sovereign rights to access its fisheries resources. Pursuant to this, Liberia as a developing coastal State is developing its fisheries resources for the betterment of its people.

In order to protect the equity of the State of Liberia and to maximize its potential to the benefit of the Republic of Liberia, the Government has decided to access its fishing potential.

In light of the above, Liberia has issued a provisional flag State status to two (2) tuna purse seiners on its domestic vessel registry and attracted investment to start operating by January 2020. Liberia is now conducting its due diligence process for issuance of permanent flag State status to the two purse seine vessels, after which the details of these vessels will be submitted to the Secretariat of ICCAT in accordance with Rec. 13-13.

Moreover, Liberia has strengthened its legal regime through the passage of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, ratification of the FAO Port State Agreement (PSMA) and EU Economic Partnership Agreement, adoption and implementation of the National Plan of Action for shark's conservation (NPOA-Sharks) and the National Plan of Action to deter and prevent Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing activities (NPOA-IUU), among other interventions.

Having made these efforts to improve the Liberian economy that has suffered from a myriad of difficulties, our ongoing project which is aimed at developing our fishery sector will be undermined with the restrictions that are targeted at all ICCAT CPCs. We think that these restrictions should be targeted at countries that have developed their fleet and have had an unfettered advantage in this vital sector of the world's economy.

We deem it only fair that we are accorded our sovereign rights to exploit these resources without restrictions on freezing capacity. Therefore, we strongly recommend that paragraph 4bis in the Chair's proposal to replace Rec. 16-01 be deleted or modified to accommodate Liberia's two purse seine vessels and others as the opportunities arise.

In view of the aforementioned, we highly anticipate that our request will be granted.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to Panel 1

The United States was very disappointed that in 2018 ICCAT failed to agree on a new measure to end overfishing for bigeye tuna and rebuild this heavily overfished stock. Nevertheless, the 2018 Panel 1 negotiations and the Chair's 2019 intersessional efforts to develop a draft proposal have identified many important issues that we hope will help set the stage for the adoption of a science-based rebuilding program at this year's annual meeting. Coming to an agreement this year on a rebuilding program for bigeye tuna and a comprehensive tropical tuna management measure is crucial.

Panel 1 continues to face the significant challenge of taking strong, effective measures to ensure the recovery of bigeye tuna while ensuring yellowfin and skipjack tunas do not also become overfished. These iconic species are critical to the lives and livelihoods of fishermen throughout the Atlantic basin. It has become clear that ICCAT tropical tuna measures have not been effective in recent years at achieving the Convention objective for bigeye tuna or controlling catches in line with scientific advice. Catch levels for bigeye, yellowfin, and eastern skipjack tuna stocks have been increasing unabated for many years.

The 2018 stock assessment for bigeye tuna indicated that the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing, and ICCAT's failure to take action in 2018 has allowed overfishing to continue for another year on this significantly depleted stock. The yellowfin tuna catch has exceeded the TAC every year since its adoption in 2011, and this year's assessment demonstrated that the stock biomass has continued to decline since the 2014 assessment. Eastern skipjack tuna catch has exceeded the recommended scientific advice from 2016 through 2018 by 6%, 11%, and 28% respectively, with record high catches last year.

ICCAT has no choice but to make difficult management decisions at this meeting to end overfishing of bigeye tuna and rebuild the stock. We must also consider actions to bring yellowfin and eastern skipjack tuna catches in line with the scientific advice. If we fail bigeye tuna again and continue with the status quo, the SCRS advises that the bigeye tuna stock has a higher risk of collapse than of rebuilding. In 2018 and intersessionally in 2019, Panel 1 began working towards a meaningful and *equitable* approach to the conservation and management of tropical tunas. All CPCs must work together to ensure we can finish this work, in line with our most basic ICCAT obligations to effectively manage these stocks.

The SCRS has been clear that a key driver in the decline of bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks has been the extremely high catches of small fish - catches that have increased without constraint for many years. The impacts of the various fleets harvesting tropical tunas have not been equal. The SCRS analysis identified the disproportionate effect that fishing on fish aggregating devices (FADs) has had in driving down the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for both bigeye and yellowfin tuna and, at the same time, increasing the level of biomass necessary to support those lower MSY levels. As a consequence, while the United States

recognizes that all fleets and gear types have an impact on the status of tropical tuna stocks, the conservation burden for bigeye and yellowfin tunas cannot be shared equally among CPCs. Long overdue action is needed immediately to reduce the overall catch of bigeye tuna, and in particular the catch of small fish.

In facing these realities, it is critical that ICCAT adopt a rebuilding program for bigeye tuna during the 2019 annual meeting that, in line with *Recommendation on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13), ends overfishing immediately and rebuilds with a high probability of success within as short a time as possible. The United States continues to advocate for a 10-year rebuilding program and a TAC of 50,000 t. An essential aspect of any rebuilding program will be provisions that control FAD fishing to reduce the catch of small fish and address growth overfishing, return MSY to historical levels, and support fair and equitable fishing opportunities for all gear types. Panel 1 must also consider measures to ensure that the bigeye tuna total allowable catch (TAC) is adhered to and that other management measures will be effective, such as through quota allocations; tighter quota payback and carryover rules; and, where needed and appropriate, stronger monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) provisions and achievable, enforceable capacity controls. While we expect the focus of the Panel 1 management discussions this year to be on bigeye tuna, including the reduction of catch of small fish, yellowfin tuna clearly needs attention, too. While we note that actions taken to conserve and manage bigeye tuna could also benefit yellowfin tuna, ICCAT should also consider what steps it can take to ensure that stock does not become overfished.

The Panel 1 Chair’s proposal provides a good starting point for tropical tuna negotiations to re-commence, and the United States looks forward to working with Panel 1 Members and the Chair to further improve it so that a consensus proposal can be developed and forwarded to the Commission for adoption during this annual meeting.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) to Panel 1

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) is an international charity working across science, policy and seafood trade sectors to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities committed to environmentally and socially responsible one-by-one fishing methods. The ICCAT Convention area is home to many one-by-one tuna fisheries, including pole-and-line (baitboat), troll, and handline fisheries harvesting temperate and tropical Atlantic tunas in at least sixteen Atlantic coastal States. All require sustainable management of internationally shared fish stocks by ICCAT to support their fisheries and reliant communities.

During this year’s Regular Meeting, IPNLF strongly encourages ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs collectively) to agree on management measures that will secure sustainable and equitable tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. The impasse of the 2018 negotiation to strengthen and replace Recommendation 16-01 should be resolved as a matter of priority.

Specifically, we urge action in the following areas:

- Rebuild bigeye tuna (BET) and reduce yellowfin tuna (YFT) catches to end years of unsustainable fishing. ICCAT’s scientific body (SCRS) has determined that current catch rates provide only a 1% probability of BET recovery by 2033.
 - Reduce the bigeye total allowable catch (TAC), in line with SCRS advice, to rebuild the stock within a reasonable timeframe, and also reduce yellowfin catches to align with the conclusions in the 2019 SCRS report, in which ICCAT scientists express a strong concern that catches above 120,000 t are expected to further degrade the condition of the yellowfin stock.
 - Enhance compliance and accountability by including more CPCs in the allocation table, increasing observer coverage (100% for purse seine and 20% for longline), and eliminating the carry-over of “unused” catch limits.
 - Protect special requirements and rights of developing coastal States by duly considering and applying the ICCAT allocation criteria (Resolution 15-13).

- Implement stricter limits on the use of drifting fish aggregating devices (DFADs), supply vessels and a suitable time-area closure to lower catch rates of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas to within sustainable limits. These measures must be science-based and accompanied by effective monitoring and control. Transparent, independent and harmonized control of operational (DFAD) buoy* numbers is also required to verify compliance.
- Cap the capacity of industrial longline and purse seine fleets.
- Advance the development and implementation of harvest strategies for key species as a matter of priority.
- Adopt measures to reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species.

IN DEPTH: Crafting a Sustainable and Equitable Tropical Tuna Management Measure

Comply with the TAC

A critical shortcoming in the current CMM is the lack of accountability. Only eight CPCs are on the bigeye allocation table and there are no compliance ensuring mechanisms in place for the yellowfin TAC. In 2018, the bigeye and yellowfin TACs were exceeded by as much as 13 and 23 percent respectively. To increase accountability, additional CPCs should be added to the table by reducing the minor harvester threshold and including all CPCs with large purse seine vessels. Additionally, observer coverage in purse seine and longline fisheries targeting tropical tunas should be increased to 100 percent and 20 percent respectively.

Reduce harvest of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin

The use of FADs amplifies overfishing concerns and the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommends the adoption of measures to reduce FAD-driven mortality of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye. This can be achieved through limitations on FAD associated fleet capacity and stricter operational FAD limits which may include an Atlantic-wide FAD closure. Activation of operational buoys should always occur before they are deployed and activation after deployment shall not be allowed to avoid “ghost” or “unregistered” buoys undermining the intent of operational buoy limits. To increase transparency in dFAD operations buoy owners should provide instrumental buoy data, on a weekly basis, in compliance with the minimum best-practice standards of daily reporting, to an independent service provider contracted by the ICCAT Secretariat. To complement such actions, CPCs should also eliminate or reduce the use of supply vessels which further enable excessive fishing effort on juvenile tunas, marine litter, and the bycatch of vulnerable marine species. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, drones, helicopters or any other types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for tropical tunas should also be prohibited.

Fair access to the resource for the coastal developing States

New measures must fully recognize the legitimate development aspirations of coastal developing State CPCs, in line with ICCAT Resolution 15-13, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and various other international instruments. The ICCAT bigeye tuna allocation key has historically awarded around 90 percent of the total TAC among only eight of the 52 CPCs, with only two allocations to coastal States. Balancing the legitimate rights and development aspirations of developing coastal States with meaningful, science-based conservation is a difficult undertaking, but it is of utmost importance.

* Used definition for “operational buoy”: buoy that has been activated, switched on and deployed on a drifting FOB. Activation of the buoy should imperatively occur before the deployment. Otherwise, the buoy is categorized as “ghost” or “unregistered” (the purse seiner and/or the support seiner may wait for sufficient tuna aggregation before starting the transmission of the buoy, however, during this period, the buoy contributes to fishing effort and habitat modification. Obviously, there is no risk of deployment of an activated buoy without switching on, as this operation cannot be done remotely.”

Statement by the Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 1

This time last year, Panel 1 and ICCAT failed to reach consensus on a bigeye recovery plan that would end overfishing and allow the stock to recover from its depleted state of just 59% of SSB_{MSY} . The science was very clear, with the SCRS strongly advising ICCAT to immediately and significantly reduce catch levels and address the growing mortality of juveniles associated with fishing on FADs. Last year's lack of consensus means that the stock is now 60 times more likely to collapse than to recover by 2033. The stock cannot afford another year of inaction and political gridlock that stifles any progress towards recovery. Therefore, Pew strongly encourages the Panel to limit catch of bigeye, from all sources, to 50,000 t, the level with a 50% probability of ending overfishing in 2020 and a 70% probability of recovering the stock by 2028. This should include lowering the trigger to enter the allocation table to 500 t and adopting new measures that specifically lower juvenile catch, as recommended by the SCRS, to improve the productivity of the stock and hasten recovery efforts.

Regarding yellowfin, the SCRS has concluded that the stock is in relatively good condition with a biomass that can support MSY. However, they also warned that current catch levels are far too high, potentially shifting the stock status from the green to the red quadrant of the Kobe plot in just a few years. ICCAT's management of yellowfin tuna has proven ineffective at keeping the catch below or close to the TAC. In 2018, the catch was 23 percent above the TAC, with scientists estimating that catches have exceeded the TAC every year since 2015. Therefore, Pew recommends that Panel 1 address the lack of allocation for yellowfin this year, perhaps alongside the bigeye allocation exercise.

Skipjack catch in the East Atlantic set recordbreaking levels in 2018, exceeding the 2012-2013 levels by 28 percent. The expansion of skipjack fisheries is a driver of many of the bigeye and yellowfin issues outlined above. Therefore, Pew recognizes the likely need to set a cap on skipjack catch based on the SCRS advice.

The political deadlock and failure to follow the scientific advice concerning tropical tuna management is a strong indication that the Commission needs to move towards precautionary harvest strategies for these stocks, as mandated by Rec. 15-07. This effort would allow ICCAT managers to adopt rules that trigger actions that return the stocks to healthy levels and prevent them from becoming overfished again. To start, Panel 1 should identify clear management objectives for these stocks and the fisheries that target them.

Despite the lack of consensus last year, Pew remains hopeful that ICCAT will reach consensus here in Palma to address these issues. This year provides another opportunity for members to take measures that recover bigeye and ensure that yellowfin and skipjack fisheries remain sustainable for years to come. Some of the steps that will be required to lower catches and improve monitoring and control are highlighted in the Chair's proposal (PA1-506), but Panel 1 must work to strengthen the package to reach the results that will be necessary to recover and/or sustain the tropical tunas in the Atlantic and must achieve consensus.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8

Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 2

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
Green – Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines

<i>Report Chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>PA2</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Observations</i>	<i>Action Taken by Panel 2</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	X	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.		
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	X	M			Not specific to Panel 2, but to be taken into account.	

Integrated MCS Measures	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.		
	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	X	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	IMM meeting/PWG may consider the possibility of expanding the VMS coverage.	No consensus on this issue.	No further work required by Panel 2 until PWG indicate any change in current position.
Reporting Requirements	85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.	Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate.	Awaiting outcome of Working Group on Online Reporting.	

	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	COM	X	S	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>			
<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.</p>	COM	X	S	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.</p>	<p>Progress on allocation of fishing opportunities has been made in respect of some species under the Panel 2 purview.</p>	

Presentation Scientific Advice	114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.		Rec. 18-03 adopted to develop indicators for BFT through MSE process. Progress made at 2019 intersessional meeting and work will continue in 2020.	
	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.		Rec. 18-03 adopted to develop HCRs for BFT through MSE process. Progress made at 2019 intersessional meeting; work to continue in 2020.	
	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising existing conservation and management measures.	Related to Rec. 43.	Panel 2 has taken conservation and management measures for BFT and N-ALB based on scientific advice that takes a precautionary approach. No further work required by Panel 2 at this stage.	

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Européche to Panel 2****Recital:**

- Noting the outcomes of the last SCRS stock assessments of the North Atlantic albacore tuna (ALB) which indicated that this stock has improved and is most likely in the green area of the Kobe plot, and the following adoption of Recommendation 16-06 on a multi-annual conservation and management program for North Atlantic albacore;
- Considering that Rec. 16-06 requested the SCRS to refine the testing of candidate reference points (e.g., $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$, SSB_{LIM} and F_{TARGET}) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs) that would support the management objective, a set of alternative HCRs were tested by projecting a wide range of simulated albacore populations in a management strategy evaluation (MSE) framework;
- Observing that the HCR selected in 2017 by Recommendation 17-04, on a provisional basis for the period 2018-2020, resulted in a short-term TAC of 33600 t which stemmed from applying the maximum 20% increase to the previous TAC (28000 t) and conforms to the positive stock status estimated in the 2016 assessment;
- Noting that since 2018, an external peer review of the HCR was conducted where SCRS indicates that additional analyses carried out by the species group are based on the same Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework and suggests that the Commission could adopt any of the variants (a, b or c) mentioned in paragraph 16 of Rec. 17-04, which would provide additional stability to the fisheries while meeting management objectives (SCRS 2018, Management recommendations for North Atlantic albacore tuna, page 82).

EÛROPECHE recommendation:

Based on the 2018 catch figures and the TAC for 2019, it is possible to make projections of the different TAC scenarios for 2020 (Rec. 16-06 §7, underage or overage of catches). Namely, if the TAC is fully utilised in 2019 and 2020, cumulative aggregated catches (2018-2020) would then be slightly above 94 000 tons, i.e. 84.7% of the maximum sustainable catches for this stock (37 082 tons/year; ALB - SCRS 2018, summary page 83). In this way, if the ICCAT recommendation is not adjusted for 2020, the actual catch volumes will be significantly lower than the management optima.

As the current adopted HCR is provisional, it is necessary to consider corrective mechanisms that should be put in place for 2020 before the new stock assessment is produced.

Europêche advocates the adoption of variant c) of Rec. 17-04 in 2020 which lays down a 25% maximum TAC increase when the current biomass is estimated higher than B_{LIM} . This proposal respects the biological objective of the ICCAT recommendation (60% in the green area of the Kobe plot) and represents a TAC of 35 000 tons for 2020 (28 000 + 25%).

Joint statement by Europêche and Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable de Atún Rojo (APCCR) to Panel 2

Europêche and the Asociación para la Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable de Atún Rojo (APCCR) both welcome the advances made in the control of the bluefin tuna fishery and trade, which are the result of improvements in the management and control measures adopted by ICCAT over the past twelve years.

These control measures have enabled the Spanish authorities to uncover major illegal activity involving the laundering of illegal catches, through operation Tarantelo. The current regulations have been effective in achieving their intended aim.

Implementation of the eBCD in 2016 contributed enormously to the security, agility and transparency of the commercial chain, mainly in relation to exports. However, while ICCAT recommendations concerned with the eBCD state that it must also be implemented for domestic trade, it would appear that this has not been complied with by any ICCAT CPC. The European Union alone has adopted the eBCD for intra-Community trade.

This lack of compliance has led to the existence of trade in IUU catches which, as indicated above, was discovered in 2018 by the Spanish authorities.

Without any doubt, implementation of the eBCD system is appropriate for domestic trade of whole bluefin tunas within ICCAT CPCs.

We recall that this measure does not incur any additional cost of any kind for CPCs or for ICCAT, since the eBCD tool is already functioning and does not require subsequent development.

With the objective of continuing progress on elimination of illegal fishing, and to facilitate the work of the inspection and control services, we propose that the use of the eBCD be mandatory for domestic trade of whole bluefin tunas (gutted, with or without the head) in each and every one of the ICCAT CPCs.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8

Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 4

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
Green – Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines

<i>Report chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>PA4</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>Observations</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>
Trends in the Status of Non-Target Species	4. The Panel recommends that the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertainty and that their status is often poorly known.	PA4	X	M	While led by Panel 4, refer to SCRS to provide advice to assist in applying a precautionary approach to relevant non-target species.	This refers to relevant associated species as defined in the Review.	Significant progress made with respect to some shark species, but overall precautionary approach not yet applied. Precautionary approach now enshrined in new Convention text.	

<p>Mediterranean Swordfish</p>	<p>30. The Panel encourages ICCAT to intensify its efforts to improve the scientific and fisheries database for this stock and endorses the SCRS recommendation that the fishery be closely monitored and that every component of the Mediterranean swordfish mortality be adequately reported to ICCAT by the CPCs.</p>	<p>PA4</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 4 to consider shortcomings in data collection and reporting and ways to address them.</p>	<p>COC, SCRS, the Secretariat, and/or CPCs may also have roles to play in implementing this Recommendation. SCRS will carry out an assessment in 2019.</p>		
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<p>Blue and White Marlins</p>	<p>38. The Panel supports the SCRS advice that ICCAT actively encourage, or make obligatory, the use of non-offset circle hooks on long line fisheries to reduce the mortality of released marlin.</p>	<p>PA4</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 4 for consideration when discussing stock conservation and management based on new stock assessments.</p>	<p>COC developed check sheet to monitor implementation.</p>	<p>The billfish species group (SCRS) continues to support the use of non-offset circle hooks because it will reduce the mortality of live releases and increase the probability of fish to be alive upon, but this is not an obligatory measure.</p>	
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Sharks	40. The Panel recommends that ICCAT introduces catch limits as a priority for the main shark populations, in line with the SCRS advice. To ensure effective application of this measure, a quota allocation scheme should be developed.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration in light of new assessments.		TACs have been set for some species in 2020, but work is continuing.	Ongoing.
	42. The Panel supports the view that shark fins should be naturally attached on landings. The shark finning practice applied to stocks already depleted or severely reduced, is but another factor negatively impacting on the shark stocks.	PA4	X	S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration and appropriate action.	The origin of this view is not clear from this statement.	No agreement on draft proposals to date.	

<p>Sea turtles</p>	<p>51. The Panel endorses the SCRS advice that the Commission consider the adoption of measures such as, the mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks.</p>	<p>PA4</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 4 for consideration.</p>	<p>The SCRS acknowledges that while circle hooks are an effective sea turtle mitigation measure, they also have different impacts on both target and bycatch species and, therefore, circle hooks should not be considered a mitigation measure for all bycatch species (SC_ECO report, 2019, adopted by SCRS in 2019 plenary).</p>		
<p>Seabirds</p>	<p>54. The Panel commends ICCAT on the measures it has introduced to date and recommends that it pursues its stated goal of further reducing bird mortality through the refinement of existing mitigation measures.</p>	<p>PA4</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 4 for consideration based on input from SCRS, as needed.</p>		<p>Panel Chair has worked with Secretariat to propose a draft combined measure, but this was not adopted. Discussion to continue in 2020.</p>	

Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	X	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.	Has been included for marlins but not for SWO	
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	X	M			See SCRS - BIL WG comments	

<p>Rebuilding Plans</p>	<p>47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more proactive policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.</p>		<p>Harvest control rules are being introduced, but Panel 4 species are not top priority for the Commission. Further work will be carried out on the basis of experience with Panel 2 species.</p>	
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Statement by Européche to Panel 4**Shark management**

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

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

Shortfin mako

While 60% of the catches are caught by the EU fleet, Européche notes that, since adoption of ICCAT management measures in 2017, there has been a significant reduction in catches close to 40% by the Spanish surface longline fleets which have gone through considerable efforts to achieve this reduction and assess the impact, including the installation of electronic monitoring systems and take an increased number of human observers on board.

If the SCRS advice recommending a total prohibition of retention is followed, it would not contribute at all to the improvement of the stock. Moreover, the only reliable source of data, which comes from the reporting provided by the EU fleet, would be totally lost. This lack of data would constrain the activity, in future evaluations, as a consequence of the constant application of the "precautionary approach". In addition, the SCRS advice would translate in an immediate closure of the fishery with huge negative socio-economic consequences for the longline fleets.

In this context, Européche supports the continuity of the current measures, i.e. the retention on board of mako sharks that arrive dead on the side of the ship, according to the weight assigned to each vessel. This measure shall be conditioned to an increase of the presence of scientific human and/or electronic observers on board, and more effective control of other non-EU fleets that also capture this species. Européche also encourages CPCs to explore complementary measures, which may be more effective for the management of the mako shark fishery.

Européche considers fundamental to fine tune the assessment in 2020 for which it is necessary to perform a full new evaluation as the present is not coherent with previous advice in terms of perception of the stock plus the data and methodology used in the previous SCRS advice are not considered to be accurate and reliable due to bias in relation to analysis of CPUE from Chinese Taipei fleet.

Blue shark

Européche notes that the northern stock of blue shark is not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring, even if there is uncertainty on the assessment. The blue shark fishery therefore represents a sustainable fishing activity. In this sense, the Spanish fleet, together with other actors involved, such as the marketing sector, NGOs and the National Administration, have developed and implemented a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP), that will allow a substantial improvement of the fishery, and which should also be taken into account.

However, the lack of effective monitoring systems and sufficient control of non-EU fleets create a risk of overexploitation. On top of this, these fleets have recently increased their level of catches.

Européche encourage CPCs to explore the possibility to allocate catch limits in terms of a compulsory TAC for the northern stock of blue shark which shall be shared between the main CPCs according to the average historical record of catches declared by these countries.

Europêche advocates consistent management and regulatory measures to be similarly applied to the southern stock, so the fishery can be adequately controlled and significant increase in catches prevented due to lack of management measures.

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 4

This year, Panel 4 has a full agenda that will require members to work collaboratively and efficiently to address each of several priority issues, including the adoption of recovery plans for shortfin makos and blue and white marlin and advancement of harvest strategy development for north Atlantic swordfish.

New evidence from the SCRS indicates that the situation for north Atlantic shortfin mako population is dire. Even if no makos are caught in ICCAT fisheries, the population will continue to decline until at least 2035, and probabilities for recovery on 50-year timelines are very low. As a result of these findings, the SCRS has recommended that ICCAT prohibit retention of north Atlantic makos, dead or alive, “without exception,” in order to give the population the best chance of recovering. To align with this advice and to ensure that the southern stock does not experience the same fate, Pew strongly urges Panel 4 to take precautionary action and immediately prohibit retention of mako sharks in all Atlantic fisheries. The proposal from Senegal, The Gambia, and Canada (PA4-805A) implements this policy for the north Atlantic stock and should be supported by Panel 4. Proposals from the EU (PA4-811) and the USA (PA4-814) do not sufficiently implement the SCRS advice and do not address the south Atlantic stock at all.

Despite clear advice from the SCRS, the 2018 annual meeting ended without consensus on a new blue marlin recovery plan. The stock cannot afford another year of inaction after nearly two decades of a failing rebuilding plan. The SCRS has once again recommended that the TAC should be lowered and that measures must be taken to ensure that it is not exceeded, as happens regularly. As proposed in PA4-813, Panel 4 should adopt a blue marlin TAC of 1500 t, the level that has a 60 percent chance of rebuilding the stock by 2028 and allocate the TAC in such a way that it is no longer breached by CPCs.

The new 2019 stock assessment for white marlin confirms that the stock continues to be overfished. Catches have exceeded the TAC in every year since its adoption. If catches continue at this level, stock rebuilding may proceed more slowly or even reverse. Therefore, Pew urges Panel 4 to find ways to ensure that the TAC is no longer breached.

Finally, the north Atlantic swordfish is one of ICCAT’s priority species for harvest strategy development, as mandated in Rec. 15-07. Significant progress has been made in developing a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for this stock. Despite delays to the bluefin MSE, Panel 4 should continue to support the transition to a full harvest strategy for north Atlantic swordfish by adopting conceptual management objectives this year to help guide the MSE process.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 8

Joint statement by The Shark Trust, Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and Defenders of Wildlife to Panel 4

Our organizations appreciate the opportunity to participate as observers in this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and to encourage the following actions for sharks.

Strengthen the finning ban

This year marks the 10th year that multiple Parties have proposed a requirement that sharks be landed with fins attached to strengthen the ICCAT finning ban. Over that time, this superior enforcement method has been adopted by North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (2014), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (2016), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (2018), and the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (2019). In recent years, this proposal has gained the support of

roughly 80% of ICCAT Parties, and - at this meeting - already enjoys co-sponsorship from a majority of Parties in attendance. Banning at-sea removal of shark fins not only significantly eases enforcement, but can also facilitates the collection of species-specific shark catch data needed for shark population assessment. We urge ICCAT to finally adopt this best practice, a cornerstone of responsible shark fisheries management, this week.

Protect mako sharks

The urgent need to protect shortfin mako sharks is our primary focus for this meeting. The status of the North Atlantic population has grown exceptionally grim due to years of inadequate response to scientists' warnings. Just months ago, the species was added to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), bringing new obligations for all ICCAT Parties to ensure sustainability. For more than a decade, ICCAT scientists have annually highlighted the intrinsic vulnerability of mako sharks and advised ICCAT to ban retention of shark species that are of conservation concern and have a relatively high chance for survival if released. This week, the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) underscored their recommendation for a complete prohibition on shortfin mako retention for the North Atlantic to begin a rebuilding period that will already span decades. The SCRS warns that South Atlantic makos are on a similar path and advises limiting catch there.

We remind you that ICCAT has adopted, with relative ease, retention bans for many other shark species, based on much less information than is available for shortfin makos. Many ICCAT Parties require that these and other threatened species - including basking sharks, whale sharks, and white sharks - be discarded, dead or alive, primarily to remove incentive to encounter and kill them. We therefore cannot accept concern over dead discards (a reality under any scenario) as sufficient reason to justify rejection of the clear advice for a shortfin mako ban.

We strongly urge ICCAT Parties to support the mako protection proposal from Senegal and a growing number of cosponsors, as the only measure that includes the most vital elements of the SCRS advice (a retention ban for the North Atlantic and catch limits for the South Atlantic).

It is truly make or break time for North Atlantic makos. The situation is dire. The advice is clear. The remedy is simple. Please act now to prevent complete and potentially irreparable population collapse.

We look forward to collaborating with Parties to ensure prompt and effective implementation of a mako ban, and to continue work toward minimizing mako discard mortality and monitoring population status with minimal harm.

Limit blue shark catch

Heavily fished blue sharks remain at risk for overfishing due to the lack of basic catch limits by ICCAT and major fishing nations. The existing landing threshold for the North Atlantic is insufficient for ensuring overages are prevented. South Atlantic blue shark fishing is still essentially unregulated. We urge Parties to establish, without further delay, hard blue shark catch limits for both oceans, at levels at or below those advised by the SCRS.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)**

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Compliance Committee (COC), Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Mario Gaudet of Canada was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair proposed changes to the order of the agenda which was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

4. Review of the progress on follow-up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair drew attention to the recommendations made in the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review and the actions identified and carried out by the Commission to date, as reflected in meeting document "*Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review*".

Following discussion of items reflected in the meeting document as ongoing, the COC Chair and the Secretariat updated the meeting document to reflect the COC's discussion of the Ad Hoc Working Group's recommendations, which was circulated as the *Follow up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review*. Following presentation of this revised document, there were no further discussions. An updated table of Ad Hoc Working Group recommendations and status of ICCAT actions is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

5. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases

(a) Review of the Secretariat's report to the Compliance Committee

The COC reviewed the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee, which contains select compliance-related information about each relevant ICCAT Recommendation or Resolution. As suggested by the Chair, the COC's review of this document focused primarily on general issues (e.g., compliance trends; Secretariat requests for clarification) rather than compliance of individual CPCs, which was deferred to the agenda item devoted to review of the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**). The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive document, and noted the utility of this document in making the Committee's work more efficient, enabling it to focus on cross-cutting and macro issues.

Tropical tunas (Rec. 16-01; 18-01)

The Chair noted that some CPCs continued to submit requests to add vessels to the tropical vessel register retroactively, beyond the 45-day grace period, and he requested that CPCs take the necessary internal measures to address this situation, noting that ICCAT had already extended the grace period a few years ago to provide what it considered to be sufficient flexibility.

The Chair drew attention to a request that the Secretariat had received from Ghana earlier in the year to replace, on the tropical vessel register, two baitboats with a purse seiner. The Chair explained that this was not done according to the procedures established in Recommendation 16-01. In particular, the request did not include a fishery management plan, and was not done in such a way to allow the SCRS to develop advice

on the change and to allow the Commission to take a decision based on SCRS advice. Although the Secretariat had explained the procedural deficiencies to Ghana when the intersessional request was made, Ghana had nevertheless requested that the modifications be made to the vessel list, and the Secretariat added the vessel. However, at the Chair's request, Ghana subsequently requested the reversal of the baitboat/purse seine vessel swap, and the change was made to the register. The Chair noted that there is no room for discretion in the measure for the vessel to be added without first going through the proper procedures. The Chair suggested that, in the future, the Secretariat should not add vessels in these circumstances, and the Commission and relevant Chairs should be notified prior to action being taken to make a change. There was no objection by COC members to this proposed approach.

Also, with respect to the capacity provisions of Recommendation 16-01, in response to information in the Secretariat's report, the EU clarified that it is abiding by the capacity limit because 16 of their vessels are below 20m in length.

With respect to vessels below 20m, in response to a Secretariat request for clarification, the Chair noted that Recommendation 16-01 does not provide for the inclusion of such vessels on the vessel register. He recommended that, in the interest of efficiency, CPCs should not submit such vessels and the Secretariat should not be required to include them on the list. There was no objection to this approach.

Mediterranean Swordfish (Rec. 03-04; 16-05)

For Mediterranean swordfish, the Secretariat's report noted that under Recommendation 16-05, the TAC should gradually be reduced by 3% annually, but that it needed guidance from the Commission on how to make these changes. The Chair referred this matter to Panel 4, which subsequently endorsed reductions prepared by the Secretariat.

Furthermore, regarding Mediterranean swordfish, the representative of WWF presented its letter to ICCAT, submitted in accordance with Rec. 08-09 and contained in meeting document "*Information submitted in accordance with Rec. 08-09*" on the alleged use of driftnets by Moroccan vessels in contravention of ICCAT requirements. Morocco provided a response, also in this document, which explained that it investigated and found no contravention, and provided a summary of the extensive measures it has taken in its legal regime to combat the illegal use of driftnets.

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna

Further to a request for clarification by the Secretariat in its report to the COC, the Chair asked CPCs to confirm if some listed farms are inactive.

The COC discussed a question from the Secretariat in its report to the COC as to whether information relating to compliance with the eastern bluefin tuna contained in COC meeting documents should be from the previous year, as is the case for other ICCAT fisheries, rather than from the current fishing year as is current practice. The United States requested that compliance information relevant to eastern bluefin tuna be made available to the COC in the same year.

Billfish (Rec. 16-11; 18-04; 18-05)

The Chair noted that the Commission adopted a Billfish Check Sheet format last year (Rec. 18-05, Annex 1) in order to both improve and streamline reporting on billfish conservation and management as well as data reporting requirements, in part in furtherance of a Performance Review Working Group recommendation. The Chair explained that pursuant to Rec. 18-05, an in-depth review of the information submitted pursuant to the Billfish Check Sheet recommendation is planned for 2020; in 2019, the focus should be on ensuring CPCs have a proper understanding of how to fulfill this requirement, to ensure all CPC responses are complete in time for review in 2020.

The Chair commended CPCs that fulfilled the information requirements during the first year. However, the Chair and two CPCs expressed concern that a number of CPCs either did not submit the Check Sheet or did not fill it out correctly or completely.

The United States raised concerns that information in the Check Sheets and compliance tables indicate that a number of CPCs continue to exceed landing limits at significant levels and that several CPCs appear to have insufficient bycatch mitigation measures in place. This represents a challenge to achieving ICCAT's objectives, including addressing overfishing and rebuilding fish stocks, where needed.

It was noted that for the 2018 fishing year, 24 CPCs did not submit Task 1 data for one or more billfish species, including the CPCs that reported in the Check Sheet that they have artisanal or recreational fisheries. Furthermore, it was noted that under ICCAT requirements, all CPCs are required to report discards, even when zero discards are observed. In 2018, only 9 CPCs reported billfish discards and some have indicated no discards in their Check Sheets, despite the likelihood of interactions between billfish and longline fisheries targeting other species in the Atlantic. In addition, only one CPC reported any Task 1 catches from recreational gear even though several CPCs reported activities in recreational fisheries.

The COC also discussed the status of criteria for CPCs to receive an exemption to the Billfish Check Sheet requirements when vessels flying their flag are not likely to catch any billfish species. A CPC noted that the Secretariat had proposed guidelines for an exemption at the SCRS Plenary meeting but that the SCRS did not have time to discuss the guidelines and, thus, they were not adopted. The CPC encouraged the SCRS to adopt the guidelines and clarified that CPCs seeking an exemption should submit relevant data and a request by the proposed deadline.

To ensure that the COC has complete billfish Check Sheets for its 2020 review, the Secretariat was asked to follow up with CPCs that have not submitted their Check Sheets or that have provided incomplete or incorrectly completed Check Sheets and to provide these CPCs with guidance on how to correct the deficiencies before next year.

Shark Implementation Check Sheet [Rec. 18-06]

The Chair encouraged CPCs to reach out to the Secretariat if they have questions on how to fill out the Shark Implementation Check Sheets. Japan provided a high-level overview on the Shark Check Sheet review, which was done last year, and observed issues with CPCs failing to submit Task 1 and 2 data and with exemptions CPCs use in completion of the Check Sheet. Some CPCs are still reporting exemptions such as "non-applicable," or that there is an absence of particular shark species in their waters; the use of such terms and explanations requires review by the SCRS. Upon suggestion by the Chair, the COC agreed to encourage the SCRS to finalize the review process in 2020 in order to allow the use of these exemptions in the Shark Implementation Check Sheets, if possible, to three nations (Algeria, Norway and Uruguay).

The United States expressed disappointment that 18 CPCs and non-CPCs did not submit Shark Implementation Check Sheets. The United States noted that information about how all CPCs are implementing Rec. 17-08 is crucial to helping the Commission evaluate the effectiveness of measures and make changes this year to the new shortfin mako measure. It was also highlighted that the lack of catch reporting, which includes dead and live discards, remains a concern, and that the COC is not receiving complete understanding of stock status when exemptions are invoked. The United States concluded by recommending that the Shark Implementation Check Sheet should not allow N/A as a valid reporting option.

The Chair also recognized the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) for its report submitted to the COC under Rec. 08-09. EAC provided a brief overview of its findings regarding the reporting requirements for shark-specific recommendations. Particularly, EAC urged CPCs to fully report in order for the Commission to better understand the shark population, noting that Task 1 data was incomplete and that dead discards should be reported in the Shark Implementation Check Sheets.

Turtles

The Chair highlighted that under *Recommendation by ICCAT on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries* [Rec. 10-09], two recurrent issues have been observed: safe handling and safe release. Some CPCs are misinterpreting this measure and the Chair encouraged CPCs to communicate with the Secretariat to correctly meet this reporting requirement.

Seabirds

No substantial discussion occurred other than the COC Chair concurring with the Secretariat's recommendation that the Commission consider adopting a measure that combines the two active Recommendations on seabirds, Rec. 11-09 and Rec. 07-07, in order to streamline the Compendium and facilitate compliance.

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

The Chair indicated that a few CPCs (i.e., Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep. of), and Philippines) for which a prohibition on ICCAT species was in place in 2018 due to failure to report 2017 Task 1 data or confirm zero catch, remained subject to this prohibition due to a continued failure to provide the missing data. He encouraged these CPCs to work with the Secretariat to resolve the matter. The Chair updated the Committee that the Executive Secretary had worked with Equatorial Guinea and that its prohibition had been lifted, in addition to Mauritania's.

With respect to CPCs listed in the body of the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee as having reporting deficiencies under Rec. 11-15, the Secretariat confirmed that these are CPCs that did not submit any Task 1 data. The Chair confirmed that Rec. 11-15 applies on a fishery-by-fishery basis; therefore, the prohibition on retention of ICCAT species would apply to any CPC for which there is a gap in the chart of the "*Simplified map of the 2018 Task 1 catches reported by ICCAT CPCs during 2019, by major species*" [Secretariat Report to COC, Appendix 3] indicating that the CPC had provided neither Task 1 data nor confirmed zero catches for the species for 2018. The EU indicated that blank cells represent zero catches for EU Member States in this Appendix 3, and it committed to following up with the Secretariat to resolve the matter.

The Gambia noted that it has not been able to submit information to the Secretariat prior to becoming a member of the Commission in 2019. As indicated by other coastal States, The Gambia expressed that its delegation is seeking support for capacity building to ensure data reporting and implementation of MCS, including port inspection measures, in order to be compliant. The Chair suggested that The Gambia send a formal request to the Secretariat seeking support.

The Chair encouraged all CPCs to work with the Secretariat to address any blanks included in the Appendix 3 table. Further, the Chair requested the Secretariat to follow up with CPCs with Task 1 deficiencies after the annual meeting, informing them of the prohibition on retention that would either continue or would enter into effect on 1 January 2020 if the deficiencies were not remedied.

Port Inspection / Port State Measures [Rec. 12-07/18-09]

– Request from Secretariat

When submitting reports which contain infractions, the Secretariat indicated that it would be helpful to send a brief summary to explain the nature of the infraction because, in some cases, the infractions being reported are not listed under an ICCAT Recommendation. CPCs are only required to send reports when infringements are stated, but a summary of inspections carried out was considered useful by other CPCs. Under the current measure, all joint inspection reports should be sent to the Secretariat, even if no infraction is noted; a change to this practice would require a decision by the Commission.

– Designation of ports

The Chair noted that the obligation of CPCs to notify its ports designated for landing ICCAT species by foreign flag vessels has been discussed at length in the past and will be revisited on a CPC-by-CPC basis in the review of the Compliance Summary Tables in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

– Large-Scale Vessel list measure [Rec. 13-13]

The Chair recognized the work that has been completed by CPCs to provide IMO numbers for eligible vessels as required under this measure, particularly in light of the expansion by the IMO of the scope of vessels

eligible to receive a number. In furtherance of the full implementation of this element of the measure, the COC endorsed a process for removing vessels from the large-scale vessel list that do not have an IMO or LR number, and have not provided information sufficient to qualify for an exemption to this requirement. Under the terms of Rec. 13-13, such vessels not included on the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna-like species.

– Scientific Observer Programs [Rec. 16-14]

The Chair highlighted the requirement under Rec. 16-14 (and dating back to 2011 pursuant to its predecessor, Recommendation 10-10) for each CPC to report on the design of its observer program and how it is meeting minimum coverage standards, as well as the requirement to submit the data that is collected pursuant to these programs. The Chair expressed concern that, despite being a requirement for nearly a decade, 29 countries have never submitted an ST11 form, or its predecessor, CP45. He also noted with concern that many CPCs have indicated they are using alternative approaches to scientific observer programs, but that these alternative approaches have not been reviewed or approved by the SCRS as required under the measure. The Secretariat confirmed that, to date, the SCRS has not evaluated any of those approaches, as required by Rec. 16-14; hence, the Commission has not endorsed them. The Secretariat encouraged CPCs seeking such endorsement to make an explicit request for the SCRS to evaluate its approach.

One CPC echoed the Chair's concerns with the number of CPCs that state they do not have the ability to implement a national scientific observer program. That CPC urged the COC to consider more serious actions, including potential identification under the trade measures recommendation, for continued failure to take steps towards implementing this important requirement. Upon suggestion, the COC agreed to refer this issue to both PWG and STACFAD for consideration on ways to provide assistance to CPCs that may be in need with regard to the development and implementation of these essential programs, which help address data gaps, including for many depleted fish stocks.

– Recreational fishery statistics

In response to the Secretariat's suggestion in its report to the COC that the COC consider better defining which information is required for reporting under Rec. 99-07, one CPC disagreed with the characterization of the recreational fishery data reporting requirements as vague. The CPC elaborated that requirements have been very well-defined by the SCRS - all catch must be reported by gear type; yet many CPCs have not been reporting any of their recreational fishery data. The CPC pointed to the information contained in "*Information submitted in accordance with Rec. 08-09*" as evidence of the number of CPCs holding recreational fishing tournaments while also reporting no recreational fisheries.

(b) Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05)

This item was discussed under the preceding agenda item, 5(a) Review of the Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee.

(c) Response to Chair's letters arising from the 2018 meeting

The Chair provided a brief overview of the response rate, which has improved, and thanked the Secretariat for presenting the responses in the new format that facilitates COC review. The Chair invited CPCs to raise CPC-specific matters concerning the letters during the individual CPC-by-CPC review, and indicated a more in-depth review of letter responses utilizing the new format could be undertaken during the next special two-day COC session.

(d) Compliance tables

The Chair commended the work accomplished to date and the improvement in submissions by the appropriate deadline. Regarding the accuracy of compliance tables (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**), the Chair invited the CPCs to work with the Secretariat if there is any discrepancy on how numbers were calculated and again welcomed any ideas on how to improve the process.

Several CPCs supported a suggestion that the Secretariat should fill out non-discretionary portions of the tables, which should make reporting requirements easier to meet, and then allow CPCs to review the tables before they become final. CPCs observed inconsistencies in the description of quota transfers and some confusion regarding the years in which they are taking place and suggested using some standard language in order to improve tracking. The Chair invited CPCs to work together on a potential format change to propose to the Secretariat.

Following further revisions, the COC approved and forwarded to the Commission for its approval the following compliance tables contained in **Appendix 4**: eastern bluefin tuna, western bluefin tuna, and Mediterranean swordfish.

The COC was not able to approve tables for bigeye, southern albacore, northern albacore, northern swordfish, and southern swordfish, due to late revisions - these tables were also presented in **Appendix 4** for Commission approval.

The COC left open compliance tables for blue marlin and white marlin due to concerns about non-reporting of recreational catch, including that no compliance tables were received from certain CPCs that had submitted Task 1 data for these species.

The Committee agreed that, should the Commission not be able to endorse one or more of the Compliance Table, the Secretariat would follow up with relevant CPCs during the intersessional period to seek to resolve outstanding issues.

(e) Other ICCAT reporting requirements

The Chair provided an overview of the Annual Reports and reported that 29 CPCs submitted reports by the deadlines, 19 were late or incomplete and 9 did not submit at all. The Chair indicated that some CPCs continue to use the wrong format or still used an “N/A” exemption without explanation, but that broadly, reporting is improving.

(f) Any other relevant information and issues, including submissions under Rec. 08-09

The Chair recognized the submissions by observers (TBF and Pew/Global Fishing Watch).

Morocco indicated that an inquiry was opened when informed that two vessels with the Moroccan flag were allegedly fishing with drift nets in the Mediterranean Sea. Although this claim is only based on photos which do not show any proof, Morocco has investigated these cases by stopping vessels at port. Morocco indicated that tangible proof is needed when reporting infractions in order to be able to enforce.

Japan responded to Pew’s report by indicating discrepancies between ROP and flag State data. After receiving reports indicating transshipment at sea, Japan communicated with Pew and the Secretariat and found that some data was mischaracterized, and some vessel names were misprinted. By working with the Secretariat, corrections were made and few discrepancies were observed (China and Chinese Taipei did the same examination). In the second part of the report, Japan asked to receive detailed AIS data from Global Fishing Watch in order to investigate. Eleven carrier vessels conducted at-sea transshipment with long line vessels. All had ROP observers on board when transshipment occurred, and no illegal activity was detected for at-sea transshipment in regard to the Japanese longliners. Japan noticed a number of miscalculations in the data which impact analysis and would like to revise the record using the correct data.

China thanked the United States for proposing revisions to the ICCAT transshipment measure and indicated that many unreported transshipments are squid vessels. Chinese Taipei also conducted internal investigations.

Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei all expressed their view that the current transshipment measure is working well.

The Secretariat provided Pew with corrected 2016 transshipment data, and Pew committed to revise the data in the tables and will likely be undertaking this exercise again. The statement by Pew is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**. In response to the issues raised by the CPCs, Pew wanted to highlight that the intent of their submission was to draw attention to the confusion on data reporting forms and not so much

to non-compliance while highlighting AIS as a support tool for enforcement. Since a significant number of vessels are conducting transshipment, which are not all geared for tunas, Pew wanted to raise the Commission's awareness in order to address this issue overall. Japan stated that they will work closely with the Secretariat to ensure that CPC transshipment data reporting is standardized.

Oceana raised the issue of IMO numbers and requested amendments to Rec. 13-13 that would require all vessels to have IMO numbers.

6. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs

a) Response to Chair's letters arising from 2018 meeting

The Chair invited CPCs to raise matters specific to a non-CPC letter during the individual review of non-CPCs.

b) Catch and trade data

Data submitted in accordance with Rec. 06-13 were published electronically as Annex 1 to the 2019 Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT conservation and management Compliance Committee. There was no discussion specifically in relation to this data.

c) Any other information

No discussion took place for this Agenda item.

7. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 6

a) Endorsement of Compliance Annex & b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures recommendation (Rec. 06-13)

The COC conducted the CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements. Potential compliance issues for CPCs and CPC written explanations were included in the Compliance Summary Tables prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the COC Chair (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**). CPCs were asked to provide updated information on actions taken or planned to address potential compliance issues raised in COC meeting documents, and other information as needed.

Based on recommendations developed by the Chair in consultation with the Friends of the Chair group, the COC recommended to the Commission that 38 CPCs be sent letters on compliance issues.

The COC also recommended that the Commission identify the following seven CPCs under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures: El Salvador, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Republic, Namibia, Costa Rica, Guyana, and maintained identification of non-CPC Dominica.

For non-CPCs, the Compliance Committee recommended to the Commission that letters be sent to the following: (1) Gibraltar, Santa Lucia, and St. Kitts & Nevis encouraging cooperation with ICCAT in light of past information on their fisheries' interactions with certain ICCAT species; (2) Dominica informing it that its identification was maintained by the Commission; and (3) Tanzania requesting more information on its fishing activities for ICCAT species in Colombia's waters pursuant to an access agreement.

c) Action under data recommendations (Recs. 05-09 and 11-15)

The Chair indicated that some CPCs have provided Task 1 data but others have not and recalled, in particular, the discussion of this matter under Agenda Item 6(a). The Chair summarized that, as in years past, the Secretariat should send letters to all CPCs following the annual meeting to request the missing information by 15 December. Regarding species for which the information is still lacking by 1 January, the Secretariat should indicate that there will be a prohibition on retention (or, in some cases, a continuation of an existing prohibition) of those species, and CPCs would then receive a second letter.

d) Any other actions

Following the CPC and non-CPC review, a representative of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) noted that the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**) do not include any information on FAD data reporting, and that only five CPCs out of 11 reported FAD data in response to Rec. 16-01. ISSF requested that the COC review include FAD data reporting in the future.

8. Consideration of requests for cooperating status

Pursuant to Rec. 03-20, the Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission renew the cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Suriname, Guyana, and Costa Rica.

Several CPCs raised concerns about the new request for cooperating status from Colombia, particularly the lack of details regarding its proposed fishery. Ultimately, contingent on receiving more information on the nature of its fisheries, the COC supported extending cooperating status to Colombia. One CPC expressed concern about the possibility that Colombia may seek to bring purse seiners from the Pacific to the ICCAT Convention area.

On suggestion of the Chair, the COC did not recommend granting cooperating status to Georgia based on reporting requirements not being met.

9. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group and next steps

The Chair of the Working Group (Oriana Villar, United States) provided an update on the Group's progress to date in developing an integrated online management system (IOMS), as outlined in "*Working Group for the development of an online reporting system - 2019 status report*". The Working Group Chair noted that expenses associated with development of IOMS were included in the regular Commission budget for 2020-2021 in line with the recommendation of the Group. The Chair presented updated terms of reference for the Working Group, "*Draft recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an integrated online reporting system*", which are intended to ensure continued advancement in the development of IOMS with a view to reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements.

Following statements of support expressed by a number of CPCs, the Chair of the Compliance Committee recommended, and the Committee agreed, that the Online Reporting Technology Working Group's proposal for new terms of reference be approved and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

10. Other recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance, including identification of issues and/or cases for priority review at future COC meetings

COC Strategic Plan

The Chair presented a draft proposal for consideration by the COC that had been circulated for CPC input prior to the annual meeting, "*Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities*", prepared by the Secretariat and the Chair in furtherance of a COC recommendation at the 2018 meeting. The document outlines various considerations regarding the timing of the COC's in-depth review of specific issues, without prejudice to the COC's ability to review all issues as appropriate on a yearly basis. Particularly, the Chair invited views on whether the COC should have in-depth review of species-specific measures during the same year as species management measures are up for review or be done the year before. After brief discussion amongst CPCs, the Chair invited Japan and the United States, which submitted comments in advance, along with any other interested CPCs, to work together on a more specific proposal to present to the COC. The resulting revised proposal developed by the United States, Japan, and EU was approved by the COC and is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

Implementation of Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures [Res. 16-17]

The Chair explained that this Resolution was adopted to enable the COC to better take into account the gravity of non-compliance when developing recommended actions. The Chair encouraged CPCs to provide input, including during the intersessional period, on how to more fully implement this resolution.

Capacity building

The Chair noted that in previous meetings, the COC also discussed the importance of capacity building as a means to improve CPC compliance. Capacity building/technical assistance is also listed as a tool in the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures* [Res. 16-17]. The Chair suggested, and CPCs supported, that in the future there could be a standing agenda item on capacity building for the COC meeting. COC work in this regard could be facilitated by creating a repository for listing CPC requests for capacity building along with available resources for this type of assistance, so requests could be matched to the available capacity building resources offered by CPCs, international organizations (including ICCAT), or other entities.

The Chair also noted that another tuna RFMO, IOTC, has conducted compliance missions in which a team of Secretariat staff go to a particular country that is identified as a country in line for capacity assistance. This would provide a better opportunity to exchange information. The ICCAT Secretariat noted that, in principle, there is an interest in doing this for ICCAT, including it as a component of ABNJ phase 2, but it might warrant waiting a couple years considering ICCAT is moving to a different reporting system.

Follow-up on Shark and Billfish Check Sheets

Following earlier discussions of the incomplete implementation of these reporting requirements, and with a view to improving the CPC responses in order to facilitate a better COC review process of check sheets in future years, the COC requested the Secretariat to update the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (including revising it with newly adopted measures) and to notify individual CPCs of areas that need to be addressed in their Billfish and Shark Implementation Check Sheets.

Improving implementation of Rec. 16-14 on scientific observers

Taking note that more than half of CPCs appear to not be implementing Rec. 16-14 on *minimum standards for scientific observer programs*, the COC recommended that this issue be referred to both PWG and STACFAD for consideration of ways to provide assistance, where needed, to CPCs in the development and implementation of these essential programs, which are needed to start filling critical data gaps, including for many of ICCAT's most depleted fish stocks.

11. Election of Chair

The issue of the election of the Chair was deferred to the Commission for discussion and decision. The COC was informed that the Commission re-elected Mr. Derek Campbell to serve as Chair for the 2020-21 biennial period.

12. Other matters

No further issues were raised by COC members.

Pew Charitable Trusts indicated that they were looking forward to the next special 2-day session to discuss ways to promote greater compliance. Pew believes consequences are an important incentive to help CPCs fulfill their obligations under the Convention and encouraged the process to become more transparent.

13. Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of the Compliance Committee would be adopted by correspondence. The Chair thanked the participants for their constructive input and the Secretariat and interpreters for their excellent support before adjourning the meeting.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)**

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases
 - a) Secretariat's report
 - b) Billfish Check sheet (Rec. 18-05)
 - c) Response to Chair's letters arising from the 2018 meeting
 - d) Compliance Tables
 - e) Other ICCAT reporting requirements
 - f) Any other relevant information and issues, including submissions under Rec. 08-09
6. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs
 - a) Response to Chair's letters arising from 2018 meeting
 - b) Catch and trade data
 - c) Any other information
7. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 6
 - a) Endorsement of Compliance Annex
 - b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures recommendation (Rec. 16-13)
 - c) Action under data recommendations (Recs. 05-09 and 11-15)
 - d) Any other actions
8. Consideration of requests for cooperating status
9. Review of progress made by the online reporting working group and next steps
10. Other recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance, including identification of issues and/or cases for priority review at future COC meetings
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review – COC

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.

Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.

Green – Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines

<i>Report Chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>PR Panel Observations</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Data Collection and Sharing	5. The Panel recommends that the possible non-reporting of incidental catches by vessels not on CPCs authorised list should be investigated by the Compliance Committee.	COC	M	Refer to the COC for appropriate action.	PR Panel believes that this is unlikely to be a major problem (pg 10).	At 2017 meeting, it was noted that at the moment, COC has inadequate data to fully evaluate the scope of the problem. In light of this and PR Panel's observation, no action taken but item left open.	Ongoing.	
	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recs.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.	Refer to PWG.	Return to this in response to follow-up by PWG.	
Blue and White Marlins	37. The Panel considers that ICCAT should reinforce its compliance actions, as Rec. 15-05 will not deliver results as long as the severe under-reporting continues.	COC	S	Refer matter to COC for review of compliance with data reporting and other billfish obligations and recommend any needed actions.	SCRS has been tasked to provide the Commission with a data improvement plan for billfish in 2017, which will inform discussions of this matter in the Panel.	2018 Commission adopted the billfish reporting check-sheet to improve information on CPC billfish fisheries and implementation of ICCAT billfish requirements.; these will be reviewed in 2020. COC recommended ICCAT letter to NCPs known to be harvesting marlins. In	Ongoing, but nearing completion, as many follow up actions have been taken.	

						recent years, certain CPCs either identified under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation or received compliance letter concerning marlin overharvest and non-implementation of ICCAT marlin requirements. In 2018, COC referred marlin compliance tables issues to PA4 for assistance in resolution.		
Sharks	41. The Panel recommends that the Compliance Committee should prioritise the issue of data reporting on sharks, as well as poor reporting on the blue and white marlin stocks.	COC	S	Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.		Shark check sheet has already been adopted through Rec. 16-13, and updated through 18-05. COC reviewed check sheets in 2018 and highlighted issues to be rectified by CPCs. See response above regarding marlin reporting. In 2018, COC adopted Recommendation 18-06, which includes a revised shark check sheet and requires periodic resubmission by CPCs and review by COC.	Done, (but will be subject to regular review).	
Port State Measures	69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.	COC	S	Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.		Since 2017 COC has raised compliance concerns with CPC implementation of certain provisions, including requirements to designate ports and submit port inspection reports to ICCAT. Recommendation has been updated.	Ongoing, but nearing completion.	

<p>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</p>	<p>78. The Panel recommends that the COC should identify key compliance priorities across the range of different fisheries, and programme its work accordingly. Identification of non-respect of reporting requirements or incomplete reporting by CPCs should be entrusted to the ICCAT secretariat and its report submitted to COC in advance of the Annual meeting.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>COC should consider this matter in light of the terms of recently adopted Rec. 16-22.</p>		<p>COC prioritized review of shark measure implementation in 2018, and in 2018 considered extending shark check sheet for submission and prioritization in future years, and considered adoption of a similar check sheet to improve billfish reporting. In 2018 COC also discussed development of a strategic plan to allow for prioritization and in-depth review of certain measure on an annual meeting cycle to be determined by the COC, taking into account a proposed schedule that the Secretariat could prepare during the intersessional period. [In 2019, the COC approved a schedule for prioritization of specific measures at future meetings.]</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
<p>Follow-Up on Infringements</p>	<p>81. The Panel considers the key task of the COC should be to make a qualitative assessment as to the degree to which the measures in the individual fisheries contained in the ICCAT recommendations, are being respected by the vessels of the Parties.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S/ M</p>	<p>Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.</p>	<p>Implementation of Rec 16-22 should assist with this work. Clear and timely reporting by all CPCs on the implementation of ICCAT requirements is also essential.</p>	<p>Chair proposes deferral of discussion of how to prioritize issues for future meetings, including to take into account how this matter is approach by other RFMO compliance committees.</p>		

<p>Relationship to Cooperating Non-Members</p>	<p>99. Reviews Rec. 03-20 in order, inter alia, to clarify the rights of States and Entities with Cooperating Status; integrate elements of Res. 94-06; replace the PWG with the COC; and include a requirement to apply for renewal of Cooperating Status.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to COC to review the issue of cooperating status and determine if additional clarity on this matter is needed.</p>	<p>The roles and responsibilities of the COC and PWG were clarified a few years ago and there is no longer any overlap in their mandates. Both bodies have heavy workloads during the Annual meeting.</p>	<p>COC Chair recommends deferral of discussion of 03-20 and 94-06 to future meetings.</p>	<p style="background-color: red;"></p>	
<p>Relationship to Non-Cooperating Non-Members</p>	<p>101. Continues to monitor fishing activities by non-cooperating non-members through cooperation between the ICCAT Secretariat and CPCs, and between CPCs.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Secretariat, CPCs and the COC should continue to monitor fishing activities by non-members and bring them to the attention of the Commission.</p>		<p>For the last few years COC has been monitoring NPCs with marlin catches and sending letters, but few responses to date.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
	<p>102. Considers taking appropriate sanctions against non-cooperating non-members that continue to ignore ICCAT's requests for information and cooperation. This is particularly relevant in relation to overfished stocks, such as marlins.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to COC to recommend appropriate action.</p>	<p>COC has a key role in monitoring the fishing activities of non-CPCs and recommending ways to improve cooperation, including through application of Rec. 06-13 (Trade measures Recommendation).</p>	<p>Actions against non-cooperating non-members have included trade restrictive measures (e.g., Georgia and Bolivia, since lifted), and in more recent years identification under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation of certain non-parties for billfish catch. The Chair has also recommended that the COC further consider ways to progressively implement the <i>Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures (16-17)</i>.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	

<p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>	<p>6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>M</p>			<p>In 2018, a thorough review of the shark check sheets was carried out, as well as a more in-depth analysis of possible by catch and discard gaps. The COC will be monitoring actions taken to rectify deficiencies and updated reports will be expected from CPCs for which deficiencies were found in 2018. In 2018 COC also referred to panels' potential interpretive issues in ICCAT measures relating to this issue. Additionally, ICCAT is developing an online reporting interface to facilitate and improve CPC fulfillment of reporting requirements. In 2019, the COC conducted a more in-depth review of Recommendation 16-14 on Minimum Standards for Scientific Observer Programs, which highlighted broad non-implementation, and referred the matter to PWG to consider technical improvements to the measure and STACFAD for consideration of how to provide assistance to CPCs to improve implementation.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
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<p>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</p>	<p>79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so, refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.</p>	<p>Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements, but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.</p>	<p>In 2016-17, COC requested improvements in how potential non-compliance issues identified by ICCAT observer programs are presented to the COC for review. Some changes were made, but further consideration may be given to additional improvements.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>For COC, deferred discussion to future meetings.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	

<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.</p>	<p>Requirements adopted in 16-22 that improve transparency of decision making of COC include amended deadlines and biennial special 2-day session of COC, which allow for better documented and more in-depth discussions of compliance matters, enabling CPCs to better understand the basis for COC decisions.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
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Compliance Summary Tables

2018			2019			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance 2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance 2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
ALBANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late and Part II slightly late. Statistical data reported late; no national scientific observer programme data received (ST09).	Late reporting due to reporting of historical data; were trying to report all outstanding data and information and submit. complete report. Only one purse seiner fishing for ICCAT species, so no national observer programme yet in place, although ROP is deployed.	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of domestic scientific observer requirements, while noting improvement in reporting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data received late.		Letter on late reporting of statistical data, while noting improvement in reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-14: Not yet implemented, but actions currently being taken to implement in 2019. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures taken to implement shark requirements.	Albanian legislation has transposed the EU regulation Have difficulties providing data on species for which there is no catch or no authorisation. More species have been added to the legislation. Albania will send English version of Albanian legislation to show that all ICCAT Recommendations are applied.		Conservation and Management Measures: Turtle handling guidelines submitted (in Albanian) but unclear if implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 of turtle measures is complete i.e. legally binding.	All measures taken in relation to turtles are binding in Albanian Law No. 64/2012	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/2019 for a PNC and response.		

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
ALGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	SWO vessels are between 4-9 metres, no space for observers, alternative measures taken through port inspection in 43 ports equipped with coast guard services for inspection. Established a system for data collection. BFT purse seiners have national inspectors on board the vessels. With regard to Recommendation 13-11, sea turtles taken as by catch mainly by longliners (by trawlers to some extent) are systematically released live into the water, making sure that they are in perfect conditions so as to prevent vulnerability and exposure to predators. Turtles hauled on board as by-catch of trawlers, are untangled and released live into the water. We have a list of authorised sharks which may be landed - only three species. There is no finning, and no domestic consumption of sharks. Algeria is currently making new regulations to cover all the requirements of the RFMOs, including ICCAT. Collecting logbook information to this end.	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, turtles, sharks.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observers deployed. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3)	Observer coverage for tuna purse seiners is 100%. The administration controllers, all of whom are fisheries engineers, are capable of carrying out the tasks stipulated in the recommendation. For longline fisheries with a length less than 15 m (the segment with the highest number of vessels is between 4.80 and 9m), without a pontoon, with little space to embark in addition 4 crew members and equipment and an observer (onboard safety issue). Algeria has resorted to an alternative measure. Information collection has been possible through implementation of an awareness programme aimed at fisheries professionals and intervention by fisheries inspectors at landing points.	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, turtles, and reporting of Task II data.

	<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-11: Unclear from report if safe handling practices are being implemented. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measure to implement general measure. No legally binding measures for species specific prohibitions.</p>			<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 10-09/13-11: It is unclear if mandatory measures were implemented to reduce by-catch and safe handling of turtles; Rec. 11-10: No information on progress concerning the reduction of by-catch and discards.</p>	<p>See response to 2018 letter contained in COC-309. In addition to our responses related to compliance issues for Algeria, it should be recalled that within the context of mitigation of sea turtle by-catch, a circular note was sent to all decentralized fisheries services and representatives of the profession regarding compliance. Coastguards, as the maritime police, also received this note for compliance on the field. A copy of this note is attached to this response. It should be noted that regarding participation in SCRS work, in particular data collection and compliance with paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-10, Algeria presented at the 2016 Intersessional Meeting of the Sharks Species Group, a paper with reference SCRS/2016/186, on identification of shark species existing in Algeria "Preliminary inventory of sharks species found in Algerian waters".</p>	
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	Quotas and catch limits:				
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:	
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.			Other issues: PNC concerning the ROP-BFT presented in document COC-305/19, together with the responses.	

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
ANGOLA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 Annual Report submitted late. No size data received due to lack of sampling programme. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Angola has indicated lack of resources to implement a domestic observer programme and indicated intention to request assistance from ICCAT. For turtles and seabirds, Angola is currently trying to collect historical data.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers and bycatch species, and lack of response to 2017 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted late (14 November). No Task II data received. Rec. 16-14: No ST11 or ST09 (scientific observer information/data). No T1 fleet characteristics. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3)		Letter on recurring reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark implementation check sheet. Rec. 17-08: No response to request for N. SMA catches; Rec. 16-14: no domestic observer programme. Recs 13-11, 11-09, 11-10 - no data currently available for bycatch species. Rec. 16-01: Vessel not authorised for Tropical Species. No quarterly reports of BET tuna in 2017. Rec. 12-07: No list designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received; Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received; Rec. 16-01: Quarterly reports of BET catches in 2018 and 2019 not submitted. Rec. 12-07/18-09: No list of designated ports. Rec. 14-07: No submissions of requirements regarding access agreements.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to COC Chair letter		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
BARBADOS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Barbados indicate that this requirement is not applicable, as Barbados lodged an objection to Rec. 10-10.	Letter on reporting issues; no designation of ports under Rec. 12-07; possible blue marlin overharvest; non-submission of validation seals/signatures for ICCAT statistical documents; implementation of ICCAT requirements on turtles, marlin, sailfish, sharks.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No observer programme yet in place so no data / information submitted	See response to 2019 letter contained in COC-309.	Letter on reporting issues; no domestic scientific observer program in place; continued marlin overharvest; implementation of ICCAT requirements on turtles; no designation of ports under Rec. 18-09.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Quarterly BET catches submitted late. Rec. 12-07: Not clear from report if foreign vessel access to Barbados' ports is prohibited generally. Rec. 02-21/22 No validation seals/signatures for SDs submitted. Rec. 10-09: no information on sea turtle mitigation measures. Rec. 15-05 and 16-11: response incomplete: Rec. 17-08 no report of SMA catches for first semester of 2018. Rec. 16-13 No legally binding measures for the implementation of shark requirements.	Rec. 16-01: Some procedural adjustments had to be made to facilitate this additional level of reporting. Rec. 10-09 The Fisheries Division is collaborating with the Barbados Sea Turtle project in a programme to advise fishers on best practises to reduce turtle bycatch, the introduction of circle hooks has already been noted, and to reduce turtle mortality due to accidental entanglements in fishing gear.		Conservation and Management Measures: Full implementation of turtle measures unclear (e.g. whether best handling practices are obligatory). Rec. 18-09: Unclear if entry of foreign fishing vessels is prohibited generally or on a case by case basis.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM according to Task I data, but no compliance table submitted for BUM.			Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest of BUM. Overharvest of WHM in 2018.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2018

2019

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	
BELIZE	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistics may be incomplete as unclear as to whether catches in EEZ/artisinal fisheries are included.</p>	<p>The artisanal fleet which operates in our EEZ does not target tuna and tuna like species regulated by ICCAT and as such no data has been included in our submitted reports. However, while a small quantity of billfishes are taken during sportfishing and game fishing events and activities these are not reported or recorded and as such no data are available. However, the authority responsible for these events and activities are currently working with our gaming associations within Belize to formalize a data report and recording system for sport fishing catches.</p>	<p>Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Unclear from Annual Report if Belize is implementing ICCAT requirements in a binding manner for vessels fishing in Belize's national waters. Rec. 16-14: not clear that minimum % observer coverage being met. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).</p>		<p>Letter on implementation of Rec. 16-14 on domestic scientific observer program, > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10), and on implementation of ICCAT requirements in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction, while noting Belize's response on the latter matter in its 2019 COC response letter.</p>	
				<p>Conservation and management measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10 Vessel reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively.</p>			
	<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>			<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>			
	<p>Other issues: ROP-transshipment: PNC and reponse presented in COC-305/2018.</p>			<p>Other issues:</p>			

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
BRAZIL	<p>Annual Reports/Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.</p>	<p>Response to Chair's letter was sent by regular mail within the deadline, but was not received by the Secretariat until 16 October. Data reporting deficiencies have been rectified and research programme re-initiated, so observers now deployed and data will be sent next year. Information on vessels was not received in time by the Federal Government from some States and Brazil is working to rectify this. Brazil did not believe it necessary to take legally binding measures regarding species not found in their fisheries but can be rectified if required. Do have normative measures for species found in their fisheries.</p>	<p>Letter on recurring retroactive vessel authorization issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, while noting positively information provided by Brazil on steps being taken to address these issues, as well as noting improvements this year in its catch data submission and appreciation of information on steps being taken to ensure continued timely submission of data.</p>	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: Unclear if scientific observer coverage levels are as yet in line with requirements. ST09 received late</p>	<p>Brazilian scientific observer program was restarted in 2018, with a level of coverage of less than the 5% required on boats that do not pose an extraordinary safety concern. In order to increase coverage, electronic monitoring system will need ICCAT funds to support the implementation of scientific observer programs, particularly regarding guidance on electronic monitoring systems.</p>	<p>Brazilian scientific observer program was restarted in 2018, with a level of coverage of less than the 5% required on boats that do not pose an extraordinary safety concern. In order to increase coverage, electronic monitoring system will need ICCAT funds to support the implementation of scientific observer programs, particularly regarding guidance on electronic monitoring systems.</p>
	<p>Conservation and Management measures: Rec. 13-13 / 14-10: Vessels reported for inclusion on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 16-13: Unclear if legally binding measure is taken for some shark species.</p>			<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late. Rec. 16-01: Some quarterly BET catches received late.</p>		
	<p>Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.</p>			<p>Quotas and catch limits: Size limits not completed on compliance tables.</p>		
	<p>Other issues:</p>			<p>Other issues:</p>		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
CABO VERDE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. Fleet capacity submitted late; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	A problem arose due to changes in personnel and designation of replacement late. Cabo Verde has problems with resources for implementing observer programmes and requests assistance from ICCAT.	Letter on reporting issues, no port inspection reports, implementation requirement of domestic scientific observers and billfish, and requesting more detailed reporting on shark and turtle measures in 2019 annual report consistent with information provided at 2018 Annual meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late (9 Oct). Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information / data) received. No T1 fleet characteristics. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).		Letter on reporting issues, no port inspection reports, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01. BET quarterly catch reports for 2017 not reported for last three quarters. Rec. 17-08: No response to request for N. SMA catches. Rec. 16-15: Responses to requirements unclear / may be insufficient. Rec. 12-07: Copies of port inspection reports not received, although designated ports on ICCAT Record. Recs 15-05 and 16-11; response insufficient - legislation is required. Rec. 16-12 - response insufficient, no measures taken but are required: Rec. 10-09 - no measures taken to release turtles unharmed. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures for sharks.	Total ban on turtle catches and have instructed foreign flag vessels to avoid turtle by-catch; catches of nine of the species of sharks, found in Cabo Verde's waters are prohibited. Regulatory measures in place including ban on shark species.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Third and fourth quarterly catch reports combined for 2018, but no information reported for 2019; Rec. 18-05: Late submission of billfish check sheets; Rec. 18-06: Late submission of shark check sheets; Rec. 14-07: No submission of access agreement requirements.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
Other issues:		Other issues:				

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
Canada	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Canada confirms that Rec. 15-05 is being applied and made typing error in Annual Report.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:					
	Other issues:					

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
CHINA, People's Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	See COC-309 for response by China to concerns previously raised by Chair. Hope to be in a position to send port list soon; are in process of joining FAO PSM, having made major efforts through consultations to establish a Port Inspection scheme.	Letter on implementation of Rec. 12-07 requirements on designation of ports, while noting positively information provided on actions taken thus far and planned as reported at 2018 meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports, while noting positively information provided on actions taken thus far and planned as detailed in China's 2019 COC response letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. No list of designated ports for foreign flagged vessels.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09 (formerly Rec. 12-07): no list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment : PNCs and responses presented in COC-305/18.	Other issues: ROP_Transshipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses.				

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Annual Reports/Statistics: Annual report incomplete with no response or insufficient response to many requirements. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received. Response to letter received late.	Côte d'Ivoire does not apply ICCAT measures 100% but is making progress. They have new legislation with the support of the EU and recognise that some ICCAT provisions have not yet been transposed into national legislation.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, submission of ICCAT port inspection reports, implementation of ICCAT shark measures.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information /data) received. Annual Report reporting summary tables received late.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, designation of ports, incomplete compliance tables.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-14: No information on national observer programmes. Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No port inspection reports submitted although Ports on ICCAT Record. Rec. 15-16: No Report on at-sea transshipment. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measure taken to implement general/species specific requirements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: BET quarterly catch reports received for 2018, but missing 2nd quarter for 2019; Rec. 01-22: SDP data received late. Rec. 16-15: Report on transshipment received late and without the comprehensive evaluation report. Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted (no new agreements in 2018 according to Annual Report).		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: "Sizes" and "adjustment" sheets missing in COC sheets.		
	Other Issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/18.			Other issues: PNC concerning ROP-TRANS in COC-305/19 including response.		

2018			2019			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
CURAÇAO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. Statistics may be incomplete as unclear as to whether catches in EEZ/ artisanal fisheries are included. ST08 (FADs) refers to 2016 data, 2017 data missing.	Data submission made during Commission meeting.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of shark requirements, blue marlin harvest.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II reporting summary received late; Unclear whether ICCAT requirements are implemented in Curaçao's domestic waters or only on high seas. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).	All ICCAT measures are applicable in Curaçao's domestic waters, but there is currently no fishing and no fishing licences have been issued for the EEZ.	Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: For many general/specific requirements, no legal instrument is cited. It is not clear whether the prohibition and (requirement for) release is legally binding. Rec. 12-07: No list designated ports.	Curaçao undertakes to cite relevant national legislation in next Annual Report.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Some quarterly reports for 2019 received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM according to Task I data, but no compliance table submitted for BUM.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
EGYPT	Annual Rep: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Only reports from observers on board E-BFT vessels are submitted to ICCAT. Egypt is working on establishing minimum standards for fishing vessels scientific observer program in the frame of ICCAT Rec. 10-10. Egypt is still in the process of establishing a scientific observer program, but currently their national observers who are assigned on board of the vessels are monitoring and recording the bluefin tuna fishing process.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, while noting positively the future steps Egypt described at the 2018 meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST09 received. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3)		Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, while noting positively Egypt's outreach to Secretariat to seek assistance at the 2019 meeting and encouraging follow-up on this matter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

2018

2019

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
EL SALVADOR	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Task I submitted late. No ST11 (ObPrsInf) submitted.	Some delays this year due to personnel problems.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on billfish and sharks.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Some statistical Task II data received late.	A written response was received in advance from El Salvador: As regards this issue, I would like to inform you that since June 2019 a new democratically elected Government, took office. Last August, I was appointed Director of Fisheries and a series of cases of non-compliance concerning different international bodies were observed. This legacy was left to us by the public officials of the previous administration. The best efforts are being made to update the submittal of information to ICCAT corresponding to 2018, and we commit to reply within the established deadline included in the Chair's letter of concern that we received a few days ago.	Identification due to recurring and significant reporting deficiencies, and BET harvest level that indicates significant deficiency of implementation of measures in this fishery.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. No list of foreign vessel designated ports/contact points binding.	All by-catches of marlins discarded. For sharks, El Salvador will send more details on the relevant binding measures in their legislation.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-15: transshipment report received late: Rec. 01-21 and 01-22: SDP data received late: Rec. 06-13: Trade data received late: Recs 10-09/13-11: Unclear if measures are fully implemented / legally binding. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish check sheet or updated shark check sheet received. Rec. 16-01, para. 4(a) BET harvest (2,634 t) indicate possible insufficient measures to maintain annual catch below 1,575 t"		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
EU	<p>Annual Reports/Statistics: A few statistical data received late (Task I, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania).</p>	<p>These Task I data concern EU Member States that do not play a major role in ICCAT fisheries. In all cases the quantities involved are very small and of minor importance. The late submission is due to administrative problems coupled with the summer holidays period. All the EU Task I data for the major EU Member States have been submitted on time.</p>	<p>Letter on reporting issues, eastern bluefin issues currently under investigation in EU.</p>	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some statistical data received late (see PLE-105).</p>		<p>Letter on reporting, while noting positively actions the EU has indicated it has taken or will take to address. Request updates on EBFT investigations.</p>
	<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-05. Late submission of SWO-MED vessel list for EU-Croatia. Rec. 17-07: Deadline of one week for caging declarations often not respected. Some caging carried out after 15 August. Rec. 11-20: Some BCD reports received late. Rec. 17-09: some eBCD requests are followed-up late by EU-Administrators entailing pending requests for several days in the eBCD system; Rec. 17-07; 16-05 and 12-07: Inspection reports received late. Rec. 14-07: No Access agreements reported, but previous reports show agreements until 2020 and also reported by Liberia, Morocco and Senegal. EU-Portugal BFT Other vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages. News reports of possible overharvest of bluefin tuna to be followed up in 2019.</p>	<p>Rec. 12-07: Submission of inspection reports not applicable as although 100% of foreign vessels are inspected, operations relate to the transfer from foreign catching vessels to reefer cargos of goods that are not for the EU market. For 17-07 and 16-05, the EU had transmission difficulties due to the volume of documents to be sent. Rec. 16-05: The transmission of these data suffered an internal IT problem that took time to solve. The listings were sent immediately after the problem had been solved. Rec. 17-07: The delay between the caging operation itself and the delivery of the related caging declaration is due to the time needed by the CPC's catching vessel flag States to amend their respective eBCD following the stereoscopic camera results. For JFOs, this may take more time, pending the completeness of the JFO related activities. The caging declarations are sent when declared as "final". Finalised caging declarations are sent once the eBCD amendments have been recorded. Caging after 15 August was due to weather conditions that hit the Mediterranean Sea, impacting the route of tug vessels. This is considered as force majeure. Rec. 14-07: The EU has concluded bilateral access agreements with Morocco, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Cabo Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sao Tomé & Príncipe. Because of the volume of this material, each year the EU refers to the website where each single agreement can be consulted: https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements_en</p>		<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-02: Some caging declarations received late. EU-Portugal and EU-Greece BFT Other/Catching vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages.</p>	<p>Caging declarations: this is a recurrent problem stemming from specific EU farm flag Member States which have to face huge amounts of caging operations. The time necessary to analyse and validate the caging footages, as well as the delay necessary to adapt the eBCD references in collaboration with the catching flags EU Member States or other CPCs justify the late transmission of the caging declarations and caging reports. Efforts have been deployed by the EU Member State concerned to address this issue. An extension of the delay to submit the requested documentation should be considered. Regarding VMS, The EU.Portugal vessels are not sending VMS positions because none of these vessels are targeting BFT (only by-catch); EU.Greece has regularly send those VMS reference to the EU all along 2019. EU committed to send all outstanding VMS data by the end of the meeting.</p>	

	<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>			<p>Quotas and catch limits: Possible underreporting of WHM as significant differences between compliance tables and Task 1 for 2017.</p>	<p>EU is investigating this and will take any necessary measures once the investigation has been finalised.</p>	
	<p>Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.</p>			<p>Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/2019 for a list of PNCs and responses.</p>	<p>Some PNCs were sent with the final reports and it was therefore difficult to track these. The Consortum is requested to send PNCs through the usual channels, in order for these to be investigated.</p>	

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on implementation of shark measures.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Late submission of Annual Report (14 October).		Letter on late reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark check sheet indicates that no legislation currently in place, but is being drawn up.	France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) does not have a sharks fishery. Notwithstanding a text is being finalized for compliance with the requirements of Rec. 16-03. When signed, the document will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat. It is expected to enter into force in 2019.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheets for the implementation of measures submitted late; Rec. 18-06: Updated shark check sheet submitted late.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GABON	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Responses to some requirements missing or incomplete, particularly relating to Albacore, Billfish and bycatch species. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Have improved data submission but found the form too complicated but are working on this and will submit in 2019.	Letter on reporting issues and to request additional information on implementation of certain ICCAT shark requirements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Responses in Annual Report incomplete/insufficient in some cases. Rec. 16-14: No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received.		Letter on reporting issues, designation of ports (Rec. 18-09), access agreements.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures for species specific requirements.	Gabon does not target sharks and prohibits landing of any sharks which have been finned.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07/18-09: No list of designated ports and unclear if foreign fishing vessels prohibited from entering ports. Rec. 14-07: Access agreements not submitted (clarification needed as regards Annual Report: "In 2018, 15 fishing licenses were granted for purse seine vessels flying a foreign flag. Catches amount to 25,689.9 t"). Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair (only acknowledgement).		

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
THE GAMBIA	Joined 2019			Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report or statistical data were submitted, but The Gambia joined ICCAT in February 2019 (was not a Contracting Party in 2018).		No action.
				Compliance and mangement measures: The Secretariat has received no responses to the reporting requirements to date, but the Gambia was not a Contracting Party in 2018.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GHANA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on implementation of certain requirements on port inspection (Rec. 12-07) and shark measures, and no FAD management plan submitted.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some Task II data received did not pass filter (could not be processed).	Ghana has been using the Task II software recommended by ICCAT and have encountered processing issues.	Letter on reporting issues and procedure followed in submitting vessel to 16-01 tropical list, while noting positively steps taken to rectify these issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07 - no copies of port inspection reports received. Rec. 16-01: FAD management plan not submitted. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures for the implementation of shark requirements.	Will submit reports as soon as possible after meeting. FAD management plan to be submitted in the future. Making efforts to improve conservation of sailfish and will continue research under ABNJ.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: Period of designation of ports on ICCAT Record expired.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BET	Recognise that quota limitations - revisions to our species composition ongoing for four years much bigeye could be yellowfin. Request review of quota and payback plan, but is committed to improving MCS measures and reduce fishing effort.		Quotas and catch limits: Size data sheet not completed on compliance tables.	Ghana will work with the Secretariat to resolve this.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2018

2019

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GRENADA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report submitted. No statistical data submitted. No response to Chair letter received.		Letter on reporting issues, no reply to COC Chair letter, no submission of statistical document validating authorities (Rec. 01-21), no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received, no statistical data received. Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received.		Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues (including no Annual Report, no statistical data).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark implementation check sheet submitted; Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 01-21: No validation seals or signatures submitted. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: No submissions received in 2019.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables, (applicability cannot be determined as no other information received).		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair. Prohibited under Rec. 11-15		

2018

2019

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GUATEMALA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST08 (FADs) form received; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received; as no scientific observer programme.	Difficulties arose due to a change in officers in charge of the data, but we will try to send the data as soon as possible.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program and shark measures, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), blue marlin catch.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Information on scientific observer programmes received late (Rec. 16-14). Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).	Written explanation received from Guatemala: Unfortunately there was an overlap of information and the required information was not sent.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program, shark, billfish, and turtle measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01 No quarterly reports of BET in 2017. FAD management plan not received. Rec. 16-13: no legally binding measures taken to implement general or species specific requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list designated ports.	BET quarterly catches received during meeting. FAD management currently being developed.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports received. FAD management plan received late. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Shark and billfish check sheets received late. Rec. 10-09 and 13-11: Unclear if provisions have been implemented in a legally binding fashion.	Many new staff at the Ministry unfamiliar with the requirements, but will make every effort to provide all the information needed.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM according to Task I data, but no compliance table submitted for BUM.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2018

2019

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GUINEA BISSAU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; no statistical data received.	Still having difficulties to understand and fulfill all the requirements and in filling out the relevant forms. Have requested assistance from Secretariat and will work with them to try to submit required information. No national tuna fleet.	Letter on reporting issues, no reply to COC Chair letter, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), while noting positively commitment at 2018 meeting to work with the Secretariat to improve.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received, no statistical data received, Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information / data) received.		Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for three years in a row.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted; Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: No response to any reporting requirement received including no shark sheet, no billfish sheet, no list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables, applicability cannot be determined).		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to COC Chair's letter. Prohibited under Rec. 11-15.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data incomplete.		Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data received late. Catches shown for 2018 while under prohibition. Rec. 16-14: No information on national scientific observer programme.	Will try to improve reporting in future years.	Letter on reporting issues, catch in 2018 while under prohibition of retention pursuant to Rec. 11-15.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet not submitted. Rec. 18-05: No billfish measures implementation check sheet not submitted. Rec. 16-01 No quarterly reports of BET in 2018. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports for 2018 (or 2019).		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted (N/A zero catches).			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: Prohibition maintained as 2017 data missing. Reply to letter from COC Chair received during meeting.		

2018

2019

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
GUINEA Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No Task I data received - zero catches reported for commercial species through compliance tables.	Guinea has informed the Secretariat that it does not have any vessels targeting ICCAT species and only has statistics on by-catch from the artisanal and industrial fisheries.	Letter on reporting issues, no designation of ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics:Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received, no statistical data received. Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received.		Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for three years in a row.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports received; Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheets note submitted; Rec. 18-06: No update of shark check sheets submitted; Rec. 12-07/18-09: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: Prohibited under Rec. 11-15. No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

<i>CPC</i>	2018			2019		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
HONDURAS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Statistical data received late (after SCRS). All information received less than one month before Commission meeting.	We currently have no catches to report but in 90 days we will be sending recreational fishery data due to the new legislation which has just entered into force.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), while noting positive improvements and commitment to reporting on recreational catches in near future.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late, confirmation of zero catch received late.		Letter on recurring reporting issues, including late submission of Annual Report multiple years in a row.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.	We have no catches to report, as Honduras is a shark sanctuary and no shark retention is permitted.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received after deadline.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

CPC	2018			2019		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
ICELAND	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-06: Updated shark check sheet received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
JAPAN	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on retroactive vessel submission, no submission of designated ports under Rec. 12-07, SALB overharvest.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Section 3 received late.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Vessels reported for authorisation updates on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.	Have ratified the PSM/FAO and could include designated ports, but do not yet have system to carry out port inspections on foreign fishing vessels. Regarding retroactive reporting, an administrative oversight in the communication to the Secretariat of the listing of a new vessel.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late.	Japan guided by first circular from Secretariat which was later corrected through erratum.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of SALB.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs and responses presented in COC-305/18.	There was miscommunication between fishermen and observers.		Other issues: ROP_Transshipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
KOREA, Rep. of	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part IV of Annual Report submitted late. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).	New staff at Ministry unfamiliar with report format and had not included section 4 with the rest of the report (which was received on time).	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: Designated ports for foreign vessel entry but no inspection reports received.	No record has been found of foreign vessels fishing in ICCAT waters entering Korean ports, so no information to report.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2018

2019

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
LIBERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data submitted late; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Observer programme in process of implementation.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No T1 fleet characteristics; no Task II catch and effort. Rec. 16-14: No information on scientific observer programmes or alternative measures for national fleet (canoes). Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).	Liberia has no flagged tuna vessels other than artisanal fisheries.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-24), no compliance tables received, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 15-05: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13: Contradiction in response - no vessels targetting sharks but small scale fishers target sharks. No legally binding measures taken to implement species specific measures. Rec. 16-15: Transshipment report received late. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.	Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures as yet. There has been a change of government and a new fisheries bill has been passed. Tuna exploitation only started in 2016 and we are currently working to identify the issues which need to be addressed and rectified. Will work with the Commission to this end.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports, unclear whether foreign vessels are prohibited.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM in Task I data but no compliance table submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received, but some catches reported for N.SWO, N. ALB and BUM in Task I.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
LIBYA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: National scientific observer programme data (ST09) received blank.	All shark fisheries and catches are prohibited in Libya. Are currently preparing legislation to comply with Rec. 16-12 and 17-08.	Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers, sharks, and by-catch measures.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task II data in incorrect format. Rec. 16-14: Unclear if national scientific observer coverage is in line with provisions.	Libya could not have a certain program, hoping to establish it in near future and might require assistance from ICCAT Secretariat. Information has been collected from the crew and dead fish.	Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), IMO number requirement (Rec. 13-13), VMS transmission (Rec. 18-02).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Recs 10-09; 11-09; 11-10, 16-12: (by-catch requirements) Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-05: SWO MED management plan received late. Rec. 16-13. Not clear if legally binding measures have been taken to implement all shark requirements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Recs 10-09-13-11: Unclear if provisions are legally binding, despite infrequent interaction. Rec. 13-13: One vessel without IMO number on ICCAT Record. Rec. 18-02: One BFT vessel did not send VMS messages while operating in Mediterranean, 5-19 June.	The updated local Decree No. 33/2019, Article 26 shows the prohibition of catching sea turtles and to be released and returned to the sea after recorded in logbook, in fishing season 2019 there was no sea turtles and/or seabirds reported by Libyan purse seiners. Libya is working on update of General fishing law No. 14 issued on 1981; ICCAT fishery rules will be included. Rec. 13-13: Vessel owner is currently in correspondence with IHS Markit Rec. 18-02. Following investigation, a technical error was discovered which prevented the data being forwarded to ICCAT from Loqua; the missing data has been sent to the Secretariat.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/18.			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/19 for a list of PNCs and responses.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
MAURITANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I data for 2017 received (data up to 2016 inclusive only), no scientific observer programme.	Mauritania will continue to work with the Secretariat to present data in correct format.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs, sharks, marlin, turtles, by-catch measures.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late and incorrect format. Rec. 16-14: No information on national scientific observer programme.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs, sharks, marlin, access agreements, designation of authorized ports (Rec. 18-09), while noting positively work in 2019 with Secretariat to address data deficiencies for previous years.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-05; 10-09 and 11-10: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. Unclear as to whether legally binding measures are taken.	Mauritania currently preparing legally binding measures for sharks, but not yet adopted. Sharks are not targeted.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheets not submitted; Rec. 18-06: No update of shark check sheets submitted; Rec. 14-07: Requirements on Access agreements not submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
MEXICO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: 'Not applicable' in Annual Report not explained in all cases.		Letter on reporting, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of shark requirements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: Information on scientific observer programmes received late. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Letter on reporting issues and IMO number requirement, while noting positively the efforts reported to address these issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports and no explanation for not applicable. Rec. 16-13 Possibly no legally binding measures to implement some shark species specific requirements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: BET catch reports received for last two quarters of 2018 received late. Rec. 13-13: Some vessels on ICCAT Record missing IMO number. Recs 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark checksheets received late. Rec. 18-13: BCD report received late.	Mexico requested a number in 2015 but the request was rejected at that time as the vessels were less than 100 GT. Following clarification from the Secretariat, Mexico has once again submitted requests for IMO No. (copies of requests sent to Secretariat) and are awaiting the allocation of numbers.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
MOROCCO	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Reporting summary- Section 3 in Part II - incomplete (Blank in response to some requirements and 'not applicable' not explained in all cases) No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.</p>	<p>The 1st Annual Report / Part II / Section 3 was not the correct version. This version did not contain all the required information and was submitted by mistake. Following your e-mail of reminder, we realised that a mistake had been made, and the correct Annual Report / Part II / Section 3 incorporating the clarifications /additional information that you had raised was submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 19/10/2018. Therefore, all the parts are complete, and all the references to not applicable have been explained. In relation to the request regarding the national scientific observers programme (ST09), our response/method for requirement S10 is described in requirement S11 and was submitted to you on 27/07/2018. It states that due to the artisanal nature of the tuna fisheries, it is difficult to implement a scientific observer programme. However, an alternative method is described in the response to requirement S11.</p>	<p>Letter on reporting, while noting updated report provided prior to meeting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program and certain shark measures, possible blue marlin overharvest.</p>	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Summary and Part V of Annual Report received late.</p>	<p>Were not informed of the missing parts until after the deadline</p>	<p>No action necessary.</p>

<p>Conservation and Management: Rec. 15-05; 16-11: no information presented. Rec 10-09 and 11-10: no information presented. Rec. 16-13 Possibly no legally binding measures to implement porbeagle and silky shark species specific measures.</p>	<p>Rec. 15-05: Morocco does not have a fleet targeting marlins. Catches of this species are caught incidentally and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat in Tasks I and II. Consequently, there are currently no management measures for this species, but a measure will be taken. The monitoring and control measures cover all fishing activities, regardless of the species. These measures comprise in particular: • Controls at ports of landing, fishing sites and fish markets; • Control of vessels by satellite (positioning and location device "VMS"); • Controls of vessels at sea carried out by the control authorities; • A system of mandatory reporting of catches on landing and monitoring of trend in trade through the catch certification procedure. Computerisation of this process has led to the availability of information on catch trends and better exploitation for more effective and efficient control and verification, with the aim of overcoming illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Rec. 16-11: Sailfish has never been included in Morocco's statistics. Consequently, there are no management measures on this species; Rec. 10-09 and Rec. 11-10: The Annual Report signals that this information was reported in the Annual Report: Task II / Section 7, transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 27/07/2018. – By-catches of sea birds and by-catch rate of sea turtles. Field surveys of sea fishers of longliners targeting tuna and tuna-like species have indicated the following: the two main species of turtle taken as by-catch are the loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) and the leatherback sea turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>). The leatherback sea turtle is clearly the most dominant. These species are rarely found in fishing operations. For reference only, these turtles can be caught on the longline once for every 10 trips carried out. When the turtle is caught alive in their longlines, the fishers unhook the animal before releasing it into the water. If the turtle is dead or has already swallowed the hook, the fishers cut the closest line to the hook then release the turtle into the sea. Regarding sea birds, no information is currently available on by-catches of these species, although the fishers have indicated that these sea birds are often observed in the sky, but they are never taken in their gears. In relation to the request regarding measures taken to mitigate by-catch and reduce discards and on any relevant research, our response to requirement S42 which was transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 27/07/2018 states that a reflection is underway within the framework of the research work to reduce shark by-catch in the longline fishery targeting swordfish. No discards of by-catch are currently recorded in this fishery. For the majority of shark species, legally binding measures exist except for porbeagle and silky sharks, as these species are not found or very rarely found in Moroccan fisheries, but measures will be taken.</p>		<p>Conservation and Management Measures:</p>	
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	<p>Quotas and catch limits. Task I data indicates overharvest of blue marlin, but no compliance table for marlins submitted.</p>	<p>Will rectify tables as needed.</p>		<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>		
	<p>Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.</p>		<p>Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/19 for a list of PNCs and responses and COC-312/2019 for information under Rec. 08-09.</p>	<p>The activities are contemplated in Rec. 18-02 and do not constitute PNCs.</p>		

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
NAMIBIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late and Part II slightly late. No response to Chair letter received. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Apologise for late submission and non-response. Have now rectified format issue for Annual Report. Tropical tunas only taken as by-catch of albacore, very minimal amounts. Sailfish - not landed in Namibia so believe measure is not applicable. Limited capacity for scientific analysis, have requested assistance from ICCAT to help us with this. We have NPOA for seabirds which will be sent to Secretariat, but negatively affected by the limited capacity of our scientists. We are working to rectify the situation and will try to send all available data.	Letter on reporting issues; implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program, sharks, seabirds; no reply to COC Chair letter following 2017 meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. Information on scientific observer programmes received late. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 3 years in a row (LL of 10 t; reported landings 32 (2016), 57 (2017), 84 (2018)); letter also to note late reporting issues; > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-09: No CP44 (seabird mitigation measures) form received. Rec. 10-09: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13: No information relating to species specific measures.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec.13-13/14-10: Two vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 16-15: Report on transshipment received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM		
	Other issues:			Other issues: ROP_Transshipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses. No response to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
NICARAGUA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report received late.	Have had communication problems. No fleet and no vessels fishing which have any interactions with ICCAT species. Shark by-catches in the Caribbean shrimp and snail fishery which take place in shallow waters. SMA: No information on catches of this species, no catches of this, only of hammerhead. Working on improving communication.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on reporting issues (no billfish or shark check sheet).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches; response in annual report unclear. Rec. 10-09: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13: Possibly no legally binding measures for shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or shark check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
NIGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No shark check sheet submitted (Rec. 16-13), no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report incomplete (summary and reporting tables sent).		Letter on incomplete Annual Report, notification of designated ports (Rec. 18-09).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted; Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.	No fishing vessels targeting ICCAT species. The only fisheries in Nigeria are inshore shrimp fisheries with very little by-catch of any large fish. Regulations in place so that all sharks encountered must be landed with fins attached. Nigeria will complete the shark check sheet and submit it after the meeting.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: Status of Port entry by foreign vessels unclear.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
NORWAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received; programme in place but applicability no clear from annual report.	Norway did not have a specific National Scientific Observer Program for bluefin tuna in 2017. Only one purse seine vessel fished actively for bluefin tuna in 2017, and it is not clear from the ICCAT recommendations whether a national scientific observer programme is required for purse seine vessels. The vessel carried a regional observer 100% of the time, as required in Rec. 17-07, and a national scientific observer from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research was on board the vessel 60% of the time the vessel was fishing actively for bluefin tuna. After noting that the COC views this as a potential issue of non-compliance, we have tried to utilize the information in the report from the regional observer and combine this with our own data to provide the required data in ST09. The data were forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat 5 November 2018. We have also started the process of establishing a national scientific programme for 2019, which will also include purse seine vessels.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 10-09: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. Possibly no legally binding measures to implement shark species specific requirements.	There have never been any turtles encountered in Norwegian waters or fisheries. Norway applied for exemption but shark group unable to review. The specific shark species do not occur in Norwegian waters.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/19 for a list of PNCs and responses.		

2018

2019

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
PANAMA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data received late (after preparation of data for SCRS). Annual Report received late (during meeting). Replied after deadline to COC letter.	Problems with electronic communication and delays due to receipt of information from control department. Panama is currently working to resolve this.	Letter on continued reporting and VMS issues, late chartering notification, implementation of shark measures.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Statistical data received late. Rec. 16-14. ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received late.	Administration undergoing changes which has caused delays.	Letter on continued late reporting issues (including Annual Report and statistical data received multiple years in a row); > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 13-14. Information on chartering arrangements and termination submitted late (up to 10 months after the start of arrangement). Rec. 16-01: BET Quarterly reports received late. Rec. 17-07: Problems raised by the Secretariat concerning VMS transmission are rarely replied or followed-up by Panama. Rec. 16-13: Possibly no legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Communication regarding VMS issues has now been resolved.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10 Several cases of vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record of vessels more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late (15 Nov).	New legislation is being enacted strengthening MCS measures including legally binding requirements for carrier vessels to have VMS.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late. They don't include any catch for ALB-S there are data for in 2018 T1. Overharvest for BET. Balance and adjusted landings for BUM don't add up.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: Response to Chairs letter received late (15 Nov).		

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
PHILIPPINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No Statistical data received.	We have no active fleet in the Atlantic but will rectify deficiency in order to comply with requirements.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), no response to 2017 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No statistical data received (prohibition still in place).		Letter on continued reporting issues, including no annual reports or statistical data two years in a row.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting), and responses may be insufficient in some cases. Rec. 17-08: Response to request for SMA catches sent late (during meeting). Rec. 16-01: BET quarterly reports submitted late (during meeting). Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: No information received in response to any reporting requirement, including Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark check sheets. Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Have reported zero catch in Compliance tables submitted in November 2018.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: Prohibited under Rec. 11-15. No response to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	
RUSSIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	No specialised fishery since 2009; only a small amount of tuna by-catch taken in the trawl fishery which targets non-ICCAT species. Observers in these fisheries do collect information in order to submit Task I data to ICCAT. We hope to be able to submit ST09 next year.	Letter on reporting issues, while noting improvement from 2017.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: ST09 received late.		Letter on reporting issues, including no billfish check sheet or updates to shark check sheet submitted.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-10, 15-05 and 16-11: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. Possibly no legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish check sheet received. No updated shark check sheet received.			Russia has no vessels targetting tuna or tuna-like species, any tuna fish is taken as by-catch in other fisheries.
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:			
	Other issues:			Other issues:			

		2018		2019			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	
SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report incomplete, no reporting summary table received. No Task II data received; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received or any alternative measures. No reply to individual COC letter was received.	We think that this information should be provided by the flag country of the vessels and we are not familiar with the form ST09. Nevertheless, we undertake to complete it in the future.	Letter due on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), notification of access agreements, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer programs, billfish, sharks, no reply to COC Chair letter after 2017 meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report, no statistical data; Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.		Letter on reporting issues (including no billfish or updated shark check sheet received), no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), information on access agreements.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 14-07: Updates to access agreements in 2018 not submitted. Rec. 15-05 and 16-11: no information relating to the implementation of billfish measures. Rec. 16-01: No quarterly reports for BET in 2017. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.	We have some difficulty in establishing a management plan for ICCAT species. We are implementing a national strategy and action plan for the fisheries sector which will assist us in these areas. As you know, STP has improved its statistics and reporting to ICCAT, but there is still room for improvement. In relation to Task II data only in 2018 we have started to collect data on the size of all ICCAT species. Legislation in place to ban retaining shark species on board, as well as a turtle ban, No shark by-catches in the industrial fisheries.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No response to reporting requirements e.g. Quarterly BET catch reports for the 4th quarter of 2018 and 2019 not submitted. Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet not submitted. Rec. 18-06: No update of shark check sheets (not submitted); Rec. 12-07/18-09: No designated list of ports; Rec. 14-07: Requirements on Access agreements not submitted.			
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.			Quotas and catch limits:			
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.			

2018				2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
SENEGAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	The observer programme was not yet in place so no data could be submitted; but we hope to be able to do this in the future. The Enhanced Research Program for billfish has helped to improve data collection on billfish. ICCAT Recommendations on observer programmes are being introduced into national legislation.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program, sharks, while noting positively information provided at 2018 meeting on steps being taken to address these issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - scientific observer programme information / data.	See response to Chair letter (COC-309).	Letter on late reporting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), incomplete compliance table information, vessel without IMO # (Rec. 13-13), while noting positively information provided in its 2019 COC response letter on steps being taken to address certain issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: Response to request for SMA catches received late. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Senegal is in the process of transposing ICCAT measures on sharks into national law.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 02-21 and Rec. 02-22: Late submission of biannual SDP reports (BET and SWO, respectively). Rec. 13-13: One vessel without IMO No. reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record of vessels.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Size information sheet for compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
SIERRA LEONE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. Task I data for artisanal fisheries recived in incorrect format. For coherence, prohibition lifted as no industrial fleet, minor artisanal catches which Sierra Leone requests assistance to collect. No Task II data received; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received or alternative measures.		Lift identification in recognition of improvement of data submission. Send letter on reporting issues (7th year in a row no Annual Report).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (during meeting) and incomplete. No ST11/ST09 - scientific observer programme information/data.		Letter on reporting issues and no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09. No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.		

CPC	2018			2019		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
SOUTH AFRICA	Annual Reports/Statistics: fleet characteristic data (ST01) received late.	An administrative oversight during data submission.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report received late. Some size data (T2) received late.	South Africa strives for 100% compliance. Some late reporting in 2019 due to administrative oversight. Task II originally sent within the deadline, but with the wrong format. Corrections were hence sent after the deadlines.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2018

2019

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No information from domestic observer programmes as still being established, hence scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Observer programme has now been implemented and reporting deficiencies will be rectified in the future.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer, billfish, sailfish, sharks, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), lack of clarity in Annual Report response as to implementation of ICCAT measures in SVG waters (while noting its confirmation in meeting that ICCAT measures are implemented in national waters).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST09 received. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Letter on reporting issues, including on implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), no updated shark check sheet (Rec. 18-06), and incomplete compliance tables.
	Conservation and Management Measures: N.SWO Management plan submitted late. Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on Rec. 16-11 made in Annual Report (reported not applicable). Rec. 16-01. Tropical tuna management plan and some quarterly BET catch reports submitted late. Responses to Recs. 15-05 and 16-11: May be insufficient to meet the requirements. Rec. 12-06: Transshipment report submitted late. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Steps are being taken to improve these issues with technical and legal assistance of the FAO. Consultation with stakeholders resulting in late submission of reports.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of South albacore.			Quotas and catch limits: Size limit sheet of compliance table not completed.		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/18.			Other issues: ROP_Transshipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses. No response to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
SYRIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.		Letter on implementation of national scientific observer requirements, sharks, billfish, turtles, by-catch, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST11/ST09 scientific observer programme.		Letter on reporting issues, including BCD annual report and billfish check sheet not received; implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting request for technical assistance in 2019 COC response letter; and to seek clarification on designated ports for foreign flag vessels with species other than bluefin tuna (Rec. 18-09).
	Conservation and Management Measures: 17-07: Minor delay in submitting designated BFT port list. Recs. 15-05, 10-09 and 11-10: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-13: No BCD annual report. Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received. Rec. 18-09: List of port sent on date indicated in Annual Report refers only to BFT, but see response to Chair's letter in COC-309.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305 for a list of PNCs.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Annual Reports/Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received. Domestic scientific observer program not yet implemented.	Recognise some deficiencies due to financial and human resource limitations. Are currently working with the relevant authorities to rectify these.	Letter on implementation of requirements on scientific observer program, billfish, turtles, sharks;	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No. ST11/ST09 - observer information or data. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).	Legal framework for the implementation of these requirements almost complete.	Letter on implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) and,
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports or port inspection reports received. Recs. 10-09 and 15-05: Measures for turtles and marlins not yet implemented. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	See Section 5 of Annual Report. Assistance from FAO / NOAA currently being received to assist with the implementation of PSMA. Currently working with the relevant authorities and undertake to submit list of designated ports. Recognise some deficiencies with respect to measures for turtles and marlins due to financial and human resource limitations. Legally binding measures have been taken to prohibit the marketing of sharks, and an NPOA on sharks has been drafted and is shortly to be forwarded for consideration by the Cabinet.	designation of ports (Rec. 12-07); overharvest of blue and white marlin, while noting positively information provided on steps being taken.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports.	Have recently ratified FAO PSMA and hope to be able to send the list of designated ports soon.	designation of ports (Rec. 18-09), while noting positively the update on both issues provided at the 2019 Annual Meeting and in 2019 COC response letter.
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM and WHM.	Currently no landings prohibiton but have now agreed with LL fleet that no further landings will be made until payback is complete, and no exports will be exported.		Quotas and catch limits: BUM and WHM figures still negative, but actions have been taken; zero catch in 2017-2018.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
TUNISIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Resource difficulties in 2017, but a programme is now being set up and we hope to have data in the future. Up to now, local scientists have been collaborating with the ROP observers on this.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, marlin, sailfish, sharks.	Annual Reports/Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-05 and 16-11: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Some shark species are not found, and others are taken as by-catch; no measures are currently in place because of no target fisheries.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-02: Caging operations after 22 August, due to causes of <i>force majeure</i> .		
	Quotas and catch limits:					
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305 for a list of PNCs and responses.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
TURKEY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter requesting additional information on implementation of shark requirements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13. Possibly no legally binding measures to implement some shark species specific requirements.	The taking of most sharks is prohibited in Turkey, and some additional species have recently been added to the list of prohibited species. The Ministry carries out at-sea inspections, as well as in port and market. The submission of data by the fishers is obligatory as they must declare all by-catch species.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 01-21 and 01-22; Bi-annual report of SDP data received late.	Some difficulties in 2019 in submitting the information on time due to its being collected from a range of institutions, some of which delayed their submission.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-350 for a list of PNCs and responses.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	Annual Reports/Statistics: Some data may be missing for BVI due to hurricane damage. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	See explanation in Annual Report on lack of observer programme (vessels too small; all catches landed at single location for St Helena).	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme in place.	UKOT is examinig ways to comply with the requirements and have undertaken a full review and gap analysis in an effort to reach full compliance.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), late BCD report, vessel without IMO#, while noting positively the updates provided on efforts made to address these issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-13 BCD Annual Report received late. One vessel without IMO No. reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record of vessels.	The IMO number has been issued and will communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible and before the end of 2019.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
UNITED STATES	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
URUGUAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter regarding submission of port inspection reports and requesting that SCRS confirmation is sought regarding exemption to submission of shark check sheet.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-07: No port inspection reports submitted although Ports on ICCAT Record.	No ICCAT fisheries in Uruguay, but confirmation from SCRS should be sought. No port inspection reports submitted because of confidentiality requirements which Uruguay hopes to resolve in the future. For current reports, some information could be made available but not full copies of reports.		Conservation and Management Measures: Recs. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark check sheets received late.	As to non-submission of the shark check sheet during the 2018 meeting, we understood that, since we had not carried out any fishing operation in 2017, it was not necessary to report the measures. This year full information has been reported even though we did not carry out any fishing operation in 2018.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.	Regarding reporting of in port inspections, we were not in a position to submit the reports in 2018, since we had to comply with some internal processes. The reports that currently have to be submitted are those of vessels for which infringements have been observed. In this regard, we inform that we have not detected any infringements for the vessels inspected in 2018.	

2018

2019

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
VANUATU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Task I (zero catch) received.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of Rec. 12-07.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late.		Letter on reporting issues (late Annual Report, no billfish or updated shark check sheets received), no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09; Vanuatu's response that it is not a coastal State is insufficient).
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09 No list of designated ports. Have responded that Vanuatu is not a coastal State. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or updated shark check sheet received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.		

		2018		2019		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
VENEZUELA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. 'Not applicable' not explained in all cases, and no response provided for all elements in Section 3. Statistical data received late and maybe incomplete. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received. No reply to COC letter was received.	Internal administrative difficulties. Plan for albacore has now been developed to avoid future overharvest. Plan for billfish currently awaiting adoption.	Letter on continued reporting issues, retroactive authorized vessel submission, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, sharks, turtles, by-catch, continued significant N. ALB and WHM overharvest, request for written information on actions planned or taken to address continued overharvest of these species, while noting positively information on this matter provided at annual meeting, no reply to COC Chair letter following 2017 meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; No statistical data received. Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.		Letter on continued reporting issues, > 45 day retroactive authorized vessel submission (Rec. 13-13/14-10), implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), no compliance table received.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13 / 14-10: Vessels reported for inclusion on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 16-01: BET catch reports for last two quarters of 2017 not submitted. Recs. 10-09/11-10: No response provided. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10: Vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 18-09. No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of N. ALB and BUM.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.		

	2018			2019		
BOLIVIA	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report received slightly late.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report summary text missing. 'Not applicable' responses not adequately explained.		Letter on reporting issues (Annual Report incomplete; billfish and updated shark check sheets received late).
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05 and 18-06 Billfish and updated shark check sheets received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:	Has sent a request to ICCAT to de-list several vessels from the IUU ICCAT list - originally put on the IUU list by IOTC.		Other issues:		

CHINESE TAIPEI	2018			2019		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/18.			Other issues: ROP_transshipment: See COC-305 for PNCs and responses.		

		2018		2019		
COSTA RICA	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Zero catch confirmation received late.		Letter on reporting, no submission of designated ports (Rec. 12-07). Implementation of shark and marlin requirements, white marlin and swordfish overharvest, noting that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision in 2019 whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Clarification required regarding Task I data currently under revision. Some answers in Annual Report insufficient (N/A not explained).		Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of white marlin for multiple years (landings limit of 2 t; reported landings 55.24 (2016), 45.00 (2016) 69.20 (2017) 35.10 (2018); current adjusted landings limit for 2019: negative 194.54 t) and past overharvest of north Atlantic swordfish for multiple years (Costa Rica does not have a catch limit, and its compliance table reflects the following catches: 27 t (2015), 21.3 t (2016), 32 t (2017), and 2019 response to COC Chair letter reports 40 t for 2019. Letter to also address reporting issues, including Task I data and no submission of billfish or shark check sheets; incomplete information regarding designated ports (Rec. 18-09) (response only addresses ports in ICCAT Convention area). Letter to note that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Conservation and management measures. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: Unclear if foreign vessels are allowed to enter any ports (see response to Chair's letter in COC-309). Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark check sheets received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of white marlin and swordfish.			Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest white marlin and northern swordfish.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2018			2019			
GUYANA	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No reporting summary (Section 3) received with Part II of Annual Report. Statistical data sent late. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.		Letter on reporting issues; no designation of ports (Rec. 12-07); implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, sharks, and bigeye tuna; overharvest of north Atlantic swordfish (no ICCAT quota for that species); noting continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision in 2019 whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late and some answers incomplete; Task I & II data received late; Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.		Identification for significant recurrent WHM overharvest over a number of years (landings limit of 2 t, but current adjusted landings limit of negative 165.26 t); letter also to address recurring reporting issues; no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09); implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14); late compliance tables; and noting that non-compliance has a bearing on ICCAT decision on whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 16-01 No quarterly reports of BET tuna catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly catches of BET reported. Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports received. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish check sheet and updated shark sheet received late. Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted. Rec. 02-21: Data from Statistical Document data indicates possible exports of southern swordfish. Guyana has no quota for this species.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late. Overharvest of SWO.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of WHM.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.		

SURINAME	2018			2019		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No actions necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No inspection reports received	With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and the Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (Rec. 12-07), Suriname, as port CPC, is still waiting for assistance to train our inspectors.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 of ANNEX 9
Draft compliance actions

Albania	Letter on late reporting of statistical data, while noting improvement in reporting.
Algeria	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, turtles, and reporting of Task II data.
Angola	Letter on recurring reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers.
Barbados	Letter on reporting issues; no domestic scientific observer program in place; continued marlin overharvest; implementation of ICCAT requirements on turtles; no designation of ports under Rec. 18-09.
Belize	Letter on implementation of Rec. 16-14 on domestic scientific observer program, > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10), and on implementation of ICCAT requirements in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction, while noting Belize's response on the latter matter in its 2019 COC response letter.
Brazil	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers (Rec. 16-14) and reporting issues concerning billfish check sheets, BET quarterly reports, and compliance table size limits, while noting positively the improvement of Brazil on compliance issues from previous years, including timely submission of data.
Cabo Verde	Letter on reporting issues, no port inspection reports, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.
Canada	No action necessary.
China PR	Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports, while noting positively information provided on actions taken thus far and planned as detailed in China's 2019 COC response letter.
Côte d'Ivoire	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, designation of ports, incomplete compliance tables.
Curaçao	Letter on reporting issues.
Egypt	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, while noting positively Egypt's outreach to Secretariat to seek assistance at the 2019 meeting and encouraging follow-up on this matter.
El Salvador	Identification due to recurring and significant reporting deficiencies, and BET harvest level that indicates significant deficiency of implementation of measures in this fishery.
Equatorial Guinea	Letter on reporting issues, catch in 2018 while under prohibition of retention pursuant to Rec. 11-15.
European Union	Letter on reporting, while noting positively actions the EU has indicated it has taken or will take to address. Request updates on EBFT investigations.
France SPM	Letter on late reporting.
Gabon	Letter on reporting issues, designation of ports (Rec. 18-09), access agreements.
Ghana	Letter on reporting issues and procedure followed in submitting vessel to 16-01 tropical list, while noting positively steps taken to rectify these issues.
The Gambia	No action.
Grenada	Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues (including no Annual Report, no statistical data).
Guatemala	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program, shark, billfish, and turtle measures.
Guinea Bissau	Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for three years in a row.
Guinea Rep.	Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for three years in a row.

Honduras	Letter on recurring reporting issues, including late submission of Annual Report multiple years in a row.
Iceland	No action necessary.
Japan	No action necessary.
Korea	No action necessary.
Liberia	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-24), no compliance tables received, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09).
Libya	Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), IMO number requirement (Rec. 13-13), VMS transmission (Rec. 18-02).
Mauritania	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs, sharks, marlin, access agreements, designation of authorized ports (Rec. 18-09), while noting positively work in 2019 with Secretariat to address data deficiencies for previous years.
Mexico	Letter on reporting issues and IMO number requirement, while noting positively the efforts reported to address these issues.
Morocco	No action necessary.
Namibia	Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 3 years in a row (LL of 10 t; reported landings 32 (2016), 57 (2017), 84 (2018)); letter also to note late reporting issues; > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10).
Nicaragua	Letter on reporting issues (no billfish or shark check sheet).
Nigeria	Letter on incomplete Annual Report, notification of designated ports (Rec. 18-09).
Norway	No action necessary.
Panama	Letter on continued late reporting issues (including Annual Report and statistical data received multiple years in a row); > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10).
Philippines	Letter on continued reporting issues, including no annual reports or statistical data two years in a row.
Russia	Letter on reporting issues, including no billfish check sheet or updates to shark check sheet submitted.
São Tomé e Príncipe	Letter on reporting issues (including no billfish or updated shark check sheet received), no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), information on access agreements.
Senegal	Letter on late reporting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), incomplete compliance table information, vessel without IMO # (Rec. 13-13), while noting positively information provided in its 2019 COC response letter on steps being taken to address certain issues.
Sierra Leone	Letter on reporting issues and no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09).
South Africa	No action necessary.
St Vincent & Grenadines	Letter on reporting issues, including on implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), no updated shark check sheet (Rec. 18-06), and incomplete compliance tables.
Syria	Letter on reporting issues, including BCD annual report and billfish check sheet not received; implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting request for technical assistance in 2019 COC response letter; and to seek clarification on designated ports for foreign flag vessels with species other than bluefin tuna (Rec. 18-09).
Trinidad & Tobago	Letter on implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) and, designation of ports (Rec. 18-09), while noting positively the update on both issues provided at the 2019 Annual Meeting and in 2019 COC response letter.

Tunisia	No action necessary.
Turkey	No action necessary.
UKOT	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), late BCD report, vessel without IMO#, while noting positively the updates provided on efforts made to address these issues.
United States	No action necessary.
Uruguay	No action necessary.
Vanuatu	Letter on reporting issues (late Annual Report, no billfish or updated shark check sheets received), no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09; Vanuatu's response that it is not a coastal State is insufficient).
Venezuela	Letter on continued reporting issues, > 45 day retroactive authorized vessel submission (Rec. 13-13/14-10), implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), no compliance table received.
Bolivia	Letter on reporting issues (Annual Report incomplete; billfish and updated shark check sheets received late).
Costa Rica	Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of white marlin for multiple years (landings limit of 2 t; reported landings 55.24 (2016), 45.00 (2016) 69.20 (2017) 35.10 (2018); current adjusted landings limit for 2019: negative 194.54 t) and past overharvest of north Atlantic swordfish for multiple years (Costa Rica does not have a catch limit, and its compliance table reflects the following catches: 27 t (2015), 21.3 t (2016), 32 t (2017), and 2019 response to COC Chair letter reports 40 t for 2019. Letter to also address reporting issues, including Task I data and no submission of billfish or shark check sheets; incomplete information regarding designated ports (Rec. 18-09) (response only addresses ports in ICCAT Convention area). Letter to note that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status.
Chinese Taipei	No action necessary.
Guyana	Identification for significant recurrent WHM overharvest over a number of years (landings limit of 2 t, but current adjusted landings limit of negative 165.26 t); letter also to address recurring reporting issues; no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09); implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14); late compliance tables; and noting that non-compliance has a bearing on ICCAT decision on whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.
Suriname	No action necessary.
Dominica	Send letter notifying of decision to maintain Dominica's identification under ICCAT Trade Measures Rec. 06-13, while noting positively Dominica's 2019 response letter requesting assistance on engagement with ICCAT.
Gibraltar	Letter reiterating previous request for bluefin catch data and information on measures in place to manage and control bluefin tuna.
St. Lucia	Letter thanking St. Lucia for its 2019 response letter that provided information about its management of ICCAT fisheries, encouraging continued submission of information including catch data, and reiterating request for cooperation with ICCAT.
St. Kitts and Nevis	Letter reiterating request for continued cooperation with ICCAT.

Compliance Committee Tables

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	28000	28000	28000	33600	33600														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	15.90	38.10	15.90	14.60	224.10	201.90	224.10	235.40	240.00	240.00	240.00	250.00	265.00	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	0.74	398.50	448.44	385.14	449.26	51.50	1.56	64.86	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	216.56	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	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	250.00
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	32.20	19.92	16.99	26.40	217.80	230.07	233.01	223.60	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	20.96	103.20	123.65	123.84	229.04	146.80	126.35	126.16	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	268.75	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3926.00	3926.00	2857.00	3134.00	2385.00	2926.00	932.62	655.62	1404.62	1355.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	4281.62	4607.50	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	0.00	150.56	248.70	0.00	250.00	99.38	1.30	201.30	250.00	250.00	250.00	201.30	268.75	
CURAÇAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00			10.00	21.50		3.20	40.00	28.46				50.00	50.00	50.00
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	25861.60	25861.60	20891.80	24308.65	20699.71	25086.83	6047.33	233.05	6239.41	1007.82	26939.13	24541.70	26939.12	26094.65	29536.85	26869.42
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	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	
JAPAN	407.19	449.52	394.89	393.98		329.80	254.90	335.00	210.60	77.39	194.62	59.89	183.38	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	4.54	13.18	7.90	27.27	211.06	236.82	242.10	222.73	215.60	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00
LIBERIA			200.00	200.00	215.00			90.00	2.90			110.00	197.10			200.00	200.00	215.00	
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	250.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	305.00	291.60	296.20	173.26	-1.51	6.89	3.80	133.63	303.49	298.49	300.00	306.89	318.80	268.75
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	94.80	70.70	48.20	33.10	155.20	179.30	201.80	216.90	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	268.75	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	5.38	0.60	0.36	0.38	244.62	249.40	249.64	249.62	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	632.40	632.40	354.40	250.22	238.35	102.62	186.91	408.53	420.40	661.53	541.31	658.75	658.75	764.15	790.50	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	64.55	0.00	0.00		185.45	250.00	250.00		250.00	250.00	250.00			
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	350.90	286.98	301.35		-665.21	-702.19	-429.54		-314.31	-415.21	-128.19			
TOTAL CATCH						25327.97	29341.11	25285.75	29154.44										
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>13-05</i>	<i>13-05</i>	<i>16-06</i>	<i>17-04</i>	<i>17-04</i>									<i>13-05</i>	<i>13-05</i>	<i>16-06</i>	<i>16-06</i>	<i>17-04</i>	<i>17-04</i>

For all the species, note of August 2018 from Japan: Since Japan's fishing season ends in July, the "current catch" for 2017 is preliminary. The figures will be updated before the annual meeting.

BELIZE: intends to use 1.56 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-06, para 7).

CANADA: all 2018 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

EU: is authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of its unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06).

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = BET 2018 catch * 4% (para 6 of Rec. 16-06).

KOREA: underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

SVG: 2013-2015 data for adjusted quota were not adopted by the Commission in 2015. In March 2016, the above data were submitted by correspondence to CPCs in the event of any objection.

USA: are authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 150 t of its unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06). No transfers were authorised for 2018.

VENEZUELA: for 2017 would have 60, 150 and 114 t transferred by the European Union, the United States and Chinese Taipei, according to Rec. 16-06.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 4281.62 t (=3926+655.62-100-200) due to the inclusion of 2016 underage and 2018 initial catch quota and the respective transfers of 100 t to St.V&G and 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 4607.5 t (=3926*(1+0.25)-100-200) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage and 2019 initial catch quota and the respective transfers of 100 t to St.V&G and 200 t to Belize.

SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000													
ANGOLA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
BELIZE	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	122.86	219.03	310.52	325.00	189.64	93.47	2.00	312.50	312.50	312.50	312.50	
BRAZIL	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	490.22	657.59	496.85	396.00	2209.78	2042.41	2103.15	2204.00	2700.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00
CHINESE TAIPEI	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	7157.00	8907.00	9090.00	9227.00	4349.75	2843.00	2660.00	2523.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00
CHINA	100.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	124.41	94.37	184.55	116.45	4.60	30.63	20.05	133.55	125.00	204.60	250.00	220.05	250.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	122.40	6.18			2.60	96.43	125.00	125.00	102.60	125.00	
CURAÇAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	12.00	13.30	0.00			36.70	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
EU	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	472.71	54.77	178.20	102.81	1246.29	1782.73	1659.30	1734.69	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50
GUINEA EQ.				25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.77							25.00	25.00	
GUYANA						0.00	0.04	0.00	3.00									
JAPAN	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1392.90	1212.80	2135.80	1654.50	162.10	480.95	-418.70	239.25	1693.75	1717.10	1893.75	1936.30	1893.75
KOREA	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	3.47	48.27	85.96	166.64	174.03	126.73	89.04	8.36	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00
NAMIBIA	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	1070.00	994.00	365.62	888.80	3162.00	3506.00	4111.38	3612.00	4500.00	4477.00	4500.00	4812.00	4500.00
PANAMA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	23.73	3.20	23.50	0.00	1.27	21.80	1.50	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
PHILIPPINES	140.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		40.00	140.00	25.00		140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
SOUTH AFRICA	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4030.00	2065.00	1762.00	2572.50	1620.00	2335.00	3738.00	2027.50	4400.00	5500.00	5500.00	5500.00	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	100.00	100.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	100.00	107.40	101.00	98.21	6.67	-0.73	38.27	41.79	106.67	139.27	140.00	175.00	175.00
TR. & TOBAGO		25.00					0.40	0.00	0.00									
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
URUGUAY	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
USA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	n.a.	n.a.	25.00	25.00	
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	5.01	0.40	0.00		94.99	99.60	100.00		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
TOTAL CATCH						14869.45	14280.10	14778.20	15543.38									
Rec. number	13-06	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07									13-06	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-07, para 4.b).

CHINA: informs the Commission in 2017 of an adjusted quota of 25% in 2018.

CHINA: In accordance with paragraph 4b of Rec. 16-07, the 25 percent carryover request made by China at the 2017 regular meeting of the Commission has been completed using their underage from 2016 of 30.63 t and 19.37 t of the total underage of the TAC from 2016.

CHINA: in accordance with para 4 (b) of Rec. 16-07, wishes to request its intention of such carry-over.

KOREA: underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

JAPAN: 2017 to 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: informed the Commission in 2017 that its underage in 2016 will be carried over to the 2018 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: informed the Commission in 2019 that its underage in 2018 will be carried over to the 2020 initial limit (Rec.16-07).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 1,355 t (Limit) -418.7 t (2017 overage(para 5 of Rec. 16-07)) +100 t (transfer from Brazil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) +100 t (transfer from S.Africa (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) +800 t (transfer from S.Africa (circular#888/2019)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 1,355 t (Limit) +239.25 t (2018 carry over (para 4b of Rec. 16-07)) +99.5t (complement from underage from the total TAC (Para4b of Rec.16-07)) +100 t (transfer from Brazil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) +100 t (transfer from S.Africa (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)).

PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending the adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondence.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 25th Regular Meeting.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 21st Special Meeting.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 26th Regular Meeting.

SOUTH AFRICA: transferred 800t of it's SALB to Japan

SOUTH AFRICA: In accordance with the ICCAT Rec 16-07, South Africa is also transferring 100t of it's SALB to Japan until 2020.

NORTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	13700	13700	13700	13200	13200														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	29.00	20.50	20.70	18.10	38.50	47.00	46.80	44.90	67.50	67.50	67.50	63.00	63.00	63.00
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	8.40	29.50	59.08	145.32	259.60	224.89	197.92	111.68	268.00	254.39	257.00	257.00	195.00	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1587.30	1558.88	1209.21	786.81	570.40	481.32	860.99	1283.39	2157.70	2040.20	2070.20	2070.20	2070.20	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	100.00	100.00	140.78	135.06	81.31	86.49	-36.73	2.44	6.69	3.95	104.05	137.50	88.00	90.44	93.96	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	133.41	151.72	95.51	169.22	236.59	218.28	274.49	173.78	370.00	370.00	370.00	343.00	343.00	
COSTA RICA						27.00	21.30	32.00	40.00										
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	27.45	21.13	57.40	75.00	47.55	53.87	12.60	75.00	75.00	75.00	70.00	70.00	62.6
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5449.08	5765.63	5573.66	4966.42	2448.42	1625.07	1852.04	2419.28	7897.50	7390.70	7425.70	7385.70	7385.70	7385.70
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	112.75	108.75	100.00	100.00	112.75	108.75	108.75	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	452.10	397.70	406.00	289.30	406.20	740.50	1016.50	544.00	858.30	1138.20	1422.50	833.30	1226.00	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	9.14	18.56	8.79	45.60	56.20	56.44	61.21	45.60	65.34	75.00	70.00	70.00	
LIBERIA								94.69	4.55										
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	900.00	950.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	850.00	850.00	950.00	950.00	950.00	950.00
MAURITANIA						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00									
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	31.00	36.00	64.00	45.00	269.00	264.00	236.00	235.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	280.00	280.00	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00			0.00	0.00	0.00		25.00	n.a	n.a		25.00	n.a	n.a			
SENEGAL	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	45.86	52.33	50.51	43.54	542.94	680.74	324.49	156.46	588.80	733.07	375.00	200.00	350.00	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	102.00	33.40	51.80	26.26	10.50	52.10	33.70	78.74	85.50	85.50	85.50	105.00	105.00	105.00
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	16.80	13.30	35.00	3.00	95.70	99.20	76.90	97.00	112.50	112.50	112.50	100.00	100.00	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	1.40	2.18	0.00	0.00	51.10	50.32	52.50	49.00	52.50	52.50	52.50	49.00	49.00	49.00
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	1718.40	1497.50	1404.81	1274.92	2749.65	2970.55	3063.24	3218.13	4468.05	4468.05	4468.05	4493.05	4493.05	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.61	0.00	0.00		24.39	31.00	25.00		25.00	31.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	28.52	52.75	52.26		98.98	74.75	62.49		127.50	127.50	114.75	114.75		
DISCARDS																			
CANADA						8.00	11.00	21.00	4.83										
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS						8.00	11.00	21.00	4.83										
TOTAL CATCH						10629.66	10665.34	10191.23	8919.95										
Rec. number	13-02	13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02									13-02	13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02	17-02

BELIZE: intends to use 52 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of N-SWO from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).

BELIZE: is carrying forward 40% of its initial catch limit (52 t).

BRAZIL: IQ2018= OQ2018 (=50-25 to Mauritania)+B2015= 25+25= 50 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 13-02).

BRAZIL: IQ2019= OQ2019 (=50-25 to Mauritania)+B2015= 25+25= 50 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 16-03).

CANADA: The figures now include discards for 2015-2016-2017. The total catches were updated as were the balances for those 3 years. All 2018 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2018 = initial quota (100) -12 (payback quota) + available balance of 2016 (2.443 t) = 90.443.

CHINA: pay back plan for the over-harvest of 2015: pay back 12 t in 2017, pay back 12 t in 2018, pay back 12.726 t in 2019.

KOREA: underage up to 50% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: quota transfer in 2018 from EU-Spain to Canada of 300 t.

EU: informed the Secretariat that "it seems that the transfer between France and St Pierre et Miquelon did not take place in 2017. For this reason, the 40 t supposed to be transferred have not been deducted from the 2017 quota."

EU: The underharvest of the EU in 2017 is of 1852,04, which corresponds to more than 15% of its quota. In line with Rec. 17-02 the EU can only carry over to 2019 15% of its 2017 initial catch limit (i.e. 1007.7 t).

EU: for 2019 the adjusted limit is calculated by taking into account the transfers to Canada (300 t from EU-Spain) and of 40 t to S. Pierre et Miquelon as provided for in Rec. 17-02.

JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2017 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 t transferred to Canada, and 25 t transferred to Mauritania (Rec. 16-03).

JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2018 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 t transferred to Canada, and 25 t transferred to Mauritania (Rec. 17-02).

JAPAN: The adjusted quota/catch limit of N-SWO for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are corrected this time. Correct figures have been used in the "form for the application of over/underharvest".

JAPAN:As Mauritania did not submit its North Atlantic Swordfish development plan in 2018, the transfers provided for in Rec.17-02 are considered null.

JAPAN: The adjusted quota/catch limit of N-SWO for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are corrected. Correct figures have been used in the "form for the application of over/underharvest".

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 842 t (Limit) +842*0.15 (2016 carry over (para 3 of Rec. 17-02) -100 t (transfer to Morocco (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) -35 t (transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 842 t (Limit) +544 t (2017 carry over(para 4 of Rec. 17-02)) -100 t (transfer to Morocco (para2 of Rec. 17-02)) -35 t (transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) -25 t (transfer to Mauritania(para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year.

MAURITANIA: is acquiring a coastal fleet to target swordfish. The intention is for this fleet to commence its activity in 2016.

SENEGAL: informed the Commission in June 2018 of its decision to transfer 25 t to Canada (Rec. 17-02).

SENEGAL: 2018 adjusted limit = 2018 adjusted catch limit + (2018 catch limit - transfer) x 0.4. $384.49 = 324.49 + (250-100) \times 0.4$: 40% carryover (2018 underage-transfers).

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UK-OT: 50% carry forward of underage until 2017, and then a 40% carry forward of underage; 50% = 17.50; 40% = 14.00.

USA: 2016 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania. No transfers were authorised for 2018.

USA: 2015-2017 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania. No transfers were authorised for 2018 or 2019.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 343 t ($=270+270*40\%-35$) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 40% of 2018 initial catch quota and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

CHINESE TAIPEI: As clarified by the Commission at its 21st Special Meeting, catches should include dead discards. Revised Catch(B) in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are 85.07 t, 133.41 t and 151.72 t respectively.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 343 t ($=270+270*40\%-35$) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 40% of 2019 initial catch quota and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Catches(B) from 2014 to 2018 have included dead discards.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	15000	15000	15000	14000	14000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	13.50											
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	103.56	149.60	166.01	115.22	135.44	137.90	108.99	172.28	239.00	287.50	275.00	287.50	275.00	
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2599.07	2934.78	2406.03	2798.00	2522.93	2187.22	2715.97	2324.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00
CHINA	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	327.70	222.22	301.58	354.85	2.34	119.68	13.76	37.05	330.04	341.90	315.34	391.90	326.76	
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	511.00	478.00	416.00	446.00	76.90	57.90	100.90	113.90	587.90	535.90	516.90	559.90	550.80	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	41.90	25.21	16.80	46.80	145.60	137.29	145.70	103.20	187.50	162.50	162.50	150.00	150.00	150.00
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	5295.02	5461.54	5120.23	4776.32	400.38	139.52	104.15	187.20	5695.40	5601.06	5224.38	4963.52	4928.15	5011.20
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	56.06	36.00	55.10	6.10	43.94	64.00	44.90	93.90						
GUYANA						0.66	5.63	8.70	4.50										
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	569.80	870.90	659.50	698.00	148.70	488.56	340.20	641.56	318.50	1359.46	999.70	1339.56	1191.20	1451.00
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	5.45	19.25	10.92	17.18	55.25	28.12	54.08	47.82	60.70	47.37	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	516.97	466.00	717.00	881.00	1235.03	1286.00	987.00	659.00	1752.00	1752.00	1704.00	1540.00	1524.00	
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00			0.00	0.00	0.00		50.00	n.a	n.a		50.00	n.a	n.a			
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	145.00	77.40	64.50		-5.20	22.60	42.70		139.80	100.00	112.10			
SENEGAL	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	97.43	173.30	159.96	92.80	385.09	346.57	340.44	407.60	482.52	519.87	500.40	500.40	500.40	
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	218.00	124.40	159.00	188.70	783.00	876.61	842.00	812.30	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES									4.19										
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50	37.50	32.50	32.50	37.50	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	30.00
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1596.00	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1502.40
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00			0.00	0.00	0.00		29.00	29.00	29.00		29.00	29.00	29.00			
TOTAL CATCH						10487.62	11044.23	10274.83	10429.66										
Rec. number	16-04	16-04	16-04	17-03	17-03									12-01	16-04	16-04	16-04	17-03	17-03

BELIZE: intends to use 25 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-03, para 2); receiving a transfer of S-SWO from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03).

BELIZE: is carrying forward 20% of its initial catch limit (25t).

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2014 was carried over to the 2016 initial limit (Rec. 13-03), (Rec. 15-03), (Rec. 16-04).

JAPAN: adjusted limit from 2011 to 2020 excluded 50 t transferred to Namibia (Rec. 09-03 to Rec. 17-03).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 901 t (Limit) +340.2 t (2017 carry over (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03) -50 t (transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03))).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 901 t (Limit) +600 t (2018 carry over (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03)) -50 t (transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03))).

KOREA: underage up to 30% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 559.90 t (=459+100.9) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 550.8 t (=459*(1+20%)) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage.

USA: the 2016 adjusted quota reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) in accordance with Rec. 16-04.

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches					Balance				Adjusted quota				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC*	10185	9879	9583	9296	9017														
ALBANIA																			
ALGERIE	533.49	517.50	502.00	486.94	472.33	528.00				5.49				533.49	517.50	502.00	486.94	472.33	
EGYPT																			
EU	7206.50	6965.85	6780.60	6577.178	6379.8626	3937.33				3269.17				7206.50	6965.85	6780.60	6577.178	6379.8626	
LIBYA																			
MAROC	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.2	896.47	1013.00				0.61				1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47	
SYRIA																			
TUNISIE	977.45	948.13	919.68	892.09	865.33	974.00				3.45				977.46	948.14	919.70	892.10	865.34	
TURKEY	427.77	414.94	402.4918	390.41705	378.70453	427.00				0.77				427.77	414.94	402.4918	390.41705	378.70453	
TOTAL CATCH						6879.33													
Rec. number	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05									00-14	00-14				

*NOTE: 3% reduction from 10,500, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance			Adjusted quota						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
TAC	16142	19296	22705	28200	32240														
ALBANIA	39.65	47.40	56.91	100.00	156.00	40.75	45.79	56.00	156.00	-1.10	0.51	0.91	0.00	39.65	46.30	56.91	100.00	156.00	
ALGERIE	169.81	202.98	243.7	1260.00	1446.00	370.20	448.39	1037.67	1299.99	-0.39	4.59	6.03	6.01	369.81	452.98	1043.70	1306.00	1446.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	48.76	58.28	69.97	79.00	84.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.76	48.28	59.97	29.00	38.76	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	
CHINA	45.09	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	45.08	53.89	64.38	78.99	0.01	0.01	0.33	0.01	45.09	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	
EGYPT	79.20	94.67	113.67	181.00	266.00	155.19	99.33	123.67	180.99	0.01	0.34	0.00	0.01	155.20	99.67	123.67	181.00	263.34	
EU	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	9120.82	10974.35	13084.30	15584.70	252.10	229.19	367.06	265.30	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	
ICELAND	36.57	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	37.43	5.76	0.42	0.00	-0.86	37.09	52.06	84.00	36.57	42.85	52.48	84.00	147.00	
JAPAN	1345.44	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00	2544.00	1385.92	1578.37	1910.65	2269.76	4.52	4.84	0.23	9.24	1390.44	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00	2544.00	
KOREA	95.08	113.66	136.46	160.00	184.00	0.00	161.08	181.19	207.97	95.08	2.58	0.27	2.03	0.08	163.66	181.46	210.00	234.00	
LIBYA	1107.06	1323.28	1588.77	1846.00	2060.00	1153.45	1367.80	1630.75	1791.60	3.61	5.48	8.02	8.40	1157.06	1373.28	1638.77	1800.00	2060.00	
MAROC	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2948.00	1498.10	1783.30	2141.20	2571.00	1.91	9.68	11.51	7.00	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	
MAURITANIA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
NORWAY	36.57	43.71	52.48	104.00	239.00	8.29	43.80	50.86	12.31	28.28	-0.09	1.53	91.69	36.57	43.71	52.39	104.00	239.00	
SYRIA	39.65	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	39.65	47.39	56.91	66.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	39.65	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	
TUNISIE	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	1247.83	1490.60	1790.95	2102.10	0.14	1.11	0.05	12.90	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	
TURKEY	657.23	785.59	943.21	1414.00	1880.00	1091.10	1324.30	1514.70	1283.70	131.86	137.52	260.30	130.30	1222.96	1461.82	1775.00	1414.00	1880.00	
TOTAL CATCH						16193.81	19424.15	23643.64	27605.11										
Rec. number	14-04	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02									14-04	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2017 excluded 20 t transferred to Korea.

JAPAN: current catch for 2017 includes 5.3 t of dead discards as reported in Task I data.

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 7.42 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 2544.00 t (Limit) (para 5 of Rec. 18-02).

LIBYA: transfers 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2017 indicating 1775.00 t is the independent catch limit announced for 2017 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 29 (=79-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: agrees to transfer 50 t of its 2019 quota to Korea (Rec. 18-02).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 34 (=84-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	2000	2000	2000	2350	2350														
CANADA	437.47	437.47	437.47	515.59	515.59	530.59	466.11	471.65	553.98	-1.71	36.14	16.96	67.55	528.88	506.74	488.61	621.53	653.71	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.51	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	0.17	9.34	0.00	0.00	8.34	-0.32	4.19	9.50	8.51	9.02	4.19	9.50	1.00	
JAPAN	345.74	345.74	345.74	407.48	407.48	345.52	345.49	345.83	407.00	1.09	1.34	1.25	1.73	346.61	346.83	347.08	408.73	409.21	
MEXICO	108.98	108.98	108.98	128.44	128.44	53.00	55.00	34.00	80.00	28.90	26.90	27.90	15.90	81.90	81.90	61.90	95.90	144.34	
UK-OT	4.51	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	0.21	0.00	0.46	0.41	8.30	8.00	8.56	10.21	8.51	8.00	9.02	10.62	10.21	
USA	1083.79	1083.79	1083.79	1272.86	1272.86	898.80	1026.70	996.80	1027.80	279.86	165.47	195.37	353.44	1178.66	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	1400.15	
TOTAL LANDING						1828.29	1902.64	1848.74	2069.19										
Discards																			
CANADA																			
JAPAN																			
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
Rec. number	14-05	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06									14-05	14-05	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06

CANADA: as of 2018, the Canadian fishing season opens on June 24 and closes on June 23 of the subsequent year. All 2018 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

France-Saint-Pierre & Miquelon: would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 9.62 t of bluefin tuna from its 2018 and 2019 quota allocation.

JAPAN: the underharvest of up to 10% of the initial quota allocation may be added to next year (Rec. 14-05, 16-08, 17-06).

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 1.10 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 407.48 t (Limit) + 1.73 t (2018 carry over (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

MEXICO: transfer of its adjusted quota to Canada for 2017 is 73.98 t, Rec. 16-08, para 6 d).

MEXICO: transfer of 60.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2018 to Canada, Rec. 17-06, para 6 d).

USA: Initial quota/catch limit includes 25 mt allocation for bycatch, per Rec 17-06 para 6a

BIGEYE

YEAR	Initial catch limit					1999 (SCRS 2000)	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	85000	65000	65000	65000	65000															
ANGOLA						0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80											
BARBADOS						0.00	30.40	18.60	31.70	29.20										
BELIZE						0.00	1877.30	1764.10	1960.70	2135.20										
BRAZIL						2024.00	7749.70	7660.20	7258.20	5096.00										
CABO VERDE						1.00	2913.92	1679.00	1054.00	1416.10										
CANADA						263.00	257.32	171.12	214.25	237.02										
CHINESE TAIPEI	15583.00	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	16837.00	16453.00	13115.00	11845.00	11630.00	3734.90	3238.90	2171.45	2023.85	20187.90	16353.90	14016.45	13653.85	13653.85	13653.85
CHINA	5572.00	5376.00	5376.00	5376.00	5376.00	7347.00	4941.85	5852.39	5514.36	4823.08	5232.12	1330.01	1449.93	2359.32	10173.60	7182.40	7182.40	7182.40	7182.40	
COSTA RICA							0.87	1.12	3.90	5.20										
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	12.14	544.39	1238.90	1169.81										
CURAÇAO	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00		2573.00	3436.00	2597.44	3276.25	927.00	64.00	902.57	223.76	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	
EL SALVADOR	3500.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00		992.00	1450.00	959.00	2634.00										
EU	22667.00	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	21970.00	15741.23	18059.42	20220.53	17416.05	13725.87	5729.68	168.52	2121.35	29467.10	23789.10	20389.10	19537.40	17157.50	
FRANCE (SP&M)						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GABON						184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GHANA	4722.00	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	11460.00	5749.68	4813.00	4086.00	3571.00	864.92	-830.00	-295.50	116.50	6614.60	3983.00	3790.50	3687.50	4320.00	
GUATEMALA						0.00	340.50	640.27	2102.40	2824.00										
GUINEA EQ.										6.90										
GUYANA							2.52	52.73	37.00	52.00										
JAPAN	23611.00	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	23690.00	10179.80	11238.00	9872.20	9849.59	17444.50	8929.65	9408.20	5566.29	27624.30	20167.65	19280.40	15415.88	19280.40	
KOREA	1983.00	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	124.00	670.70	561.97	432.09	662.70	1887.20	1518.93	1276.81	813.20	2557.90	2080.90	1708.90	1485.90	1485.90	
LIBERIA									98.21	1.17										
MAROC						700.00	308.50	350.00	410.00	500.00					2100.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	
MAURITANIE							10.00	20.40	21.00	0.00										
MEXICO						6.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
NAMIBIA						423.00	434.90	359.00	122.30	109.00										
PANAMA	3306.00					26.00	1285.00	1617.11	1413.00	3312.48	2021.00	1688.89	2087.00	187.52	3306.00	3306.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	
PHILIPPINES	1983.00	286.00	286.00	286.00	286.00	943.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1983.00	n.a.	0.00	1983.00	n.a.	n.a.	223.54			
RUSSIA	2100.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00		8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2100.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	2100.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	
S. TOME & PRIN						0.00	633.10	421.10	388.00											
SENEGAL						0.00	1031.00	1500.30	3120.00	2865.60										
SOUTH AFRICA						41.00	200.00	107.30	249.60	308.20					n.a.					
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES							496.00	622.20	888.98	427.87										
TR. & TOBAGO						19.00	76.50	37.10	25.30	17.30										
UK-OT		1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	8.00	44.10	77.10	70.40	45.20		1497.90	1504.60	1529.81		1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	
URUGUAY						59.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
USA						1261.00	334.71	567.94	836.40	920.87										
VANUATU						0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00											
VENEZUELA						128.00	132.00	156.00	317.80											
TOTAL CATCH							75474.44	76894.86	77394.45	75345.79										
Rec. number	14-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01										14-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01

NOTE from the Secretariat: the 2017 adjusted quota for China, EU, Ghana, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei was calculated at the 2017 Commission meeting due to the excess of BET catches in 2016. This entailed a proportionate reduction of the overharvest of the total TAC in the 2017 catches of these CPCs.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2018=initial quota(5376)+5376*15% (available balance of 2016)+1000 t transfer from Japan=7182.4.

EU: In 2017 the underharvest was of 168.52 t, which is less than the maximum allowed of 15% provided in Rec 16-01. Therefore, the EU is entitled to carry over 168.52 t to 2019.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t per year.

GHANA: a total of 15% of the initial quota of 2015 was used in addition to the quota transferred from other countries (70 t) less the payback of overharvest (337 t).

GHANA: Rec. 18-01 Para 2 removes payback from Ghana

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: the 2018 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2017 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: Adjusted catch limit for 2017 does not take into account the "pay back" stipulated in para 2(a) of Rec. 16-01.

JAPAN:2018 adjusted limit = 15415.88 t(It was deducted by the "pay back" provision in para 2(a) of Rec. 16-01.)

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 17,696 t (Limit) +2,654.4 t (2018 carry over (17696*15%) (para 8 of Rec. 16-01) -1000 t (transfer to China (para 7 of Rec. 16-01)) -70 t (transfer to Ghana (para 7 of Rec. 16-01)).

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 26.09 t of dead discard.

KOREA: informs the Commission that it will transfer 223 t to Chinese Taipei in 2018.

KOREA: Underage up to 30% of the initial catch quota has been carried over to the following year in 2014 and 2015. Since 2016, underage up to 15% of the initial catch quota has been carried over to the following year.

KOREA: 20 t of bigeye catch quota had been annually transferred to Ghana until 2015.

KOREA: In light of the decisions at the 21st special meeting, Korea's BET adjusted quota for 2017 is 1,708.9 t.

KOREA: 2018 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

KOREA: 2019 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catches are artisanal.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 13653.85 t (=11679+11679*15%+223) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit and a transfer of 223 t from Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 13653.85 t (=11679+11679*15%+223) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit and a transfer of 223 t from Korea.

BLUE MARLIN¹

YEAR	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings limit			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1996	1999	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018	2019	2020	2021
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)												
TAC	2000	1985	1985	1985	2000														
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00					24.00	11.77			-14.00	-15.77	-4.00	-5.77		
BELIZE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			4.70	13.10	1.08			-3.10	5.82		10.00			
BRAZIL	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	89.18	79.19	63.30	37.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	209.00	209.00	209.00	
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	62.00	201.00	44.41	49.71	40.31	42.19	0.58	0.63	5.27	3.43	45.63	50.27		
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	61.00	75.00	73.00	74.00	104.00	90.00	92.00	91.00	165.00	165.00		
COSTA RICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.00	0.14	0.08	0.00	10.00	9.86	9.92	10.00	10.00	10.00		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00			29.90	50.61	43.61	14.54	120.10	114.39	121.39	150.46	165.00	165.00	165.00	
CURACAO	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00					48.00	2.30			-38.00	-20.30	-28.00	-10.30		
EU	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	658.51	335.07	337.84	120.79	-130.51	72.56	76.91	341.96	528.00	528.00		
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			87.92	43.66	162.02	59.70	162.00	206.34	87.98	190.30	275.00	275.00		
GUATEMALA				10.00	10.00					26.00				-16.00		-6.00			
GUINEA EQ.				10.00	10.00						0.05				9.95	10.00	10.00		
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	261.50	412.40	308.10	352.20	167.50	16.60	120.90	54.40	429.00	429.00	429.00	
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	3.07	26.19	25.13	24.55	31.93	8.81	9.87	17.45	42.00	42.00	42.00	
LIBERIA			10.00	10.00	10.00					10.34	0.78			-0.34	8.88	9.66	10.00		
MAROC			10.00	10.00	10.00				7.00	82.00	0.00		3.00	-69.00	-59.00	-59.00	-49.00		
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	72.00	65.00	60.00	68.00	-17.00	-9.00	1.00	3.00	70.00	71.00		
NAMIBIA			10.00	10.00	10.00					32.00	57.00	84.00		-22.00	-69.00	-143.00	-59.00	-133.00	
PANAMÁ			10.00	10.00	10.00					21.00	0.00			-11.00	-1.00	-1.00	9.00	10.00	
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00			10.80	9.80	12.60		-28.61	6.59	32.40		51.59			
SENEGAL	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00			9.87	12.52	25.88	35.00	50.13	47.48	34.12	25.00	66.00	66.00		
SOUTH AFRICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.87	0.26	0.00	0.00	9.13	9.74	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES				10.00	10.00						1.98				8.02	10.00	10.00		
TR. & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	34.90	18.70	0.00	0.00	-84.90	-83.60	-63.60	-43.60	-43.60	-23.60		
UK-OT				10.00	10.00						0.03				9.97	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	60.46	82.51	97.41		39.54	27.49	-17.41		82.59			
TOTAL LANDINGS								1429.09	1312.86	1518.69	928.88								
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			139.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	111.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	250.00	250.00		
Rec. number	12-04	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04											15-05	18-04	18-04	18-04

¹ Blue and white marlin tables were not adopted either by the Commission or by COC.

BELIZE: had an overharvest of 3.10 t in 2016 which is being adjusted in 2018. As such the adjusted balance for 2018 will be limit minus overharvest which will equal 6.9 t.

BRAZIL: balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05 para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2018=initial limit (45) + available balance of 2016 (0.629 t)=45.629.

CURAÇAO: BUM catches of the Curazolean Fleet fall under the conditions of paragraph 2 of the Rec.15-05 by ICCAT to further strengthen the plan to rebuild Blue marlin and White marlin stocks which states that:"the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce shall not count against the limits established".

EU: in 2015, the quota was exceeded by 130.51 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years 2017 and 2018, which corresponds to 65.25 t per year.

EU: In 2016 and 2017, the underharvest being over the maximum allowed of 10% provided in Rec. 15-05, the EU is entitled to carry over 48 t respectively to 2018 and 2019.

GHANA: catch is from artisanal gillnet fisheries.

JAPAN: the 2018 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage (Rec. 15-05).

JAPAN:2018 adjusted limit = 390 t (Limit) +16.6 t (2016 carry over (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 390 t (Limit) +39 t (2017 carry over (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 165 t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 165 t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit.

USA: total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

VENEZUELA: is authorised to transfer 30 t to the European Union for 2017, Rec. 16-10.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2015 catch to its 2017 adjusted quota.

WHITE MARLIN¹

YEAR	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance			Adjusted landings limit				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	1996	1999	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	400	355	355	355	400														
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			9.50	11.50	14.10	15.20	0.50	0.50	-3.00	-7.70	7.00	2.30		
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	121.21	66.93	46.58	62.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	1.00	55.00	55.00	
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	3.10	1.03	2.30	1.64	6.90	8.97	7.70	8.36	12.00	12.00		
CHINA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	30.00	0.34	0.26	2.53	3.23	11.65	11.74	9.48	8.77	12.00	12.00		
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	12.00	11.00	7.00	9.00	43.00	44.00	48.00	46.00	55.00	55.00		
COSTA RICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			55.24	45.00	69.20	35.10	-53.24	-96.24	-163.44	-196.54	-161.44	-194.54		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	1.19	0.97	1.12	0.00	8.81	9.03	8.88	10.00	12.00	12.00		
CURAÇAO	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00						0.80				1.20	2.00	2.00	2.00	
EU	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	119.69	101.54	14.63	0.08	-67.19	-77.64	9.27	27.52	27.60	27.60		
GUYANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			2.64	48.42	57.20	67.00	-0.64	-47.06	-102.26	-167.26	-100.26	-165.26		
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	9.90	12.60	9.20	14.40	32.10	29.40	32.80	27.60	42.00	42.00	42.00	
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	20.00	20.00	19.86	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	
LIBERIA			2.00	2.00	2.00						1.05				0.96	2.00	2.00		
MAROC			2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	2.00	2.00		
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	26.00	20.00	12.00	13.00	-1.00	4.00	13.00	16.00	30.00	30.00		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00			17.00	15.00	13.00		3.00	5.00	7.00		24.00	24.00		
SOUTH AFRICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES				2.00	2.00					8.00	0.00			-6.00	-4.00	-6.00	-4.00		
TRIN & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	31.90	19.90	0.00	0.00	-74.30	-79.20	-64.20	-49.20	-49.20	-34.20		
UK-OT				2.00	2.00						0.00				2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	104.33	157.98	150.09		-54.33	-107.98	-181.35		-131.35			
TOTAL LANDINGS								514.04	512.13	407.09	223.00								
USA (# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			139.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	111.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	250.00	250.00		
Rec. number	12-04	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04											15-05	18-04	18-04	18-04

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05 para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CANADA: all 2018 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2018=initial quota(10)+available balance of 2016 (10*20%)=12.

EU: will undertake to compensate the overharvest for 2016 by reducing WHM catch to zero for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (no consumption of the adjusted landings).

EU: In 2014 the quota was exceeded by 52.21 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years in 2016 and 2017, which corresponds to 26.10 t per year.

EU: In 2015 the quota was exceeded by 67.19 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 3 years in 2018, 2019, 2020, which corresponds to 22.4 t per year.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit =35 t (Limit) +7 t (2016 carry over (35*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit =35 t (Limit) +7 t (2017 carry over (35*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

USA: total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 55 t (=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 10% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 55 t (=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 10% of 2019 initial catch limit.

¹ Blue and white marlin tables were not adopted either by the Commission or by COC.

Compliance with size limits in 2018

Area	AT.N	AT.S	Medi	ATE	ATE	Adriatic	Medi	ATE	Medi	AT.W
Recommendation Number	17-02 § 9-10	17-03 § 6-7	16-05 § 15-17	17-07 § 27	17-07 Annex I, §2	17-07 § 27	17-07 § 27	17-07 § 28	17-07 § 28	17-06 §8-9
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TROL; >17 m*	BB <17 m**	Adriatic catches taken for farming purposes***	coastal artisanal fisheries****	14-04 all other gears	all other gears	all gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5 kg DW	8 kg	6.4 kg	8 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Ad-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be introduced for: *, **, *** and ****	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 15kg/119cm		5%	0%	100 **	0%	0%	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per total landings		weight or number of fish per total landings	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	weight per allocation of max 100t	weight or number of fish per total catch	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	number of fish per total landings	number of fish per total landings	weight of the total quota of each CPC
PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL CATCH UNDER MINIMUM SIZE										
Albania									< 5%	
Algérie		NA	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	0%	NA	NA
Angola										
Barbados	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Belize										
Bolivia										
Brazil		20.00%								
Cabo verde										
Canada	5.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
China	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA
Chínese Taipei	0.09% (125cm) 0% (119cm)	0.22% (125cm) 0% (119cm)	NA							
Costa Rica										
Côte d'Ivoire										
Curacao										
Egypt										
El Salvador										
EU raw data under min. size	1322,30/13183,00	71/486	1923,76/439114,66	4,87/6169,70			48,11/14652,45			
EU	10.03%	14.61%	0.44%	0.08%	0.00%		0.33%			
France (SPM)	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0%
Gabon										
Ghana										
Grenada										
Guatemala										
Guinée Ecuatorial										
Guinée Bissau										
Guinée République										
Guyana										
Honduras										
Iceland								0		
Japan	6.6	0.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Korea										
Liberia										
Libya										
Maroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA
Mauritanie	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
México	15									0
Namibia										
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								0%		
Panama										
Philippines										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	1.73%	3.90%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa		9.8								
St. Vincent & Grenadines	0%	0.0%								
Suriname										
Syria									0	0
Trinidad & Tobago	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tunisie			0%					0%		
Turkey	NA	NA	0,07%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0%	NA
UK-OT										
Uruguay										
USA	0									4.38
Vanuatu										
Venezuela										

Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities

1. Objectives

- (1) To prioritise conservation measures for more in-depth review in certain years in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Compliance Committee (COC), recognizing the limited time available for COC sessions.
- (2) To identify any general issues of compliance and propose solutions for improving compliance with the respective measures.

2. Nature of strategic plan

- (1) The COC strategic plan is intended to serve as guidance for establishing a mid- and long-term schedule of priorities for COC review.
- (2) The strategic plan does not create additional reporting requirements.
- (3) Notwithstanding this strategic plan, each year the COC will review any issues it deems necessary, including standing priority issues such as accuracy of catch reporting and compliance with monitoring measures.

3. Criteria and process for prioritisation

- (1) At the Annual Meeting, the COC will determine the priority issues for review the following year.
- (2) In determining priorities for a given year, the COC will take into consideration, *inter alia*, CPC input, the schedule of expiration of ICCAT Recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate.
- (3) The COC may prioritize other issues for review at any time, as appropriate, based, *inter alia*, on CPC input.
- (4) COC may ask the Secretariat to provide summary information on some of the prioritized issues, as necessary, to facilitate compliance review and discussion.

4. Outstanding issues for future consideration

- (1) How to reduce the burden on the Secretariat.
- (2) How to align COC priorities with the annual SCRS assessment schedule and the SCRS strategic plan.
- (3) How to streamline reporting requirements.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**Statement of the Pew Charitable Trusts**

Ahead of this year's meeting, Pew submitted two informational papers to the Compliance Committee, both covering issues related to transshipment (COC-312 Annex 1 & 2). These papers provide an analysis of the information in ICCAT's publicly available transshipment records and potentially available via Automatic Identification System (AIS). They identify a difference between the data submitted by CPCs and the data provided by the regional observer program and highlight differences between AIS-detected carrier vessel activity and what has been reported to ICCAT. Improved monitoring, data reporting, and compliance review of transshipment – as proposed by the USA in PWG-420 – would advance ICCAT's understanding of this activity and mitigate potential non-compliance by CPCs. We urge the COC to spend adequate time on this topic and to forward conclusions to the PWG for its consideration. Additionally, we are encouraged that at least three CPCs (Japan, China, and Chinese Taipei) have responded to our analyses by conducting investigations into the transshipment activity of their individual fleets.

Pew also urges the COC to address non-compliance with operational requirements mandated by ICCAT Recommendations. For example, some CPCs continue to submit incomplete FAD management plans, while others fail to reach the minimum of 5% observer coverage for their fleets. Regarding the latter, the SCRS has repeatedly called on ICCAT to adopt higher observer coverage for scientific purposes. The COC should consider the value of further increases in coverage to assess individual vessel's compliance. The observer programs of some other RFMOs have the dual mandate of assessing compliance and collecting scientific information, and ICCAT should move in this direction. As such, a recommendation by this group to PWG to expand the role of observers to both assess compliance and collect scientific information would help advance the review of the ICCAT observer program (Rec. 16-14) which is slated for review this year. One way to improve the observer program, while applying a new compliance mandate, involves the use of electronic monitoring systems in place of human observers.

Pew recognizes that the COC agenda is always full and that the Committee rarely has sufficient time to complete its work. But it is important that the COC address issues related to non-compliance with operational requirements, in addition to quota management. It is also important to develop and implement a system of consequences for persistent non-compliance. These advances are not only important to protect the health of ICCAT-managed stocks but to ensure a level playing field for those that comply with the rules.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group (PWG), Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. The ICCAT Executive Secretary also welcomed participants.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Alex Miller (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair explained that each of the proposals would be introduced and revisited as they correspond to the appropriate agenda items.

The agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

4. Review of the Report of the 13th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair introduced the [Report of the 13th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) (Madrid, Spain, 2-4 April 2019).

The Chair informed the Group that the IMM meeting was attended by 14 CPCs and one non-CPC. The Chair provided an overview of the main discussions that took place and noted that two draft proposals had been endorsed by IMM for consideration by PWG and would be discussed further during the meeting under the relevant agenda items.

The Group recommended that the report be forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

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

The Chair presented the follow up to the Second Performance Review recommendations explaining the current state of play for each items in the review and that their status would be taken parallel with the appropriate agenda item. Due to the lack of time to update the recommendations during the annual meeting, the Chair proposed that he worked with the Secretariat to update the document and include it as an appendix to the PWG meeting report for review during adoption of the report via correspondence. Such an approach was agreed and progress to date made by PWG on the follow up of the second performance review recommendations are included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

6. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

6.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs

The Chair noted that the discussion within this section of the agenda would include an update on the eBCD programme and system including technical points and considerations of current ICCAT statistical documentation programs.

eBCD program and technical considerations

As Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG), the PWG Chair provided an update on the eBCD system development and operation, noting that the group met twice throughout 2019. He noted that in general the system is working well. The report from the TWG includes a status update from the developing consortium, TRAGSA (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

The Chair noted that the eBCD TWG needed guidance from the PWG on a number of points identified including: 1) access to the system by inspectors working under a joint scheme of international inspection, 2) access to the system by non-Contracting Parties, 3) how the seven day provision in Recommendation 08-13 (e.g. small quantities of fish (three fish/one ton) is implemented in the system, 4) data access/reporting and confidentiality considerations, 5) creation of web-services for system interoperability with domestic systems, and 6) how alerts in the system, based on logical product forms, should be developed.

There was general agreement that further discussion of some of the aforementioned considerations, including certain practical aspects, would be needed at the next IMM meeting, the meeting of the Panel 2 Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures, and/or by the eBCD Technical Working Group.

In the meantime, the PWG (1) endorsed the need for inspectors to have access to the eBCD system; (2) agreed that ensuring access to the eBCD system for non-members without cooperating status was important but not urgent given the current work-around in place as well as the ongoing discussion in WCPFC regarding catch documentation for Pacific bluefin tuna; (3) endorsed the proposed way forward concerning the seven day provision for small quantities of fish (three fish/one ton); (4) welcomed progress for extracting and evaluating data from the eBCD system, noting that consideration of what data should be reported to ICCAT each year should take into account these functionalities as well as whether access to the eBCD system for certain aggregated data should be provided to the public; (5) agreed that the development of web services should continue to be explored; and (6) supported work to improve the operation of the system, including by developing logic checks within the system concerning product forms.

The Chair and the Secretariat also presented the financial considerations related to the eBCD system, noting the eBCD budget was being presented within STACFAD. The Secretariat explained that a key aspect of the proposed budget is the idea to gradually bring staffing for eBCD into the Secretariat which would take over support and new development for the system over the next two to three years from TRAGSA. The Secretariat also explained that they had developed various options for how this could be implemented and that this matter would be considered by STACFAD. The PWG noted that additional information on the pros and cons of bringing on additional Secretariat staff to support eBCD rather than continuing to contract for this support would assist consideration of these budgetary questions by STACFAD.

European Union (EU) derogation

The European Union (EU) presented a report on the implementation of the derogation to validate eBCD for trades of bluefin tuna (BFT) in certain product forms between Member States of the EU (Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation 18-12) (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**). It was noted by the Chair that the possible extension of this derogation would be reviewed in 2020.

The United States thanked the EU for its report and noted that it did not fully address the reporting requirements for paragraph 5b and 5d, which had been further clarified and agreed in 2017. The report did not include any information on the implementation of the second derogation applicable to the EU regarding tagging (paragraph 5d of Rec. 18-12). The United States noted that, in line with what was agreed in 2017 and in light of the potential connection between the derogations and recent IUU activities discovered through

Operation Tarantelo, more complete reporting would be needed to inform the possible extension of the two EU derogations when they were reviewed in 2020, including: 1) the percentage of trade events that are cross-checked, 2) a table of the Member States and their respective trades between members, and 3) specific information on the implementation of the validation derogation for tagged small fish (paragraph 5d).

Japan asked the EU what the total amount of BFT covered by the derogations in paragraph 5b and 5d amounted to. The EU explained that 60% of the trade between Member States exempted of validation was covered by the derogation applicable to certain product types (5b), and 40% by the derogation in paragraph 5d for tagged fish. They also noted that those trades involve very low quantities and that extracting this type of data from the eBCD system is challenging because the system does not permit the differentiation of trades exempted by 5b and 5d, and that in 2019 they had conducted a number of “fact finding missions” on the use of the eBCD. They also noted the ongoing judicial process in Spain related to Operation Tarantelo and indicated that court findings, when available, could be used by the newly proposed Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures to further strengthen the control and traceability of BFT, including the eBCD system/program.

Statistical and Catch Documentation Programs

The Chair noted that there had been recent exchanges at IMM regarding ICCAT Statistical Document Programs (SDPs), explaining that the SDPs for swordfish (SWO) and bigeye tuna (BET) were adopted in 2001 and needed to be reviewed and potentially expanded into Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS). Such consideration would be in line with the recommendation of ICCAT’s second performance review panel.

Japan presented an informal paper on possible amendments to the BET and SWO SDPs, including the steps towards the development of a CDS. They noted that their approach was based on IMM discussions and was comprised of the following key points: 1) expansion should focus on species prone to IUU fishing and those of high risk (e.g. poor stock status), 2) the current SDP for BET only captures 30-40% of trades and is ineffective, 3) technical challenges need to be considered - especially for developing countries, 4) duplication with current approaches by the EU should be avoided, 5) the FAO has recently completed their work on CDS and those recommendations should be considered, 6) the ICCAT performance review recommended converting from a SDP to an electronic CDS, and 6) consumers are demanding further traceability and legality of fisheries products.

Several CPCs stated their appreciation of the effort by Japan and noted they are in favor of further discussion, potentially through a new working group or the IMM Working Group. A few CPCs also noted that any new system should be electronic and risk-based.

The Chair summarized the discussion: PWG agreed to recommend to the Plenary that discussion of this issue continue intersessionally in 2020 at an IMM Working Group meeting, including taking into account issues related to potential scope of any new program, including species to be covered, costs, burden to CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat, avoidance of dual systems, experiences with eBCD, the capacity of developing countries, and associated training needs.

6.2 Observer Programs

The Chair explained that the topic of regional observer programs was discussed at the annual IMM meeting and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT’s regional observer programs” was endorsed by the group and forwarded to the PWG for further discussion. The proposal addressed improving overall training, safety equipment (e.g. communication devices), emergency action plans, and obligations of flag States (e.g. requirements of the flag State when an observer is missing, etc.) for the existing ICCAT Regional Observer Programs.

Norway noted that they had not been able to attend IMM, but emphasised that challenges relating to health and safety for observers are global and should be harmonised in order to ensure a level playing field and facilitate implementation at national level. Norway further referred to the recommendation from the Joint Working Group meeting between IMO (International Maritime Organization), ILO (International Labour Organization) and FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) in October 2019 that FAO consider measures to promote health and safety for observers on board fishing vessels and that the FAO Bureau include this issue on the agenda of the COFI meeting this summer. As the FAO process would include cooperation *inter alia* with RFMOs, Norway held the view that the outcome of this process should be taken into account by ICCAT through appropriate

follow-up. Norway also pointed out that the challenges facing observers with respect to health and safety also depend on an improved dialogue at the national level between the competent authorities and their fishing vessel operators and owners. Against this background Norway presented the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on harmonisation and improved observer safety” which should be linked to the IMM proposal.

There was general support for the draft recommendation endorsed intersessionally by the IMM Working Group as well as the proposal from Norway. Several matters were discussed with the aim of ensuring full understanding of and improving the proposals, including: references to the Cape Town agreement, outcomes from recent international forums regarding observers (e.g. JWG), financial aspects of communication devices, flag CPC obligations when Regional Observers are onboard during transshipment operations, and the timing of when the Recommendation would start. Some CPCs suggested adding text explaining that the Recommendation would be reviewed after three years, taking into consideration the JWG efforts on how to promote fisheries observer safety globally. The Chair suggested that interested CPCs work together on modifications to the proposals.

In a subsequent PWG session, updated versions of the two proposals were introduced, including text to link both proposals, an entry into force date of 2021, the inclusion of owners, crew, and operators, reference to the Cape Town agreement or relevant international standards for security and rescue equipment, and that the Recommendation would be reviewed in three years taking into account any guidance from FAO on standards related to fisheries observer safety as requested by the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Working Group. A CPC requested the addition of “where applicable” to the Recommendation. With that change, the Chair summarized the proposed changes for both the proposals. The two measures were forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

6.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

The PWG discussed issues related to the implementation of ICCAT’s current transshipment recommendation (Rec. 16-15). A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment” was presented by the United States. It intended to strengthen Recommendation 16-15, and was circulated but not discussed because the proposal was submitted after the Commission’s deadline. The Commission Chair approved the late submission according to the ICCAT’s rules on the condition that it was not opposed by any CPC. However, two CPCs responded to him and expressed concern about the late submission. These CPCs further noted that any issues involving transshipment were being addressed through the Compliance Committee. Notwithstanding these important COC discussions, several CPCs stressed that consideration should be given to strengthening the rules governing at sea transshipment in order to close potential loopholes that could provide opportunities for products from IUU fishing operations to enter the marketplace undetected. The need to continue discussions on this matter intersessionally in 2020 at an IMM Working Group meeting was considered with a number of CPCs expressing strong support.

6.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

The Chair noted that a summary of chartering arrangements and associated reports from CPCs as well as information on access agreements have been compiled in the Secretariat’s Report to the Compliance Committee. PWG did not discuss any point under this agenda item.

6.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs

The Chair introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel sightings” endorsed by the IMM Working Group and explained that the proposal was an effort to combine and update one ICCAT Recommendation and one ICCAT Resolution in order to adopt clearer text in addressing IUU fishing under Recommendation 18-08. While there was general support for the proposal, a few CPCs noted concerns with the fourth paragraph, which had been bracketed during the IMM meeting. This paragraph included a reference to boarding a non-CPC flagged vessel on consent of the vessel master. Various CPCs proposed differing approaches to resolve the issue, including removing the reference to vessel master, deleting the entire paragraph, adding clarifying text, or simply taking the paragraph out of brackets. A compromise was reached whereby the reference to “vessel master” and the brackets around paragraph four were removed and the proposal was referred to the Plenary for adoption.

The EU introduced a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT” with the goal to strengthen controls for farming and trap operations. The PWG generally supported the proposed measure. Concerns were raised by some CPCs, including with regard to legislative restrictions for CPCs, the need to consult various domestic departments (e.g. those responsible for farms/traps vs at sea) and the need to limit the measure to bluefin tuna fisheries. One CPC emphasized that the measure should continue to apply to all ICCAT fisheries. CPCs also pointed out that the proposal was a voluntary pilot program and that language regarding tuna traps and farms needed to be consistent. Consensus was reached on an amended version of the proposal and it was forward to the Plenary for adoption.

The Chair also entertained a request from the Secretariat concerning clarification on inspection reports originating from the international inspection scheme under the purview of ICCAT. The Secretariat proposed that only inspection reports with an infringement would be sent by CPCs to the Secretariat in an effort to reduce the workload. CPCs suggested that there was an interest for summaries to be sent for non-infringements, yet reports on infringements must still be sent. The United States noted that the development of the online reporting functionality would greatly assist this effort. It was agreed that, for the time being, only summaries would be sent for reports on non-infringements and all reports containing infringements would be sent to the Secretariat.

6.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures

Norway provided information on the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and explained that the Parties to the Agreement have requested that the FAO reach out to RFMOs to gain information on how they are implementing the Agreement prior to a review meeting next year. The proposal would lay out the process of compiling information from ICCAT to submit to the FAO. A few CPCs explained that, although they support this effort in principle, the logistics of the workflow and future meetings need to be fine-tuned. The Secretariat suggested that the expertise of CPCs be utilized and proposed that CPCs wishing to submit information send it to the Secretariat by the end of February 2020. The Secretariat will compile the information received and prepare a document to discuss at the IMM meeting. Based on discussions at IMM, the information would then be submitted to the FAO. The PWG agreed to this proposed way forward.

The Chair, on behalf of the Chair of the Port Inspection Expert Group on Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG), presented a report of the Working Group. A number of CPCs expressed their support for this work, emphasizing the value of onsite country assessments and the implementation of the specialized ICCAT training program. As a result, PWG recommended that the Commission approve a request to facilitate a meeting of the group as early as possible in 2020. Interest in receiving training was expressed by a number of CPCs, and the Secretariat will facilitate their inclusion in these training initiatives.

6.7 Vessel listing requirements

The Chair explained that the Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and the [Report of the 13th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) demonstrated the progress being made to implement IMO number reporting requirements contained in Recommendation 13-13. The Secretariat has been working with the CPCs during the intersessional period and significant progress has been made in the collection of IMO numbers. No further discussions took place under this agenda item.

6.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite (VMS) System requirements

The Chair noted that minimum standards for VMS were adopted by PWG last year under Recommendation 18-10 and that the performance review recommended that ICCAT move towards establishing a regional VMS.

One CPC explained that, in other RFMOs, the scope of VMS is to support inspection activities and that the discussion should focus on centralized VMS, not regional VMS, noting that they would support, within the scope of a centralized system, expanding what is already in place for BFT. Another CPC indicated that this topic should be connected to and discussed in the context of high seas boarding and inspection schemes (HSBI), similar to WCPFC, and that they are in support of introducing both. Several CPCs stated that they were very reluctant to implement HSBI and centralized VMS.

CPCs thanked the Secretariat for collating the information on regional VMS from other RFMOs and making it available to PWG. While there was no consensus on moving towards regional or centralized VMS within ICCAT at this time, there was agreement to continue discussions at IMM without prejudice to any potential future Commission decision to develop regional or centralized VMS for specific fisheries or more broadly.

6.9 Flag State responsibilities

Norway presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on reporting requirements relating to lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear” and explained that such gear is a concern to civil society and authorities and that there is an urgent need for regulation to avoid “ghost fishing”. They noted that this can be achieved by requiring lost gear to be reported and retrieved and that it was time for ICCAT to join other RFMOs in adopting such measures. Norway explained this was basically the same proposal submitted last year and which was withdrawn.

One CPC was supportive of the proposal, but noted that, as per the FAO definition, FADs are not considered fishing gear. Another CPC held the view that the issue of lost, abandoned and discarded gear should be dealt with by Marpol. One CPC explained that it could not go along with the proposal as they had not adopted national requirements to mark fishing gear. Norway explained that the reference to FADs could be deleted, and then recalled that the Marpol regulations contain no obligation to retrieve fishing gear and that ICCAT has adapted rules on marking of fishing gear. Then one CPC pointed out that the Norwegian proposal had been submitted after the deadline for submitting proposals. As a response to this one CPC stated that in this case they could not accept to deal with the proposal at this meeting. Norway recognised that the proposal by mistake had been forwarded to ICCAT some days after the deadline, but that the PWG Chair had approved its submission. Norway then stated that they would come back to this issue at the earliest convenience which would probably be the Intersessional Meeting of the IMM.

At the request of several CPCs, however, the Norwegian proposal was reintroduced on the agenda on the second last day of the Annual meeting. Many CPCs were generally supportive of the proposal. However, some members voiced concerns with specific provisions and suggested changes. One CPC focused on the need to include a definition of equipment used to retrieve abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear. Two CPCs noted that they did not support the measure being applied to longline vessels and suggested an exemption for these vessels. One CPC also raised concerns that there was no differentiation between artisanal and small-scale vessels and commercial vessels and requested language be included to take into account the special requirements of developing States in this regard. A CPC also inquired if the SCRS had looked into the impact of ghost fishing on biomass or had plans to do so.

Norway then offered to revise its proposal to take onboard the concerns expressed by the Parties. The Chair summarized the discussion noting that there then was agreement in principle on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear”. As it could not be finalized before the end of the PWG session, it was agreed that Norway’s revised proposal would be referred to the Plenary for further consideration and adoption should consensus be reached.

Based on the comments from CPCs, the revised proposal, now co-sponsored by Canada, included the use of FAO language to reference lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), a footnote defining equipment used to retrieve ALDFG, a reference to the special requirements for developing States, exemption from the requirements in the recommendation for longline vessels and vessels under 12m, that the obligation only applies when there is a significant risk of ghost fishing and that parties are not expected to retrieve gear if there are safety concerns. Several CPCs thanked Norway for the amended proposal which was adopted by consensus.

6.10 Other issues

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

7. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

8. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

The Chair explained that the "Draft IUU List 2019 - List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities", incorporated changes to the IUU vessels lists of other RFMOs. Several CPCs discussed a number of small changes to the list, and the Secretariat explained that they will work to make the changes. The draft IUU list, as amended, was agreed by the PWG and referred to the Plenary for adoption. The adopted 2019 IUU list is included in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**.

9. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of the above

The Chair noted that the following four proposals: (1) "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs", (2) "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on harmonization and improved observer safety", (3) "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel sightings", and (4) "Draft Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT" were forwarded to the Plenary. Additionally, the following proposal: "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on reporting requirements relating to lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear", needed further discussion during the Plenary.

10. Election of Chair

The election of the Chair was deferred to the Plenary for decision.

11. Other matters

The Chair noted that, given the streamlining procedure of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, the suggestion by the Secretariat to remove Recommendations 09-09 and 12-09 from the Compendium was warranted. There was no objection by the group and this recommendation was forward to the Plenary.

A joint statement^{1*} was made by OCEANA, Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and another was made by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) which has been attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**.

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the report by correspondence. The Chair warmly thanked the Secretariat and interpreters for all their hard work as well as the CPCs for their contributions to a successful PWG meeting. He adjourned the meeting.

^{1*} Not included in this report but available upon request from the Secretariat in original language only.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
6. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 6.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
 - 6.2 Observer Programmes
 - 6.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
 - 6.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
 - 6.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
 - 6.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
 - 6.7 Vessel listing requirements
 - 6.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
 - 6.9 Flag State responsibilities
 - 6.10 Other issues
7. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
8. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
9. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
10. Election of Chair
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review – PWG

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
Green – Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines.

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>Time-frame</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>Observations / Comments</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC				Has been taken into account in some measures taken by the Panels.		
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS		PWG will review implementation of measures designed to improve collection and reporting of bycatch and discard data (e.g., Recs. 16-14 and 11-10) at 2019 Annual meeting.				See comments SCRS_BIL SG.

Port State Measures	67. Amends Rec 12-07 to ensure more consistency with the PSM Agreement, in particular by including definitions and requiring CPCs to impose key port State measures such as denial or use of port in certain scenarios.	PWG	S	Refer to PWG for consideration and appropriate action.		IMM discussed at the April 2018 meeting; Agenda Item 5.d. Proposal was adopted as Rec. 18-09.	Done	No further action required by PWG.
	68. Closely follows IOTC's efforts to enhance effective implementation of its port State measures through, <i>inter alia</i> , its e-PSM system, and, where appropriate, adopt similar efforts within ICCAT.	PWG	S/M	Refer to Online Reporting Working Group for analysis.	South Africa is already sending Port Inspection Reports to ICCAT through ePSM. IOTC have updated the referential tables to include the necessary ICCAT codes/references , etc.	The Working Group on Online Reporting agreed that exploration of developments in other fora would be appropriate before any decisions were taken, such as the forthcoming FAO workshop which would also give consideration to Port State Measure implementation or the next Kobe meeting. The WG on Online Reporting agreed to await the outcomes of this workshop and to revert to this issue intersessionally during the coming year.		

	<p>69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.</p>		<p>IMM considered amendments to Rec. 12-07 that are intended to improve the Commission's review of compliance with the measure. PWG will be able to use any recommendations coming from the COC in order to make technical improvements in that area. Revised proposal on Port Inspection was adopted as Rec. 18-09.</p>	<p>New measures taken, but compliance assessment will be ongoing.</p>	
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Integrated MCS Measures	<p>70. Gives priority to adopting a modern HSBI scheme - through a Recommendation and not a Resolution - that extends to all key ICCAT fisheries as such, but can be applied in practice to selected fisheries according to the COC's compliance priorities.</p>	PWG	M	<p>Refer to the PWG as work on this matter is ongoing.</p>		<p>Adopting a modern high seas boarding inspection scheme remains open, and text remains on the table to facilitate those discussions. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM; Agenda Item 5c; A proposal was accepted for a voluntary measure that promotes the concept of at-sea inspector exchanges, adopted at the Annual meeting.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
	<p>71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.</p>	PWG	M	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries. IMM will revisit this issue following the 2019 COC discussions and Secretariat analysis on compliance with observer program requirements.</p>	<p>SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.</p>	<p>Expansion of observer coverage by ICCAT remains under consideration, but has been adopted for tropical tuna fleets. CPC's concerned are also requested to report on their observer coverage by way of their annual report. Request the Compliance Committee to confirm whether CPCs are complying with the requirements contained in Rec. 16-14.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>

	<p>72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda Item 5a; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing. Frequency of reporting increased, but no further centralisation yet considered. In 2018, frequency of reporting further increased through Rec. 18-10.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
	<p>73. Works towards replacing all SDPs with electronic CDPs that are harmonized among tuna RFMOs where appropriate - in particular for bigeye tuna - while taking account of the envisaged FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for further analysis.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes. Not completed, to be further considered by IMM in the future.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>

	74. Considers, in the interest of transparency, incorporating all measures relating to distinct MCS measures - in particular transshipment and on-board observers - in one single ICCAT Recommendation, so that CPCs have only one reference document to consult.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for assessment of the pros and cons of this approach.		Because of the significant administrative burden of this exercise, it is suggested to maintain separate recommendations, to systematically delete obsolete measures to refresh references in the remaining ones.	Separate measures to be maintained, procedure for removal agreed.	No further action required by PWG.
Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance	79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.	Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.	Observer and inspection reports are made available to the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5d; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.		

<p>Market-Related Measures</p>	<p>84. The Panel, noting Rec. 12-09, commends ICCAT for its initiatives in this area and recommends that catch documents, preferably electronic, be introduced for bigeye and swordfish species.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>See Recommendation 73 above for proposed action.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission Annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes. Issue still under consideration.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
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<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, through its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.</p>	<p>Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate. The Online Reporting Group has also requested that requirements be streamlined and simplified.</p>	<p>Request that, after receiving input from the Online Reporting Working Group by 30 June, the Secretariat circulate to Subsidiary Bodies a list of reporting requirements and how they are used. Work on online reporting currently in progress, and simplification of reporting may be recommended as work progresses.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
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<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM - to be considered by all bodies.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>A global standard may not be appropriate. Application should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket coverage for all recommendations.</p>	<p>This may be taken into consideration in specific measures, but no further action currently required by PWG.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
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Confidentiality	<p>97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.</p>	COM - referred to PWG	M	<p>Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.</p>		<p>There is merit in the SCRS reviewing data confidentiality rules and consider processes within other RFMOs. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the annual meeting.</p>		
	<p>98. Conducts a review of its Rules and Procedures on Data Confidentiality as envisaged in its paragraph 33, taking into account the need for harmonization among tuna RFMOs consistent with Rec KIII-1. As part of this review, it should adopt an ICCAT's Information Security Policy (ISP), where appropriate.</p>	PWG	M	<p>Refer the issue to the PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.</p>		<p>There is merit in an external review of the Secretariat's current security policies. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the annual meeting.</p>		

Capacity building - port State measures	110 a) Urges developing CPCs to make the necessary efforts to assist the ICCAT Secretariat in identifying their capacity building needs;	PWG	S	Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).		The Port Inspection Expert Group had developed a two tier questionnaire which has been circulated to all CPCs and responses have been requested. The report of the Port Inspection Expert Group was and Commission agreed to Call for Tender for ICCAT training module and to start with the needs assessments of the two CPs nominated by the Expert Group. Tender for ICCAT module has been awarded and output will be considered by the Port Inspection Expert Group in early 2020.		
	110 b) Closely coordinates the operation of Rec 14-08 with existing and future capacity building initiatives undertaken by other intergovernmental bodies.	PWG	S/M	Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).		The Port Inspection Expert Group invited an expert (funded by ABNJ) to its last meeting, in order to better learn of initiatives and developments in that RFMO. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Port Inspection Expert Group taking current initiatives into account. Further consideration may be given to this at the 2020 Port Inspection Expert Group Meeting.		

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**Report of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG)**

This report summarizes the principal discussions and work of the Technical Working Group (TWG) throughout 2019 including from their meetings in March and September. It does not elaborate on all technical issues discussed except those where the group felt a broader consideration by the PWG/Commission would be appropriate. For more details on specific technical points please consult the reports by the developing consortium (TRAGSA) in **Attachment 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10** (original language only).

1. Introduction and general state of play:

Following the decisions of PWG and Panel 2, the primary objective of the group's first meeting in March 2019 was to discuss the priority development items, including, in particular, changes to the system following the adoption of Rec. 18-02 (e.g. movements of fish within the same farm, including random controls and estimations of annual carry-over); system developments for which a cost/time estimation was needed or for which no decision had yet been taken by the group; and, finally, new technical issues reported by TWG members, the ICCAT Secretariat, and/or TRAGSA.

As had been coordinated previously by the Chair, all development items were ranked by the group in order of priority. This approach was in line with current contractual and working practices and allowed a phased implementation of the various development items in accordance with available financial resources.

The list of all development items agreed and/or requested throughout 2019 are presented below together with those issues where further deliberations are sought from the PWG/Commission.

The meeting in September allowed the TWG to take stock of the financial situation in light of the new financial mechanism agreed by the Commission in 2018 as well as to have an exchange of views on the next steps concerning future engagement with TRAGSA.

2. Technical issues/developments:**2.1 System development items**

Following the receipt and approval of cost/time requests, the following list of development items were requested by the TWG in 2019:

<i>Items</i>	<i>State of play</i>
Reference: Registries maintained by the ICCAT Secretariat	Requested 11/09/2019
Reference 2019-1: Create a new type of section that allows recording movements between cages (Para's 9, 100 and 103 of Rec. [18-02])	Under development
Reference 2019-2 (16): Data extraction tool. Include information of all sections of BCDs in which a country is involved.	Requested 11/09/2019
Reference 2019-3: Include date of landing in catch section. Review of alert related with Para 13 d) of Rec. [18-13]	Requested 11/09/2019
Reference 2019-4A: Print functions: Notes fields	Under development
Reference 2019-6: Allow CPC/flag Administrator to modify the date of a section	Under development

Cost/time requests were requested to TRAGSA for the following list of items:

<i>Items</i>	<i>State of play</i>
Reference 2019-4B: Print functions, other presentations	Cost/time sent 31/05/2019
Reference 2019-5: Upload of excel file functionality	Cost/time sent 13/09/2019
Reference 2019-8 (35): Access by non-CPCs	Cost/time sent 31/05/2019
Reference: Parallel transfers: Adapt parallel live/trade/transfers functionality	Cost/time sent 18/10/2018

At the TWGs September meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the items Reference 2019-4B: Print functions and 2019-5: Upload of Excel file functionality.

Due to budgetary limitations and a sufficiency of time before the start of the next purse seine fishing campaign (where this issue/functionality is relevant), the group decided to defer a decision on development of Reference: Parallel transfers until early 2020.

It was felt that Reference 2019-8 (35): Access by non-CPCs, could benefit from further discussion from the Commission before requesting development of the functionality (see below).

Despite a request of the TWG, access to the system by ICCAT Inspectors operating under the JISI (Joint International Scheme of Inspection) could not be cost/time estimated by TRAGSA due to the need for further precision on the technical specifications. The group discussed this issue at length in both meetings (see below).

2.2 System alerts and inconsistencies

The TWG has been discussing for some time the various alerts and blocks which have been developed in the system at the request of the TWG. To ensure all are correct and in accordance with TWG requests and development specifications, TRAGSA was asked to provide a complete lists of all alerts/blocks in order that the group members may check them individually, and TRAGSA can adjust them where necessary.

3. Items requiring a discussion in PWG/Commission:

- *Access to the system by ICCAT Inspectors operating under the JISI:*

Following the recommendation of the IMM working group at its April 2019 meeting, the TWG explored how best to proceed with facilitating inspector access to the system.

A general approach was discussed whereby individual inspectors would be able to have their own “read only” eBCD user accounts facilitated by the incorporation of inspector lists into the system by the Secretariat on the basis of the information reported by CPCs under Rec. 18-02 through current data reporting formats (Form CP-01). However, given the difficulties of knowing in advance in the field which vessels will be inspected, inspectors would require access to virtually all eBCDs in the system. Some TWG members considered that this approach could be too broad. The group explored ways of restricting inspector access to the system either temporally (such as to the period of the fishing season/activities under inspection), or spatially (such as to individual deployment periods of inspectors onboard CPC patrol vessels). It was noted that neither limitation would meaningfully reduce the possibility that an inspector would have access to all the eBCDs generated by relevant operators (e.g. catching vessels/traps/farms) during whatever authorization was granted.

As alternatives, the group considered the following two main options:

1. A facility/procedure whereby the entity being inspected (vessel representatives onboard of the vessel) grants access to the system for the inspector either by making available their user account credentials or by logging on securely and letting inspection personnel review eBCD records directly. It was noted that an operational guidelines best practice may need to be elaborated including the need for passwords to be reset/changed after the inspection if the former approach were taken.
2. A facility/procedure whereby a .pdf version of the eBCD(s) concerned is downloaded from the system by the entity being inspected (vessel representatives onboard of the vessel) during the inspection and transmitted/emailed/passed to the inspectors. It was noted, however, that some vessels (e.g. towing vessels) may not have onboard internet access.

In both cases, a search function would need to be developed that allows the inspector to locate the concerned vessel/eBCDs in the system by way of search criteria including vessel identification number, name, and/or vessel flag.

The TWG also discussed the possibility of modifying the system to automatically generate and send an email to the Flag State Administrator of the inspected vessel informing them an inspection is ongoing/has taken place and possibly even requesting access to the eBCD system to check relevant records. This would, however, not imply the need for authorization from the Flag State with respect to the inspection; it would simply be a notification.

The PWG/Commission is encouraged to reflect on these approaches and provide direction to the TWG on the way forward with respect to this matter in order that the technical specifications can be confirmed.

- *Use of the eBCD system by ICCAT non-contracting parties without cooperating status (non-CPCs)*

The TWG has discussed this issue extensively for some time following the instructions and previous decisions of the Commission. TRAGSA were asked to provide a cost/time request in mid-2019 which came in at just under €50,000. The TWG has not yet given its approval for development of the new functionality in light of the need for further technical discussions and an overall reflection on its cost-benefit. The TWG felt that a general discussion by the PWG would be useful given the relatively high costs required to develop this item and the limited amount of trade in BFT by non-CPCs.

In that regard, the TWG noted that the total quantities of BFT traded with non-CPCs captured in the eBCD system was 323 t, 107 t of which was traded in 2019 (in 907 transactions). The TWG further noted that substantially more non-CPCs are involved in the catch and trade of Pacific BFT, and it was highlighted that discussions are ongoing in Pacific tuna RFMOs regarding the possible development of a catch documentation program for Pacific BFT. Given that, the timing of any new eBCD development should be well considered.

- *How the 7-day provision as laid down by para 13d) of Rec. 11-20 and para 6a) of Rec.17-09 should be implemented and reflected in the system².*

Despite requesting TRAGSA to proceed on this development item, the TWG considered it appropriate to confirm the specifications which will apply in accordance with the provisions laid down in Recs 18-12 and 18-13.

Rec. 18-13 paragraph 13-d states: *“Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary BCD, pending the validation of the BCD within seven days and prior to export.”*

In light of this provision, a new field for ‘landing date’ will be included in the eBCD system.

Rec. 18-12 paragraph 6 states: 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.”* In light of this provision, the system will create an alert if the conversions are not carried out within seven calendar³ days.

With regard to the amounts of BFT subject to the above-mentioned provisions, namely *“less than 1 metric ton or three fish”*, the system will only apply the functionality to less than or equal to 9.999,99 metric kilos or 2 fish (BFT).

Finally, it was confirmed that, as laid down in Rec. 18-13 paragraph 13d), this will only apply to BCDs that require validation (i.e. not those which are tagged).

- *Data access, data confidentiality, and reporting*

In parallel with the TWGs instruction to TRAGSA to develop the data extraction tools and the deliberations of the IMM working group from its meeting in April 2019, the TWG felt it appropriate for the PWG to review and consider any needed improvements to the annual reporting provisions of Rec. 18-13 and other relevant measures, such as paragraph 1 of Rec. 06-13 on trade measures, to ensure data provided from the eBCD system are useful and meet the needs of the Commission. The TWG also discussed whether there should be a data extraction tool available to the public that allows aggregated catch, trade, and related data to be compiled and downloaded. The pros and cons of this idea were discussed, including that the data from eBCD system is not always straightforward so that if a publicly available data extraction tool were developed, explanations would need to be given with regard to interpreting the data. The PWG may wish to consider the issue further.

² Recommendation 11-20 replaced by Recommendation 18-13 and Recommendation 17-09 replaced by 18-12.

³ The recommendation mentions ‘working days’ however the TWG proposes calendar days given the possible inconsistency of what constitutes a working day across all CPCs.

In addition, it was agreed to proceed with development of a simplified upload of excel file functionality (Ref. 2019-5) to facilitate the bulk load of catch data in the system rather than development of a full web service capability at this stage. The TWG noted that the requirement for connectivity and interoperability with CPC domestic systems was integral to the technical specifications of the original contract. Nonetheless, the TWG recognized that a number of different systems exist across CPCs each in accordance with their own requirements and built on varying structures/formats. Given that, building a full web service functionality was not viewed as urgent although it was recognized as a potentially useful tool down the road. The TWG discussed the original web service developed by TRAGSA in 2017 but considered that it was inadequate in light of current needs. In the future, a web service capacity could be developed within the eBCD system to allow various domestic data collection systems used by CPCs to seamlessly talk to the eBCD system for, among other things, the purpose of automatically creating catch events. Such a linkage would improve both the quality and timeliness of the information being entered into the eBCD system. It would also reduce costs for CPCs and the industry by eliminating manual data entry needs with respect to the eBCD system, which would, at the same time, eliminate the need to submit required data in multiple places.

The TWG, therefore, considered it timely for the PWG to consider the costs and benefits of as well as options for a more long-term approach for the eBCD system to interface with CPC domestic systems through a web service in addition to considering further interim options, if any.

Development of a white paper for the web service options available was suggested by the TWG as a means to facilitate future discussion. Such a document might include an overview of the current electronic domestic catch systems used by CPCs, options and benefits for web service integration - including data push and pull - and combined use of analytics.

- *Quota alerts for traps*

One TWG member noted that when the individual quota of a trap is modified, the eBCD generated previously still indicated the original individual trap quota value. TRAGSA noted that a change to the system would be needed to address this as the system currently only displays the amended value in new eBCD sections in accordance with the change-log system requirements (and not in the 'catch information' section).

The TWG noted that it is currently not a requirement under Rec. 18-02 for traps to be assigned individual quotas. Nonetheless, the TWG felt the PWG could reflect on whether or not the system should be altered to reflect the current management practices of the trap CPC concerned and permit indicating the updated quotas of traps in relevant eBCDs.

- *Other technical matters*

The TWG again discussed the longstanding issue of building logic checks into the system regarding product transformations to help avoid data entry errors. For instance, the system should not allow a bluefin tuna loin to transform back into a gilled and gutted fish or a frozen bluefin tuna product to become fresh. The TWG agreed to review the current listing of plausible product transformations posted on the share point and provide feedback to the Secretariat so that revisions to the eBCD system can be undertaken.

4. TRAGSA contractual state of play and financial aspects

The prioritization of development work throughout 2019 has facilitated new developments to the system in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, available financial resources, and the procedures adopted by the Commission in the 2018 Annual Meeting.

It was the view of the group, that regardless of the decision of the Commission on the way forward in relation to the Secretariat's Draft eBCD Budget Proposal for 2020-2021 (Circular #6523/2019), the contract with TRAGSA will need to be extended from March 2020 to allow for smooth continuation of ongoing development work, system hosting, and user support.

It was noted that, apart from the financing options outlined in the draft budget, other approaches were available to the Commission if it wished to begin to bring eBCD system IT expertise in house and phase out reliance on TRAGSA such as by spreading out the hiring of IT experts over more than two years. The Commission could also decide to continue to contract TRAGSA for only some rather than all of the services currently provided. These services could be broken down into user support, data base maintenance and data base development segments. Finally, the Commission could decide to continue the current arrangement with TRAGSA.

The TWG noted that consideration needs to be given to whether or not bringing IT expertise in house will result in adequate cost savings and other benefits over the long-term. The TWG discussed this issue with the Secretariat and suggested a cost/benefit analysis of bringing the needed IT capacity into the Secretariat.



Implementation of the eBCD System



Findings eBCD TWG Meeting September 2019



Index

1. Issues discussed at September 2019 WG meeting.	5
1.1. Issues requested for cost estimation.	6
1.2. Issues to be addressed under Maintenance allotment	15
1.3. Other pending issues	15

1. Issues discussed at September 2019 WG meeting.

At September 2019 meeting, the Group decided to address in first place all the issues which cost estimation has been requested. Then, issues pending a decision from IMM or the Group were discussed. Finally, CPCs and Tragsa had also the chance to explain to the Group the new issues detected since last meeting.

Here below can be found three summary tables. The first one includes the status of all those issues whose cost estimation has been requested; the second one contains those to be developed under maintenance allotment. At last, it is included a table with pending decision/action issues.

For a more in depth explanation of what was discussed in the meeting, go to sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP		ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN / CLOSED)
ISSUES REQUESTED	REFERENCE 2019-1: REQUEST OF CHANGE OF LOCATION OF REGISTRIES MAINTAINED BY ICCAT SECRETARIAT		Requested 11th September 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-1: CREATE A NEW TYPE OF SECTION THAT ALLOWS RECORDING MOVEMENTS BETWEEN CAGES (Para 9 and 100 of Rec 18-02)		Under development
	REFERENCE 2019-2 (16): DATA EXTRACTION TOOL. Include information of all sections of BCDs in which a country is involved.		Requested 11th September 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-3: INCLUDE DATE OF LANDING IN CATCH SECTION. Review of alert related with Para. 13 d) of Rec.11-20.		Requested 11th September 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-4A: PRINT FUNCTIONS NOTES FIELDS		Under development
	REFERENCE 2019-6: ALLOW CPC / FLAG ADMINISTRATOR TO MODIFY THE DATE OF A SECTION		Under development
ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED	REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS		Requirements sent on 31st May 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-5: UPLOAD OF EXCEL FILE FUNCTIONALITY		Requirements sent on 13th September 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP		Requirements sent on 31st May 2019
	Parallel transfers from live trade. Adapt parallel transfers functionality to take into consideration parallel live trades		Requirements sent on 10th October 2018
ISSUES PENDING COST-ESTIMATION DUE TO THE LACK OF REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER (IS)		Pending Requirements

Table 1 - List of issues on which cost estimation was considered necessary by the group

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS (OPEN/CLOSED)
ROP and control authorities access to system (Para 85 and 93 Rec 18-02)	Add a drop-down menu and a free-text field to CG and SA to let observers include the PNC	Under development
Request of a functionality that allows collapsing blocks of sections at the BCD tree.	Modify the BCD tree in order to allow the collapse of information in blocks of sections	To be developed under Maintenance

Table 2 - Issues to be developed under maintenance allotment

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Pending receiving plausible transformations
When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Cost estimation not requested

Table 3 Other open issues some of them pending request of time cost analysis



1.1. Issues requested for cost estimation.

1.1.1. ISSUES REQUESTED SINCE MARCH 2019

REFERENCE 2018-1: REQUEST OF CHANGE OF LOCATION OF REGISTRIES MAINTAINED BY ICCAT SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat explains that they prefer to maintain the registry of some entities in his own system, so request time cost estimation for developing a new synchronization in which the eBCD will read the ICCAT Data Base for ports, traps and farms. Tragsa needs further clarifications in order to elaborate the time cost analysis. *Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.*

TRAGSA March 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 18th October 2018 and *has not been officially requested yet.* The Secretariat explains why these functionalities should be developed. USA also asks Tragsa why budget of adapting the three registries is the same and why it is included in each development the budget for Consultant and Project Manager. Tragsa explains that though the three registries are different, the time to be spent to perform them is similar. Tragsa also explains that the team is not able to address the development of these three issues in parallel, so they must be developed consecutively.

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality was **requested on 11th September 2019.** Tragsa neither the Secretariat present doubts regarding this development. **Pending development**

REFERENCE 2019-1: CREATE A NEW TYPE OF SECTION THAT ALLOWS RECORDING MOVEMENTS BETWEEN CAGES (Para 9 and 100 of Rec 18-02)

Rec 18-02 considers as a transfer any movement of live Bluefin tuna between cages from the same farm. The Rec. also considers that full traceability of carry-over should be ensured. For that reason, it was decided to **develop a new functionality that will allow the recording of all movements between cages of the same farm** comprising: intra-farm transfers; carry over and control transfers. Regarding random controls, it was decided by the group that only will be recorded those on which BFT will not be transferred back to the cage of origin.

The new functionality must take into account these requirements:

- a) The same section will allow the recording of intra-farm transfers, control transfers and carry over.
- b) Depending on the option selected, the user responsible for filling out the section will be different.
 - a. Intra-farm transfers: filled out by Farm representative and will require validation but not the signature of an observer
 - b. Control transfers: filled out by CPC/Farm administrator. Will not require validation nor the signature of an observer
 - c. Carry over: filled out by CPC/Farm administrator. Will not require validation nor the signature of an observer.

- c) The fields displayed in the section will be:
- a. Date of the operation: Always mandatory.
 - b. Authorization number: Mandatory at least in intra-farm transfers
 - c. Name and ICCAT number of the farm: Filled out by the system.
 - d. Cage of destination n^o: Always mandatory.
 - e. Kilos and n^o fish available calculated by the system: Not editable. Difference between BFT caged and BFT harvested or live traded till that moment
 - f. Kilos and n^o fishes filled out by farmer: Optional field
 - g. Kilos and n^o of fish after SC Camera: As several members of the WG highlighted that a new algorithm needs to be calculated to cover the particular biometry of farmed BFT, this field is not considered mandatory.
 - h. If there is a difference in number of fish between figures entered by the farmer or in SC Camera and those calculated by the system:
 - i. If farmer's or SC camera figures exceed system's figures, a new field will be displayed to indicate n^o of fish to be released: The difference between farmer's or SC cameras number of fish and fish released will be the figures to be taken into consideration for tracking traceability.
 - ii. If farmer's or SC camera figures are less than system's figures, a new field will be displayed to indicate n^o of fish lost. In this case, farmer's figures will be taken into consideration for tracking traceability.
 - iii. Kilos will not be taken into consideration for tracking traceability.
 - iv. Previous sections of eBCD will not be modified to adapt figures.
 - a. This new type of section must appear at the eBCD printed version
 - b. The annual carry over report could be downloaded from the eBCD system.

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality was requested on 23rd July and it is currently **under development**. TWG provides an answer to all the doubts presented by Tragsa.

- a. Is it possible that only part of the tuna available in the original cage is transferred to another cage? Even, would it be possible that the available tuna could be moved to more than one cage? **Yes, system must take into account that only part of BFT available is transferred to a cage.**
- b. If in one movement between cages the BFT recorded in number of fish exceeds those available in previous section and figures are not balanced filling out the BFT released, should the system let record the section and display an inconsistency, or the system should stop the recording and inform the user that they are moving more fish than available? **The system should prevent the recording of the section and display a pop up window notifying that more BFT than available has been imputed.**

REFERENCE 2019-2 (16): DATA EXTRACTION TOOL. *Include information of all sections of BCDs in which a country is involved.*

At March 2017 meeting Japan requests to include in this tool the information of all sections of a BCD imported by Japan, regardless the Flag responsible of the section at that time. At January 2018, the issue is discussed again and Japan volunteers to draft the type of reports necessary to meet his obligations as importers. During the meeting different type of queries

were discussed but at the end it was decided that the Group must decide the final objective of the information to be extracted before requesting any type of cost estimation.

TRAGSA March 2019: Japan and USA held a meeting with Tragsa and the Secretariat in April 2018. Some type of reports were explained to Tragsa and at the end of the meeting it was decided that Tragsa will propose different type of reports to meet the necessities exposed by both CPCs. At March 2019 it was accepted by the group the cost-estimation of the following queries:

- Basic trade statistics accessible to all CPCs
- Query to answer paragraph 1 of Rec 06-13
- Adapt the queries "section's raw data" and "traceability help reports" to show information of all sections of a BCD. Include a tab for tracking movement between cages of same farm
- Query with CA+CG+HA+TD

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality was requested on 11th September 2019. **Pending development**

The USA proposes that the "Basic trade statistics accessible to all CPCs" report should be publicly accessible, in case any citizen who wants to consult basic statistics. Tragsa confirms that this option could be feasible if the report is included at the Login page. However, neither ICCAT Secretariat nor Japan considers that the eBCD system is the best site to display this type of info. Both confirm that the best place to contain this info is ICCAT's web site. The Secretariat also informs that imports and exports basic data are every year published on SCRS reports.

Tragsa also exposes its concern on adapting the queries "section's raw data" and "traceability help reports" to show information of all sections of a BCD to all type of users involved. Tragsa proposes making it only available to Administrators. Tragsa considers that importers could easily check how many BFT is caught by each vessel or in case of BFT traded more than once; they could also calculate bft bought and sold by other companies. Japan considers that as this information is included in the electronic document, they already have that info and it not incurs in a confidentiality issue. It is decided to leave the development of this query as originally defined. A user could be able to download the report displaying all previous sections of trades in which they are involved.

REFERENCE 2019-3: INCLUDE DATE OF LANDING IN CATCH SECTION. Review of alert related with Para 13 d) of Rec.11-20.

A CPC does not agree that alerts related with Para 13 d) of Rec.11-20 are shown when validation occurs after 7 days from the Catch. They consider that landing date should be taken into account. Support team informs that a field for entering landing date is not included in the requirements of current eBCD system.

TRAGSA January 2018: After some discussion, US comments that following the recommendation 15-10, what the system should control was that a BCD is converted in 7 days from catch. At the end it is decided that this issue should be address at IMM.

TRAGSA March 2019: The Group decides that Tragsa should cost-estimate the addition of "landing date" to catch section. This would be a mandatory field for catches under 1 Tn or 3 fish. Under these circumstances, the system will check that no more than 7 days occur between the date of landing and the validation date. The Group decides that the IMM should decide if these 7 days must be considered as natural days or working days. However, cost-estimation is requested.

TRAGSA September 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 31st May 2019 considering that an inconsistency will be displayed if the 7 natural days validation period from the landing established in Rec 18-13 paragraph 13-d is not met. **Requested on 11th September and pending development**

Tragsa informs that in the requirements of this issue was included only the functionality to track the compliance of **Rec 18-13 paragraph 13-d** *"Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary BCD, pending the validation of the BCD within seven days and prior to export."* However, it was not included a solution for tracking the compliance of **Rec 18-12 paragraph 6 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."* As the group also wants to track this issue, Tragsa informs that this second issue will be developed in this item with no extra cost-estimation.

Regarding concept *"less than 1 metric ton or three fish"*, Tragsa explains that system considers this statement as less or equal of 1 metric ton or less or equal to three fish. The Group confirms Tragsa that this should be changed for *"less or equal than 9.999,99 metric Kilos or 2 fish"*.

Also is stated that Rec 18-13 paragraph 13-d only affects to BCDs that require validation.

REFERENCE 2019-4A: PRINT FUNCTIONS: NOTES FIELDS

Some CPCs request that validators should have an area to include notes in BCDs validated above all in CG and HA sections. Tragsa suggests using the "Notes" field that must be filled out by the Validator when rejecting a BCD, and displaying it also for validation.

TRAGSA September 2019: Validators now could add notes to each validation and rejection. When a validation contains notes from validator, besides the name of the validator, an asterisk will be shown in printed version of the BCD. This modification has been done **under Maintenance allotment** and **it is in production environment since 9th July 2019.**

1. ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)		N°:	TEST E518333331	1 / 1
2. CATCH INFORMATION				
VESSEL / TRAP INFORMATION				
NAME OF THE CATCHING VESSEL / TRAP	Flag/CPC	ICCAT RECORD No	INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	CATCH
TID DEL BUCON	BU Spain	ATBLUESPO2134		1500 kg
CATCH DESCRIPTION				
DATE(dd/mm/yyyy)	15 May'19	AREA	Adriatic Sea	GEAR
				Boatboat
No. of FISH	23	TOTALWEIGHT(kg)	1500	AVG. WEIGHT (kg)
				65.217
ICCAT RECORD No. of Joint Fishing Operation				
TADIS Numbers (if applicable)				
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION				
NAME OF AUTHORITY	VALID 01 ESP (*)			Validated TEST (This is an electronic BCD)
TITLE				
SIGNATURE	VALID 01 ESP			
DATE(dd/mm/yyyy)	22 May'19			
(*) Validator notes available in the eBCD system				

Another CPC shows their interest on the possibility of printing that notes field in the printed version of the BCD and also request Tragsa to study the feasibility of translating this free text field.

TRAGSA September 2019: When this functionality was cost-estimated, Tragsa proposed two options. Option 1 implied that all notes will be printed in their original language. Option 2 implied that the original text would be translated to the printed eBCD language (English, French or Spanish). The development of **Option 2** was requested on 23rd July and it is currently **under development**

REFERENCE 2019-6: ALLOW CPC/FLAG ADMINISTRATOR TO MODIFY THE DATE OF A SECTION

March 2019: Since the implementation of the eBCD system, several CPCs have suggested several times to the eBCD Support Team the need to allow CPC/Flag Administrators to modify the date of a catch, the stock and the catch type. Tragsa always answers that this is sensitive information that should not be changed as it is used to check the permissions of all entities involved in the document. Tragsa always suggests that document should be deleted and created again.

As the deletion of these BCDs is not always possible, Tragsa proposes a modification of the system to allow the modification of these "sensitive" fields. The system will turn these fields editable for CPC/Flag Administrator. When the Administrators clicks on "Save" button, the system will run again all the permissions cross-checks and only will allow the change if all the entities involved are still allowed at the new date selected.

September 2019: When analyzing the requirements Tragsa needed to establish the following restrictions:

- If date of catch, stock or fishery is changed, the administrator will need to search again the vessel in order to let the system check if the vessel has in force permissions for the new parameters selected.
- Catch section needs to be saved to allow the modifications.

- If the date of another type of section is changed, the system will check the data integrity of the section before saving changes.

This development was requested on 23rd July and it is currently **under development**

2. ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED

REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Japan requests to show in the printed version of the eBCD the totals of the subtypes included in "Other" reflected in the electronic version of the BCD. Tragsa reminds that this will imply a modification of the eBCD format included in Rec 11-20. Nevertheless, the TWG decides that when "Other" products are recorded in a trade section, the system will add a new line in the printed version, where will be included the "Other" subtype presentation selected with the kilos reflected in the electronic version. Tragsa asks if this is also necessary for transshipment section, but the TWG confirms that this action is only necessary for Trade section.

TRAGSA March 2019: Japan considers that this issue should be developed. ***Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.***

TRAGSA September 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 31st May 2019 and the development ***has not been officially requested yet***

REFERENCE 2019-5: UPLOAD OF EXCEL FILE FUNCTIONALITY

March 2019: Since the catch section has been modified several times, the web service developed at the beginning of the project is currently out of date. USA and Tragsa held an informal meeting during the March 2019 meeting in order to explore the different possibilities that could be developed to avoid having to record in the system BCD by BCD. USA clarifies that the functionalities would be only used for creating those catches that were to be sold domestically.

The outcomes from the meeting were exposed to the WG and the cost-estimation of the following developments was accepted by the group.

- ✓ As a short-term solution, it is proposed the development of a new functionality that allows the upload of a file containing catch and first trade. The system will convert that information into BCDs adding the correspondent catch and trade sections. The system will be in charge of assigning the BCD code to each section. After the upload, the system will send back a log report with the errors found and lines accepted with the BCD code assigned by the system. ***Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.***
- ✓ As a long-term solution it is proposed the development of a new web-service adapted to the current requirements of catch section. Also this web-service will allow the creation of the first trade. ***Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.***



Implementation of the eBCD System



TRAGSA September 2019: Finally USA decides that only the upload file functionality needs to be cost estimated. Tragsa forwarded several questions to the TWG in order to find out the scope of this functionality but as only USA expressed their interest on it the cost estimation considers only the possibility of creating western Bluefin tuna catches with their first domestic trade. Estimation is sent on 13th September 2019 and the development *has not been officially requested yet*

REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP

Issue is discussed at March 2017 WG Meeting and it is decided that in order to meet Rec 15-10, access to non CPC member should be facilitated. Tragsa explains that opening the current roles to non CPCs could be addressed under maintenance allotment. In case new roles must to be created, resorting to flexible allotment will be necessary. In the meeting it is agreed that:

- *Importer/Exporter and validator roles* will be opened to Non CPCs. Modifications **under maintenance allotment**. Tragsa propose not to start this modification until it is decided to re-adapt the system to allow the access to non CPCs (development of new roles and profiles, see comments below)
- *Representative of BFT ICCAT vessel; Representative of non BFT ICCAT vessel; Representative of a trap and Representative of a farm* are types of roles that are not going to be available for NCPs.
- Create two new roles under flexible allotment.
 - o *“Representative of NCP carrier vessel”*: This type of user will only have “read-only” permissions over BCDs in which he is involved.
 - o *NCP Administrator*: This type of role will have different permissions than CPC/Flag administrators. The requirements were decided during the meeting and are listed below.

Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.

Possible requirements for the role Person Responsible of non CPC Administration
Access to record transshipment data of the tuna transhipped by his NCPC
Access to record export/selling data of dead fish from his NCPC
Access to record of the signature and date of signature in the purchase/import of dead fish of the purchases of his NCPC
Access to modification of the buyer/importer Company of the dead fish products) of the purchases of his NCPC
Access to record re-exportation data from his NCPC
Access to record re-exporter declaration of the re-exports from his NCPC
Access to record importer declaration of the purchases (re-exports) of his NCPC
Access to record and edit companies) of his NCPC
Access to check companies of his NCPC
Access to check vessels of his NCPC
Access to check authorized parts of his NCPC
Access to massive renewal of companies authorizations of his NCPC
Access to check entities from his NCPC
Access to check agencies from his NCPC
Access to record and edit users data associated with the entities of his NCPC
Access to check users associated with the entities of his NCPC
Access to users requests and/or roles upon entities of his NCPC



Access to modify users data
Access to change users password
Access to check Query Total Kg Imported by his NCPC
Access to check Query Total Kg Exported by his NCPC
Access to check Query Total Kg Re-exported by his NCPC
Access to Help section
Access to Audit Changes

TRAGSA March 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 18th October 2018 and *has not been officially requested yet*. The budget presented by Tragsa was considered too expensive, so Tragsa proposes to re-calculate the budget including less functionality so the group can decide which option should be developed.

TRAGSA September 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 31st May 2019 and the development *has not been officially requested yet*

Tragsa explains the impact of deciding the development or not of the items cost estimated:

- Not having **NCP Administrators**. In that case the ICCAT Secretariat profile should be responsible of accepting new users/roles and new companies.
- Not having **Representatives of NCP Carrier vessels**. This seems to be the activity less important as a representative of carrier vessel is not necessary for recording transfers or transshipments.
- Adapting the **Registers** record will allow creating NCPC validation entities and Agencies.
- Adapting the **Users Registration** functionality will allow the search and creation and edition of NCPC users.
- Adapting the **Self-Registration** functionality will allow the self-registration of importers and exporters from NCPCs
- Adapting the **BCD Registry** allows the addition of trades from NCPCs to existing BCDs
- Adapting the **BFTRC Registry** allows the creation of BFTRCs from NCPC exporting companies.
- Adapting **Reports** functionality allows NCPCs to download info concerning the BCDs on which they are involved.

Parallel transfers from live trade. Adapt parallel transfers functionality to take into consideration parallel live trades

Issue was addressed to the WG on June 2016, after son CPCs communicated to Tragsa that one catch could be sold in two different moments to the same farm. That possibility was not considered in the algorithms that checks traceability when using this option. Time cost analysis was decided at January 2018 meeting.

TRAGSA September 2019: This issue was not included in the list of activities to be cost estimated sent April 10th 2019, but **Tragsa considers it one of the most important developments as several incidences are received each year regarding this issue. This issue concerns all catches on which live tuna is split in more than one section (more**

than one live trade, more than one caging or live trade and caging). The activity was originally cost-estimated on 18th October 2018 and the development *has not been officially requested yet*.

1.1.3. ISSUES PENDING COST-ESTIMATION DUE TO THE LACK OF REQUIREMENTS

REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER JIS

These users will have permissions to access any eBCD under inspection.

TRAGSA March 2019: At TWG meeting it is discussed how access of international inspectors to BCDs could be managed in the system. Tragsa informs that a list of inspectors will be necessary and someone should establish periods of authorizations to let them access all BCDs generated on that period of time. Another option could be giving permissions over certain vessels on a certain period of time, so they could check all BCDs recorded for that vessel at that time. Constrains on this option will be that someone should maintain the observers list and give permissions to the international inspectors. Finally it was decided that this should be addressed to **IMM**

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality has not been cost estimated yet as some doubts have not been solved. The list of doubts sent by Tragsa and answer provided are:

1. **Who would create and maintain these users in the system:** ANSWER: The Secretariat would provide a list, or enter them similar to the ROPs
2. **Should all these users have access to all BCDs in the system or only to those from vessels inspected?** ANSWER: All relevant ones (i.e catches and live trades for that year and hence 'enroute' (e.g. not harvests) – is this possible?
3. **Would these users have an "activity period", so they would only have access to the documents during that period** ANSWER: perhaps the period they are designated as inspectors

Tragsa gives some option to limit the access of these inspectors only to BCDs inspected or vessels inspected. At the end the group decides that the following three options will be considered:

1. The operator will give temporary access to the inspectors by sharing with him his account.
2. The inspector will not have access to the system. Nevertheless, the operator provides a copy of the document to the inspector.
3. The inspector will have access to the system and will search inspected BCDs using a functionality that will let him search BCDs from a vessel searched.

Tragsa will not be able to advance with the cost-estimation until the Group communicates the development team how the system should work

2. Issues to be addressed under Maintenance allotment

ROP and control authorities access to system (Para 85 and 93 Rec 18-02)

Paragraph 93 reads that if the observer is not in agreement with the information of caging, he/she should indicate his/her presence on transfer declaration and eBCDs and the reason of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not being respected.

It is decided that a drop-down menu will be displayed in Caging and Harvesting. The observer will be able to select the PNC. Also a free-text field will be added in case the observer needs to reflect any other information. This development could be address **under Maintenance allotment** but the PNC list needs to be provided. Discuss list in IMM

TRAGSA September 2019: The PNC has been provided to Tragsa but the issue **is still under development**.

Request of a functionality that allows collapsing blocks of sections at the BCD tree. (JAN 2018)

Spain requests a functionality that will allow the option of collapsing blocks of sections when a BCD tree is too big. They inform that when a BCD has too many harvestings and trades, the use of the BCD tree for moving between sections is not too easy. They suggest that having the option of collapsing all sections bellow a harvesting could be helpful. Tragsa explains that currently the system displays a button on BCD tree that allow collapsing the younger sections (daughter sections) of a BCD branch. Tragsa informs that they can study including a new button that will allow collapsing "sister" sections of different branches.

TRAGSA March 2019: Issue not discussed and *Cost estimation of this issue has never been requested.*

TRAGSA September 2019: Tragsa is going to study the way of making the eBCD tree more user-friendly when a BCD has several harvestings and trades.

3. Other pending issues

32. Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members

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'). Any modification will be considered new developments under flexibility allotment.

Tragsa is now working on including BFTRC in these cross-checks. When re-exporting parts of a batch of BCDs, the system will consider all the plausible options included in the whole batch. This is the only valid solution as when using batches in BFTRCs, the BFT re-exported is not assigned to a specific BCD.

USA March 2019: USA recalls that the group needs to send to Tragsa the plausible transformations.

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality was requested on June 2018 after its cost-estimation. In product presentation drop-down menu, the system will only display the plausible options compatible with the products selected in previous section. Tragsa is waiting for receiving from the Group the list of plausible transformations, but the functionality was uploaded to the system on December 2018.

When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch (05/07/2016).

At March 2017 it is discussed the possibility of *Showing alerts only in concerned branches*. Tragsa informs that how to prevent an alert being displayed in all the branches of a BCD can be studied. However, detecting in which specific section the error was performed is impossible. Consequently, the alert needs at least to be displayed in all branches added from the section that triggers the traceability alert. The alert is also shown in the section that triggers the alert. *I.e. if we have a harvesting of 300 kgs, and afterwards two trade sections adding up 301 kgs are added to that harvesting, the traceability alert is displayed in the harvesting and in both trade sections. The system cannot know which trade section is wrong. Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.*

TRAGSA March 2019: Issue not discussed and Cost estimation of this issue has never been requested.

TRAGSA September 2019: Tragsa explains again that if a trade has an alert, the alert will be displayed in all the trades (branches) of that BCD. Importers will find the message but they will not be able to detect that the problem is in a different trade operation. The Group must decide if this development is necessary or not.

**Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate
BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2018**

(Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation 18-12)

1. Introduction

As other ICCAT CPCs, EU has since 26 May 2016 implemented the eBCD system for the Bluefin tuna (BFT) caught by the purse seine vessels and traps, and since 1 July 2016 for the fish caught by other gears. All operators fully implement the system as from January 2017.

Recommendation 18-12 provides a derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. This derogation is however restricted to specific cases. EU considers this derogation important because it removes a significant administrative burden related to the validation of trades for small quantities of BFT. It also contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs.

This derogation is up for review in 2020 and in the meantime, under paragraph 5b of Recommendation 18-12 the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

2. Derogation Under Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12]

For the year 2018, the data presented below corresponds to the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 and has been extracted through the relevant functionality in the eBCD system.

The scope of this report has been restricted to Member States of the EU actively engaged in the fishery, since the trade originating from other Member States and documented in eBCD is for the time being negligible. In addition, we also concentrate on the trade events for BFT sold from a Member States to another, in order to avoid duplication and also because the selling Member State is responsible for the possible validation of the trade in eBCD.

1. From 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, the EU Member States recorded 74.394 trade events, of which 12,454 took place between Member States for a quantity of 1,778.06 t.
2. Amongst these 12,454 trade events between EU Member States, 28% (3,447) were validated and 72% (9,005) were exempted from validation. This exemption was related to both the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation 18-12 and tagged fish.
3. In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, all catches are officially weighed. In addition, before validation, all relevant documents are crosschecked, including against logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. At the points of exit and entry from and into Member States, verifications include crosschecks with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Even when validation is not required, many Member States verify the validation of catch or tags details, and analyse the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD. In 2018, among the 74.394 trade events 98 were rejected before validation due to inconsistencies.

Data extraction functionalities, crosschecks and verifications through the eBCD system itself enable Member States to establish improved risk assessment procedures to specifically target trades events for verification.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

**Recommendation 11-18: IUU list 2019
List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities**

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040005	Not available	JAPAN - Sighting of tuna longliner in the Convention area, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown	Unknown	BRAVO	NO INFO	T8AN3	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040006	Not available	JAPAN - Reefer company provided documents showing frozen tuna had been transhipped.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040007	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)	AT	
20040008	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)		
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL -fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	SVG	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	NO INFO	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT	

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	NO INFO	FN 003883	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	MARIA	NO INFO	FN 003882	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
2006003	7302548	EU - Vessel suspected to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the Convention area, observed near the port of Shidao (CNSHD)	13/06/2019	E19-05088	Mongolia	Panama	ZHI MING	GOLDEN LAKE NO. 101 GLORIA	JVAW7	INTERA COMPAGNY S.A.	Suite 1203, 12th Floor, Ocean Business Plaza Building, Calle Aguilino de la Guardia y Calle 47 Este, Panama City, Panama		Longline
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 (Previous)</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	
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	

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
20060012	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT record as AT000GUI000002)	Japan- Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/08 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QMC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON 1	MANARA 1 (previously POSEIDON)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Panama	Equatorial Guinea	XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	3FHW5	Ocean Lion Shipping SA	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	

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
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.			
20110003	M-00545	IATTC WCPFC	30/08/2011 09/03/2016	E11-5762 E16-02093/16	Unknown	Georgia	Neptune		Unknown (4LOG)	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		Pacific Ocean	LL
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 10	Bhaskara No. 10				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No.9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Chia Hao No. 66	Chi Fuw No. 6	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma Alegre, San Francisco, Panama	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130001	IMO 7355662	WCPFC	09/03/2016	E16-02093	Unknown	Georgia	Fu Lien n° 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20130002		WCPFC: Fishing in the EEZ 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)	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Unknown	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	Unknown	Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21*		OTS 024 or OTS 089	Unknown			
20130004		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown	Belize	Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International LTD			
20130005		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Cambodia	Dragon III			Reino De Mar S.A	125 metros al Oeste de Sardimar cocal de Puntarenas Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130006		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Panamá	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	HO-2508	Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A	1 Fl, No. 101 Ta-She Road Ta She Hsiang Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130007		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Unknown	Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130008		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	Longline

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20130009		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130011		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	Tching Ye No. 6	Tching Ye No. 6, (El Diria I)	V3GN	Bluefin S.A.	Costado Este de UCR Barrio El Cocal Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130012	8994295	IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	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 (Uruguay)	25/11/2013	COC-303/2013 Annex 4; Plenary report Commission 2013	Indonesia	Unknown	Samudera Pasifik No. 18	Kawil No. 03; Lady VI-T-III	YGGY	Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger IndoenesiaPT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar	N Atl	Drifting longline
20150001	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150002	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228; KM.		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
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		
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		

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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		
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		

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
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		
20150020	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 105		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150021	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KIM SENG DENG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150022	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 127		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150023	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150024	7322897	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03 CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighting 57 (26 Feb 2015)	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Equatorial Guinea	Unknown	ASIAN WARRIOR	DORITA	J8B5336 (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		
20150026	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
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		
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	Mauritania	Equatorial Guinea	PESCACISNE 1, PESCACISNE 2	PALOMA V	9LU2119 (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		

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
20150037	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 189		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150038	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 286		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150039	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150040	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 888		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150041	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	TIAN LUNG NO.12		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150042	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 12	YI HONG 106	CPA 202	Huang Jia Yi/Mendez Francisco Delos Reyes	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20150043	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 9	YI HONG 116	CPA222	Huang Jia Yi /Pan Chao Maon	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20150044	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 3	YI HONG 16	CPA 201	Huang Jia Yi Huang Wen Hsin	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
20150045	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YI HONG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150046	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 1	YI HONG 6	CPA 226	Huang Jia Yi /Hatto Daroi	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03 CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.4): Fishing 58.4.1H (12 Jan 2015)	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	ATLANTIC WIND	CARRAN	5IM813 (3CAE)	High Mountain Overseas S.A	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		
20160001	n.a.	Senegal/ICCAT	25/02/2016	E16-01726	Unknown	Liberia; Indonesia	New Bai I No. 168	Samudera	YGMY	Shin Pao K ONG Winnie Tsengi	Unknown	AT	
20170013	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	ABUNDANT 6	YI HONG 86	CPA 221	Huang Jia Yi / Huang Wen Hsin	C/O Room 18-E ,Tze Wei No. 8 6 Th Road Lin Ya District Kaoshiung; Chinese Taipei		
20170014	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	SHENG JI QUN 3		CPA 311	Chang Lin / Mr. Chen, Chen-Tsai	Pao-Chun No. 161, Kaohsiung; Chinse Taipei		

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
20170015	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	SHUN LAI	HSIN JYI WANG NO.6	CPA 514	Lee Cheng Chung / Mr. Sun Han Min	5 Tze Wei Road, Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20170016	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	YUTUNA 3	HUNG SHENG NO. 166	CPA 212	Yen Shih Hsiung / Mr. Lee, Shih-Yuan	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20170017	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	YUTUNA NO. 1		CPA 302	Tseng Min Tsai / Mr. Yen Shih-Shiung	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20180001	7637527	IOTC Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Honduras	Unknown	WISDOM SEA REEFER		HQXQ4	Wisdom Sea Refer Line S.A. / Claudia E. Ramos Cerrato; Virgin Fishing Company ; / Myo Thant			
20180002		IOTC Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti ; Thailand	AL WESAM 4	CHAICHANA CHOKE 8	Unknown (HSN5721)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
20180003		IOTC Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti ; Thailand	AL WESAM 5	CHAINAVEE 54	Unknown (HSN5447)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
20180004		Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti ; Thailand	AL WESAM 2	CHAINAVEE 55	Unknown (HSB3852)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

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20180005		Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti ; Thailand	AL WESAM 1	SUPPHERMN AVEE 21	Unknown (HSN5282)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
201900001	Not available	IOTC: Engaged in fishing or fishing related activities in waters of a coastal State without permission or authorisation	17/09/2019	E19-08760	Unknown	Djibouti	CHOTCHAINA VEE 35		Unknown	Green Laurel International SARL / Master/Patron: Mr Prawit Kerdsuwan			
20190002	7330399	SEAFO: Fishing inside FAO Area 47 in 2016. Investigation initiated by Ecuadorian Fisheries Authority	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Bolivia	Unknown	Cape Flower	Cape Wrath	CPB3000	Express Financial Ventures Group Inc.			
20190003	7036345	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted 58.4.2 (23 Jan 2004)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Amorinn	Noemi	5VAN9	Seric Business S.A. / Infitco Ltd (Ocean Star Maritime Co.)			
20190004	7236634	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para. 3.49): Supporting IUU-listed vessels (03 Mar 2016)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Antony	Oji Maru No. 33	PQMG	World Ocean Fishing SL (Urgora S de RL)			
20190005	9037537	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para.10.52-10.53): Sighted 57 (14 Feb 2014)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Tanzania, Republic of	Unknown	Baroon	Triton I	5IM376	Vero Shipping Corporation / Punta Brava Fishing SA			

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20190006	6622642	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 9.11): Sighted 58.4.3b (08 Feb 2008)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Challenge	Mila	HO5381	Argibay Perez J.A. (Advantage Company S.A.)			
20190007	7020126	CCAMLR Commission Report (para.10.52-10.53): Resupplying IUU vessels 51 (09 Feb 2007)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Nigeria	Unknown	Good Hope	Toto	5NMU	Port Plus Ltd (Sharks Investments AVV)			
20190008	6607666	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 9.11): Fishing 58.4.3b (20 Jan 2009) SEAFO (2012)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Hai Lung	Isla Graciosa	PQBT	Etterna Ship Management (Belfast Global S.A.)			
20190009	7322926	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.3): Fishing 57 (29 Jul 2005)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Heavy Sea	Sherpa Uno	3ENF8	Barroso Fish S.A. (Meteora Shipping Inc.)			
20190010	7905443	CCAMLR Commission Report (para.9.1 & 9.9): Sighted 58.4.1 (15 Feb 2011)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Unknown	Koosha 4	NO INFO	9BQK	Pars Paya Seyd Industrial Fish (NO INFO)			
20190011	7388267	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted 58.4.3b (25 Jan 2007)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Limpopo	Cap George	Unknown	Alos Company Ghana Ltd (Lena Enterprises Ltd)			

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (II)

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20190012	8808903	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 3.49): Supporting IUU-listed vessels (03 Mar 2016)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Angola	Unknown	Northern Warrior	Sip 3	PJSA	Orkiz Agro-Pecuaria, Pescalas, Transportes E Comercio Geral, Limitada (World Ocean Fishing SL)			
20190013	5062479	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted, boarded 57 (22 Apr 2015)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Unknown	Unknown	Perlon	Lugalpesca	5NTV21	Americagalaica S.A. (Jose Lorenzo SL)			
20190014	7424891	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 10.52-10.53): Fishing 58.4.4b (10 Nov 2006)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Gambia	Unknown	Sea Urchin	Omoa I	Unknown	Farway Shipping (Cecibell Securities)			
20190015	8514772	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 3.49): Sighting in Area 57 (06 Apr 2017)	02/10/2019	E19-09454	Togo	Unknown	STS-50	Shinsei Maru No. 2	5VDR2	Marine Fisheries Corp. Co. Ltd (Poseidon Co. Ltd)			

(*) No information from IOTC on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels.

(**) Vessel with name "Yu Fong 168" has been listed in the WCPFC IUU List since 11 December 2009; it is also currently on the IOTC IUU list, since 21 June 2019, as communicated on 17/09/2019 (E19-08760).

Photo available for IUU vessel with Serial number: 20050001. See below:



Photos available from IOTC for IUU vessels with Serial numbers: 20100004, 20130003, 20130004, 20150014, 20150024, 20150026, 20150033, 20150042, 20150043, 20150044, 20150046, 20150047, 20170013, 20170016, 20170017, 20180001, 20180002, 20180003, 20180004, 20180005, and, 20190002. See the reference documents in: <https://www.iotc.org/vessels#iuu>

Photo available from IATTC for IUU vessel with Serial number: 2013002. See the reference document in <https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselDetails.aspx?VesNo=129&Lang=en>

Photo available, as indicated by the EU, for Serial number: 20190001. See the link: <https://iuu-vessels.org/Vessel/GetVessel/7991dd00-f072-455c-a2bd-5ad3cd1abbae>

BACKGROUND NOTES FOR THE DRAFT IUU LIST IN 2019

In the framework of the implementation of Paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08
Intersessional incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs

<i>RFMOs</i>	<i>IUU List requested by Secretariat</i>	<i>IUU List received by Secretariat</i>	<i>Circulated by Secretariat</i>	<i>Deadline for CPCs' objections</i>	<i>Status</i>
WCPFC		E19-02533 (02/04/2019)	S19-02121 (08/04/2019) as per Para. 11 of Rec. 18-08	08/05/2019	No objections
IATTC	16/09/2019	E19-08746 (16/09/2019)	S19-06505 (17/09/2019) as per Para. 11 of Rec. 18-08	18/10/2019	No objections
IOTC	16/09/2019	E19-08760 (17/09/2019)	S19-06516 (17/09/2019) as per Para. 11 of Rec. 18-08	18/10/2019	No objections
CCAMLR	S19-06509 (17/09/2019)	E19-09454 (02/10/2019)	S19-07278 (08/10/2019) as per Para. 11 of Rec. 18-08	07/11/2019	No objections
CCSBT	S19-06510 (17/09/2019)	E19-08836 (18/09/2019) - No IUU List	No information to circulate		
GFCM	S19-06511 (17/09/2019)	No list received			
NAFO	S19-06512 (17/09/2019)	No list received			
NEAFC	S19-06513 (17/09/2019)	No list received			
SEAFO	S19-06514 (17/09/2019)	E19-09119 (24/09/2019)	S19-06831 (25/09/2019) as per Para. 11 of Rec. 18-08	25/10/2019	No objections

The nine RFMOs contemplated by Rec. 18-08 are:

- the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),
- the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),
- the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),
- the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR),
- the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),
- the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),
- the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO),
- the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC),
- the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

Summary of the 2019 IUU Vessel Lists' cross-listing carried out

<i>RFMOs</i>	<i>Addition to ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Some changes in ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>No changes</i>	<i>Total</i>
WCPFC	0	0	2	0	2
WCPFC / IATTC	0	0	1	0	1
IATTC	0	1	12	0	13
IOTC	1	10	61	0	72
IOTC / CCAMLR	0	0	3	0	3
CCAMLR	12	0	0	0	12
CCAMLR / SEAFO	1	0	0	0	1
SEAFO	1	0	0	0	1
ICCAT (Chairman and COC)	0	0	1	2	3
ICCAT (Brazil)	0	0	1	0	1
ICCAT (Japan)	0	0	3	2	5
ICCAT (EU)	0	0	9	0	9
ICCAT (Senegal)	0	0	0	1	1
ICCAT (South Africa)	0	0	0	2	2
Total	15	11	93	7	126

INFORMATION FOR THE ICCAT IUU VESSELS LIST IN 2019

On 13 June 2019, the European Union (EU) informed the Secretariat that, according to para. 2 of Rec. 11-18, the EU wished to alert the Secretariat on the possibility for a vessel listed on the list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area to be in the vicinity of the port of Shidao (CNSHD). The vessel concerned by this alert is purportedly registered as follows:

- Name: *ZHI MING*
- IMO: 7302548
- IRCS: JVAW7
- Flag: Mongolia
- Registered owner: INTERA COMPANY SA (IMO: 5942421, incorporated in Panama).

The EU believes that the vessel could be listed on the list of IUU fishing vessels maintained by ICCAT under the name of *NO. 101 GLORIA* with reference number 20060003 (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>). This hypothesis is corroborated by intelligence available from open sources (<https://iuu-vessels.org/Vessel/GetVessel/7991dd00-f072-455c-a2bd-5ad3cd1abbae>). Based on the information available on the PSC database of the Tokyo MoU (http://www.tokyo-mou.org/inspections_detentions/psc_database.php), the EU noted that the vessel *ZHI MING* has records of presence in Weihai (CNWEI) where she was inspected and detained in March 2019 (in relation to her certificates) and again inspected on 9 April 2019.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**Statement made by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)**

Pew urges the Permanent Working Group (PWG) to take action at this year's Commission meeting to increase observer coverage, strengthen transshipment oversight, and implement strong vessel identification rules.

Despite repeated recommendations from the SCRS to increase observer coverage, ICCAT still only requires five percent observer coverage for longline vessels, meaning that few catch reports are corroborated by an independent observer on board. Citing the need to improve scientific information from longline fisheries on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species and recognizing that paragraph 18 of ICCAT Rec. 16-14 requires it to be reviewed by the Commission this year, Pew urges PWG to direct the SCRS to develop an Electronic Monitoring standards workplan by 2020, which sets a timeline for developing and adopting standards. Noting that many purse seiners already implement 100 percent observer coverage, ICCAT should increase observer coverage gradually to 100 percent for all longline operations, through a mix of human observers and electronic systems.

This year Pew submitted two papers on transshipment to the Compliance Committee (COC-312 Annex 1 & 2). The first paper is a brief analysis of CPC and Secretariat reports on transshipment, and it highlights that the number of reported high seas transshipment events continue to increase, with bigeye tuna, a species currently overfished and experiencing overfishing, accounting for more than 67 percent (19,544.83 t) of the fish transshipped in 2017. The second report is based on Automated Identification System (AIS) data analyzed in consultation with Global Fishing Watch. That paper highlights the possibility that unreported transshipments may have occurred within the Convention area in 2017. Both papers illustrate the need for better regulation and reporting of ICCAT transshipment activities to ensure full and effective monitoring and reduce opportunities for illegal fishing and introduction of illegally caught fish into the seafood supply chain. The USA's proposal to amend Rec. 16-15 (PWG-420) addresses several of the concerns that Pew highlighted in our submissions to the Compliance Committee, and we urge PWG to adopt this proposal with broad support.

Pew acknowledges the discussion on VMS at the IMM intersessional meeting, and we again urge PWG to continue to strengthen VMS by requiring inclusion of the ICCAT Secretariat as a recipient of VMS data, either through direct reporting by fishing vessels or by near real time reporting of VMS data from the Fishery Monitoring Centers of ICCAT flag State authorities. We also encourage Parties to allocate IMO numbers to all eligible vessels. These include those that at least 12 m long and operating outside of the waters of their flag State and all vessels 100 GT and above.

Whilst commending ICCAT's decision to align its port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing with the FAO's Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) last year, Pew strongly supports Norway's proposal on providing information on the implementation of that Agreement (PWG-414). RFMOs, including ICCAT, play a key role in ensuring consistency among global port controls and are well placed to provide information on implementation that will help strengthen the effectiveness of the PSMA.

We would also like to stress the importance of fisher and fisheries observer safety and urge CPCs to support proposal PWG-409 as forwarded from IMM. Additionally, by implementing two tools designed to address these issues, the Cape Town Agreement and the Work in Fishing Convention, Parties have an opportunity to improve safety standards and ensure decent working and living conditions on board thousands of flagged vessels operating within the Convention area. Perpetrators of IUU fishing tend not to worry about vessel certification or the safety and wellbeing of those onboard. Implementing these tools and, critically, capitalizing on the potential for harmonizing inspections between them and PSMA, could have a big impact in the fight against IUU fishing by increasing the likelihood of detecting anomalies. The Pew delegation is available to share a white paper with more information on these tools to any interested Parties.

Finally, in our capacity as the Chair of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative's Working Group to Define Best Practice and Inform Policy, Pew acknowledges and supports Norway's proposal PWG-417 to address lost, abandoned, or otherwise discarded fishing gear in the ICCAT Convention area. Many of the points included in the proposal align with the best practices identified by our working group and adopted by the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, after extensive stakeholder consultation, and its more than 100-member organizations.

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