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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2022-23
PART II (2023) - Vol. 1
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2023)

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, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, The Gambia, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman

E. PENAS LADO, EU
(since 23 November 2021)

First Vice Chair

Z. DRIOUICH, MOROCCO
(since 23 November 2021)

Second Vice Chair

R. CHONG, CURAÇAO
(since 23 November 2021)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

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

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

Chair

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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

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

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

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

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

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

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

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

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

E. PENAS LADO, European Union
(since 23 November 2021)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: CAMILLE JEAN PIERRE MANEL

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FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "**Report for the Biennial Period, 2022-2023, Part II (2023)**", 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 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Hybrid/New Cairo, Egypt, 13-20 November 2023) 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 2d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

ERNESTO PENAS LADO
Commission Chairman

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Proceedings of the 28th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas (ICCAT)

(New Cairo, Egypt / hybrid, 13-20 November 2023)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Ernesto Penas, Chair of the Commission, welcomed all the participants and introduced the Egyptian dignitaries in attendance, Mr Eng. Mostafa Elsayad, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt, Prof. Dr Salah Eldin Mesalhy, Chairman of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA), Major General Islam Rayan, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of National Company for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NCFA), and Major General Alhussein Farahat, Executive Director of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA).

Mr Camille Manel, Executive Secretary, also made some opening remarks, following which the Chair outlined what he considered some of the key elements for discussion at this 28th Regular Session, and declared the meeting open.

All the opening speeches are contained in **ANNEX 3.1**.

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Following some minor changes, the Agenda was adopted and is contained in **ANNEX 1**.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations

The ICCAT Executive Secretary introduced the Contracting Parties and indicated whether or not they were participating in-person or online. The following were in attendance: Albania (online) Algeria, Angola (online), Barbados (online), Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao (online), Egypt, El Salvador (online), European Union, France (St Pierre et Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras (online), Iceland (online), Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico (online), Morocco, Namibia (online), Nicaragua (online), Nigeria, Norway, Panama (online), Philippines (online), Russian Federation (online), Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines (online), Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye (online) United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (online).

Statements were submitted to the plenary session by Canada, the European Union, and Japan, and are contained in **ANNEX 3.2**.

4. Introduction of Observers

The ICCAT Executive Secretary introduced the observers attending the meeting; four of the five Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities were also in attendance: Bolivia (online), Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica (online) and Suriname. Colombia, as a non-Contracting, non-Cooperating Party was present online, and a total of ten Intergovernmental Organizations: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP); Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC); Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE); Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO / COMHAFAT); Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC); United Nations (UN) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

Twenty-six Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) also attended the meeting: Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sustentable (ALPESCAS); American Sportfishing Association (ASA); Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA); Birdlife International (BI); Blue Water Fishermen's Association (BWFA); Brazilian Association of Fish Industries (ABIPESCA); Defenders of Wildlife; Ecology Action Centre (EAC); European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD); EUROPÊCHE; Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP); Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP); Global Fishing Watch; Global Tuna Alliance (GTA); International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Marine Stewardship Council (MSC); Oceana; Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW); Pro Wildlife; SharkProject International; The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPLNF); The Ocean Foundation; The Shark Trust; Tuna Producer Association (TPA); Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV); and Worldwide Fund For Nature (WWF). These are included in the list of participants (**ANNEX 2**).

Statements were submitted by the following NGOs: Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena); Defenders of Wildlife; Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)*; International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)*; SharkProject International; The Shark Trust, and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)*. These are contained in **ANNEX 3.3**.

5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and discussion of a proposal to set a process on the status of the responses to the Commission requests

The Chair of the SCRS reported on its 2023 activities. He acknowledged the demands of a busy year placed on CPC scientists and the Secretariat. He noted that additional support was needed, and further noted that this support could be provided in a variety of ways.

CPCs acknowledged and thanked the SCRS for the considerable progress made on determining the status of several ICCAT species. They highlighted that the SCRS should consider the interactions that these stocks have on their ecosystems and in specific cases on other fish resources. One example discussed the predation on small pelagic in the Mediterranean by bluefin tuna that is affecting other important local fisheries. They also expressed support for the Commission Chair's suggestion for ICCAT to interact with other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) for evaluation of ecosystem-level interactions of ICCAT species. CPCs also shared their concerns on the status of Mediterranean small tunas and shark species calling to regional CPCs to increase their effort to obtain fisheries statistics and biological information to evaluate their status as early as possible.

The SCRS presented its "Revised roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes adopted by the Commission in 2022". Final adoption of a revised version of this roadmap was postponed to the final Plenary session, after the Panels had deliberated. It is contained in **ANNEX 6.1**. CPCs thanked the SCRS for its progress to date and looked forward to seeing more. The SCRS supported increased funding and resources for the multi-stock Tropical Tunas MSE but also expressed some scepticism that the Tropical Tunas MSE could be completed according to the timeline proposed. Moreover, CPCs suggested that the use of an integrated team of internal and external experts to complete the multi-stock Tropical Tunas MSE might improve the quality of that work and the speed with which it can be completed.

In the response to the points raised on the multi-stock Tropical Tunas MSE, the SCRS Chair noted that the points raised had not yet been discussed by the SCRS. Nevertheless, he noted that additional expertise applied to the multi-stock MSE was a proposal that had merit but that would have to be discussed by the relevant working groups.

CPCs inquired about the lessons learned from the MSE processes to date. They inquired further about how the dialogue between managers and scientists could be improved given the experiences to date. In response to the latter, the SCRS noted that in some cases, it might be beneficial if dialogues could be conducted in a less formal setting. In response to the former, the SCRS Chair noted that MSE capacity at ICCAT had improved but there remained some deficits.

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

CPCs inquired if the SCRS had made progress in consolidating its knowledge on the effects of Climate Change on ICCAT stocks. The SCRS Chair responded that these areas were areas of active work but that Climate Change effects on stocks had not been compiled.

Several CPCs commented on the increased number of both SCRS and Commission meetings throughout the year. It was noted that online access to most meetings has provided the opportunity to increase participation by CPCs however it was also noted the importance of the in-person participation and discussion for reaching objectives and agreements/consensus among parties. It was further noted that the Commission has integrated work on Climate Change and its impact on ICCAT resources, and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) considerations. The Commission Chair asked how the SCRS will be able to address potentially new and more complicated analyses and what the scientific considerations would be and the resources needed to address requests on these issues.

In reference to the number of meetings and the schedule of these meetings, the SCRS Chair suggested that some months of the year are restricted for meetings due to current requirements, such as the travel support protocol. He suggested that providing some flexibility on these protocols should allow us to schedule meetings in the first months of the year, spreading out the SCRS and Commission meeting schedules. In addition, the SCRS Chair also indicated the need for the SCRS to evaluate the workload, prioritize, and follow up on the request from the Commission on scientific questions. CPCs also expressed their concern for the workload both for domestic scientists and the Secretariat. They expressed the need to streamline and increase the efficiency of their work.

With respect to prioritizing one stock assessment over another, CPCs noted that there is no process in place to make such decisions. CPCs noted that currently there are over 150 Recommendations and Resolutions that require management actions, data, and provision of information by CPCs to the Secretariat. These represent part of the large increase in work for the SCRS and the Secretariat. The Commission Chair noted one potential way to prioritize requests for scientific advice would be to ensure that requests for scientific advice were prioritized at the point in time that they were made. It was further noted that it would help if the SCRS could respond to the Commission's requests when they are made and in so doing provide information about if it was possible to deliver the requested information, and how long delivering such a request might take. This could include reviewing the data and financial requirements entailed in the request, an analysis of its feasibility, considering the utility of the request, and establishing a realistic schedule for the task requested.

To help track Commission requests and recommendations, the SCRS Chair indicated that a tool is being developed that will maintain, catalogue, and archive requests, and their respective responses from the SCRS. This tool will allow interactive evaluation for each Commission body to provide a status of the request and for the SCRS to follow their progress and completion. The Commission Chair requested that the SCRS Chair consider options to streamline and focus the work of the SCRS in reference to the Commission's requests to this body in order to facilitate discussions related to prioritization at future Commission meetings. A CPC suggested that each panel chair and the SCRS Chair get together and consolidate the requirements for the SCRS in each recommendation.

CPCs recognized the SCRS' progress on various MSEs. They highlighted the importance of the mixed Tropical Tunas MSE and suggested that there be an increase in support both in human and financial resources dedicated to it. CPCs further suggested that an MSE expert group, with ICCAT and external participation, could be created. This group could support and provide guidance and could enhance communication between scientists and stakeholders on the current ICCAT MSE processes. This group should also advise on different ways to incorporate climate and environmental issues in the MSE process. CPCs further noted that the expertise gained from already adopted ICCAT MSE processes needs to be integrated into MSE processes currently in development.

Several CPCs noted the advantages of having interpretation services during some of the SCRS scientific meetings in 2023. They expressed their continued support for it. They indicated that the Commission should discuss and allocate the resources needed for interpretation services for the SCRS scientific meetings on a regular basis.

CPCs noted that while the workplan of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch referred to reviewing *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries* (Rec. 11-09), *Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries* (Rec. 07-07) also required review.

6. Review of the reports of the 2023 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair informed the Commission that the reports of the various intersessional meetings have been published as: [Report of the Climate Change Experts Meeting](#); [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 on Western Skipjack MSE](#); [Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report on Fourth Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#); [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#); [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#); [Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#); [Report of the First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group \(eBCD TWG\)](#); [Report of the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group \(eBCD TWG\)](#); [Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity](#); [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#) .

The Chair indicated that most of the reports of the intersessional meetings would be considered by the relevant subsidiary bodies, with the exception of the Report of the Climate Change Experts Meeting. The Chair of this Expert Group (Dr Kelly Kryc, USA) gave a brief overview of the report, and informed the Commission that the Group had included three external experts. Collectively, these experts provided scientific background summarizing the oceanographic effects of Climate Change, the potential impact of those changes on highly migratory species, and potential governance issues implicated by Climate Change. On the basis of the discussion that followed the presentations of the experts, a draft action plan had been developed and refined by the Chair of the Expert Group, and was now being put forward for consideration. It was agreed that this would be further discussed in Item 9. The [Report of the Climate Change Experts Meeting](#) was approved by the Commission.

7. Final review of follow-up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of the need for future Performance Review

It was agreed that the Chair would work with the Secretariat on this following the meeting, and that the consideration of Performance Review could be discussed in 2024.

8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

It was noted that this issue would be discussed further by STACFAD.

9. Cooperation with and updates relating to other organisations

9.1 Cooperation with other IGOs

The Executive Secretary presented the document “International Cooperation” outlining the cooperation which had taken place with other international organisations during the course of 2023. A letter of cooperation with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) under the umbrella of the Agreement Between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission were put forward for consideration by the Commission. There was general support for these documents, and with some slight edits the “Exchange of Letters of Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)” (**ANNEX 6.2**) and the “Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission” (**ANNEX 6.3**) were adopted by the Commission.

The Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) thanked ICCAT for the good cooperation to date which he trusted would continue into the future, given the overlap of membership and Convention areas. He hoped that the two bodies could cooperate specifically on two initiatives, a workshop on marine turtles and another on driftnets in the Mediterranean Sea. He also informed the Commission of a Regional Forum on Fisheries Science which was being organised with Türkiye and the European Union where several issues of relevance to both Commissions would be discussed.

Ms. Yvette Diei Ouadi of the WECAFC Secretariat joined the meeting online. Ms. Diei Ouadi thanked the Executive Secretary for extending the invitation to the WECAFC and giving the opportunity to intervene at this eminent meeting, noting that this was indeed a long-standing shared practice between the two regional fisheries bodies, to attend the plenary of our respective Commissions, and to actively contribute to scientific and technical workshops (advisory bodies: Working Groups, Scientific Advisory Group).

She noted that after almost four years of preparation and reviews of a framework of cooperation, which started as a draft MoU, ICCAT and WECAFC had reached a stage which meets the legal and is aligned with our common goals of formalizing our exchange of information and documents and conducting activities of mutual interest for the sustainable use of living marine resources and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, within the respective mandates, governing rules, and conservation and management measures. Ms. Diei Ouadi also expressed her satisfaction and a gratitude to all those who made it possible, especially the former WECAFC Chair who led the process with the Secretariat from its inception to the 18th Session of WECAFC in 2022, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, as well as all WECAFC members.

The Exchange of Letters has five main points, which are concrete and inclusive areas of activities. She assured the Commission that WECAFC stood ready to give another round of review to any amendment by ICCAT CPCs which keeps to the so far approved FAO legal framework as guided by the FAO Legal Division and was hopeful that 2024 will mark the beginning of a new era of collaboration between ICCAT and WECAFC, with projects and standalone interventions in support of the implementation of this Exchange of Letters.

9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2

Mr Kim Stobberup, FAO, gave a presentation of the implementation of phase 2 of the ABNJ, under which ICCAT had put forward four activities, although the project coordinator noted that other activities could be of benefit to ICCAT. The ABNJ counted on the collaboration of a total of 25 organisations, including the tuna RFMOs, industry representatives and civil society, and had a budget of 14 million dollars over the period 2022-2027. The activities built on the successes of phase 1 of the project, but would now concentrate on strengthened fisheries management, strengthened MCS measures and environmental protection.

Several CPCs thanked the ABNJ coordinator and expressed support for ICCAT's participation in this project.

9.3 Updates on BBNJ processes, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies and any other relevant instruments

In addition to the information provided by Mr Manel, the Executive Secretary, Mr Michele Ameri gave a brief overview of the work of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) relevant to ICCAT, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), noting that the review conference of this latter had been revised in May 2023 and a range of recommendations would provide a guide until 2028. Mr Ameri indicated that the General Assembly on Fisheries was currently ongoing in the United Nations, and hoped to be able to provide an update later in the week. With regard to the BBNJ, following 20 years of discussion, the BBNJ had been adopted by consensus, and the Secretary General of the UN would act as Secretariat until such time as the Agreement entered into force and could establish its own Secretariat. Mr Ameri invited all participants to an online side event for more information on the work of the BBNJ.

The ICCAT Chair posed the question as to whether ICCAT should be involved in the BBNJ process and if so whether the resources were available. There was a general consensus that involvement in the BBNJ would be beneficial despite the cost in time and resources, as to not do so bore greater risks in the long run. There was also a suggestion that any such involvement should be coordinated with other tuna RFMOs to better consider this matter in a broader context. It was noted that a forthcoming meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) could also be a good opportunity to coordinate with other fisheries bodies.

Recognizing the BBNJ Agreement's objectives of achieving science-based conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ while protecting high seas freedoms, promoting marine scientific research, and respecting the competencies of regional and sectoral bodies, it was noted that the Agreement should promote coordination with – and not undermine – relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional subregional and sectoral bodies.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary requested more guidance on how best to engage on this issue at international meetings. To this end the Chair of the Commission presented a draft proposal on the way forward. Following some adjustments to the text the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments (ANNEX 4)*.

9.4 Consideration of any future actions and cooperative efforts on Climate Change

The United Kingdom introduced a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on the creation of a Standing Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (SJEG-CC)” which aimed to create a forum to advise the Commission on effective approaches for advancing the scientific, management, and governance issues related to Climate Change. Several CPCs expressed their support, but noted that the Resolution may need to be refined. Other CPCs expressed their concerns about the increasing workload and scarce resources, particularly for the SCRS, resulting from such groups and noted that given its limited budget and human resources, there is no need to establish a new standing committee. A CPC also expressed additional concern as regards such groups with undefined aims and requested that, at a minimum, a stock-take be done of the Climate Change work currently being implemented and integrated in ICCAT, underlining that the priority should be to have Climate Change effects reflected in the scientific advice and management procedures, which is already the case in certain instances.

A revised proposal was presented and the *Resolution by ICCAT on next steps on the Joint Expert Group on Climate Change in 2024 (ANNEX 5)* was adopted by consensus.

Following the adoption of this Resolution, the Commission decided that the “Revised ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change” put forward by the Chair of the Group was premature, and the plan was not adopted, but would be considered by the Experts Group in 2024.

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

The Chair of STACFAD, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America) informed the Commission that STACFAD had reviewed and adopted two reports prepared by the Secretariat, the “2023 Administrative Report” and the “2023 Financial Report”. As part of the review of the financial report, it was agreed to the selection of Grant Thornton as the new auditor for the next five year period. In addition, it was noted that the situation of the Working Capital Fund has improved somewhat in the past two years, and it is projected by the end of the year to be above the recommended minimum balance of 15% of the annual budget.

The Committee had reviewed the current information related to those CPCs in arrears for their 2023 budgetary contributions as well as those with accumulated debt from prior years and, while noting that the overall level of arrears is lower than in recent years, expressed significant concern about the level of accumulated debt, which remains steady at almost half of the Commission's annual budget. The efforts that some CPCs have made to develop a payment plan and successfully eliminate their accumulated debt were recognized, and the STACFAD Chair encouraged CPCs to consult among themselves to share ideas for creative and effective ways to meet their financial obligations.

Some concerns had been raised by some CPCs regarding the changes in their status under the contribution formula contained within ICCAT's financial regulations that had resulted in a significant increase in their 2024 contribution level, but clarified that the source of such status had not changed.

The Committee also agreed to reconvene the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing early in 2024 to focus on developing additional recommendations in three areas: identifying options to reduce the high costs of the annual meeting and additional sources of sustainable financing for these meetings; developing recommendations for balancing and managing the growing intersessional workload and its associated resource challenges for both CPCs and the Secretariat; and, undertaking a full review of the rules for the Meeting Participation Fund, informed by the lessons and experiences of operating under its revised terms of reference over the past two years, to identify any additional amendments.

Having taken note of the difficulties which had arisen in recent years, STACFAD had also agreed to continue to explore ideas for expanding the pool of rapporteurs for the growing number of Commission meetings throughout the year.

The Committee reviewed the status and use of the Meeting Participation Fund, and noted the value of taking stock of the experiences of the Secretariat and CPCs operating under revised terms of reference and guidelines over the past two years, and hence agreed to shorten the initial deadlines in the rules of procedure in order to facilitate organizing intersessional meetings, particularly SCRS, earlier in the year. The document "Draft Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (Ref. 20-10)" was reviewed and a revised version was approved by the Commission (**ANNEX 6.4**).

STACFAD put forward a "Template for Cover Sheet to accompany new proposals" to accompany all proposals submitted by CPCs beginning next year, which will provide a clear summary of the financial, scientific, and workload, implications of new proposals for both CPCs and the Secretariat. The Commission approved a revised version which is contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**.

STACFAD had discussed the draft Biennial Budget for the period 2024 and 2025, as well as the SCRS research activities requiring funding, the draft IOMS budget and the draft eBCD budget and associated contributions, and put forward a revised version for consideration.

Some CPCs expressed continued concerns about the overall level of increase to the budget and requested that the Secretariat revise the draft to reduce further the overall costs in both 2024 and 2025. The European Union suggested that the budget be adopted for one year only, but recognized that this was not possible as the financial regulations required the adoption of a biennial budget. The EU indicated that it would not block the adoption of the budget, but still had concerns about possible artificially inflated numbers for 2025.

Following some further revisions, the draft budget and associated contributions were adopted on the clear understanding that STACFAD will review and revise the 2025 budget as needed at the 2024 annual meeting. The adopted budget is contained in **Tables 1-7 of ANNEX 7**.

The information on "SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2024 and 2025" was reviewed and a revised science budget for 2024-2025 of €2,145,000, of which €1,000,000 corresponds to bluefin tuna (GBYP), was adopted (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**).

The Commission also adopted the revised eBCD system budget for 2024-2025, which is included as **eBCD Tables 1-7 of ANNEX 7**.

Ms. Warner-Kramer was re-elected by the Standing Committee to serve as Chair for the years 2024 and 2025.

It was agreed that the Report of STACFAD would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 7**.

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

Panel 1

Mr Paul Bannerman (Ghana), Chair of Panel 1, informed the Commission the [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 on Western Skipjack MSE](#); [Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report on Fourth Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) were approved by the Panel.

The Chair of Panel 1 also informed that Barbados and The Gambia had become members of Panel 1, bringing the total number of members to 43.

The primary focus on the Panel meeting was to review the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 22-01). A review of scientific papers on the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1, the Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 on Western Skipjack MSE and the Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 was carried out. Other scientific reports highlighting fishing capacities and the Independent Performance Review of ICCAT were briefly mentioned. The Chair of Panel 1 noted that all intersessional reports of Panel 1 were available on the ICCAT website.

Regarding the compliance tables, Korea (Rep.) raised an issue regarding the calculation of catch limits affecting its quota allocation with the Panel and it was agreed that this would be rectified accordingly together with those of the EU, China (P.R.) and Chinese Taipei, as described in footnote 5 to the bigeye tuna compliance tables in the Compliance Annex.

Two proposals were presented to Panel 1 by the United States. The first, a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna”, envisaged that Panel 1 would develop in 2024 initial operational management objectives for some tropical stocks including bigeye and eastern skipjack based on SCRS inputs, as part of the selection of a management procedure to be adopted to safeguard the fishery. A revised version of this initiative was not endorsed by Panel 1 or by the Commission.

A second proposal was also presented by the United States: “Proposal to enhance the conservation and management of bigeye tuna through the establishment of a minimum size and related measures”. While it was reiterated at the Panel meeting that such measures are laudable, it was considered that initiating measures to incorporate minimum sizes of fish in terms of a percentage (of tropical tunas being fished by surface fleets) with respect to bigeye tuna would need more attention and time, and hence the proposal was not endorsed by the Panel.

Several proposals were presented during the Panel 1 sessions, to replace Rec. 22-01 or allocation keys, including proposals on the application of the allocation criteria and thresholds for sharing quotas and transfers.

The Panel discussed at length various options to build consensus on an equitable allocation key (sharing quotas), but consensus could not be achieved. A rollover of Rec. 22-01 was therefore forwarded to Plenary for adoption that would continue the necessary measures through 2024. There was no consensus on whether or not to hold an intersessional meeting of the Panel, and it was agreed that the final decision would be taken intersessionally.

Two Contracting Parties presented their plans for payback of their overharvest of bigeye tuna, as noted by the Compliance Committee. The plans of Senegal and Brazil were reviewed by the Panel respectively and revised versions were subsequently forwarded to Plenary for adoption.

The Commission reviewed the texts put forward by Panel 1 and adopted the following three Recommendations, which are contained in **ANNEX 4**:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Senegal’s Bigeye Tuna Payback Plan*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Brazil’s Bigeye Tuna Payback Plan*

- *Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas*

Ghana was re-elected Chair of Panel 1 for the 2024-2025 period. Ghana informed the Commission that Dr Emmanuel Dovlo would be designated to fill this role.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 1 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 2

Mr Shingo Ota (Japan) informed the Commission that the [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#) was approved by Panel 2.

The Chair of Panel 2 also informed that there had been one change to the Panel membership. Brazil withdrew from Panel 2, bringing the number of Panel 2 Members to 28.

Under Agenda item 5, the SCRS Chair, Dr Craig Brown, reported on the status of North Atlantic and Mediterranean albacore as well as Atlantic bluefin tuna. He also provided responses to the specific requests of the Commission. It should be noted that this year a new TAC was calculated through the management procedure for North Atlantic albacore, which is a 25% increase from the previous level. This new figure, 47,251 t, was recommended by the SCRS as the SCRS did not detect any exceptional circumstances.

The Panel had discussed eight documents in total, including two proposals on North Atlantic albacore, based on the new TAC recommended by the SCRS submitted by the EU and the UK entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore”. These proposals were merged and submitted for adoption by the Plenary.

The EU submitted a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea” which was agreed by the Panel following several amendments.

Two proposals were submitted to amend Rec. 22-08: “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-08” regarding management of bluefin tuna farming, submitted by the EU, and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” submitted by the Chair of Panel 2 to incorporate changes which had been agreed by the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group. Both these proposals were agreed by Panel 2 and submitted to plenary for adoption.

The Chair of Panel 2 had also submitted a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-09 establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas”, which is a draft exceptional circumstances protocol for Atlantic bluefin tuna. A revised version was agreed by the Panel.

The remaining two documents were: a “Proposal on BFT-E allocation”, submitted by Korea (Rep.) and a discussion paper under the title “Towards a more equitable allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna”, submitted by the United Kingdom, both related to the allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. After having discussion on these documents, Panel 2 decided to extend the next Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 by two days to further discuss the allocation issue. The next Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 would therefore be four days in total.

The Commission reviewed the proposals put forward by Panel 2 and adopted the following measures which are contained in **ANNEX 4**:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-08¹*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean¹*

¹ The two Recommendations amending Rec. 22-08 have been combined into one measure, Rec. 23-06.

- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-09 establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas*
- *Recommendation amending the Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol for North Atlantic albacore*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea*

It was confirmed that the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas* (Rec. 22-09) shall be repealed, being replaced by the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-09 establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas*.

Panel 2 agreed to suspend requesting the SCRS to answer Question 19.10 regarding possible expansion of the fishing season and fishing areas for Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries.

Norway updated Panel 2 with its ongoing project for short-term live storage of bluefin tuna. There was no discussion on the “Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna” or on the “Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 2”.

Panel 2 supported the continuation of Japan as Chair of Panel 2 for the period of 2024-25, and this was approved.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 3

The Chair of Panel 3 informed the Commission that there had been no changes in the membership and that there were no new measures adopted by Panel 3.

The Panel had elected South Africa to serve as Chair for a further two-year term 2024-2025.

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

Panel 4

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr Amar Ouchelli (Algeria) informed the Commission that the Panel had approved the [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#); [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#); and [Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#).

The Chair of Panel 4 reported that the Panel had held five sessions. Barbados has become a member of Panel 4 which now has 42 members. Under agenda item 5, Dr Kyle Gillespie (Chair of the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE Technical Sub-group) presented the final results of the North Atlantic swordfish Management Strategy (MSE) assessment, while highlighting the difficulty encountered in updating the combined indices on the abundance index, which resulted in a slight difference in the final results.

The Chair of the SCRS, Dr Brown, presented the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. Comments and clarifications were made on several points including recent shark listings under CITES, the status of the Mediterranean swordfish stock, and studies on the relationship between size and weight of tropical small tunas and first sexual maturity.

The Panel discussed, but did not adopt, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”, sponsored by 26 Contracting Parties; “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”; “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for North Atlantic swordfish”; Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries; “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish”; and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the establishment of catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish for Egypt”.

On the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”, the United States expressed disappointment that the Recommendation sponsored by 26 Contracting Parties had not met with consensus after 15 years and indicated that they would put this draft forward once again at the next Commission meeting.

The Panel did reach consensus on the following recommendations with modifications, which were adopted by the Commission and are contained in **ANNEX 4**, and one resolution which is contained in **ANNEX 5**:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on a pay back plan for blue marlin by Curaçao*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mobulid Rays (Family Mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *Resolution by ICCAT on Cetaceans Encirclement*

Panel 4 had re-elected Algeria to serve as Chair for the forthcoming biennial period 2024-2025, noting the good work of Mr Ouchelli.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

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

The Chair of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (known as the Compliance Committee or COC), Mr Derek Campbell (United States of America), informed the Commission that the [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#), which was held online from 7-8 February 2023, was approved by the Compliance Committee.

The COC Chair was pleased to report that the 2023 Compliance Committee Meeting had a number of positive outcomes, which reflected a very constructive spirit of the CPCs and the utility of the two-day special session that is held every two years.

The COC had agreed that Mr Campbell, in his role as Chair of the Committee, send letters on compliance matters to 33 CPCs, and that the Commission identify Angola, Cabo Verde, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, and maintain the identification of Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, São Tomé e Príncipe, and Senegal under the [Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures \(Rec. 06-13\)](#).

The COC recommended that the Commission renew cooperating status for all CPCs that currently enjoy such status under the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 03-20 on criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT (Rec. 21-24)*. This was approved by the Commission.

Regarding non-CPCs, the COC recommended that letters be sent to those non-Contracting, non-Cooperating Parties which previously received letters, with the exception of Lebanon and Israel, as it was understood that Israel was in the process of submitting its instrument of ratification of the ICCAT Convention. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should again send out letters to Dominica, St Kitts and St Nevis and St Lucia. Guided by a submission from Japan, it was agreed to continue discussion on how to address fishing by non-CPCs in 2024, and the Secretariat was requested to prepare information on fishing by non-parties over the past 5 years.

The Committee had approved all the tables in the Compliance Annex, noting that these may be subject to revision in the future to address outstanding interpretive issues and updated catch information, to be reflected in footnotes in the document. It was also noted that Panel 1 had endorsed the payback plans for bigeye tuna for Brazil and Senegal, and that Panel 4 had endorsed the payback plan for blue marlin submitted by Curaçao. The Commission adopted the Compliance Annex with this proviso which is contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**.

The COC Chair also reported that the COC had approved, and was presenting for adoption the *Revised Guidelines For The Preparation Of Annual Reports*. The Revised Guidelines were adopted by the Commission and are contained in **ANNEX 6.5**.

Taking into account the applications, the discussion during the COC, input from the Secretariat Compliance Department, and the focus of the compliance missions, which is reporting, the COC Chair recommended that Sao Tome and Principe be the first recipient of a compliance mission, as of all the applicants, this Contracting Party has evidenced the most need for assistance in fulfilling ICCAT reporting requirements. This was approved by the Commission. Future recipients would be considered at the 2024 annual meeting.

The 2023 Status Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) was presented. In addition, the Chair of the Working Group referenced the "Proposed Commission budget for Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) 2024-2025". This budget, as described, would support the continued development of IOMS to meet the objectives of the WG-ORT's workplan. The COC supported the need for additional funding as proposed. In addition to the above, the COC welcomed the progress on the development and implementation of ICCAT online reporting system, and encouraged the continued work by the WG-ORT and Secretariat team to further develop and improve the system, and recommended that the feasibility of progressively translating parts of the Annual Reports be explored. The Secretariat also announced in-person training available for IOMS at the Annual Meeting for interested CPCs.

The Committee also recommended the creation of a living document that can serve as a repository for capacity building resources, to be populated by information from CPCs, other inter-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders about activities in the capacity building space relevant to ICCAT.

The Committee requested the SCRS Billfish and Sharks Species Groups develop procedures at the species level, as appropriate, for submitting and reviewing CPC requests for exemptions from billfish and shark check sheets.

The COC recommended further that the Commission continue to take steps to streamline ICCAT recommendations, reporting requirements, and reports that are considered by the Compliance Committee. Externalising the review of such documents could also be considered. It was agreed that meaningful steps to progressively implement ICCAT's Schedule of Actions should continue, including, if possible, working with the Secretariat and Friends of the Chair during the intersessional period to develop formats and methodologies to ensure its implementation is efficient, fair, and transparent. It was noted that in the future, the Agenda of the Compliance Committee would include an item to discuss process improvements for COC in order to periodically assess the procedures and documentation used.

The COC Chair informed the Commission that, to build on a discussion to identify measures for priority review in 2024, he would send out a circular to seek additional input from CPCs on how to prioritize our work in this regard next year.

Lastly, taking note of the helpful report the Secretariat prepared on CPC reports on implementation of ICCAT's turtle recommendation, the COC Chair committed to reach out intersessionally to CPCs if a response is unclear or blank in order to seek additional information, so as to support a more detailed review in 2024. The COC Chair further committed to contacting CPCs intersessionally to encourage the submission of updated forms that describe national scientific observer programmes and to remind them of the need to go through the SCRS to obtain the exemption necessary to use alternative measures to fulfil the requirements of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs (Rec. 16-14)*.

Mr Derek Campbell had been elected by the Compliance Committee to serve as Chair for a further two years 2024 and 2025.

It was agreed that the Report of the Compliance Committee would be adopted by correspondence.

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

The Chair of the PWG, Mr Neil Ansell (European Union) informed the Commission that the PWG had approved the *Report of the 16th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM)* from their meeting in June 2023, as well as the *Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG)*, the *Report of the First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)*, the *Report of the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)*, the *Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)*, the *Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)*, and the *Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG)*.

The PWG had held extensive discussions on "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the Convention Area in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction" as well as "Draft Resolution by ICCAT for the establishment of a Working Group on the support to the implementation of ICCAT Recommendation 23-X establishing a Joint International Inspection Scheme" to support the implementation of such scheme, but there was no consensus on either of the two proposals discussed.

The PWG did reach consensus on the following recommendations with modifications, which were adopted by the Commission and are contained in **ANNEX 4**, and a resolution which is contained in **ANNEX 5**:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and program requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries*
- *Recommendation amending Recommendation 18-09 by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)*
- *Resolution by ICCAT on core principles on labour standards in ICCAT fisheries*

The delegate of Japan noted that Japan had agreed to allow the "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on core principles on labour standards in ICCAT fisheries" to be sent to Plenary in order not to block consensus, but that such agreement did not necessarily mean that Japan would support any future binding measures on this subject.

For the ICCAT IUU Vessel List, the PWG agreed to the removal of two vessels from the “Draft IUU List of Vessels for 2023” as well as other changes based on information received and cross-listing conducted in the intersessional period. There was, however, no agreement on the inclusion of one vessel in the draft list and as a result remains in brackets pending resolution in Plenary.

Following further discussion, the Commission agreed that the Angolan flagged vessel *DEMERSAL 9* would not be included on the IUU Vessel List. Notwithstanding, the delegate of the EU reiterated the gravity of fishing while under prohibition, and urged Angola to do all in its power to abide by the ICCAT conservation and management measures and exercise good control over this vessel. The delegate of Angola thanked the Commission and undertook to do this.

The final IUU Vessel List was adopted by the Commission.

The PWG had unanimously supported the continuation of the current Chair, Mr Neil Ansell, to serve as PWG Chair for the 2024-2025 period.

It was agreed that the Report of the PWG would be adopted by correspondence.

14. Streamlining of conservation and management measures

The Secretariat presented the list of Recommendations which had already been removed from the Active Compendium, together with suggestions for further streamlining. The Commission agreed that *Recommendation by ICCAT on shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 14-06)* and *Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 10-06)* be deactivated as they were redundant in light of subsequent measures.

The United Kingdom indicated its intention to work on merging the two measures relating to seabirds and hoped in the future to participate in the work of merging some of the existing shark measures.

15. Intersessional meetings in 2024

The Commission reviewed the calendar for 2024 but agreed that while the final dates would have to be agreed by correspondence, the following meetings would be held in 2024:

- One meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (to be held online)
- One meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (to be held online)
- One meeting of Panel 1 to deal with MSE for SKJ-W. A second meeting of Panel 1 to consider management measures may possibly be held.
- One meeting of four days' duration of Panel 2
- One meeting of Panel 4 to finalise MSE for Atlantic swordfish
- One meeting of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change
- One meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)
- Two meetings of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (which now encompasses eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)), one early in the year to deal with eBCD matters and the other together with the IMM
- One meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM)

The Commission agreed that the SCRS should carry out stock assessments on yellowfin, blue marlin and Mediterranean albacore, but that the assessment on shortfin mako could be postponed.

16. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

All CPCs unanimously agreed to re-elect the current Chair and Vice-Chairs for the 2024-2025 biennial period. Thus, Mr Ramon Chong will remain second Vice-Chair, Ms. Zakia Driouich will remain first Vice-Chair and Mr Ernesto Penas will continue to serve as Chair of the Commission.

The Commission also approved the election of the Chairs of all the subsidiary bodies who had been elected by those bodies, appreciating the excellent work to date of those being re-elected.

Given the concern of some CPCs about the untransparent procedure of electing the Chair of Panel 1, the Commission noted the importance of resuming the Virtual Working Group on Review of Rules of Procedure of the Commission and the Commission Chair stated that he would like to discuss the matter in 2024.

17. Other matters

Reactivation of the Council

At the suggestion of the delegate of Uruguay, the Commission discussed whether or not it would be appropriate to reactivate the Council, as provided for by the Rules of Procedure, but there was no consensus on doing so.

Retirement of Mr Carlos Palma

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that Mr Carlos Palma, Head of the Department of Statistics and “data guru”, was retiring from the Secretariat after 23 years of service. All CPCs joined Mr Manel in thanking Mr Palma for his most excellent and dedicated service and agreed that he will be greatly missed.

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

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would be held in EU-Cyprus, 11-18 November 2024.

19. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Commission agreed to adopt the report by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

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) and discussion of a proposal to set a process on the status of the responses to the Commission requests
6. Review of the reports of the 2023 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Final review of follow-up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of the need for future Performance Review
8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
9. Cooperation with and updates relating to other organisations
 - 9.1 Cooperation with other IGOs
 - 9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2
 - 9.3 Updates on BBNJ processes, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies and any other relevant instruments.
 - 9.4 Consideration of any future actions and cooperative efforts on Climate Change
10. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
11. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Streamlining of conservation and management measures
15. Intersessional meetings in 2024
16. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs
17. Other matters
 - 17.1 Consideration of the revival of the Council
18. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
19. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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Opening addresses and statements to the plenary sessions

3.1 Opening addresses

By Mr Ernesto Penas Lado, Commission Chairman

Eng. Mostafa Elsayad, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
 Prof. Dr Salah Eldin Mesalhy, Chairman of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)
 Major General Islam Rayan, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of National Company for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NCFA)
 Major General Alhussein Farahat, Executive Director of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)
 Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank the Egyptian authorities for organising this 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission, and for all the measures put at our disposal to ensure the smooth running of the meeting.

This year's meeting represents a considerable challenge, both because of the importance of the decisions we have to address, and because of the format of the meeting itself. While hybrid meetings are not new, it is new that a significant number of the Contracting Parties are not present here. I want to make it clear from the outset that for me it is essential that our working practice ensures that all Contracting Parties, whether in person or online, feel equally involved in the decision-making process. I am convinced that the success of our Commission depends to a large extent on its ability to ensure cohesion among its members, and I will strive to ensure that all Contracting Parties, without exception, feel fully involved in building that consensus which is our most precious asset.

This year we have, as usual, a long list of issues on which we have to take decisions, as I have already mentioned in my letter prior to this meeting. Let me remind you of a point that I stressed last year: if we are not able to take decisions on these issues, ICCAT will appear as an organization incapable of solving the problems of management of marine resources. And this inability will be used by other international organisations or bodies to try to do our job. I am referring to organisations such as CITES. Let it never be forgotten that CITES often uses the alleged inability of fisheries management organisations to ensure the sustainability of marine species as a justification for its initiatives. If we do not do our job properly, we will be proving them right.

No case illustrates this better than that of bigeye tuna. We are all aware of the difficulty of reaching agreement. This is the kind of issue that is essential to ICCAT. On other things we may fail. But on this, quite simply, we have no right to fail. It is the very existence of ICCAT that is at stake if we do not reach an agreement. We need to make a special effort to reach a consensual agreement, and I am sure we will succeed if we put our minds to it.

I believe this because, as I told you last year, ICCAT has proven to be an effective organisation in managing the resources under its responsibility. At a recent conference on canned tuna, it became clear that the tuna resources in the Atlantic are more sustainable than the average fishery resources in the world, which shows that ICCAT, contrary to what some say, is doing a good job. But there is no room for complacency, we still have a long way to go, and achieving this depends on us alone.

Moreover, this work must be extended to migratory sharks. But only 5 CPCs have ratified the amendment to the Convention. If we do not want others to decide for us on this issue, I urge you to speed up ratification.

This year, as you will have read in my letter, there are other issues that I propose to address: the activity of non-member countries or fleets fishing outside the quotas adopted by ICCAT, and the recent adoption of two new biodiversity conservation conventions.

With regard to the first question, the information available to the FAO in particular shows that tuna catches by fleets from countries that are not members or cooperating members of the Commission are at worrying levels. These catches not only represent a major challenge to our efforts to manage resources, but also a threat to the cohesion of our organisation. As we know, the Commission's Contracting Parties and their industries are regularly called upon to make sacrifices: to fish less than they would like, to comply with allocations of fishing rights that fall short of their aspirations, to fulfil costly management and control obligations, and finally to carry out fishing activities to increasingly high standards. If, after all these efforts, we find that there are still some fleets that continue to fish without complying with our measures, how can we ask our members to make a greater effort?

This is not a new issue, but it is a complex one, because activity that contravenes our rules can take different forms. It is true that ICCAT has already distinguished itself through its initiatives against illegal fishing, and I hope that we will continue to make progress in this area. But beyond this problem, there are also problems linked to the activities of some countries that do not cooperate with our organisation, and whose fleets fish beyond the limits that we have imposed on ourselves. The question I am asking myself, and which I would like to put to you, is this: are we doing enough to solve this problem? In the past as a member of the EU delegation to ICCAT, I remember adopting trade sanctions against some countries. Today, some of these countries are fortunately members of our organisation and cooperate fully with it. Is this example still relevant today? I suggest we discuss this.

As regards the role of our Commission in the implementation of the recent international instruments for the conservation of biodiversity adopted after our meeting last year, I refer to the new objectives adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2030 (the so-called Biodiversity 30x30, or Global Biodiversity Framework), the United Nations Convention on the conservation of biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the so-called BBNJ Convention). We should also note the Agreement of Fisheries Subsidies adopted in 2022.

The two biodiversity conventions establish objectives for the protection of marine biodiversity, and that can have far-reaching consequences for the fisheries managed by the Commission. To cite just a few, the establishment of large scale marine protected areas, the measures to restore degraded marine ecosystems, the possibility of having to do environmental impact assessments for all our fisheries and the need to cut subsidies and its possible implications on fuel costs and climate transition, they are all challenging objectives that, no doubt, can have substantial implications for our fisheries.

At this point in time, many questions regarding the implementation of these instruments remain open: how to interpret certain objectives, who will decide what, who will be consulted, and so on. ICCAT has accumulated, over the years, an extraordinary level of experience and expertise in marine science and fishery management. These should be extremely valuable for the international community when it comes to implementing these conventions in an efficient and meaningful way. So the question is: should ICCAT play an active role in this implementation? Are we going to be consulted when large marine protected areas are proposed and eventually adopted? Should we take a proactive role in this context or rather wait to be consulted, if that is at all the case? And, whether we are proactive or not, how can we contribute to these discussions when the Commission, and very particularly the SCRS, is already over-saturated with work?

This is to me a fundamental question. The very role of ICCAT as an international instrument for the management of marine resources is at stake: other bodies may take decisions that may leave our Commission almost empty of content. Is this something we can live with? I propose that this year we have, at least, a first discussion about that.

So thank you again for your attention and I trust we will have a very successful meeting.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, gracias, *chukran*.

By Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Ladies, Gentlemen and Ministers present,
 Eng. Mostafa Elsayad, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
 Prof. Dr Salah Eldin Mesalhy, Chairman of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)
 Major General Islam Rayan, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of National Company for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NCFA)
 Major General Alhussein Farahat, Executive Director of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)
 ICCAT Chairman,
 Lady, gentleman ICCAT Vice-Chairs,
 Lady, gentlemen Commission Officers,
 Ladies, Gentlemen Delegates,
 Ladies, Gentlemen partners,
 Dear interpreters,
 Ladies and gentlemen,
 Dear colleagues,

Duly respecting your ranks and capacities,

Asalam Alaykoun

I have the honour of addressing you on the occasion of this 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission/ICCAT, which is being held for the first time here in Cairo, on Egyptian soil, this beautiful country which is so often referred to during our schooling for its major role in the history of mankind. Allow me, on behalf of the Secretariat, to express my sincere thanks to the authorities of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who have spared no effort to ensure the smooth organisation of this meeting, and for the very warm welcome they have extended to us.

In this respect, and with the hope of significant results from this session, this meeting is set to remain in our memories, also considering the prevailing circumstances prior to the meeting.

ICCAT Chairman, dear Delegates, the Secretariat is constantly seeking the optimal balance between the Commission's orders, the main element being the meetings, and the Secretariat's ability to respond adequately to those orders (taking quality into account). This year again saw a new record in the number of meetings, which continues to entail a number of challenges and a growing concern about the possibilities of organising these meetings properly. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to appeal once again for your assistance in achieving this balance.

Without any interest in relegating in any order of priority, I would particularly like to renew/reiterate my great pride in my dear colleagues from the Secretariat for their dedication and constant efforts to improve the Secretariat's contribution to the pursuit of the Commission's objectives.

Chair, dear delegates, the Secretariat remains more determined than ever to pursue its commitment at your side, and in close synergy with the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission, while counting on the much-appreciated assistance of the partners, to serve you better.

Thank you very much for your kind attention!

Choukran jaziiilan!

By the Mr Eng. Mostafa Elsayad, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished Delegates and esteemed Guests,

Good morning everyone,

On behalf of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, with great pleasure and immense pride, I extend a warm welcome to every one of you. Today marks a momentous occasion as we gather here in the beautiful city of Cairo to host the ICCAT Commission for the first time in Egypt.

Allow me to express our deep appreciation to all CPCs, representatives, and experts who have convened for this important event. Your commitment to the sustainable management of our marine resources is commendable, and the work we undertake here will have far-reaching consequences for the future of our environment, economy, and global wellbeing.

In Egypt, during every international presence, conference and exhibition tourism represents a greater opportunity to highlight Egypt as a tourist destination. Egypt has recently succeeded in attracting many international professional conferences, having had the honor to host a variety of conferences annually in the political, economic, cultural, medical and professional fields, including the International Conference on Agriculture and Applied Ergonomics, International Conference on Agriculture, Agronomy and Crops as well as the International Conference on Sustainable Environment and Agricultural Applications and many other conferences that will be held in the upcoming period in 2023 in Cairo in addition to Cairo Peace Summit that was held within the last few weeks. The year 2022 has also witnessed many international conferences, the most important of which is COP27 that was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, also the Egyptian Economic Conference 2022 in Cairo, in addition to the Cairo Water Week.

Let me highlight Egypt Vision 2030 which reflects the long-term strategic plan to achieve the principles and goals of sustainable development in all fields. Egypt Vision 2030 is based on the principles of "comprehensive sustainable development" and "balanced regional development" and reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. The main objective of the strategy is to improve the quality of life of the Egyptian citizen and improve his standard of living by reducing poverty in all its forms and eliminating hunger, providing an integrated system for social protection, enhancing availability and improving the quality and competitiveness of education, enhancing availability and ensuring the quality of health services provided, enhancing availability and improving the quality of basic services, enriching cultural life, and developing digital infrastructure.

Finally, I wish you all a fruitful and productive meeting, filled with meaningful discussions and impactful decisions. Together, we can safeguard the health of our oceans, support sustainable economies, and contribute to global wellbeing.

Thank you, and welcome to the ICCAT Commission meeting.

By Prof. Dr Salah Eldin Mesalhy, Chairman of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)

Mr Chair, ICCAT Secretariat, ladies and gentlemen, honourable attendees

Good morning, everyone,

On behalf of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) in Egypt, it is my honor and privilege to extend a warm welcome to all our esteemed guests gathered here today. We are delighted to host the distinguished delegates and experts attending the meeting organized by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) in pursuit of the noble cause of safeguarding our precious aquatic resources.

As we convene in the beautiful land of Egypt, known for its rich history and diverse ecosystems, we are acutely aware of the critical role that our lakes and fish resources play in sustaining life, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to global biodiversity. Egypt's water bodies are not only integral to our cultural heritage but are also essential components of our environmental and economic landscapes.

Egypt is a treasure trove of historical landmarks that serve as a testament to the greatness of this civilization. From the Sphinx and the Pyramids of Giza to the temples of Luxor and the Valley of the Kings, each site tells a story of unparalleled craftsmanship and ingenuity. These monuments stand as living witnesses to the achievements of a people who valued knowledge, art, and spirituality.

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency recognizes the importance of international collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by our oceans, seas, and aquatic life. It is in this spirit that we willingly welcome the efforts of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, an organization that has been at the forefront of initiatives aimed at achieving Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which focuses on "Life Below Water" and sets out to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The Commission's dedication to the sustainable management of tuna aligns seamlessly with our collective responsibility to protect and preserve the delicate balance of our aquatic environments.

The collaborative efforts of ICCAT resonate with our commitment to responsible and sustainable fisheries management. As we engage in discussions over the next few days, we look forward to sharing our experiences, learning from each other, and collectively charting a course that ensures the health and vitality of our fish resources for generations to come.

We are confident that this conference will serve as a catalyst for innovative solutions, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by overfishing, climate change, and other threats to our marine ecosystems. By working together, we can build a sustainable future for our oceans, promoting biodiversity, food security, and the well-being of communities that depend on these vital resources.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas for choosing Egypt as the host for this significant meeting and I hope our discussions are fruitful, our collaborations are enduring, and that our shared commitment to the conservation of fish resources strengthens with the passing of time.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and inspiring meeting.

By Major General Islam Rayan, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of National Company for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NCFA)

Mr Chair, Executive Secretary, ICCAT colleagues, distinguished guests,

Good morning, everyone,

On behalf of the National Company of Fisheries and Aquaculture, I have the pleasure to host this special event in Egypt and to extend a warm welcome to every one of you at the inauguration ceremony of the 28th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas here in the beautiful city of Cairo in Egypt.

This gathering is a momentous occasion that brings together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the globe to deliberate on crucial issues pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in the Mediterranean and Atlantic regions.

Egypt, a land steeped in ancient history and adorned with timeless wonders, welcomes you with open arms. From the majestic pyramids of Giza to the serene beauty of the Nile River, this country is a treasure trove of experiences waiting to be discovered. I trust that your time here will be filled with moments that captivate your imagination, leaving you with memories that will last a lifetime. Egypt is not just a destination; it's an immersive journey through time, culture, and the vibrant tapestry of life that unfolds in every corner.

Egypt recognizes the paramount importance of fostering sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture. In an era where the delicate balance of our marine ecosystems is under constant threat, the competent authorities in Egypt has taken strides to implement eco-friendly practices and we strive to set a benchmark for responsible business practices within the industry by adopting cutting-edge technologies and adhering to stringent environmental standards.

There is no doubt that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas plays a pivotal role in advancing global efforts towards sustainable fisheries. Their dedication to the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species is commendable. Today, as we convene in Cairo, we look forward to fruitful discussions that will contribute to the ongoing dialogue on preserving the richness of our oceans for future generations.

During your time here, I hope you will have the opportunity to experience the hospitality and rich cultural heritage of Egypt hopefully your discussions be fruitful and your resolutions effective in guiding us towards a sustainable future for our oceans.

Again, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for joining us in this event hopefully that our collective endeavors contribute to the preservation of our oceans, the advancement of sustainable development, and the fostering of a lasting legacy for the following generations.

By Major General Alhussein Farahat, Executive Director of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA)

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, esteemed members of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and all honored participants,

Good morning, everyone,

On behalf of Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome every one of you to the grand opening ceremony of the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission for the first time in Egypt and allow me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the successful partners in our country, the National Company for Fisheries and Aquaculture, for the great efforts made to organize the meeting and make it satisfactory and appropriate for all participants.

As the host nation of this year's conference, Egypt is both honored and delighted to welcome delegates from across the globe to our beautiful country, a land rich in history and culture, and one that recognizes the critical importance of sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation.

The work that brings us together – conservation and management of Atlantic tunas and related species – is not just crucial for the sustainability of these species but is integral to the health of our oceans and the livelihoods of millions who depend on these resources. Your dedication and commitment to this cause are both commendable and essential.

This year's meeting, held in the shadow of unique global challenges, emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and shared commitment to our common goals. It is also a testament to our collective resilience and determination to ensure the future health and abundance of our marine resources. It aligns closely with a critical objective that resonates globally – Goal 14 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 'Life Below Water.' This goal, aimed at conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources, is at the very heart of ICCAT's mission and our shared endeavors.

Once again, I welcome you all to Egypt. Your presence here today underscores the strength of our international community and the power of collaborative effort.

Thank you, and I wish you all a successful and productive meeting.

3.2 Statements by Contracting Parties

Canada

Canada is pleased to participate in the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. We welcome the opportunity to again meet in a hybrid format that allows CPCs to participate both in person and virtually. In particular, we are delighted to be able to meet with most ICCAT CPCs in person here in New Cairo, and are grateful to the Egyptian Government for hosting us in this beautiful venue. We also thank the Secretariat for their dedication and commitment to the preparations for the meeting.

Following on last year's adoption of a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna, we hope the Commission can build on that success in the context of North Atlantic swordfish, where a management strategy evaluation has been underway for a number of years. Canada looks forward to making progress this week toward adoption of a management procedure for this stock. However, in doing so we feel it is critical to address the ongoing issue of overallocation of the TAC while providing for an equitable distribution of fishing opportunities. We hope our proposal, which would consolidate all existing northern swordfish measures, can help to move the Commission in this direction and we look forward to further discussion this week.

The meeting also provides an opportunity to adopt a new measure for tropical tunas, following intense work throughout 2023. For both bigeye and yellowfin tunas, juvenile mortality rates must be addressed as they continue to threaten the future of these stocks. The Commission must also ensure that the total allowable catch levels set for tropical tuna species are consistent with the best available science in order to assure a sustainable future for these fisheries. For Canada, among others, it will furthermore be important that the category of CPCs that harvest relatively small amounts of bigeye tuna continue to hold catch limits outside of the allocation key.

We look forward to discussions on the management of several shark species. Canada welcomes improvements in reporting of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, but we remain concerned about the high levels of mortality that have continued since the adoption of a revised measure in 2021. We also welcome the opportunity to discuss the management of northern and southern blue sharks to ensure that the Commission takes appropriate steps to implement sustainable catch levels, including through improved reporting.

Canada remains firmly committed to establishing a Joint International Inspection Scheme in ICCAT. This year has seen positive and constructive discussions about such schemes, particularly at the seminar held in Vigo on September 13-14, 2023, which provided a forum to share experiences, discuss concerns, and explore potential ways forward. A proposal similar to that Canada co-sponsored with Senegal in 2022 comes to this meeting with the endorsement of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures. Furthermore, the implementation of this proposed Scheme would be supported by an ad hoc Working Group proposed by the European Union following the Vigo seminar. We hope that, after extensive discussions over a number of years, ICCAT will at last be ready in 2023 to move forward in pursuing this valuable tool to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and support compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management measures. Also notable from the perspective of improved monitoring and enforcement is the proposal for minimum standards for electronic monitoring systems, which would represent a significant step forward for ICCAT.

Canada welcomed the important discussions that the Commission undertook this year on climate change, its effects on ICCAT-managed fisheries, and the implications of climate change for our current and future work. We hope that the Commission will build on these discussions this week by agreeing on a plan of action to better incorporate and account for climate change in its scientific and management work.

Finally, given the importance of a modernized Convention to strengthen the effectiveness of the Commission, Canada encourages other Contracting Parties to continue making progress toward ratification, acceptance or approval of the Palma de Mallorca Protocol.

European Union

The European Union (EU) delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the 28th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The meticulous planning and warm hospitality extended to all participants has certainly created a conducive environment for constructive discussions and fostering collaboration. The EU would also like to extend our thanks to the ICCAT Secretariat who, as always, put in a huge effort to ensure the smooth running of ICCAT meetings.

For the EU, the adoption of a management measure for tropical tunas at this meeting is a key priority. After years of difficult negotiations on this file, particularly on an allocation for bigeye tuna, the time has come for Contracting Parties to make a concerted effort to strike a deal including a more equitable redistribution to developing countries fishing for this stock as well as acknowledging the great efforts already made by the major harvesters to rebuild the stock.

Another key priority for the EU this year is the continuation of improvement of management and conservation measures on sharks. In that regard, the EU is tabling ambitious proposals to put in place robust measures for blue sharks and whale sharks.

As always, one of the main EU concerns is the strict and correct implementation of the ICCAT rules to ensure the effectiveness of the management measures adopted. The EU is tabling a resolution to facilitate the implementation of the high seas boarding and inspection scheme as well as a proposal for minimum standards for the use of electronic monitoring systems in ICCAT fisheries.

The Annual Meeting should also be a moment for parties to reflect on how ICCAT functions moving forward and what we want to achieve in the organization in the years to come. The post-COVID era has led to a substantial surge in workload and meetings. This is putting a significant strain on Contracting Parties, the SRCS and on the Secretariat. In this context, the EU wants ICCAT to continue to be a results-driven organisation that functions in the most effective and efficient way possible. The EU calls on Contracting Parties to use the opportunity of this year's Annual Meeting to focus on and set out what the main priorities for the organization should be moving forward.

Finally, the EU is enthusiastic about the opportunity to collaborate with all Contracting Parties during this ICCAT Annual Meeting. We are convinced that our collective dedication, expertise, and shared commitment to sustainable fisheries will pave the way for positive outcomes.

Japan

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this important meeting in this booming city, New Cairo, notwithstanding the recent difficult situation. I also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission.

From 2020 to 2021, the Commission was unable to hold its annual meeting in person due to the global pandemic, and as a result, many important management measures were rolled over. Although the Commission restarted holding an in-person meeting last year, there are still many outstanding issues therefore, the importance of this meeting cannot be overemphasized.

The Commission this year needs to tackle one of the most difficult negotiations, management measures for tropical tunas, particularly bigeye tuna. While the stock assessment of bigeye in 2021 showed somewhat optimistic results including the potential increase of TAC, the introduction of management schemes to keep the total catch below the TAC remains urgent. Such schemes should include addressing the growing aspirations of developing CPCs. The potential increase of the TAC can be used for this purpose. Furthermore, in order to further increase the TAC for accommodating the interests of developing CPCs, it is essential to reduce the catch of juvenile fish and improve the productivity of tropical tunas, including through stronger management of FADs. With these in mind, Japan, together with the co-sponsors, has put the proposal for tropical tuna management measures on the table. Japan wishes to cooperate with the Chairpersons and other CPCs to find common ground on this important issue.

There is one thing Japan would like to stress as to catch limits. Some CPCs consider and actually propose that the catch limit of Japan should and could be reduced drastically based on the recent catch record. While it is true that Japan did not fully utilize its catch limit for several years due to various reasons, Japan's catch has been recovering in the last couple of years. In addition, when Japan did not fully utilize the catch limit, the bigeye stock status was in a bad shape. Japan believes that under-utilization of the catch limit when the stock was overfished should be appreciated, not penalized. In this regard, Japan and co-sponsors propose that if a CPC does not fully utilize the catch limit in the future, such CPC shall give up part of the catch limit.

Attempts to strengthen the traceability of tuna species and improve transparency in tuna fisheries are also important. This year's Commission is expected to decide to expand the Catch Document Scheme (CDS). Japan has submitted the proposal for the establishment of a standing CDS working group and hopes that the Commission will adopt this proposal at this meeting. We sincerely encourage as many CPCs as possible to participate in future working groups and provide their insights on the expansion of the CDS.

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

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

3.3 Statements by Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations

Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena)

Sciaena would like to express its gratitude for the opportunity to participate as an observer at the 2023 Annual Meeting of ICCAT.

Ensure sustainable management of bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna (BET) exhibits signs of recovery, but uncertainties persist in the stock assessment. Sciaena hopes that CPCs can agree to a new measure for tropical tunas that gives the BET stock the best probabilities of staying in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix in the upcoming years, which must include the following elements:

- A TAC cap of 73,000 tons for BET;
- A new bigeye tuna allocation key for all fleets, considering historical catches, the needs of developing nations, and criteria for reducing negative impacts on the stock and the ecosystem;
- Maintain or enhance measures for FAD management and accountability (including a registry and marking scheme);
- Expanded observer coverage and electronic fleet monitoring.

Adopt an MSE for North Atlantic swordfish

A key decision in ensuring the sustainability of the pelagic longline fishery is the adoption of an MSE for the North Atlantic Swordfish. We are certain that CPCs won't hesitate to take this decision, in order to culminate the extremely well lead process and to fulfil the SCRS work plan on MSEs.

Define sustainable limits for blue shark stocks

ICCAT needs to set sustainable catch limits for the blue shark, a crucial species for longline fisheries and the Atlantic's pelagic ecosystems. Sciaena proposes a TAC of 20,000 tonnes for the northern Atlantic and 25,000 tonnes for the southern stock to ensure a 60% chance of both being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2026 and the subsequent 10 years, respectively. Additionally, Sciaena supports further protective measures, including an allocation key for the southern stock.

Continue to take leadership on Control, Monitoring and Compliance

ICCAT's recent decisions have elevated it among the leading Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing. Sciaena encourages ICCAT to persist in this direction by implementing Electronic Monitoring standards, progressing discussions on a High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme, and enhancing compliance measures.

Taking steps towards ecosystem and climate considerations

As the Atlantic faces escalating climate impacts, effective fisheries management that contributes to the resilience of its ecosystems is ever more relevant. Sciaena urges CPCs to adopt a climate action plan that also steers ICCAT towards an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach, where setting ecological objectives and elements in MSEs is a pivotal element.

In conclusion, Sciaena urges the adoption of these proposals, demonstrating a commitment to healthy pelagic ecosystems and sustainable fisheries management.

Defenders of Wildlife

We thank the government of Egypt for hosting this year's annual meeting of the Commission and regret that we are unable to participate in person. This year's agenda contains a number of items that are of importance to Defenders of Wildlife and to the health of marine ecosystems. Below we have provided brief comments on these priority issues. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement.

Whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) & Rays (family *Mobulidae*)

We are concerned that ICCAT lags behind other tuna-focused RFMOs with respect to the adoption of conservation management measures intended to reduce the mortality rates of manta and mobulid rays, as well as whale sharks. While these species are listed under several international wildlife treaties, they are also classified by the IUCN as Endangered and have very low reproductive rates, making additional fisheries safeguards essential for their conservation.

To address this situation and close the gap with other RFMOs, we urge ICCAT CPCs to actively support the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) interacting with ICCAT fisheries" (document [PA4_807/2023](#)) and "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on manta and mobulid rays (family *Mobulidae*) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries" (document [PA4_808/2023](#)) submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom, respectively. These two draft recommendations would prohibit the retention of these species, promote their safe release when they are caught, and lead to the collection of data relevant to the management of ICCAT fisheries.

Blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*)

With respect to blue sharks, we would like to emphasize that the new SCRS findings show that TAC reductions in the North and South Atlantic are needed to confidently ensure the long-term sustainability of the fisheries. We encourage CPCs to adopt recommendations for both blue shark stocks that align with the SCRS advice and achieve a near-term application of a 70% chance of success. None of the current draft recommendations on blue sharks go far enough.

Fins naturally attached

Finally, we wish to align ourselves with the growing number of CPCs who have indicated their support for strengthening the ICCAT shark finning ban by adding a requirement that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached. We urge other CPCs to join them in supporting the latest version of the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT" (document [PA4_809/2023](#)), without exceptions.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

This Position Statement outlines issues that we urge the ICCAT Commission to act on at its upcoming meeting.

Compliance processes

2023 Asks

- Adopt a workplan for the Compliance Committee to develop audit points for ICCAT management measures, such as those developed for sharks in [Rec. 18-06](#).
- Use the [schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions](#), adopted in 2022, for the 2023 review of CPC compliance.
- Adopt procedures to identify and address non-compliance with TAC allocations.

Background

A strong and transparent compliance process improves fisheries management by holding regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) members accountable. ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment processes of the five tuna RFMOs, but it can continue to be strengthened. ISSF and Pew Charitable Trusts have recommendations to improve RFMO compliance processes in workshop reports: [2020 report](#), [2021 report](#), [2022 report](#).

Priorities to progress

- Review FAD data reporting in-depth and take corrective measures, per the schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions document, as needed.
- Review reporting by ICCAT Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) of live and dead discards of sharks, particularly shortfin mako, and take corrective actions as needed.

[RFMO Compliance Information & Resources](#)

Tuna stock conservation

2023 Asks

- Adopt a new recommendation for tropical tuna conservation and management that ensures bigeye and yellowfin stocks are maintained at sustainable levels in accordance with the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice and fully allocates the total allowable catch (TAC) between CPCs, especially for yellowfin.
- Request the SCRS to carry out a yellowfin assessment in 2024.

Background

The yellowfin TAC has been exceeded every year but one since it came into effect in 2012. In 2022, catches were almost 35% above the TAC. Yellowfin was last assessed in 2019 with a 43% probability of being subject to overfishing. It is important to update the status of this stock as it may have worsened. In addition, the yellowfin TAC is not allocated by CPC or gear which makes it impossible to identify non-compliance by individual CPCs.

Priorities to progress

- Plan for an updated bigeye assessment in 2025.

[Tuna Conservation Information & Resources](#)

FAD management

2023 Asks

- Clarify that fish aggregating devices (FADs) must be fully non-entangling, i.e., without any netting or meshed materials.
- Adopt the definition of “biodegradable” categories consistent with those of IATTC and WCPFC and establish a timeline for transition to biodegradable FADs similar to what was agreed in the IATTC.

Background

In the past few years, the difficult discussions on allocation surrounding the tropical tuna measure have put aside important actions for improved FAD management, such as FAD design, marking, recovery, activation/deactivation rules, data use for science, etc. It is important for ICCAT to bring its FAD management measures in line with existing best practice by adopting new policies and needed improvements to its FAD measures.

Priorities to progress

- Develop and adopt an effective FAD marking scheme for both FAD structure and geolocating buoy.
- Develop and adopt clear rules for FAD ownership and for FAD buoy activation and deactivation.
- Develop and adopt a requirement for provision to ICCAT of near real-time FAD position and acoustic biomass records data for scientific use with a maximum time lag of 90 days to protect confidentiality.
- Develop and adopt a policy for FAD-recovery.

FAD Management Information & Resources

Electronic monitoring and reporting & observer coverage

2023 Asks

- Adopt the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Minimum Standards developed by the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group in consultation with SCRS.
- Direct the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures to develop an ICCAT Regional Observer Program (per Rec. 22-01) for recommendation to the Commission in 2024.

Background

Comprehensive observer coverage is critical to effective fisheries management, compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch, effort, species composition and bycatch. 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) is feasible and necessary. ICCAT’s minimum 10% observer coverage requirement for longline vessels fishing for tropical tunas is still too low for bycatch estimates to be reliable and EM can help increase coverage. In 2022 and 2023, the SCRS and the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group have drafted minimum EM standards for both purse seine and longline fisheries.

Priorities to progress

- Adopt measures to increase observer coverage (human and/or electronic) on longline vessels from 10% as progress toward 100% coverage in industrial tuna fisheries, including support vessels and all vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Information & Resources

Transshipment regulation

2023 Asks

- Adopt revisions to Rec. 21-15 to strengthen the regulation of at-sea transshipment in line with [best practice standards](#), including requiring:
 - near real-time electronic reporting (not longer than 24 hours after the event) for all transshipment activity;
 - that carrier vessels only to be flagged to CPCs; and
 - that AIS data are reported in addition to required VMS data.

Background

If not well-managed, transshipment at-sea can be a conduit for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fish to enter the supply chain. ICCAT strengthened its transshipment regulations in 2021, but they should be further improved to be aligned with [best practice standards](#).

Priorities to progress

- Develop guidelines, including criteria, for flag CPC authorization of at-sea transshipment and a review process.

Transshipment Regulation Information & Resources

Effective management procedures (harvest strategies)

2023 Asks

- Adopt the harvest strategy for western Atlantic skipjack recommended by SCRS.

Background

Management Procedures (MPs) provide a modern mechanism for fisheries management that accounts for uncertainty in an explicit and precautionary manner. ICCAT has successfully adopted MPs for northern albacore and Atlantic bluefin tuna and SCRS with input from Panel 1 has developed an MP for western skipjack. MP development involves detailed work by scientists, managers, and stakeholders. As many ICCAT stocks do not have an MP yet, it is important to finalize and adopt those that are well developed and prioritize future MP work for other stocks.

Priorities to progress

- Accelerate development of MPs for all tropical tuna stocks.

Bycatch mitigation & shark protections

2023 Asks

- Require all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions.
- Reduce the TACs for both blue shark stocks to levels that will ensure a high probability that the stocks will remain in a healthy state in line with SCRS advice, and allocate the TACs by CPC.
- Implement the SCRS advice on catch limits for shortfin mako stocks.
- Request the SCRS to review science-based mitigation techniques for seabird bycatch so as to align Rec. 11- 09 to best practice in 2024.

Background

In 2023, the SCRS assessed the status of blue shark stocks and advised that the TACs for the two stocks need to be reduced in order to maintain them in the "green quadrant of the Kobe Plot." The TACs are not allocated by CPC which makes it impossible to identify non-compliance by individual CPCs. For shortfin mako, the SCRS recommended a no-retention measure without exemptions for the northern stock, and a maximum catch limit of 2,000 tonnes for the southern stock. SCRS also noted that the reporting of dead discards and live releases needs to be improved considerably.

The current management measure for seabirds (Rec. 11-09) is outdated and no longer aligned with best-practice mitigation techniques, such as those of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

[Bycatch Reduction Information & Resources](#)

Capacity

Background

Experts agree that there is overcapacity, too many vessels, in the global tuna fleets. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures, and eventually it leads to stock overexploitation.

Priorities to progress

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

Sharkproject International

We thank the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this year's Commission Meeting of ICCAT and we also thank the ICCAT Secretariat for organizing this meeting in a hybrid format, allowing for in person participation. Direct interactions and discussions amongst delegations are important for achieving agreements and making progress on important conservation measures, including urgently needed measures for sharks.

SHARKPROJECT appreciates the progress made for sharks at ICCAT over the last couple of years, especially for shortfin mako during 2021 and 2022, but we note that much still needs to be done to prevent stocks from collapsing in the Atlantic within the next decades and many pelagic shark species potentially disappearing, which will have not only hugely negative effects on marine ecosystems but also massive socio-economic impacts on all fisheries depending on healthy stocks of tuna and tuna like species.

The sustainable management of tuna and tuna like species is an important mission of ICCAT and we strongly support all measures to this end but note that ICCAT has yet to fully fulfil its obligations to sustainably manage shark species caught in its area of competence.

A: Commercially exploited sharks need to be managed as a (secondary) target species

As a marine conservation and biodiversity organisation, SHARKPROJECT is concerned about the continued overexploitation of blue sharks by several fisheries in the Convention area. Developing comprehensive management procedures for sharks at ICCAT is an indispensable prerequisite for the long-term sustainability of shark removals and for maintaining shark populations at levels vital for fulfilling their role in the marine ecosystems.

Therefore, we are calling to the Commission to step up conservation measures for sharks this year by introducing new measures and improving existing ones to explicitly protect these most vulnerable species, that can no longer sustain targeting and at the same time commit to comprehensively manage those species that still can sustain fishing pressure, but may not be able to do so for much longer if not finally managed the same way as tuna and other target species.

In this context we also refer to a legal opinion, we have commissioned recently highlighting the obligations of States under UNCLOS and UNFSA for the sustainable management of commercially exploited sharks as a (secondary) target species in all tuna RFMOs. The opinion emphasizes the importance of comprehensive harvest strategies for the sustainable management existing in tuna RFMOs to support scientific NDFs for the Introduction from the Seas (IFS) under CITES for App II listed shark species, including but not limited to blue shark. [Untangling the Net of 'Bycatch' in Commercial Shark Fisheries: The Interplay between International Fisheries Law and CITES](#). We also reference to the [Relevant Notes from the 2023 CITES Standing Committee Meeting](#) and reiterate that CITES requirements apply to all App II listed shark species, regardless whether a (secondary) target species or a bycatch species.

1. Blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*)

As highlighted in the [PA4_820 joint statement from Oceana, Pro Wildlife, Shark Guardian and Sharkproject](#) urgent actions are needed to develop long-term sustainable harvest strategies for blue sharks at ICCAT and to maintain both Atlantic stocks of this heavily targeted shark species in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a high probability throughout the next 10 years. In pursuing this a precautionary approach providing at least 60% probability for this is essential, noting that 60% is by now widely considered necessary even for more productive species especially in view of the high uncertainty of total removals and the increase of external stressors affecting these stocks. We therefore appreciate that both, the European Union and the United Kingdom, submitted proposals tasking the SCRS to attempt developing a MSE framework for both stocks, a long-time overdue task that now should be accomplished as quickly as possible.

North Atlantic Blue Shark: Proposal [PA_813 submitted by the European Union](#) suggests a TAC of 32,689 t, which will provide only a 51% probability of keeping this potentially already overfished stock in the green quadrant by 2033 and this probability will even drop to less than 50% in the years before.

SHARKPROJECT therefore supports the more precautionary approach outlined in [PA4_818](#) submitted by the United Kingdom proposing a TAC of 23,403 t, in alignment with the SCRS recommendation “that the Commission reduces the current TAC to catch levels that will maintain the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a high probability”.

As neither the European Union nor Japan have fished their allocated quota in the recent years, the proposed, lower TAC can be realized for all CPCs by maintaining current catch levels and no CPC should have to reduce their current catches. Furthermore, the proposed TAC provides a more than 60% probability for the stock being in the green quadrant from 2027 onwards and it provides a high probability of more than 70% for the following years. At an even lower TAC of 20,000 t a probability of more than 60% could already be achieved by 2026.

South Atlantic blue shark: We appreciate that proposal [PA_814 submitted by the European Union](#) intends to end overfishing immediately with a probability of more than 60% by lowering the TAC to 27,711 t. It also includes a suggestion for an allocation key between major catch nations to prevent that the TAC will once again be exceeded in the absence of allocated quotas. Other than in the North an actual reduction of catches will be required by all CPCs to bring the southern stock back into the green quadrant, while being aware that the proposed TAC will still be too high doing so beyond 2029 and probabilities beginning to decrease afterwards to a mere 54% in 2033.

SHARKPROJECT supports the submitted proposal from the European Union and urges CPCs to agree on a just allocation scheme, but we would hope to see an even lower TAC of 25,000 t being adopted by the CPCs, thereby providing a consistently high probability throughout the complete projection period in view of existing uncertainties.

2. Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)

Despite the agreed objective of [Rec. 21-09](#) to limit total mortality of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic to not more than 250 t, fishing mortality in 2022 has exceeded this amount by far. As long as catches and at-board mortality remain at current levels, neither overfishing will stop, nor can stock rebuilding be started. The majority of discarded animals is still discarded dead with some CPCs achieving only 35% of live releases compared to other CPCs that have demonstrated live releases of 70 - 80% are possible.¹

Therefore, SHARKPROJECT urges all CPCs to further improve discard reporting including the state at release, intensify their efforts to decrease shortfin mako bycatch, and to reduce at-board mortality of shortfin mako bycatch. When evaluating potential bycatch mitigation measures such as gear selectivity, time, or area closures, demonstrated best practices by other fishing fleets should be followed and a precautionary approach applied, taking the dire state of the North Atlantic shortfin mako population into account.

For southern Atlantic shortfin mako we appreciate that the European Union and Brazil have published negative NDFs² as has the United Kingdom, as the management measures agreed by ICCAT last year in [Rec. 22-11](#) have been coming very late and still have to demonstrate whether they will be effective in reducing mortality to the required levels, especially as retention of live animals continues being allowed until 2024 and total mortality remains highly uncertain in the absence of reporting of discards and discard status by most CPCs and no or little data provided from artisanal and recreational fishing.

SHARKPROJECT calls to all CPCs to ensure that scientists will be provided with complete data sets of shortfin mako removals in a timely manner including all catches and discards and the state of the discarded animals. This is extremely important to allow for assessment of the effectiveness of adopted measures and to enable scientifically sound models being developed for stock projections. Only then will the Commission be able to agree on adequate management measures for returning and maintaining this stock into the green quadrant at the latest by 2070 with a high probability of 60 – 70%.

3. Allocations and compliance with reporting obligations

As experienced for the TAC for blue sharks in the South Atlantic, TACs do have little effect if not allocated between all main fishing nations and if other CPCs are not obliged to maintain catches at the levels evaluated for adoption of the TAC.

SHARKPROJECT therefore appreciates the attempts made in all submitted proposals for blue sharks to include / update draft allocation schemes for both stocks. However, when discussing the allocation of quotas and when having to reduce quotas for CPCs to reflect reduced TACs, we strongly urge all CPCs to give priority access to these stocks to developing nations and to acknowledge that industrial fishing nations should have to be subject to larger catch reductions. Developing countries should be entitled to maintain their most recent catch levels for commercially exploited sharks, whenever possible, except if they have not reported or increased their catches substantially since the adoption of the TAC.

As emphasized in all proposals, full reporting of Task 1 and Task 2 data must be complied with by all CPCs to reduce the current uncertainty of total removals and to allow SCRS to establish scientifically sound outcomes in future stock assessments. This should apply to both industrial and artisanal fisheries alike and also include recreational fisheries where applicable.

4. Fins naturally attached

While ‘finning’ has been prohibited in the ICCAT area of competence and in most CPCs’ waters for many years, it is also well known that this wasteful practice continues hindering progress in the sustainable management of sharks and conservation of threatened shark species being made, as it blurs total

¹ [Report of the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics, 25-29 September 2023.](#)

² NON-DETRIMENT FINDING FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC SHORTFIN MAKO SHARKS (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). EUROPEAN UNION. EU Scientific Review Group for CITES Working Group on Sharks 2022; IBAMA, “Non-detriment Finding for Brazil for the Mako Shark” (2023); UK CITES Scientific Authority, Non-detriment Finding: *Isurus oxyrinchus* (Shortfin mako), 2022, <http://cites.org/eng/virtual-college/ndf>

removals and availability of biological data for stock assessments and the evaluation of the effectiveness of adopted management and conservation measures. 'Fins Naturally Attached' is globally accepted as the best available measure to prevent 'finning' from happening and for allowing successful prosecution of detected offenses. As the evidence submitted in [COC_313_Information submitted under Rec. 08-09](#) and responses Appendix A and D submitted by [EJF and Greenpeace](#) shows cases of suspected finning continue to happen and unequivocal proof of such evidence remains to be difficult or impossible to obtain on basis of the fins to carcass ratio regulation in place in ICCAT. Indeed, it is one of the major additional benefits of a 'Fins Naturally Attached' policy *without exceptions* to allow successful prosecution and conviction of infringements, which is otherwise impossible to achieve in absence of comprehensive observer coverage and effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance mechanisms in the High Seas. This is also the reason why after many years of discussions the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) finally acknowledged this as well and consequently introduced a requirement that all fisheries must demonstrate having a 'Fins Naturally Attached' policy in place as a prerequisite for certification. This already applies to all new assessments and will also become mandatory for all currently certified fisheries by 2028 at the very latest.

SHARKPROJECT therefore very much welcomes [PA4_809_Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT](#) submitted by the United States, Belize, France (on behalf of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Canada, Albania, El Salvador, Senegal, Algeria, Guatemala, Honduras and Gabon, and Ghana and hopes that this year - after many failed attempts in the previous years - the Commission will adopt this proposal supported by so many CPCs of ICCAT.

B: Protection of shark species that can no longer support exploitation

As stated above an increasing number of sharks has been overexploited to such a degree that they can no longer support any commercial fishing and therefore need to be protected also from the exploitation by artisanal fisheries especially if not used for subsistence only but ending up in international trade. ICCAT has been leading this approach of granting special protection to threatened sharks by already having adopted Recommendations that ban the retention of hammerhead sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks, bigeye thresher sharks, and silky sharks, while requiring to continue complying with relevant reporting requirements. However, the existing exceptions for developing coastal States from these Recommendations for local consumption have proven to be create substantial loopholes, threatening the effectiveness of the intended protection. In particular, oceanic whitetip sharks, scalloped hammerhead sharks, great hammerhead sharks caught by several ICCAT CPCs are now undergoing Review of Significant Trade (RST) by CITES as substantial international trade in these CITES App II listed species has continued and has raised substantial concerns in the sustainability of such continued trade by several States. This demonstrates that these existing exceptions from ICCAT Recommendations should be revisited and may have to be substantially tightened.

SHARKPROJECT welcomes the proposals submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom to protect critically endangered whale sharks, endangered mantas and endangered / vulnerable mobulids by proposing retention bans for these threatened sharks. Such measures are also in line with retention bans already having been adopted for these species by other RFMOs. We therefore urge all CPCs to support and adopt these proposals. [PA4_807_Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks \(*Rhincodon typus*\) interacting with ICCAT fisheries](#) submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom and [PA4_808_Explanatory note on proposed Recommendation by ICCAT on manta and mobulid rays \(family Mobulidae\) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries](#) submitted by the United Kingdom.

C: Additional topics relevant to sharks

Besides the specific shark proposals SHARKPROJECT also supports all efforts to improve Monitoring, Controls and Surveillance at sea and port measures to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing. Therefore, the implementation of minimum standards for electronic monitoring and agreeing on a High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme need to be progressed this year and the level of independent monitoring should be increased stepwise to at least 20% for all fisheries through a combination of human observer coverage and / or electronic monitoring. Such monitoring should also apply to artisanal fisheries while providing additional support for artisanal fisheries for the implementation and operation of electronic monitoring measures.

We also call to maintain the current closure period for dFADs and the 15-day ban of deployment of dFADs prior to the closure, an immediate transfer to fully non-entangling dFAD construction designs without any netting and meshed materials, and to finally make progress to transfer to fully biodegradable materials providing a clear timeline for this transfer. Noting, that the bycatch of vulnerable silky sharks and critically endangered oceanic whitetip sharks makes up the biggest single bycatch in dFAD purse sein fisheries with up to 2% of the total catch. These sharks are almost exclusively juvenile animals not having reproduced yet requiring urgent process for effective bycatch mitigation measures, by first of all avoiding bycatching these sharks in the first place, especially in view of the high mortality rates of silky shark bycatch in purse seine fisheries setting on dFADs. Furthermore, measures should be taken to reduce bycatch mortality by equipping vessels with technical measures, such as double conveyor belts or dedicated release ramps for shark bycatch.

Finally, we hope all CPCs will progress in signing the [Mallorca Protocol, to amend ICCAT's statutes as agreed in 2019](#) thereby officially designating migratory oceanic sharks such as blue sharks, shortfin mako and porbeagle as ICCAT species, so that ICCAT does have a direct mandate to manage “elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory found in the Atlantic Ocean”.

Shark Trust

The Shark Trust, in alignment with other shark conservation observers, appreciates this opportunity to represent civil society and conservation interests at the 2023 ICCAT annual meeting in this extraordinary city. This year, ICCAT Parties have the chance to continue leading the world in international management of heavily fished blue sharks and to catch up with other international bodies in the protection of endangered, filter-feeding elasmobranchs and the prevention of finning. We continue to encourage immediate, concrete actions — grounded in science and the precautionary approach — to ensure conservation of these exceptionally vulnerable species.

Our concerns and positions are detailed in our statement for Panel 4. In brief, we are urging Parties to actively support adoption of ICCAT measures to:

- protect endangered *manta and devil rays (Mobula spp.)* — the most inherently vulnerable species under ICCAT’s purview — by prohibiting retention and promoting safe release (in line with proposal PA4 808 from the United Kingdom);
- assist the recovery of endangered whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) by prohibiting retention and promoting safe release (in line with proposal PA4 807 from the European Union);
- enforce the finning ban and improve species-specific shark catch data by requiring that sharks be landed with *fins naturally attached, without exceptions* (in line with proposal PA4 809, led by the United States);
- ensure long-term sustainability of *blue sharks (Prionace glauca)* by reducing and allocating North and South Atlantic TACs in line with new advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice and a 70% chance of success (in the near-term), that is:
 - less than 20,000t for the North Atlantic, and
 - no more than 25,000t for the South Atlantic.
- rebuild *shortfin mako* populations by minimizing incidental mortality and extending the North Atlantic retention ban long-term.

Last, we invite Parties to read our new Shark League report³, *Bridging the Gaps that Hinder Shark Conservation*, which we launched during the Compliance Committee meeting, as many of its findings and recommendations are directly applicable to the proposals for this meeting.

Mindful of our vital role in contributing to sound policy, supporting good governance, and promoting accountability, we look forward to a productive meeting.

³ Fordham, S.V., Hood, A.R., Arnold, S.J., Kachelriess, D., and Lawson, J.M. 2023. Bridging the Gaps that Hinder Shark Conservation: An analysis of ICCAT Parties’ policies for CITES-listed Atlantic elasmobranchs. The Shark League. London.

Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 2023

23-01

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT EXTENDING AND AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 22-01
ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

RECOGNIZING that *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 22-01), applies in 2023 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions expire in 2023 or otherwise need to be updated for appropriate application in 2024;

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

1. The *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 22-01) is extended with the following amendments:
 - a) The provisions of paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 8, 18, 22(b), 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 55¹, 56, 60, 67, 68 and 69 shall continue and apply through 2024.
 - b) The catch limit overage payback table in paragraph 10 shall be extended to include 2024 in the “Year of Catch” column and 2026 in the “Adjustment Year” column.
 - c) Paragraph 12 shall be replaced by the following “For CPCs listed in paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01, underage or overage of an annual catch limit in 2022 shall be added to/or deducted from their 2024 annual catch limit, subject to 10% of initial quota restrictions noted in paragraphs 9 a) and 10 of Rec. 16-01”.
 - d) Paragraph 28 shall be replaced by the following “1 January to 12 March 2024, 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. The SCRS should provide this advice to the Commission in 2024”.
 - e) The Commission shall review relevant tropical tunas conservation and management measures in place in 2024.

¹ The penultimate sentence of paragraph 55 of Rec. 22-01 is amended as follows: “In 2024 CPCs are encouraged to conduct trials on electronic monitoring and report the results back to the EMS Working Group and the SCRS in 2024 for their review.” The remainder of paragraph 55 as reflected in Rec. 22-01 remains unchanged.

23-02

BET

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BRAZIL'S BIGEYE TUNA PAYBACK PLAN

RECOGNISING the overharvest of 1,587.34 t from 2022;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Brazil is paying back in 2023 the overharvest of 553 t from 2021;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Brazil has established a National Regulatory Framework to overcome the continued overharvest of bigeye tuna from 2023, under the coordination of the newly created Ministry of Fisheries;

CONSIDERING that Brazil has recently strengthened the National Regulatory Framework through a programme with a more robust monitoring, control and inspection measures for tuna;

NOTING Brazil's disposition to payback accumulated exceeding catches and fulfill ICCAT's management and conservation measures;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that Brazil is committed to keep the goals of ICCAT's management and conservation plan for tropical tunas, especially the bigeye;

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

1. The overharvest of bigeye tuna of 1,587.34 t for 2022 shall be paid back over a period of 5 years, from 2024 to 2028, in the following way:
 - 2024: 355.34 t
 - 2025 to 2028: 308 t.

23-03**BET****RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON SENEGAL'S BIGEYE TUNA PAYBACK PLAN**

RECOGNIZING that 2,700.77 t of bigeye tuna catches were taken by Senegal in 2020;

RECOGNISING an overharvest of bigeye tuna in excess of its limit of 1,323 t for 2020;

DESIRING to maintain the objectives of the multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;

NOTING that Senegal undertakes to payback the overharvest of bigeye tuna and to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

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

1. The total negative balance for 2020 of 1,377.77 t shall be paid back, at a rate of 137.77 t per year, from 2023 to 2032 (inclusive).
2. Senegal shall ensure full compliance with this plan and avoid any further overharvest in the future.

23-04**SWO****RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 22-03 EXTENDING AND AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 17-02 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02) as previously amended by the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 19-03), the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 20-02), the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 21-02), and the Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 22-03);

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

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

SUPPORTING the Commission's work toward the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, including efforts to develop operational management objectives, in particular, *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish* (Res. 19-14), and efforts to finalize these management objectives consistent with the Convention and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

RECALLING the significant work of the SCRS in 2023 toward completing the North Atlantic swordfish MSE, including three manager-scientist dialogue meetings with Panel 4, and providing candidate management procedures (CMPs) to the Commission for consideration;

DESIRING that the MSE results updated after the close of the 2023 SCRS Meeting be reviewed by the SCRS in 2024, in keeping with the established scientific process, prior to final consideration of CMPs by the Commission in 2024, with a view to the adoption of a management procedure to set total allowable catches for 2025-2027 and onward;

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

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

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02), as extended and amended by the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 21-02) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 22-03), shall be further extended through 2024 with the following amendments:

A. Sub-paragraphs 2 a) and b) shall be replaced with:

“2. TAC and catch limits

- a) The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be 13,200 t for North Atlantic swordfish for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024;
- b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024:

<i>CPCs</i>	<i>Catch limit** 13,200 (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,717.33*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom	35.67
France (St Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	100
Senegal	250
Korea (Rep.)***	50
Belize***	130
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Chinese Taipei	270

* Notwithstanding the adjustment of the EU quota by 0.67 t in light of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU, which established their respective shares of North Atlantic swordfish and other stocks, catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3 c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 06-02).

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

From Japan to Morocco: 100 t for each of 2018 and 2019; and 150 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

From Japan to Canada: 35 t

From EU to France (St Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

From Senegal to Canada: 125 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t

From Brazil, Japan, and Senegal to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 75 t for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.

From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

From the United States to Morocco: 200 t for 2024, contingent on the details of this transfer to be worked out bilaterally between the two CPCs and subject to notification to ICCAT through the fishing plans specified in paragraph 5 below.

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

*** Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Korea (Rep.) shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.”

B. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, as follows:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2 b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.”

C. Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

“4. If Japan’s landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the seven-year period commencing in 2018. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years’ catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same seven-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2024 management period shall be applied to the subsequent management period to be decided by the Commission in 2024.”

D. Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

“5. The Commission shall establish at its 2024 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the latest stock assessment as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13). In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures, as appropriate. In the event of the modification of its fishing/management plan, each CPC shall submit the updated version of its fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15”.

E. The first sentence of paragraph 7 shall be replaced with:

“7. During 2024, the SCRS shall, taking into account the progress made to date, to identify final operational management objectives:

- a. Review and approve the North Atlantic swordfish combined index to be used for testing the CMPs in the management strategy evaluation (MSE), and pursuant to 7f below, recalculate the performance metrics for the current suite of CMPs;
- b. Review the MCC CMP variants in light of the changes to the combined index and increase the number of TAC steps, if appropriate;
- c. Update the combined index with 2023 catch data, if possible;
- d. Develop the scientific components of the Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (ECP) for North Atlantic swordfish and review Panel 4’s draft ECP;
- e. Conduct robustness testing envisioned in the 2024 SCRS Swordfish Workplan, including related to Climate Change and the effectiveness of minimum size limits, and add robustness tests of the impact on CMP performance of various data gaps within the combined index;
- f. Assess the effect of and develop results for a two-year data lag in advance of the 2024 SCRS plenary meeting. If the combined index and updated evaluations of the CMPs are not finalized by the conclusion of the 2024 SCRS plenary meeting, the SCRS should provide final results using fishing year 2022 as the terminal year for the combined index, thereby incorporating a 2-year data lag.

In support of the above efforts, the SCRS and Panel 4 shall hold one or more MSE dialogue meetings, as necessary, in 2024. At the 2024 ICCAT annual meeting, the Commission shall review the final CMPs and select one for adoption and application to establish the TAC for 2025-2027 and future years.”

2. This Recommendation replaces and repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Supplemental Recommendation 21-02 Extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 22-03).

23-05

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 21-04 ON
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES, INCLUDING A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE AND
EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES PROTOCOL, FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE**

NOTING that in 2021, the Commission adopted a management procedure (MP), Recommendation 21-04, which sets the management procedure to achieve the management objective of maintaining the stock in the green area of the Kobe plot with at least a 60% probability while maximizing long-term yield;

FURTHER NOTING that the current MP integrates a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) to set total allowable catches (TACs) every three years. The current three-year period ends by the end of 2023, and therefore, a new three-year TAC cycle for 2024-2026 must be established;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS assessed the current management procedure, which results in a TAC of 47,251 t for 2024-2026. Any of the MP variants requested in Recommendation 21-04 would result in the same TAC due to the maximum TAC increase of 25%, which can be sustained in the near term;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that no exceptional circumstances have been detected that would preclude the application of the MP;

AWARE that in 2020, it was agreed to apply the TAC increase on a pro-rata basis to the catch and other limits. This approach will be followed again; however, it shall not establish a precedent;

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

Paragraph 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Recommendation 21-04 shall be amended as follows:

- “6. Pursuant to the application of the procedures established in **Annex 1** and **Annex 3**, a constant annual TAC of 47,251 t is established for the management period 2024-2026. This annual TAC shall be allocated as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for the period 2024-2026</i>
European Union	35,815.9
Chinese Taipei	5,521.1
United States	889.4
United Kingdom*	752.8
Venezuela	421.9

* This includes 200 t exclusively for catches in respect of the United Kingdom’s Overseas Territories covered by the ICCAT Convention.

Transfers:

- Chinese Taipei is authorized to transfer 200 t of North Atlantic albacore to Belize for 2024, 2025 and 2026.
7. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 6 shall limit their annual catches to 302 t.
8. By way of derogation from paragraphs 6 and 7, Japan shall endeavor to limit the total weight of its North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4.5% of the weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

9. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC's annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

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

However, the maximum underage that a CPC may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC by more than 20%, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting, including taking into account any advice of the SCRS pursuant to its evaluation of the existence of exceptional circumstances as reflected in **Annex 2**, and may, as appropriate, recommend further measures.”

23-06 **BFT**
**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 22-08
 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE
 EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

RECOGNIZING that *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* has some ambiguities and errors, which require clarifications or corrections;

NOTING that the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023 agreed that several Annexes of Rec. 22-08 required an amendment;

ALSO NOTING that the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in June 2023 endorsed “Proposed amendment to Annex 10 of Rec. 22-08” as well as “Modification to *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* - Errors and inconsistencies” and agreed that both would be forwarded to Panel 2 for consideration;

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

The following amendments shall be made to Rec. 22-08:

Paragraphs 21 and 22 shall be removed.

Paragraphs 20, 23 and 24 shall read as follows:

**“Part II:
 Management measures**

Farming capacity

20. Each farm CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraph 23. Revised farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 June each year. The Commission shall ensure that the total farming and input capacity in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the area.
23. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008. If a CPC needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live bluefin tuna imports.
24. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements.”

Paragraph 120(a) shall read as follows:

“120. Each donor operator CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that identical copies of the relevant video records are provided without delay by the donor operator:

- a) for the first transfer operation and the eventual voluntary or control transfer, to the ICCAT regional observer and to the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the fishing trip, to the flag or trap CPC competent authority of the donor operator;”

A new paragraph (paragraph 12) shall be added to Annex 10.

“12. The provisions of this **Annex** shall not apply to release of bluefin tuna from traps as a result of lifting of the gear at the end of the activity.”

In Annex 11, a new column “Destination of dead fish (discarded or landed)” shall be added between the columns “N° of dead BFT” and “Master’s signature” in the template to Annex 11 (Reporting of fish that die during further transfers and towing operations).

The first paragraph in Annex 14 shall read as follows:

“Prior to their deployment on a purse seine vessel, a trap, or a towing vessel, the provider responsible for the ROP shall provide a minimum of 25 ICCAT seals to each ICCAT regional observer under their responsibility and maintain a record of the seals provided and used.”

23-07

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 22-09 ESTABLISHING A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA TO BE USED FOR BOTH THE WESTERN ATLANTIC AND EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN MANAGEMENT AREAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECALLING that the Commission requested the SCRS to continue testing various candidate MPs in 2022 and to meet with Panel 2 to review the results and support the Panel in selecting one to adopt and apply for 2023 as anticipated in the 2021 Recommendations, the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 21-07) and *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 21-08) and for this purpose Panel 2 held four intersessional meetings in 2022;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part I
General provisions

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Convention area shall implement the following MP. This MP shall be used to calculate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for both the western Atlantic management area (hereafter called “the western management area”) and the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean management area (hereafter called “the eastern management area”).

Management objectives

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

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

Part II
Management procedure and catch limits

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

TAC setting

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

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

8. The Commission shall then adopt the TACs based on the outcome of the MP, unless the SCRS identifies exceptional circumstances that require consideration of alternative management actions to be taken by the Commission.
9. The SCRS shall assess the occurrence of exceptional circumstances annually and the Commission shall act in accordance with the exceptional circumstances protocol set out in **Annex 4**.

TAC implementation

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

Part III Final provisions

11. A review of the performance of the MP by the Commission and the SCRS shall be completed by 2028 and every 6 years thereafter. The aim of the review is to ensure the MP is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that justify its continuation, or that warrant: reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing MP; including new indices into a new MP; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or development of a new MSE framework. Based on that review and subsequent SCRS advice, the Commission shall decide on future management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels, for bluefin tuna stocks in both management areas.
12. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas* (Rec. 22-09).

Table of Operational Management Objectives and Performance Measures

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

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

² Dynamic SSB_{MSY} is a set fraction of dynamic SSB_0 , which is the spawning stock biomass that would occur in the absence of fishing, historically and in the future. Dynamic SSB_{MSY} can change over time since it is based on current recruitment levels, which fluctuate due to time-varying dynamics in the models.

³ The exploitation rate (U) is annual catch (in tonnes) divided by the total annual biomass in tonnes. U_{MSY} is the fixed harvest rate (U) corresponding with $SSB/SSB_{MSY}=1$ at year 50.

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

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

Aggregate abundance indices

An aggregate abundance index is developed for each of the East and the West areas by first standardising each index available for that area to an average value of 1 over the past years for which the index appeared reasonably stable, and then taking a weighted average of the results for each index, where the weight is inversely proportional to the variance⁴ of the residuals used to generate future values of that index in the future modified to take into account the loss of information content as a result of autocorrelation. The mathematical details are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

where $w_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^i}}$ (i.e., effective inverse variance to the power $1/4$ weighting). σ^i is computed as $\sigma^i = \frac{SD^i}{1-AC^i}$, where SD^i is the standard deviation of the residuals in log space and AC^i is their autocorrelation, averaged over the OMs, as used for generating future pseudo-data. **Table A1** lists these values for w_i .

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

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

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

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

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

⁴ This is modified somewhat in a few cases to provide the smoother TAC trend over time, as explained further below.

MP specifications

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

For the East area:

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

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

For the West area:

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

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

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

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

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

Constraints on the extent of TAC increase and decrease

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

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

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

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

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

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

The TAC is then computed as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

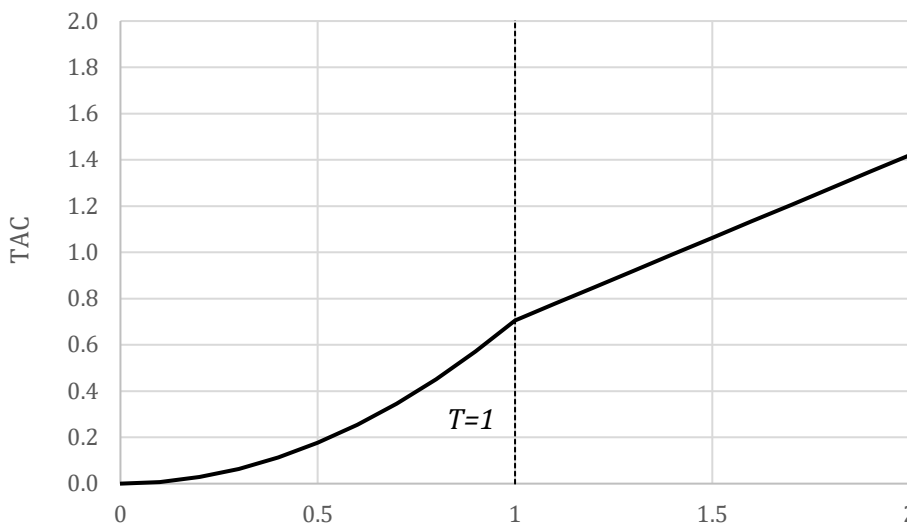


Figure A1. Illustrative relationship (the “catch control law”) of TAC against $J_{av,y}$ for the BR MP, which includes the parabolic decrease below T .

⁵ For the GBYP aerial survey, there is no value for 2016 and that year was therefore omitted from this averaging.

Schedule for Management Procedure implementation

3 Year Cycle

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

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

**Exceptional Circumstances (ECs) protocol for Atlantic bluefin tuna
based on the comments submitted by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

1. Principles of ECs

The following three general principles should be considered as a signal indicating the possibility that ECs exist:

- a. When there is evidence that the stock and/or fishery dynamics are in states (as defined in **Table 1 a**) not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the management strategy evaluation (MSE);
- b. When there is evidence that the data required to apply the management procedure (MP) are not available or sufficient, or are no longer appropriate (as defined in **Table 1 b**); and/or,
- c. When there is evidence that total catch for either the West area or the East area is above the total allowable catch (TAC) for the respective area set using the MP (as defined in **Table 1 c**).

2. Indicators for ECs and process to determine if ECs occur

In light of the principles specified in Section 1, the SCRS should use **Table 1** below to evaluate annually whether ECs exist and will inform the Commission of any such occurrence. Triggering an EC does not immediately result in TAC advice from the MP being rescinded; rather, it means that the SCRS needs to examine the indicators in **Table 1** and determine if a change in advice is warranted.

Table 1. Indicators for bluefin tuna ECs and timetable for conducting the evaluation.

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
a. Stock and fishery dynamics	Indices	If either of the combined index values fall outside the 2.5% and 97.5% percentile range ⁶ in any year from the operating models used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested.	Annually
	Abundance, life history and fishery dynamics	<i>If there is evidence that the stock and/or fishery dynamics^{7*} are in states not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE; such evidence would need to be so consequential that it would meaningfully affect TAC advice from the MP.</i>	After completion, presentation, and acceptance by the SCRS of a study as the new reference
b. Data availability for the MP	Indices	If three or more indices among the 10 are missing in a single year or if two or more indices are missing consecutively for two or more years.	Annually
c. Implementation of the TAC	Catch	If the total catch for either the West area or the East area is 20% or more above the TAC for the respective area set using the MP ⁸ .	Annually

⁶ This range is the two-tailed 95% confidence interval, which is a standard for determining statistically significant deviations.

⁷ Fishery dynamics: Established spatial and temporal patterns that influence catchability, selectivity, targeting, and bycatch of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

⁸ This discussion focuses on excess catches which would constitute EC. Exceeding TAC set though an MP by catch levels that do not constitute EC still carries the same potential adverse consequences of exceeding TAC determined by other means. Sufficient mechanisms to prevent exceeding the TAC should be maintained.

3. Actions to be taken in light of ECs

If the SCRS determines that an EC exists that precludes the application of the MP or makes the application of the MP or the implementation of its results unadvisable based on the principles outlined in Section 1, the SCRS shall evaluate the nature of the EC and advise the Commission on:

- (a) alternative management options for the coming fishing year aimed at ensuring, at a minimum, stability in the status of the stocks, including the implications of: (i) maintaining the TACs decided through the MP, (ii) reducing the TACs by various percentages in light of indications of stock decline, and (iii) any other appropriate conservation and management actions, potentially including various percentage increases in TACs;
- (b) whether the existing MP can and should be adjusted or whether development of a new MP is required; and
- (c) whether a stock assessment or other SCRS-approved method of determining TACs is needed for providing management advice in the interim.

Based on the SCRS advice on (a) above, the Commission shall decide on alternative management action(s), including, as appropriate, a reduction in TAC(s) for the following year. If the SCRS has advised that there are indications of a decline in one or both stocks that warrant an alternative management action, but the Commission is unable to agree on such an action, the TACs of the West area and/or the East area shall be reduced by 10% for the implicated areas(s) for the following year. In addition, as needed and appropriate, the SCRS shall conduct a new stock assessment and/or provide advice on new candidate MPs as soon as possible.

See the flowchart below for a schematic representation of the above process:

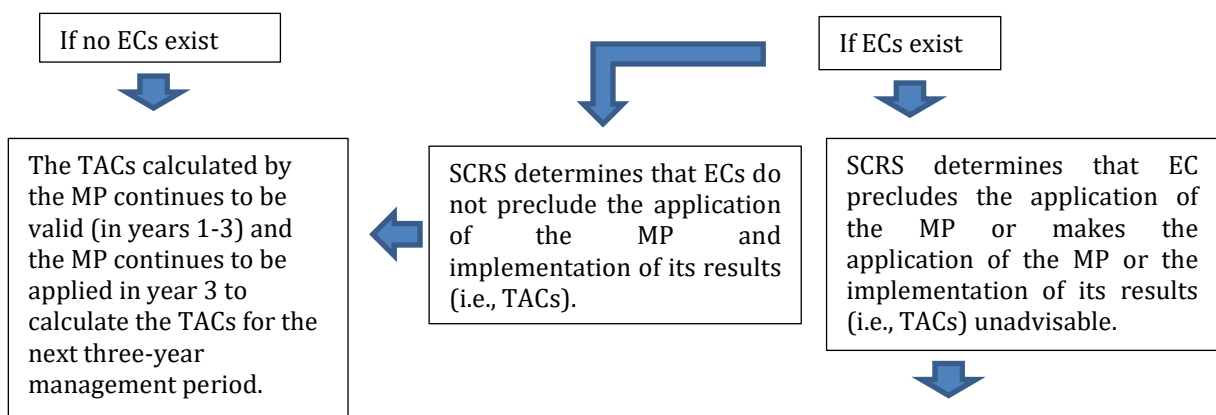
The SCRS shall check if ECs exist using the indicators and criteria specified in **Table 1** and according to the indicated frequency.

Year 1 & 2:

1. Update indices of abundance
2. Update catch
3. Consider evidence *that the stocks and fishery dynamics are in states not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE*
4. Consider availability of indices

Year 3:

1. Check that all datasets required in running the MP are available
2. Re-run MP
3. Same checks done in Years 1 & 2



The SCRS shall advise the Commission on:

- (A) Alternative management options for the coming fishing year aimed at ensuring, at a minimum, stability in the status of the stock, including the implications of:
 - (i) maintaining the TACs decided through the MP;
 - (ii) reducing the TACs by various percentages, in light of indications of stock decline; and
 - (iii) any other appropriate conservation and management actions, potentially including various percentage increases in TACs;
- (B) whether the existing MP can and should be adjusted or whether development of a new MP is required; and
- (C) whether a stock assessment or other SCRS-approved methods of determining TACs is needed for providing management advice in the interim.

Based on the SCRS advice on (a) above, the Commission shall decide on alternative management action(s), including, as appropriate, a reduction in TAC(s) for the following year. If the SCRS has advised that there are indications of a decline in one or both stocks that warrant an alternative management action, but the Commission is unable to agree on such an action, the TACs of the West area and/or the East area shall be reduced by 10% for the implicated areas(s) for the following year. In addition, as needed and appropriate, the SCRS shall conduct a new stock assessment and/or provide advice on new candidate MPs as soon as possible.

23-08

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR A PILOT PROJECT FOR
FARMING BLUEFIN TUNA (*THUNNUS THYNNUS*) IN THE CANTABRIAN SEA**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that ICCAT has adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08), the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system* (Rec. 22-16), and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme* (Rec. 21-19);

RECALLING that in its 23rd Special Meeting the ICCAT Commission adopted a BFT management procedure (Rec. 22-09) intended to secure sustainable management of the bluefin tuna fishery, and provide stability and predictability for the BFT fishing activity, including for the farming sector;

NOTING an interest in exploring ways to (a) farm bluefin tuna in areas other than in the Mediterranean, (b) explore technological innovation for caging and farming bluefin tuna, and (c) assess the feasibility of implementing the current provision on monitoring farming operation when the farm is operating in open ocean conditions;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the results of research to be undertaken on Cantabrian purse seine fishing and farming of bluefin tuna in the Cantabrian Sea could indicate the need for adjustments to relevant ICCAT measures, or the development of new ones, including the need to include additional rules to the fishing season accordingly, and/or adding or revisiting current provisions related to the monitoring and control measures of the farming activities outside the Mediterranean Sea;

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

1. The objective of the pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) (BFT) in the Cantabrian Sea is to assess the conditions for fishing and farming bluefin tuna in the Cantabrian Sea to inform the potential future development of such activities.
2. Research conducted as part of the pilot project should aim to provide answers to key questions related to fishing and farming of BFT in the Cantabrian Sea including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Assessing the functioning of technological developments of the submersible cages under extreme weather conditions.
 - Assessing that suitable schools (medium large fish) are available to purse seine vessels, in that area during the months July to November.
 - Assessing the growth and fattening of BFT in this area and exploring the potential added value of the activity, including in terms of direct fisher profits.
 - Assessing whether the monitoring and control of fishing, transfer and farming activities laid down by ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 are adequate and feasible to implement.
3. The pilot project shall be carried out on a limited scale, over one year, with a limited number of individuals (i.e., 50 BFT fish).
4. Notwithstanding paragraph 28 of Rec. 22-08, the fishing season for this pilot project may be extended to 30 September.
5. The precise details of the pilot project shall be included in the 2024 annual fishing, farming and inspection plans established in accordance with paragraph 10 of Rec. 22-08.

6. The allocation from the CPC's national quota to the pilot project shall be specified in the annual fishing plan and shall be on a limited scale and approved by Panel 2.
7. This plan shall also include details of the control measures to be put in place to ensure that the activity is carried out in line with ICCAT rules and with this Recommendation, as well as the way these rules shall be made mandatory for operators. The plan shall be analysed, and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally (Rec. 22-08, paragraph 11).
8. The results of the pilot project shall be assessed by the Commission in 2024 to determine, in case the project delivers positive results, whether and how the commercial activity could take place beyond the pilot project stage.
9. CPCs participating in the pilot project shall submit a report on the results of the project for consideration by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and the Commission no later than the end of 2024. The report shall provide detailed information on the key questions mentioned in paragraph 2 above, as well as relevant statistical data, including the final number of BFT caught/caged and the individual length and weight of those fish at the time of capture and at the time of harvest from the cage. The report shall also identify the challenges or difficulties encountered, including regarding data collection and monitoring, control, and surveillance. In particular, the report shall include an analysis of the suitability of the current ICCAT provisions for this activity.

23-09

BIL

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CURAÇAO'S BLUE MARLIN PAYBACK PLAN

RECOGNISING an overharvest for previous years of blue marlin by Curaçao;

DESIROUS of maintaining the aims of the ICCAT Rebuilding Plan for white marlin and blue marlin;

NOTING the willingness of Curaçao to payback the overharvest accumulated and abide by the ICCAT conservation and management measures;

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

1. The total negative balance from 2021 is 22.53 t, which shall be paid back in the following way:
 - 2022, the first year of payback: a minimum of 2.53 t;
 - 2023 to 2030 (inclusive): a minimum of 2.5 t per year.

23-10

SHK

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE RECOMMENDATION 19-07
ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
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 1 and 2 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 the protection of endangered shark species caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT and the conservation and sustainable use of commercial shark species;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Commission adopted Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for Atlantic blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and subsequently adopted catch limits for the North Atlantic stock of blue shark in Recommendation 19-07 as amended in Recommendation 21-10;

RECOGNIZING that Atlantic blue shark is caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT and that its stocks can be managed sustainably based on the advice of the SCRS;

CONSIDERING that following the stock assessment undertaken in 2023, the SCRS report states that the North Atlantic blue shark stock is not overfished and is not subject to overfishing;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the 2023 SCRS Report stated “that there is a 49.6% probability that the stock currently falls within the yellow quadrant of the Kobe plot (overfished but not subject to overfishing)”, implying that a more precautionary approach to ensuring the stock remains in the green quadrant is required;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that since 2019 the average yield has been below the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) level estimated at the 2023 stock assessment;

NOTING that according to the 2023 SCRS report the full utilisation of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) established by Recommendation 19-07 (39,102 t) would lead to a very low probability (3%) of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2033;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS, having completed its latest stock assessment in 2023, recommended that the current TAC be reduced “to catch levels that will maintain the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a high probability”;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the catch options from the 2023 assessment that result in a $\geq 60\%$ probability of being in the green quadrant after 10 years are annual catches of 30,000 t or less;

SEEKING, therefore, to ensure that total catch does not exceed 30,000 t through the establishment of an annual TAC;

FURTHER RECALLING that the SCRS was requested to provide options for harvest control rules (HCRs), with associated limit, target and threshold reference points, following the blue shark stock assessment in Recommendation 19-07;

RECALLING the provisions of the *Resolution on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13);

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

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

Catch limits for blue shark

2. An annual TAC of 30,000 t for North Atlantic blue shark is established.
3. The following CPCs shall be subject to the following annual catch limits:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Catch limit</i>
EU	24,449 t*
Japan	3,012 t**
Morocco	1,644 t***
United Kingdom	25 t

* This takes into account an annual transfer of 348 t to Morocco until the next stock assessment of North Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS and is without prejudice to future allocation discussions.

** This takes into account an annual transfer of 43 t to Morocco until the next stock assessment of North Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS and is without prejudice to future allocation discussions.

*** This includes annual transfers of 348 t from the EU and 43 t from Japan until the next stock assessment of North Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS and is without prejudice to future allocation discussions.

4. All other CPCs shall endeavour to maintain their catches below the level of their highest annual catches over the last ten years.
5. a) Any amount caught more than the annual catch limits established in paragraph 3 shall be deducted from the respective catch limits during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028
2027	2029
2028	2030
2029	2031

- b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a) above, if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive years, its catch limit shall be reduced by 125% of the excess harvest of the second year, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate.
- c) 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.

Recording, reporting, and use of the catch information

6. Each CPC shall ensure that all catches of North Atlantic blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area are recorded 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).

7. 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 1 and Task 2 data.
8. In cases where North Atlantic blue shark is not retained, CPCs shall make all reasonable efforts so that specimens caught incidentally in ICCAT fisheries be released unharmed and as soon as possible. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements, the number of specimens released, including their status upon release (i.e., dead discards and live releases).
9. 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 sustainably manage North Atlantic blue sharks.

Scientific research

10. 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.
11. Following up on the task given in Recommendation 19-07, the SCRS shall inform the Commission, by 2025 on the feasibility, cost, options and tentative roadmap for developing an MSE framework (including *inter alia* HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points) for the management of this stock in the ICCAT Convention area.

Implementation and review

12. This recommendation shall be reviewed in light of the outcome of the next stock assessment of the North Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS.
13. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *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 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-07 amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 21-10).

23-11

SHK

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE RECOMMENDATION 19-08
ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH
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 1 and 2 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 shark (*Prionace glauca*) is caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

CONSIDERING that the last stock assessment of South Atlantic blue shark undertaken by the SCRS in 2023, concluded that the stock was not overfished but subject to overfishing;

ACKNOWLEDGING that catches of blue shark in the South Atlantic have been fluctuating recently at levels higher than the Total allowable Catch (TAC) in Recommendation 19-08 and the 2021 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) estimated in the 2023 stock assessment;

NOTING that the SCRS advises that maintaining current catch levels is expected to lead to a rapid decline in the stock's biomass, with a risk of falling below 20% of the estimated B_{MSY} reference level;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that according to the 2023 SCRS report a TAC of 27,711 t or less would immediately stop overfishing and will keep the stock in green quadrant of the Kobe plot with at least a 54% probability until 2033;

RECOGNIZING the need to stabilize the exploitation patterns for this fishery, in particular to avoid large fluctuations of catches 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 (CPCs) whose vessels fish blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area shall implement management measures to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the South Atlantic blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in line with the ICCAT Convention objectives.

Catch limits for blue shark

2. An annual TAC of 27,711 t for South Atlantic blue shark is established.

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

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Catch limit</i>
EU	17,405 t
Brazil	3,481 t
Namibia	3,238 t
Japan	1,520 t
Chinese Taipei	867 t

- a) All other CPCs shall endeavour to maintain or reduce their catches.
- b) If the catches of a CPC that is a coastal developing State and not included in the allocation table exceed 1,000 t in any given year, that CPC shall be automatically included in the allocation table. The catch limit of that CPC shall be set at the level of that year.
- c) If the catches of a CPC that is not a developing coastal State and not included in the allocation table exceed 750 t in any given year, that CPC shall be automatically included in the allocation table with a catch limit of 750 t.
- d) If the total annual catches or the total of the catch limits included in the allocation table exceed the TAC established in paragraph 2 above, the Commission shall review the catch limits to bring harvesting levels in line with the TAC.
4. a) Any excess of the annual catch limits established in paragraph 3 shall be deducted from the respective catch limits during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028
2027	2029
2028	2030
2029	2031

- b) Notwithstanding subparagraph a) above, if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive years, its catch limit shall be reduced by 125% of the excess harvest, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate.

Recording, reporting, and use of the catch information

5. 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).
6. 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 1 and Task 2.
7. In cases where South Atlantic blue shark is not retained, CPCs shall make all reasonable efforts so that specimens caught incidentally in ICCAT fisheries be released unharmed and as soon as possible. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements, the number of specimens released, including their status upon release (alive, dead, moribund, unknown).

8. 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 sustainably South Atlantic blue sharks.

Scientific research

9. 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.
10. Following up on the task given in Recommendation 19-08, the SCRS shall inform the Commission, by 2025 on the feasibility, cost, options and tentative roadmap for developing an MSE framework (including *inter alia* candidate HCR with the associated candidate limit, target and threshold reference points) for the management of this stock in the ICCAT Convention area.
11. This Recommendation shall be reviewed in light of the outcomes of the next stock assessment of the South Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS.
12. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 19-08).

23-12

SHK

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
WHALE SHARKS (*RHINCODON TYPUS*) CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

NOTING that Article 5 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) requires flag States of fishing vessels harvesting highly migratory species to minimise impacts on bycatch species, protect marine biodiversity and collect relevant data for the elaboration of appropriate science-based conservation and management measures for ensuring the protection of such species;

RECALLING the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/118 that, *inter alia*, requests States and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), to strengthen or establish data-collection programmes to obtain reliable species-specific estimates of protected species incidentally caught in fisheries and to promote further research on the use of appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, as well as to implement the International guidelines on bycatch management and reduction of discards of the FAO;

FURTHER RECALLING that other tuna RFMOs (e.g., IOTC Resolution 13/05, WCPFC CMM 2022-04, IATTC Resolution 19-06) have adopted conservation measures for the protection of whale sharks from interactions with fisheries falling under their purview;

FURTHER NOTING that several scientific studies presented to the SCRS in recent years indicated that ICCAT fisheries, in particular those using purse seine gear, interact with whale sharks and that some purse seine fleets operating in the ICCAT Convention area already implement voluntarily existing best practices and procedures for the protection of whale sharks;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the SCRS has previously advised that “Precautionary management measures should be considered for stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern, and for which there are very few data”, which could reasonably apply to whale sharks;

NOTING that, in its second performance review, in the chapter ‘Trends in the status of non-target species,’ the Review Panel recommended that “the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertain and that their status is often poorly known”;

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

1. CPCs shall prohibit their flagged fishing vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing, in whole or in part, any specimen of whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) caught in ICCAT fisheries.
2. CPCs shall prohibit their flagged fishing vessels from setting a purse seine on a school of tuna associated with a whale shark if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
3. CPCs shall require that when a whale shark is incidentally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the fishing vessel shall take all reasonable steps to ensure its safe release.
4. Until safe handling and release guidelines are developed and adopted pursuant to paragraph 9 below, CPCs should require the masters of their flag vessels, in taking steps to ensure the safe handling and release of a whale shark as required under paragraph 3 and while ensuring the safety of the crew, to apply the guidelines outlined in the **Annex 1**.

5. CPCs shall ensure that, consistent with the requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programmes* (Rec. 16-14), interactions with whale sharks during purse seine operations are recorded through their domestic observer programmes. The following information will also be collected: i) details of how and why the encirclement occurred, ii) the number of individuals involved during the interaction, iii) location of the interaction, iv) steps taken to ensure safe handling and release of the specimens encircled in the purse seine, and v) an assessment of the life status of the whale shark specimen(s) upon release (alive/dead/moribund/uncertain).
6. CPCs shall report the data and information collected under paragraph 5 in their Annual Reports and, in the case of data collected through observer programmes, to the Secretariat in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.
7. Paragraph 1-6 shall not apply to fishing vessels operating exclusively North of 40° N or South of 40° S (i.e., outside the core geographic range of whale shark in the Atlantic Ocean).
8. The SCRS shall, in 2024, review existing data and information relating to the life history and conservation status of whale sharks, and confirm whether they meet the definition of being a taxon of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern for which there are very few data. Should this be the case, the SCRS shall advise on the appropriateness of applying precautionary management measures in ICCAT fisheries, such as a retention ban. The SCRS may also identify options for future research and data collection, as well as advise on other mitigation measures for relevant ICCAT fisheries.
9. The Commission invites the SCRS to review and endorse, at its best convenience, the geographic boundaries in paragraph 7 and the guidelines for the safe release of encircled whale sharks in **Annex 1**, taking into account those developed in other RFMOs.
10. Noting that the effectiveness of various release methods is still to be evaluated, CPCs are encouraged to undertake research activities on handling and release practices ensuring high post release survival rates for whale sharks caught incidentally during purse seine operations.

Entry into force

11. Notwithstanding Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention, CPCs shall implement this Recommendation no later than 1 January 2025 provided the terms of paragraph 12 are met.
12. Only if there is a consensus on the interpretation of the SCRS advice at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Commission will this Recommendation enter into force as scheduled in paragraph 11.

Annex 1**Guidelines for safe handling and release of whale sharks**

1. In the ICCAT Convention area, the following practices should be used when releasing whale sharks incidentally caught in ICCAT fisheries:
 - Use the sail brail or dip net to lift and release the whale sharks, an operation also defined as “brailing”. This operation is to be used when specimens smaller than 2 meters are caught, to release them directly in open water, without bringing them on board; or
 - Sink the cork line so the whale shark rolls out of the net. If the individual does not go out of the net by itself, place a rope under the animal and attach it to the float line to help it roll out of the net; or
 - Cut a few meters of the net in front of the whale shark.

2. In the ICCAT Convention area, the following practices should be avoided when releasing whale sharks incidentally caught in ICCAT fisheries:
 - Lifting whale sharks by tail;
 - Pulling whale sharks by a loop hooked around its gill or holes bored into a fin;
 - Gaffing;
 - Leaving towing ropes attached to the trunk of whale sharks;
 - Brailing whale sharks larger than 2 meters;
 - Brailing whale sharks onto the deck;
 - Starting the brailing process while whale shark is still in the purse seine net.

23-13

BYC

SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 22-12 ON THE BYCATCH OF SEA TURTLES CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

RECALLING the 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) (Rec. 22-12);

RECOGNIZING the new scientific advice provided by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on the southern boundary of the range of sea turtles, as called for by paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-12;

NOTING the need to correct a cross-reference in Rec. 22-12;

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

1. The provisions of the *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)* (Rec. 22-12) shall be amended as follows:

- A. Sub-paragraph 1 b) shall be replaced with the following:

“Any CPC that achieves and maintains 10% scientific observer coverage and complies with the data reporting requirements of Recs. 11-10, 16-14, and paragraph 5 below, may request from paragraph 1 a) an exemption for one or more of its ICCAT fisheries above by submitting relevant scientific information to the SCRS. The SCRS will evaluate that information and advise the Commission on sea turtle interactions and mortality. The Commission shall make decisions on any requested exemption in light of the SCRS advice.”

- B. Sub-paragraph 6 a) shall be replaced with the following:

“Paragraphs 1-3 shall not apply to vessels operating only North of 55°N or South of 35°S latitude in the eastern South Atlantic and South of 40°S latitude in the western South Atlantic (i.e., primarily outside the geographic range of Atlantic Sea turtles). The limit for the division between the eastern South Atlantic and the western South Atlantic is 20°W”.

23-14

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON MOBULID RAYS (FAMILY MOBULIDAE)
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

CONSIDERING that manta and mobula rays of the family Mobulidae (henceforth referred to as mobulid rays), are caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

NOTING that mobulid rays exhibit slow growth rates and very low fecundity, and that population growth rates are very low, making them extremely vulnerable to overfishing;

ALSO NOTING that mobulid rays are among the Chondrichthyan taxa for which there are sustainability concerns, and all mobulid species reported in the ICCAT Convention area that have been assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are suspected as meeting the criteria for 'Endangered';

CONSIDERING that all species of mobulid ray are listed under Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);

NOTING that CMS Parties "that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall prohibit the taking of animals belonging to such species", and that several fleets operating in the ICCAT Convention area already implement measures to protect mobulid rays;

CONSIDERING that all mobulid rays are listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for which trade shall be closely controlled under specific conditions including, *inter alia*, that trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that comparable measures have been introduced in other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) – namely the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC; Resolution 19/03), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC, Resolution C-15-04) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC, CMM 2019-05);

FURTHER NOTING that several scientific studies presented to the SCRS in recent years indicated that ICCAT fisheries, in particular those using purse seine gear, interact with mobulid rays and that some purse seine fleets operating in the ICCAT Convention area already implement voluntarily existing best practices and procedures for the protection of mobulid rays;

ACNOWLEDGING that mobulid rays require protection in all Oceans and that in line with UNFSA Article 5e appropriate and consistent actions are needed for ensuring that interactions with ICCAT fisheries do not undermine the conservation status of this fish species;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the SCRS has previously advised that "Precautionary management measures should be considered for stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern, and for which there are very few data", which could reasonably apply to mobulid rays;

NOTING that in its second performance review, in the chapter "Trends in the status of non-target species," Panel 4 recommended that "the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertain and that their status is often poorly known";

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 prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing or storing any part or whole carcass of all species of mobulid rays (family Mobulidae) taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, mobulid rays as soon as they are seen in the net, on the hook or at the vessel, in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individual. CPCs should encourage their fishing vessels to implement the handling practices detailed in **Annex 1**, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew.
3. Consistent with the requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programmes* (Rec. 16-14), CPCs shall record through their domestic observer programmes the number of discards and releases of mobulid rays caught in ICCAT fisheries and, where possible, an indication of status (dead or alive). These data shall be reported to ICCAT.

Research, capacity building and cooperation

4. CPCs shall, where possible, implement research on mobulid rays in the Convention area in order to identify potential mating, pupping, nursery, feeding and overwintering areas. Based on this research, CPCs shall consider implementing appropriate management measures, such as time and area closures, to provide additional protection for mobulid rays.
5. As appropriate, the Commission and its CPCs shall, where possible, individually and collectively engage in capacity building efforts and other cooperative activities to support the effective implementation of this Recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, in the case of mobulid rays that are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of a purse seine vessel's operation, the vessel must surrender the whole mobulid ray to the responsible governmental authorities, or other competent authority, or discard them at the point of landing. Mobulid rays surrendered in this manner may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purposes of domestic human consumption.
7. Paragraphs 1-5 shall not apply to vessels operating only North of 47 degrees N or South of 47 degrees S latitude (i.e., primarily outside the geographic range of mobulid rays (family Mobulidae)).
8. The SCRS shall, in 2024, review existing data and information relating to the life history and conservation status of mobulid rays, and confirm whether they meet the definition of being a taxon of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern for which there are very few data. Should this be the case, the SCRS shall advise on the appropriateness of applying precautionary management measures such as a prohibition on retention. The SCRS may also identify options for future research and data collection, as well as advise on other mitigation measures.

Entry into force

9. This Recommendation shall become effective no later than 1 July 2025 only if there is a consensus on the interpretation of the SCRS advice at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Commission.

Annex 1**Best handling practices for the safe release of mobulid rays**

(Taken from WCPFC CMM 2019-05 - Conservation and management measure on mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention area)

Purse seine**Do's:**

- Release rays while they are still free-swimming whenever possible (e.g., back down procedure, submerging corks, cutting net).
- It is preferable that larger rays (>60 kg), that are too large to be lifted safely by hand are brailed out of the net and released using a purpose built large-mesh cargo net or canvas sling or similar device as recommended in document SC08-EB-IP-12 (Poisson *et al.*, 2012, Good practices to reduce the mortality of sharks and rays caught incidentally by the tropical tuna purse seiners). It is preferable that release nets or devices are prepared prior to each set.
- It is preferable that small (<30 kg) and medium rays (30-60 kg) are handled by 2 or 3 people and carried by the sides of its wings or preferably using a purpose-built cradle/stretchers while ensuring the safety of the crew.
- When entangled in netting, carefully cut the net away from the animal and release to the sea as quickly as possible while ensuring the safety of the crew.

Do not's:

- Leave a ray on deck until hauling is finished before returning it to the sea.
- Punch holes through the bodies of rays (e.g., to pass a cable or line through for lifting the ray).
- Gaff, drag, carry, lift or pull a ray by its "cephalic lobes" or tail or by inserting hooks or hands into the gill slits or the spiracles.

Longline**Do's:**

- For small rays, gently bring on board and remove as much gear as possible by backing the hook out. If hooks are embedded, either cut the hook with bolt cutters or cut the line at the hook and gently return the animal to the sea.
- For medium to large rays (>30 kg), leave the animal in the water and use a de-hooker to remove the hook or a long-handled line cutter to cut the gear as close to the hook as possible (ideally leaving <0.5 meters of line attached to the animal).

Do not's:

- Hit or slam a ray against any surface to remove the animal from the line.
- Attempt to dislodge a deeply hooked or ingested hook by pulling on the branch line or using a de-hooker.
- Attempt to lift medium to large (>30 kg) rays aboard vessel.
- Cut the tail.

- Gaff, drag, carry, lift or pull a ray by its “cephalic lobes” or tail or by inserting hooks or hands into the gill slits or the spiracles.

Additional recommendation

Knowing that any fishing operation may catch rays, several tools can be prepared in advance (e.g., canvas or net slings or stretchers for carrying or lifting, large mesh net or grid to cover hatches/hoppers in purse seine fisheries, long handled cutters and de-hookers in longline fisheries).

23-16

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 21-13
ON ESTABLISHING A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT
ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES**

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out illegal unregulated and unreported (IUU) activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way;

CONCERNED by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area continue, and these activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

FURTHER CONCERNED that there is evidence of a large number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with ICCAT management and conservation measures, and to evade the ICCAT-adopted non-discriminatory trade measures;

DETERMINED to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant ICCAT instruments;

CONSIDERING the results of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Measures to Combat IUU Fishing Meeting, which was held in Tokyo, Japan from 27 to 31 May 2002;

CONSCIOUS of the urgent need to address the issue of large-scale fishing vessels as well as other vessels conducting IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing;

NOTING that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

DESIRING to streamline and improve IUU listing procedures and requirements in previous ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions;

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

Definition of IUU activities

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, vessels are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area when a Contracting Party or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC), presents evidence that such vessels:
 - a) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - c) Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports;
 - d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - f) Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - g) Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list;

- h) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels;
- i) Are without nationality and fishing or supporting fishing operations in the ICCAT Convention area; and/or
- j) Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Information on alleged IUU activities

2. CPCs shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary, at least 70 days before the annual meeting, information on any vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities within the last three years, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity and vessel identification information.

This information on vessels shall be based on the information collected by CPCs, *inter alia*, under relevant ICCAT recommendations and resolutions. CPCs shall submit available information on the vessel and the IUU fishing activity in the format attached as **Addendum 1** of this Recommendation.

Upon receipt of such information, the Executive Secretary shall promptly send this information to all CPCs and to any non-CPC concerned and request that, where appropriate, CPCs and any such non-CPC investigate the alleged IUU activity and/or monitor the vessels.

Upon receipt of the notification from the Secretariat, the flag CPC shall, within 60 days, conduct an investigation and submit the investigation report or progress to the Secretariat, which shall immediately circulate it to all CPCs. For the cases circulated by the Secretariat that involve activity alleged to have been carried out on the high seas in the ICCAT Convention area, no CPCs shall unilaterally make a determination of IUU fishing on the basis of the initiation of the listing process under this paragraph until the Commission has reviewed the investigation report or progress report, if available, as well as any other information referred to in paragraph 2, 3, 4 and 5, and determined whether or not the vessel has been conducting IUU fishing in accordance with this Recommendation. This paragraph shall not affect the rights and obligations of CPCs to take action against IUU fishing activities in accordance with relevant domestic and international law.

The Executive Secretary shall request the flag State to notify the owner of the vessel regarding the CPC's submission of the vessel for its inclusion in the Draft IUU List and of the consequences that may result if it is included on the final IUU Vessel List adopted by the Commission.

Development of Draft IUU List

3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall draw up a Draft IUU List in conformity with **Addendum 2**. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall transmit the Draft IUU List, together with all the information provided, to all CPCs, and to non-CPCs whose vessels are included on these lists, at least 55 days before the annual meeting. CPCs and non-CPCs shall transmit any comments, including any evidence showing that the listed vessels did not engage in any activity described in paragraph 1, or any actions taken to address such activity, at least 30 days before the annual meeting of ICCAT.

Upon receipt of the Draft IUU List, CPCs shall closely monitor the vessels on that List and shall promptly submit to the Secretariat any information they may have related to the vessels' activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign or registered owner.

Development and adoption of Final IUU List

4. Two weeks in advance of the ICCAT annual meeting, the Executive Secretary shall recirculate to the CPCs and non-CPCs concerned the Draft IUU List, all information received pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, and any other information obtained by the Executive Secretary.

5. CPCs may at any time, and preferably before the annual meeting, submit to the Executive Secretary any additional information that might be relevant for the establishment of the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate any such additional information to all CPCs and to the non-CPCs concerned.
6. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall examine, each year, the Draft IUU List, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5. The results of this examination may, if necessary, be referred to the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee.

The PWG shall propose to remove a vessel from the Draft IUU List if it determines that:

- a) The vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
 - b)
 - i) The flag CPC or non-CPC has adopted measures so that this vessel conforms with ICCAT conservation measures, and
 - ii) The flag CPC or non-CPC has and will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities with respect to this vessel in particular as regards the monitoring and control of the fishing activities executed by this vessel in the ICCAT Convention area, and
 - iii) Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, or
 - c) The vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish that the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, at each ICCAT annual meeting, the PWG shall develop a Proposed IUU Vessel List, noting which, if any, vessels are proposed for removal from the ICCAT IUU Vessel List adopted at the previous annual meeting and the reasons therefor, and submit it to the Commission for adoption as the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

Actions following adoption of Final IUU Vessel List

8. On adoption of the Final IUU Vessel List, the Executive Secretary shall request CPCs and non-CPCs whose vessels appear on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List to:
 - notify the owner of the vessel identified on the Final IUU Vessel List of its inclusion on the list and the consequences which result from being included on the list, as referred to in paragraph 9;
 - take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or of the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. CPCs shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation to:
 - ensure that the fishing vessels, support vessels, refuelling vessels, the mother-ships and the cargo vessels flying their flag do not assist in any way, engage in fishing processing operations or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels included on the IUU Vessels List;
 - ensure that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, tranship, re-fuel, re-supply, or engage in other commercial transactions; prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU list, except in case of *force majeure*, unless vessels are allowed entry into port for the exclusive purpose of inspection and effective enforcement action;

- ensure the inspection of vessels on the IUU list, if such vessels are otherwise found in their ports, to the extent practicable;
 - prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU vessels list;
 - refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU list, except if the vessel has changed owner and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag CPC determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
 - prohibit the import, or landing and/or transshipment, of tuna and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list;
 - encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transaction and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species caught by vessels included in the IUU list;
 - collect and exchange with other CPCs any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false documentation (including import/export certificates) regarding tunas and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list; and
 - monitor vessels included in the IUU list and promptly submit any information to the Executive Secretary related to their activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign and/or registered owner.
10. The Executive Secretary will ensure publicity of the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by ICCAT pursuant to paragraph 8, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, and through electronic means, by placing it, along with any additional supporting information on the vessels and IUU activities, on a dedicated portion of the ICCAT website, to be updated as information changes or additional relevant information becomes available. Furthermore, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will transmit the Final IUU Vessel List and supporting information on newly added vessels promptly to other RFMOs for the purposes of enhanced co-operation between ICCAT and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Intersessional modification of ICCAT’s Final IUU Vessel List

Incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs

11. Upon receipt of the final IUU vessel list established by another RFMO¹ and supporting information considered by that RFMO, and any other information regarding the listing determination, such as relevant sections of the RFMO’s meeting report, the Executive Secretary shall circulate this information to the CPCs and to any relevant non-CPC. Vessels that have been included on the respective lists shall be included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, unless any Contracting Party objects to the inclusion on the Final ICCAT IUU List within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary on the grounds that:
- a) there is satisfactory information to establish that:
 - i. The vessel did not engage in the IUU fishing activities identified by the other RFMO, or
 - ii. That effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity that have been complied with,
 - b) There is insufficient supporting information and other information regarding the listing determination to establish that none of the conditions in sub-paragraph 11a) above have been met.

¹ 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 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Or

- c) In the case of vessels listed by a non-tuna RFMO, there is an insufficient nexus to the conservation and management of ICCAT species to warrant cross-listing.

In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by another RFMO being included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to this paragraph, such vessel shall be placed on the Draft IUU Vessel List and considered by the PWG pursuant to paragraph 6.

12. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall implement paragraph 11 in accordance with the following procedures:
 - a) The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain appropriate contacts with the Secretariats of other RFMOs in order to obtain copies of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists in a timely manner upon adoption or amendment, including by requesting a copy of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists annually upon conclusion of the RFMO's meeting at which its final IUU list is adopted.
 - b) As soon as possible after adoption or amendment of an IUU vessel list by another RFMO, the ICCAT Secretariat shall collect all supporting documentation available from that RFMO regarding the listing/delisting determinations.
 - c) Once the ICCAT Secretariat has received/collected the information outlined in paragraphs (a) and (b), it shall, consistent with paragraph 11 of this Recommendation, promptly circulate the other RFMO's IUU vessel list, supporting information, and any other relevant information regarding the listing determination to all CPCs. The requisite circular shall clearly state the reason the information is being provided, explain that ICCAT Contracting Parties have 30 days from the date of the circular to object to the inclusion of the vessels on the ICCAT IUU vessel list, and that absent any such objection the vessel will be added at the expiration of the 30-day period to the Final IUU Vessel List.
 - d) The ICCAT Secretariat shall add any new vessels contained in the other RFMOs' IUU vessel list to the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List at the end of the 30-day period provided no objection to such inclusion is received from a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Recommendation.
 - e) Where a vessel has been included on the ICCAT Final IUU Vessel List solely due to its inclusion on another RFMO's IUU Vessel List, the ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately remove that vessel from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List when it has been deleted by the RFMO that originally listed it.
 - f) Upon the addition or deletion of vessels from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 11 or 12(e) of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List as amended to all ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs concerned.

Intersessional removal from the Final IUU Vessel List

13. A CPC or non-CPC whose vessel appears on the Final IUU Vessel List that wishes to request the removal of its vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period shall submit this request to the ICCAT Executive Secretary no later than 15 July of each year accompanied by information to demonstrate that it meets one or more of the grounds for removal specified in paragraph 6.
14. On the basis of the information received by the 15 July deadline, the Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request, with all supporting information to the Contracting Parties within 15 days following receipt of the removal request.
15. The Contracting Parties shall examine the request to remove the vessel and reply within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretary if they object to the removal of the vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List.

16. The result of the examination of the request by mail will be checked by the Executive Secretary at the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 15.

If a Contracting Party objects to the removal request, the Executive Secretary shall maintain the vessel on the Final ICCAT IUU List and the removal request shall be forwarded to the PWG for consideration at the annual meeting, if requested by the CPC seeking intersessional removal. If no Contracting Party objects to request to remove the vessel, the Executive Secretary shall promptly remove the vessel concerned from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, as published on the ICCAT website.

17. The Executive Secretary shall promptly communicate the result of the delisting process to all CPCs as well as non-CPCs concerned. Moreover, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall forward the decision to remove the vessel to other RFMOs.

General dispositions

18. This Recommendation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to fish processing vessels, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment, and support vessels, and other vessels engaged in fishing related activities managed by ICCAT.
19. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities* (Rec. 21-13).

Addendum 1**ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity**

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Recommendation, attached are details of alleged IUU activity and available vessel information.

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

<i>Item</i>		<i>Available Information</i>
A	Name of vessel and previous names	
B	Flag and previous flags	
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	
D	Owner's place of registration	
E	Operator and previous operators	
F	Call sign and previous call signs	
G	IMO number	
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	
I	Length overall	
J	Photographs	
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	
P	Outcome of any actions taken	
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, <i>modus operandi</i> , etc.)	

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary)

Rec. 23-16 para 1	Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:	Indicate and provide details
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area.	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports.	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures.	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures.	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures.	
g	Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list.	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels.	
i	Are without nationality and fishing or supporting fishing operations in the ICCAT Convention area.	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures.	

Addendum 2**Information to be included in all IUU Lists (Draft and Final)**

The Draft IUU List shall include information on vessels listed on ICCAT's Final IUU List as well as information on new vessels submitted by CPCs for listing. The Draft IUU List shall contain the following details, where applicable and available:

- i) Name of vessel and previous name(s);
- ii) Flag of vessel and previous flag(s);
- iii) Name and address of owner of vessel and previous owners, including beneficial owners, and owners' place of registration;
- iv) Operator of vessel and previous operator(s);
- v) Call sign of vessel and previous call sign;
- vi) Lloyds/IMO number;
- vii) Photographs of the vessel;
- viii) Date vessel was first included on the IUU List;
- ix) Summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities;
- x) Other relevant information.

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RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 18-09 ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

RECALLING the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing;

RECOGNIZING that many Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) currently have port inspection schemes in place;

ACKNOWLEDGING that port State measures provide a powerful and cost-effective means of preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a revised ICCAT port inspection scheme* (Rec. 97-10);

ALSO RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT further amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 11-18) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ban on landings and transshipments of vessels from Non-contracting parties identified as having committed a serious infringement* (Rec. 98-11);

EMPHASIZING the importance of ensuring that the challenges faced by developing CPCs in the implementation of port State measures are adequately addressed and maximizing the use of funding established under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to support effective implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT scheme for minimum standards for inspection in port* (Rec. 14-08) in that regard;

AWARE of the ongoing work of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance established under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Supplement the Process for Seeking Capacity Building Assistance Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08* (Rec. 16-18);

DESIRING to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote implementation of and compliance with conservation and management measures;

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

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation:

- a) "Fishing" means searching for, attracting, locating, catching, taking or harvesting fish or any activity that can be reasonably expected to result in the attracting, locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fish;
- b) "Fishing related activities" means any operation in support of, or in preparation for, fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transshipping or transporting of fish that have not previously been landed at a port, as well as the provisioning of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea;
- c) "Fishing vessel" refers to any vessel, ship of another type or boat, used for, equipped to be used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing related activities; and
- d) "Port" includes offshore terminals and marine areas of the port, and other installations for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing, refuelling or resupplying.

Scope

2. Nothing in this Recommendation shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of CPCs under international law. In particular, nothing in this Recommendation shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Recommendation.

This Recommendation shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed pursuant to this Recommendation and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

3. With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Recommendation for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
4. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Recommendation to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its port. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the chartering CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
5. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations, and except as otherwise provided in this Recommendation, this Recommendation shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 meters in length overall.
6. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 12 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 4, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating IUU fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 3.
7. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Points of Contact

8. Each CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 13 of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 35(b) of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before such changes take effect. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
9. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Designated ports

10. Each CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall:
 - a) Designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation;
 - b) Ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Recommendation;
 - c) Provide to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
11. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.
12. Each CPC that does not grant access to its ports to foreign vessels shall so indicate in its Annual Report submitted under Ref. 23-24. Should it subsequently decide to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels, it shall submit the information required under paragraphs 8 and 10(c) to the Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Advance request for port entry

13. Each port CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall require foreign fishing vessels seeking to enter its ports to provide the following information at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port:
 - a) Vessel identification (External identification; Name; Flag State; ICCAT Record No., if any; IMO No., if any; and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the ICCAT register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (e.g., resupplying, landing or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a report indicating that (i.e., a “nil” report) shall be transmitted;
 - f) The estimated quantities for each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

14. Each CPC shall require any vessels flying its flag that is seeking entry to, or is in, the port of another CPC to:
 - a) comply with obligations implemented by that port CPC pursuant to this Recommendation including obligations for the Master to provide information under paragraph 13; and
 - b) cooperate with the port CPC in inspections carried out pursuant to this Recommendation.

15. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter advance notification period than specified in paragraph 13, taking into account, *inter alia*, the type of fishery products landed in its ports, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports, and its resources and procedures for considering and verifying the information. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat of its advance notification period, and the reasons therefor, within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Port entry, authorization or denial

16. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 13, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port.
17. Without prejudice to paragraph 19, when a CPC has sufficient proof that a foreign fishing vessel seeking entry to its port has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing the CPC shall deny that vessel entry into its port and shall communicate this decision to the Master of the vessel or its representative.
18. In the event that the port CPC decides to deny the entry of the vessel into its port, it shall so notify the vessel or its representative and shall also communicate the decision to the flag State of the vessel, to the ICCAT Secretariat for posting on the secure part of the ICCAT website and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, to relevant coastal States, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or arrangements (RFMO/As) and other Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs).
19. Notwithstanding paragraph 17, a port CPC may allow entry to its port of a vessel referred to in that paragraph exclusively for the purpose of inspecting it and taking other appropriate actions in accordance with international law that are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of such fishing.
20. Where a vessel referred to in paragraph 17 is in port for any reason, the port CPC shall deny such vessel the use of its ports for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing and for other port services including, *inter alia*, refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and dry docking. Paragraph 22 applies *mutatis mutandis* in such cases. Denial of such use of ports shall be in conformity with international law.

Force majeure or distress

21. Nothing in this Recommendation affects the entry of foreign fishing vessels to port in accordance with international law for reasons of force majeure or distress or prevents a port CPC from permitting entry into port to a vessel exclusively for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.

Use of ports

22. Where a foreign fishing vessel has entered one of its ports, the port State CPC shall deny, pursuant to its laws and regulations and consistent with international law, including this Recommendation, that vessel the use of the port for landing, transshipping, packaging, or processing fish that have not been previously landed and for other port services, including, *inter alia*, refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and dry docking, if:
- a) The port CPC finds that the vessel does not have a valid and applicable authorization to engage in fishing and fishing related activities in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) The port CPC receives clear evidence that the fish on board was taken in contravention of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

- c) The flag CPC does not confirm within a reasonable period of time, on the request of the port CPC, that the fish on board was taken in accordance with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures; or
 - d) The port CPC has reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel otherwise engaged in IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, in the ICCAT Convention area, including in support of a vessel included in ICCAT's *List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and other areas*, unless the vessel can establish:
 - i. that it was acting in a manner consistent with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
 - ii. in the case of provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea to a vessel on ICCAT's IUU list, that the vessel that was provisioned was not, at the time of provisioning, included in the ICCAT IUU list.
23. Notwithstanding paragraph 22, the port CPC shall not deny a vessel referred to in that paragraph the use of port services:
- a) essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel, provided these needs are duly proven, or
 - b) where appropriate, for the scrapping of the vessel.
24. Where a port CPC has denied a vessel the use of its ports, it shall promptly notify the vessel or its representative; the flag State of the vessel; the ICCAT Secretariat, for posting on the secure part of the ICCAT website, and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, relevant coastal States, RFMO/As, and other IGOs.
25. A port CPC shall withdraw its denial of the use of its port only if the port CPC is satisfied that there is sufficient proof to show that the grounds on which the use was denied were inadequate or erroneous, or that such grounds no longer apply.
26. Where a port CPC has withdrawn its denial of the use of its port, it shall promptly notify those to whom a notification was issued pursuant to paragraph 24.
27. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port in accordance with paragraph 19, the provisions set forth in the following section on port inspection shall apply.

Port inspections

28. Inspections shall be carried out by properly qualified inspectors of a competent authority of the port CPC.
29. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
30. In determining which foreign fishing vessels to inspect, the port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, give priority to:
- a) a vessel that has failed to provide complete and accurate information as required in paragraph 13;
 - b) a vessel that has been denied port entry by another CPC in accordance with this Recommendation;
 - c) requests from other CPCs or relevant RFMO/As that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, by the vessel in question;

- d) other vessels for which clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, including information derived from inspection reports submitted under this scheme and information from other RFMO/As.

Inspection procedure

31. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors shall examine all relevant areas, decks and spaces of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, relevant to verifying compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. They may also question the Master, crew members, or any other person on the vessel being inspected. They may take copies of any documents they consider relevant.
32. In case the vessel is landing or transshipping ICCAT species, inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 13 above and held on board. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided, to the extent practicable.
33. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port CPC, to be signed by the inspector and the Master. The Master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the report. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, and to contact the competent authority of the flag State, in particular where the Master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Master.
34. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authorities of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and do not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of apparent infringements

35. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT conservation and management measures, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall, within 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection, forward a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the flag State point of contact and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14-day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such infringement, including original documents where appropriate. If the port CPC refers the infringement to the flag State for further action, the port CPC shall promptly provide the evidence collected to the flag State.
36. Nothing in this Recommendation prevents a port CPC from taking actions that are in conformity with international law in addition to those specified in paragraph 38. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the flag State, the relevant coastal State, as applicable, and the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.

37. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 35 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report and evidence, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the infringement and notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within six months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot notify the ICCAT Secretariat this status report within six months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the six-month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website. CPCs shall include in their Annual Report (Ref. 23-24) information regarding the status of such investigations.
38. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec. 18-08, the port CPC shall deny the vessel the use of port in accordance with paragraph 22, promptly report the case to the flag State, and the relevant coastal CPC, as applicable. The port CPC shall also notify as soon as possible the ICCAT Secretariat that the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities, and provide supporting evidence. The ICCAT Secretariat shall include the vessel in the Draft IUU list.

Annual reporting

39. Port CPCs shall submit each year by 15 September in relation to activity occurring between 1 January and 31 December of the previous year the data listed in **Annex 1**, in the format to be provided by the Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.

Requirements of developing CPCs

40. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Recommendation. CPCs shall, either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
- a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and funding to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional and international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this Recommendation is not unnecessarily transferred to them;
 - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Recommendation; and
 - c) Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation.

General provisions

41. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange programme designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information regarding such programmes, including a copy of such agreements or arrangements, should be included in Annual Reports of CPCs (Ref. 23-24).
42. Without prejudice to domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.

43. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Recommendation.
44. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2020 Annual Meeting and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness.
45. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme of Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* (Rec. 12-07).

Data fields for the reporting of port inspections

- Number of landings from foreign fishing vessels landing ICCAT species in their ports;
- Number of transshipments from foreign fishing vessels transshipping ICCAT species in their ports;
- Port denials and withdrawal of denials and the reasons;
- Information on the inspections carried out on these vessels in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29, including:
 - Date of entry into port
 - Port
 - Inspection report number
 - Flag of vessel
 - Vessel name
 - Date of inspection
 - Infringement reported (Y/N)
 - Infringement details
 - Actions taken as a result of the detected infringement
 - Observations
 - Responses from flag State

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RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS AND PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS (EMS) IN ICCAT FISHERIES

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Resolution by ICCAT for the establishing of an ICCAT Working Group on the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG EMS) (Res. 21-22), and that a primary objective of this Working Group is the establishment of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) minimum standards for ICCAT fisheries;

RECOGNIZING that EMS can be used to improve control and constitutes a significant means for authorities to ensure compliance with the applicable rules;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that EMS can enhance the collection of fisheries data for scientific and management purposes;

RECALLING the SCRS conclusion that when used for scientific purposes, EMS cannot fully replace human scientific observer programmes, and a minimum human observer's coverage is still necessary to collect certain information, in particular biological samples;

ACKNOWLEDGING that several ICCAT Recommendations currently contemplate the use of EMS, in particular, *the Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 22-01), *the Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 21-09) and *the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programmes for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05).

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that some of these recommendations mandate the establishment of minimum standards for this technology, – standards that must be implemented before EMS can be used to meet certain ICCAT requirements, such as expanded observer coverage;

NOTING that the development of EMS minimum programme requirements and technical standards and specifications is fundamental to ensuring both a level playing field among CPCs and that, when these systems are used, they are effective in achieving their intended purpose;

FURTHER NOTING that developing CPCs might need technical assistance and capacity building when implementing EMS for ICCAT fisheries;

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

Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this recommendation is to establish minimum programme requirements and technical standards and specifications for EMS used in ICCAT longline and purse seine fisheries to meet ICCAT requirements for scientific data collection and/or compliance monitoring and ensure that when EMS is used it is effective in achieving its intended purpose.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the implementation of EMS is optional, and this recommendation does not create any independent obligation for CPCs to implement EMS on board their fishing vessels.
3. CPCs that implement EMS in their fisheries pursuant to such ICCAT recommendations shall ensure that their EMS domestic programmes meet the minimum programme requirements and standards and specifications set out in this Recommendation.

4. Unless otherwise decided by the Commission based on SCRS advice provided pursuant to paragraph 13 of Rec. 16-14, CPCs shall ensure that they continue to meet the human observer coverage required in accordance with paragraph 4 of Rec. 16-14 and that, if they choose to implement EMS in accordance with this Recommendation for scientific purposes, it shall be used to complement the required level of human observer coverage and the required tasks to be performed by these human observers.

EMS minimum standards

5. EMS shall automatically and autonomously collect required data for each fishing trip and shall be tamper-evident.
6. EMS shall be capable of collecting data:
 - a) on the position, and, unless the EMS uses cameras that will record continuously, the speed and course of the vessel;
 - b) on starting and ending coordinates and date and time of the setting and haulback operations of each fishing set;
 - c) allowing, where applicable, the estimation of fishing effort (i.e., number of sets, number of hooks);
 - d) allowing the estimation of total catch, including bycatch and discards, per set, and, where possible, the disposition status (i.e., discarded dead, released alive) of discards;
 - e) supporting species identification, and
 - f) allowing, where necessary, for the measurement or estimation of the size of individual fish in the retained catch, including bycatch.
7. Minimum EMS components shall include:
 - electronic Monitoring (EM) control box/centre, including a satellite positioning system, e.g., the global positioning system (GPS) or equivalent, hereafter referred to as GPS;
 - video cameras;
 - sensors or other fishing activity recognition tools, unless system video cameras will run continuously;
 - battery and data storage backup systems;
8. The minimum technical requirements for an EMS (control box, sensors, and cameras) are detailed in **Annex 1**.
9. The specific data fields that shall be collected by EMS in longline and purse seine fisheries and those areas of longline and purse seine vessels that shall be subject to coverage by the EMS are listed under **Annex 2** and **Annex 3** respectively. These annexes also distinguish between the EMS requirements needed for compliance purposes versus scientific data collection purposes.

Other Programme requirements

Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)

10. CPCs shall ensure that a unique Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) for each individual vessel flying their flags on which EMS is to be installed is developed that shall allow the installation of the EMS to be adapted to each vessel's characteristics and describe how fishing operations on that vessel will be conducted to ensure effective monitoring of fishing activities onboard. The VMP shall cover all relevant minimum standards and technical specifications in this Recommendation while optimizing the quality of data the EMS collects from the vessel. A copy of the approved VMP shall be maintained aboard the vessel at all times during fishing operations. The VMP requirements are detailed in **Annex 4**.

Data management

11. The requirements applicable to CPCs for data storage and retention, data transmission or retrieval and data review and reporting are detailed in **Annex 5**.

Obligations of the vessel Master

12. The Master of the vessel shall ensure that:

- the vessel does not leave port if the EMS is not operating properly unless, the flag CPC authorizes it to do so and ensures that any relevant data collection or other ICCAT obligations, such as minimum observer coverage requirements, can be met through other means;
- in case the EMS malfunctions, report the malfunction, including the display of any critical warning, to the flag CPC competent authorities, through automatic real time notification of the malfunction or manually, within a maximum of 24 hours or as soon as practicable;
- on-board physical access to the EMS components is provided if requested by an ICCAT or CPC-authorized observer and/or inspection personnel;
- in accordance with the VMP and the minimum areas of vessel coverage as specified in **Annexes 2 and 3**, the cameras have an un-obstructed view, and following pre-established protocols, the camera lenses are kept clean;
- the handling of the catch does not hinder the proper identification and estimation of the catch composition by the EMS, including by-catch;
- the transmission or retrieval of EMS data is carried out in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 5**;
- unless authorized and instructed by the flag CPC to take a specific action, the EMS is not tampered with (e.g., disconnect the system, rearrange, or obstruct the view of the cameras, disconnect cameras or sensors, switch-off the EMS manually, intentionally break the system, etc.).

Obligations of the flag CPC

13. CPCs that choose to implement EMS to meet ICCAT requirements specified in separate ICCAT recommendations (e.g., regarding observer coverage), shall ensure that the fishing vessels flying their flags meet the EMS minimum standards and requirements established in this Recommendation, including ensuring the following:

- that domestic EMS programmes are developed, and designed and implemented in a manner that ensures they are independent, transparent, and accountable, in accordance with requirements set out in this Recommendation;
- that the analysis of the EMS data is done by CPC-authorized independent companies or by CPC institutions or CPC authorities, with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to ensure effective data analysis, including sufficiently accurate species identification;
- that rules and procedures are established in case of EMS failure, including to ensure that any relevant data collection or other ICCAT obligations, such as minimum observer coverage requirements, can be met through other means;
- that appropriate follow-up is undertaken if potential infringements of ICCAT conservation and management measures are detected through the CPC's EMS programme.

14. A CPC that chooses to implement an EMS programme in its longline and/or purse seine fisheries to meet ICCAT requirements for scientific data collection and/or compliance monitoring purposes shall develop and describe an EMS domestic programme. The EMS domestic programme shall meet the requirements in this Recommendation and include at least the following information:

- an example of the VMPs used in the programme;
 - responsibilities of fisheries authorities and vessel owner/crew with respect to installing and maintaining equipment, including routine cleaning of cameras, and responses to mechanical or technical failure of the EMS;
 - protocols for data storage and retrieval; and
 - list of any ICCAT measures where the use of EMS is necessary for the CPC to meet the requirements of ICCAT recommendation(s) for monitoring compliance, and the protocols for reporting and following up on potential infringements mentioned in **Annex 5**.
15. The EMS programme description required in paragraph 14 above shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the adoption of such programme. In addition, CPCs shall report any changes to their EMS domestic programme to the ICCAT Secretariat whenever such changes occur.
16. A CPC that chooses to implement EMS in its longline or purse seine fisheries to meet ICCAT requirements for scientific data collection and/or compliance monitoring purposes, shall also:
- a) When EMS is used for scientific purposes, report to the SCRS each year, using the electronic formats that are developed by the SCRS, information collected through domestic EMS programmes, in line with procedures in place for other data reporting requirements and consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements; and
 - b) report to the Commission in its Annual Report other relevant information on the results of the implementation of its EMS domestic programme during the previous year, including, at least, the number of vessels or fishing effort monitored; the coverage levels achieved by fishery and gear type; details on how those coverage levels were calculated; and, where appropriate, information on compliance monitoring.

Commission roles and responsibilities

17. The WG EMS shall:
- review, with assistance of the SCRS where appropriate, the EMS domestic programme submitted pursuant to paragraph 15, as well as the implementation of those programmes and, if appropriate, suggest improvements and adjustment to such programmes to ensure that ICCAT scientific data collection and/or compliance monitoring requirements are met or that the EMS standards followed by the domestic programme are, with due consideration to the development status of CPCs, equivalent to those set out in this Recommendation.
18. The Commission shall:
- explore the availability of sufficient financial resources to support, where needed, the effective introduction and implementation of ICCAT's EMS programme requirements, standards and specifications contained in this Recommendation, including by developing CPCs;
 - engage in coordination on EMS activities and programmes with other tuna RFMOs.
 - the Commission may delegate this responsibility to the WG EMS.

Secretariat roles and responsibilities

19. The Secretariat shall:
- collaborate with the CPCs implementing EMS domestic programmes to ensure that they can meet the applicable ICCAT reporting obligations;
 - summarize and provide Annual Reports to the Commission about the progress of CPCs in implementing EMS domestic programmes.

Periodic review

20. The Commission shall review this Recommendation in 2026 and at least every four years thereafter to evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling its purpose and consider the need for revisions, taking into account, *inter alia*, relevant information provided by CPCs on the introduction and implementation of their EMS domestic programmes as well as any new technological developments.

Minimum technical requirements for longline and purse seine vessels

A. Minimum requirements for Control Box or EM Control Centre

The EM control centre is an on-board computer that acquires and stores all sensor collected information and imagery footage.

A.1. The following minimum technical requirements shall be required:

- GPS sensor or equivalent capable of automatically recording the position and, unless the EMS uses cameras that will record continuously, the speed and course of the vessel.
- Sufficient data storage capability to store both sensors, where appropriate, and imagery footage for the entire trip.
- At least one removable/swappable back-up data storage device, or equivalent data storage mechanism, to ensure that data are not lost if a storage device fails.
- On-board screen, or equivalent interface, to allow verification by the Master/crew of the correct functioning of the system.
- Uninterrupted power supply (UPS) including a battery backup or other backup power system with capacity to provide power if the main power source from the vessel fails and allowing the continuation of recording for relevant timespan (for e.g., 15 minutes) and all recorded data are saved.
- Controlled shutdown, preventing the system from being switched off accidentally.
- Digital signature, in accordance with domestic legislation (date and time stamp, vessel name, vessel registration and GPS coordinates).
- Automatic real-time malfunction system alerts.
- Control box shall prohibit tampering with registered vessel information and system setup. Administration rights shall be required to access and modify these settings.
- Radio frequency interference from EMS with other on-board vessel communication, navigation, safety, geolocation devices (e.g., VMS) or fishing equipment should be minimised.

A.2. The following technical requirements are recommended (optional):

- Cooling system, with high temperature cut out.
- The ability to encrypt and compress sensor and imagery data where necessary.
- GPS sensor or equivalent should be able to automatically record data at configurable time intervals from 1 minute.
- Automatic real-time malfunction notification to the flag CPC.
- Near-real-time remote online "health statements" that assure that the data are recorded during the trip, and alerts when there is evidence of tampering.
- Support built in remote access/configuration for system configuration, updates, verification of system health and possible transmission requests of all or parts of recorded sensor data and video footage.

B. Minimum technical requirements of cameras

The cameras shall be capable to resist rough conditions at-sea on board, and be resistant to tampering to the extent possible, and be tamper-evident. The video cameras shall be mounted and placed to provide clear and unobstructed views of the areas that are being covered. Crew assistance shall be required to clean the camera lenses when appropriate and necessary.

There shall be sufficient lighting to illuminate the area being recorded and the individual specimens captured. If vessels fish at night and use artificial lights to illuminate the deck, the quality of images shall be checked to ensure there is not excessive glare.

The following minimum technical specifications for cameras, video recording and analysis, as a part of an EMS, shall be required:

- Resolution: sufficient resolution to meet the purpose of each camera. For cameras used for species identification, no less than 720p, with a minimum frame rate of 5-10 FPS. Still images shall have a resolution of no less than 2MP.
- Measuring capability: capability to obtain fish length measurements from relevant camera images.

The following technical specifications for cameras, video recording and analysis, as a part of an EMS, are recommended (optional):

- Ingress Protection: IP66 Rating. A higher IP for cameras exposed to heavy weather conditions is recommended.
- Compression: supports standard video compression formats. Minimum H264.
- Automatic switching between day/night lighting conditions. Colour/BW. Option for automatic face blurring, where needed. Dynamic face masking is recommended and preferred instead of blanking out parts of the field of view, as this would potentially blank out regions of interest.
- Possibility to set between video and still photographs and to set the time of taking those photographs.

C. Minimum technical requirements for sensors

Sensors and/or other fishing activity recognition tools (e.g., winch rotation, hydraulic sensors, GPS, computer vision, artificial intelligence) shall automatically identify a fishing related activity, including setting and hauling gear, sorting catch, etc., and if image recording of the EMS is not continuous, trigger the start of the image recording, as well as assisting in the revision and analysis of the video footage.

Description of the vessel areas coverage and data fields to be collected when using EMS on longline vessels

EMS cameras, and where appropriate sensors, shall be installed to properly capture all relevant fishing activity, including those in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. General configuration and areas/activities covered by an EMS onboard longline vessels.

<i>Area covered</i>	<i>Action covered</i>	<i>Data fields</i>
Setting area (usually stern camera)	Setting operation	Setting date, time, and position Use of bycatch mitigation measures or techniques Total number of hooks set, where applicable Hook type, where applicable
Hauling area	Hauling operation	Hauling date, time, and position
Catch handling area – Working deck	Retained catches, including bycatch	Number of individuals by species Length and weight, where applicable
Surrounding water area near hauling area	Estimation of discards, including bycatches	Number of discards by species Condition of discards

Table 2. Data fields for ICCAT longline activities to be collected and reported when a CPC chooses to implement an EMS domestic programme based on an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance. These data can be identified by the EMS or estimated through data analysis.

<i>Data field name</i>	<i>Data field description</i>
1. Setting and hauling information	
Start setting date, time, and position	For those fishing operations that are to be analysed. Date, time and position the first buoy is thrown into the water to start the setting of the line. Use Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Preferably hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD.
End setting date, time, and position	For those fishing operations that are to be analysed. Date, time and position the last buoy (usually has radio beacon attached) at the end of the mainline thrown into the water. Use Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Preferably hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD.
Start hauling date, time, and position	For those fishing operations that are to be analysed. Date, time, and position when the first buoy is hauled back on-board to start hauling the line. Use Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Preferably hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD.
End hauling date, time, and position	For those fishing operations that are to be analysed. Date, time, and position when the last component of the longline gear (usually buoy with radio beacon attached) is hauled back on-board. Use Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Preferably hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD.
Use of bycatch mitigation measures or techniques	Where there are specific requirements in an ICCAT Recommendation on the use of bycatch mitigation techniques or devices as well as an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance with the applicable mitigation technique or device. Identify the use of mitigation measures or techniques, i.e., tori lines, low light night setting, branch line weighted, bird scaring lines, hook-shielding devices, acoustic deterrents, etc.
Total number of hooks set	Where there are specific requirements on the total number of hooks in the applicable ICCAT Recommendation.
Hook type	Where there are specific requirements on the type of hooks in the applicable ICCAT Recommendation.
GPS position/track	Including a review of whether fishing activity may have occurred in closed areas or closed periods.
2. Catching details	
Catch number retained on board by species, including bycatch	Record/estimate the number of individuals per species caught and taken on board. Use FAO three figure alpha codes. If species FAO code is not available, record the species scientific name. Record "unknown" for species that cannot be positively identified and give it a reference number. Use the same reference number throughout the trip for that species.
Length of fish retained on board	Where there are specific requirements on the length of fish retained in the applicable ICCAT Recommendation. The establishment of a calibrated area on the deck is usually necessary. May require the establishment of a protocol, which includes the cooperation of the crew. Specify units (preferably cm).
Catch weight retained on board by species, including bycatch	When using length estimation, use the length-weight relationship established by ICCAT. For species where this relationship has not been established, indicate the correlation used and cite the source. Specify units (preferably Kg).
Catches discarded or released, including bycatch	Where there are specific requirements on discards in an ICCAT Recommendation as well as an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance with discards requirements. Record/estimate the number of individuals per species.
Condition of catches discarded or released, including bycatch	Where there are specific requirements on discards in an ICCAT Recommendation as well as an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance with discards requirements. Distinguish at least between: Alive or dead

Table 3. Data fields for ICCAT longline activities to be collected and reported when a CPC chooses to implement an EMS programme for ICCAT scientific data collection purposes. These data can be identified by the EMS or estimated through data analysis.

<i>Data field name</i>	<i>Data field description and notes</i>
1. Temporal and geographical attributes	
Flag of vessel	Flag of the vessel. Reported to ICCAT in A3ISO coding.
Base port/zone	Base port/zone of the vessel that the set(s) refers to.
Vessel (size class)	Vessel LOA Class. Usually aggregated in 10m size classes for reporting to ICCAT.
Vessel (carrying capacity)	Carrying capacity of the vessel.
Year	Year that the set(s) data refers to.
Time period	Time Period. Data reported set-by-set, monthly or quarterly.
Square type	Grid Resolution. Data reported in: exact location (latitude & longitude in decimal degrees), aggregated in 1x1 degrees, or aggregated in 5x5 degrees.
Latitude	Centroid of the latitude of the set(s) that the data refers to. Reported as the centroid in decimal degrees (\pm dd.ddd).
Longitude	Centroid of the longitude of the set(s) that the data refers to. Reported as the centroid in decimal degrees (\pm dd.ddd).
2. Effort attributes	
No. fishing operations (total)	Total number of fishing operations that were carried out.
No. fishing operations (recorded)	Number of fishing operations that were recorded in the EM System.
No. fishing operations (processed and reported)	Number of fishing operations that were observed and processed from the EMS recordings, and for which the reported data refers to.
Fishing operation Type	Fishing Operation Type: "Set type" usually used for longlines, purse seines, lines, gillnets; "Haul type" usually for trawls. If "Other type" need to specify in notes.
LL type	Specify the longline set type. Examples in ICCAT coding system are: LL-B (Longline: Bottom or Deep longliners); LL-Shrk (Longline: Targeting sharks); LL-surf (Longline: Surface); LLALB (Longline: Targeting ALB); LLAMS (Longline: American style); LLBFT (Longline: Targeting BFT); LLJAP (Longline: Japanese type); LLMB (Longline: With mother boat); LLMESO (Longline: Mesopelagic); LLPB (Longline: "Stone-ball"); LLSWO (Longline: Targeting SWO).
No. hooks (total)	Total number of hooks of the longline fishing set(s).
No. hooks (recorded)	Number of hooks in the longline fishing set(s) that were recorded by the EM System.
No. hooks (processed and reported)	Number of hooks that were observed and processed from the EMS recordings, and for which the reported data refers to.
Hook type	Type of hook that was used in the set(s). Current codes in the ICCAT databases are: Circle hook, J hook, Tuna hook, Mixed hooks, Other (specified in notes). (Note: might need integration with additional information from logbooks or the skipper).
Set depth	Set depth of the hooks in the fishing set(s). In some cases, the hooks per basket are used as a proxy for depth. Depth classes currently categorized for reporting to ICCAT are: <100m; >=100m & <200m; >=200m.
3. Mitigation measures on bycatch species	
Seabirds' mitigation measures	Mitigation measures that were used in the set(s), both related with seabirds as well as other bycatch. Current classes in ICCAT for reporting mitigation measures on seabirds and other bycatch are: Night setting of the fishing operation; Streamer lines used; Weighted branchlines used; Whole finfish bait used; Seabird scaring lines used; large circle hooks used; Seabirds (unharmd) promptly released; Sea turtles (unharmd) promptly released; Sharks (unharmd) promptly released; Sea mammals (unharmd) promptly release. If other measures are used, need to specify in notes (e.g., hook shielding devices).
Other bycatch mitigation measures	

4. Catch composition by fishing operation	
Species	Species FAO Code.
Targeted (Y/N) (*)	Specify if the species is targeted or not. (Note: this field might need integration with additional information from logbooks and/or the skipper).
Catches retained – Number	Number (N) of specimens, by species, that are retained in the catch, in each fishing set(s).
Catches retained – Weight (*)	Weight of the specimens, by species, that are retained in the catch in each of the fishing set(s). (Note: If the vessels have scales or a camera adapted to take measurements of individuals retained on board, it might be possible to adapt cameras facing the scales or connect the scales to the EMS directly).
Product type (*)	Product type that the weight of the catches refers to. Examples currently used to report to ICCAT are: Live (round) weight; Gilled & gutted; Fillet; Dressed weight; Belly meat; Other (specify in notes). (Note: similarly to the catches retained in Weight, this field might be possible to collect only in vessels that have scales, either with the adaptation of cameras facing the scales, or connecting the scales to the EMS directly).
Discard – Number	Number of specimens that are discarded. The data should be reported by species, if possible, or alternatively for higher taxonomic groups (e.g., genus or family) if not possible to detect the species of specimens discarded in the water. (Note: need for cameras in specific positions to cover all areas where specimens are released).
Discard – Condition at the time of discarding (*)	Condition of the specimens that are discarded. Current ICCAT codes are: Alive; Dead; Unknown. (Note: The EMS would need cameras or other systems in specific positions to determine specimen condition at release. It would also require video and not only still images, to determine if the specimens are alive/swimming when released).
5. Biological data (optional)	
Species	Species FAO Code.
Sex (*)	Sex of the specimens. (Note: might be possible to collect for elasmobranchs with specific specimen position by the crew and cameras).
Length (cm)	Size of the individual specimens that are brought onboard (Note: will need calibrated areas and support from the crew to position the specimens in those calibrated areas).
Size class type	Codes for the size class type reported in the length (cm) field. Current codes used in ICCAT are: Straight Fork length, Curved Fork Length, Lower Jaw to 1st Dorsal Length, Straight lower jaw fork length, Curved lower jaw fork length, Posterior edge of eye socket to Fork Length, Total length, Other (specified it in notes).
Weight (kg) (*)	Weight of the individual specimens, reported in Kg (Note: If the vessels have scales or a camera adapted to take measurements of individuals retained on board, it might be possible to adapt cameras facing the scales, or connect the scales to the EMS directly).
Product weight and product type (*)	Product type that the weight of the individual specimens refers to. Examples currently used to report to ICCAT are: Live (round) weight; Gilled & gutted; Fillet; Dressed weight; Belly meat; Other (specify in notes) (Note: similarly to the catches retained in Weight, this field might be possible to collect only in vessels that have scales, either with the adaptation of cameras facing the scales, or connecting the scales to the EMS directly).
Released (Y/N)	Record if the specimen was released (Yes/No) (Note: for specimens discarded in the water the operation is visualized by filming the surrounding water. It is not always possible to reach species level in such cases and might be needed to only report at the level of genus or family. For specimens that are hoisted to the vessel (e.g., to remove the hooks), it should be possible to record the species level in most cases.
External injuries (scale) (*)	Injuries of the specimens that are released. Injury scale used at ICCAT: Unknow (undetermined); Alive: Perfect (no visual injuries); Alive: Moderate (superficial injuries); Alive: Severe (could affect survival); Dead (release). (Note: Injuries from predation or from the fishing process can only be seen sometimes. It will be more difficult and only occasionally detected when the specimens are released in the water).

(*) Items marked with an asterisk reflect ST-09 data fields that may not be possible to collect through EMS without specific system or fish handling adaptations. In the absence of such adaptations, these data should be collected and reported through human observer programmes or other appropriate means.

Description of the vessel areas coverage and data fields to be collected when a CPC chooses to use EMS on purse seine vessels

Table 1. Minimum areas and actions that shall be monitored.

<i>Area covered</i>	<i>Action covered</i>	<i>Data fields</i>
Work deck (port side)	Brailing	Total catch by set Species composition
	Discards	Total discards by set
	Bycatch handling	Bycatch estimation
Work deck (starboard side)	Bycatch handling	Bycatch estimation
	Bycatch release	Total bycatch by set
In-water purse seine area	Fishing set. Brailing. Net hauling	Total catch by set
	Bycatch handling of big species (whale sharks, manta rays...)	Total bycatch by set Bycatch condition Application of handling and safe release best practices
	Bycatch release of big species (whale sharks, manta rays...)	Total bycatch by set Bycatch condition Application of safe-release best practices
Foredeck or amidships	FAD activity (deploying, replacement, reparation...)	Total number of FAD deployments, FAD design and FAD activities by trip
Well deck and conveyor belt	Catch well sorting	Species composition
	Bycatch handling	Best practices
	Bycatch discarded, released or retained	Total bycatch by set Species composition Application of handling and safe-release best practices

Table 2. Data fields for ICCAT longline activities to be collected and reported when a CPC chooses to implement an EMS domestic programme based on an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance. These data can be identified by the EMS or estimated through data analysis.

<i>Data field name</i>	<i>Data field description</i>
1. Setting information	
Set type	Free school set, FAD set.
Start setting date, time and position	Date and time the first buoy is thrown into the water to start the setting of the line. Use Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Specify units (preferably hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD).
Use of by-catch mitigation measures or techniques	Where there are specific requirements in an ICCAT recommendation on the use of bycatch mitigation techniques or devices as well as an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance with the applicable mitigation technique or device.
Time start brailing	Date and time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) that brailing starts.
Time end brailing	Date and time that brailing ends (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD).
GPS position	Including a review of whether fishing activity may have occurred in closed areas or closed periods
2. Catching details	
Total catch weight retained on board, including bycatch	Total weight caught and taken on board. Specify units (preferably Kg).
Estimation of catch weight retained on board by species, including bycatch	Use FAO three figure alpha codes. If species FAO code is not available, record the species scientific name. Record "unknown" for species that cannot be positively identified and give it a reference number. Use the same reference number throughout the trip for that species. Specify units (preferably Kg).
Catches discarded or released, including bycatch	Where there are specific requirements on discards in an ICCAT recommendation, as well as an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance with discards requirements. Estimated weight by species (for large fish, record number of individuals). Specify units (preferably Kg). Indicate fate (discarded or release).
Condition of catches discarded or released, including bycatch	Where there are specific requirements on the condition of discards in an ICCAT recommendation, as well as an ICCAT requirement to use EMS to monitor compliance with discards requirements. Distinguish at least between: alive, injured, dead.
3. FAD activities	
Type	Type of floating object (flotsam, natural object, FAD).
FAD activity: deployment	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is deployed
FAD activity: visit	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is visited
FAD activity: retrieving	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is retrieved
FAD ID	When possible and if FAD is marked
Buoy ID	When possible. For every activity involving FADs equipped with a buoy (i.e., buoy marking or any information allowing identifying the owner).

Table 3. Data fields for ICCAT purse seine activities to be collected and reported when an EMS is to be implemented for science purposes. These data can be identified by the EMS or estimated through data analysis.

<i>Data field name</i>	<i>Data field description and notes</i>
1. Temporal and geographical attributes fishing operation	
Flag of Vessel	Flag of the vessel. Reported to ICCAT in A3ISO coding.
Base port/zone	Base port/zone of the vessel that the set(s) refers to.
Vessel (size class)	Vessel LOA Class. Usually aggregated in 10m size classes for reporting to ICCAT.
Vessel (carrying capacity)	Carrying capacity of the vessel.
Year	Year that the data refers to.
Time period	Time Period. Data reported set-by-set, monthly or quarterly.
Square type	Grid Resolution. Data reported in: exact location (latitude & longitude in decimal degrees), aggregated in 1x1 degrees, or aggregated in 5x5 degrees.
Latitude	Centroid of the latitude of the set(s) that the data refers to. Reported as the centroid in decimal degrees (\pm dd.ddd).
Longitude	Centroid of the longitude of the set(s) that the data refers to. Reported as the centroid in decimal degrees (\pm dd.ddd).
2. Effort attributes	
No. fishing operations (total)	Total number of fishing operations that were carried out.
No. fishing operations (recorded)	Number of fishing operations that were recorded by the EM System.
No. fishing operations (processed and reported)	Number of fishing operations that were observed and processed from the EMS recording, and for which the reported data refers to.
Fish Oper. Type	Fishing Operation Type: "Set type" usually used for purse seines, lines, gillnets; "Haul type" usually for trawls. If "Other type" need to specify in notes.
School type	School type for purse seine set(s): Categories currently used for reporting to ICCAT are: Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs); Free School (FSC), other (specified in notes).
3. Mitigation measures on bycatch species	
Bycatch mitigation measures	Current categories for reporting mitigation measures on bycatch that could be applicable to purse seine are: Seabirds (unharmd) promptly released; Sea turtles (unharmd) promptly released; Sharks (unharmd) promptly released; Sea mammals (unharmd) promptly release. If other measures are used, need to specify in notes.
4. Catch composition by fishing operation	
Species	Species FAO Code (Note: normally it is possible to collect species-specific identification, but there could be difficulties in identifying specimens at species-specific level in some groups during purse seine operations. High-resolution cameras should improve species identification. For some taxonomic groups (e.g., turtles) the crew could be required to place the specimens in designated areas (e.g., calibrated areas) that would improve species identification and allow taking additional information as sizes and condition).
Targeted (Y/N) (*)	Specify if the species is targeted or not. (Note: this field likely needs integration with additional information from logbooks and/or the skipper).
Catches retained - Weight	Catches by species that are retained in weight and numbers. Report of retained catch data in weight is mandatory, and in numbers is optional. (Notes: technical data as total brail capacity and wells capacity should be known previously for each vessel. EMS trials have tried to estimate species composition by set, but mostly without consistent results to date. It is noted that human observers have the same difficulty when estimating species composition in purse seine operations, due to the large catch volumes that can result in a set, and the speed with which the fish are put into the wells. As such, for retained catch by species,
Catches retained - Number (*)	

	it might be necessary to integrate with additional information from logbooks and/or port-sampling. Artificial intelligence applied on the conveyor belt has been showing preliminary promising results so such methods might be increasingly applied in the future).
Product type	Product type that the weight of the retained catches refers to. Examples currently used to report to ICCAT are: Live (round) weight; Gilled & gutted; Fillet; Dressed weight; Belly meat; Other (specify it in notes).
Discards – Number	Number of specimens that are discarded. Should be reported by species, if possible, or alternatively for higher taxonomic groups (e.g., genus or family) if not possible to detect the species. (Note: In purse seine operations, specimens can be released in various areas, so it will be necessary to either have more cameras or require that the releases are always done in the same place, although there may be logistic difficulties. Observers also face similar difficulties, as they cannot monitor the main and wells' decks simultaneously).
Discard – Condition at the time of discarding (*)	Condition of the specimens that are discarded. Current ICCAT codes are: Alive; Dead; Unknown. (Note: Discards of tunas in purse seines are usually composed of dead discards and might be estimated. The condition of other discarded species (e.g., sharks) might be doubtful).
5.FAD activities	
Type/structure	Type of floating object (flotsam, natural object, FAD).
FAD activity: deployment	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is deployed.
FAD activity: visit	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is visited.
FAD activity: hauling	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is hauled.
FAD activity: retrieving	Date, time (hh:mm and YYYY/MM/DD) and position when the FAD is retrieved.
FAD ID (*)	When possible and if FAD is marked.
Buoy ID (*)	When possible. For every activity involving FADs equipped with a buoy (i.e., buoy marking or any information allowing identifying the owner).
6. Biological data (optional)	
Species	Species FAO code. (Note: normally it is possible to collect species-specific ID, but there could be difficulties in reaching the species level in some species groups. High-resolution cameras should improve species identification. For some taxonomic groups (e.g., turtles) and when they are brought onboard, the crew could be required to place the specimens in designated areas (e.g., calibrated areas) that would improve species identification and allow taking additional information as size and condition).
Sex (*)	Sex of the specimens (Male/Female/Unknown). (Note: handling bycatch in purse seine operations is complex as the bycatch can be processed in several different places onboard. The sex of the specimens might in some cases be observed for elasmobranchs and turtles (visible externally). Additional cameras would be needed in specific and various places where bycatch is released. For the target tunas it is not possible to collect sex information (no external characters) with either human observers or EMS).
Length (cm) (*)	Size of the specimens (cm). (Notes: retained specimens are passed through one specific area (i.e., conveyor belt) so it could be possible to have a calibrated area defined for taking size samples. For discarded specimens, as they can be released in various areas, it would be necessary to either have more cameras or require that the releases are always done in the same place, although there may be logistical difficulties).
Size class type (*)	Codes for the size class type reported in the length (cm) field. Current codes used in ICCAT are: Straight fork length, Curved Fork Length, Lower Jaw to 1st Dorsal Length, Straight lower jaw fork length, Curved lower jaw fork length, Posterior edge of eye socket to Fork Length, Total length, Other (specify it in notes).

Weight (kg) (*)	Weight of the specimens (Kg). (Note: both human observers and EMS can only take individual weights in vessels that have scales. Most vessels don't have these onboard. If the vessels have scales then the human observers can take weights directly. For EMS, it might be possible to put cameras facing the scales, or there might be a way to connect the scales to the EMS directly).
Product weight and product type (*)	Product type that the weight of the individual specimens refers to. Examples currently used to report to ICCAT are: Live (round) weight; Gilled & gutted; Fillet; Dressed weight; Belly meat; Other (specify it in notes). (Note: similarly to the catches retained in Weight, this field might be possible to collect only in vessels that have scales, either with the adaptation of cameras facing the scales, or connecting the scales to the EMS directly).
Released (Y/N)	Record if the specimen was released (Yes/No). (Notes: Discarded specimens in purse seine operations can be released in various areas, so it might be necessary to either have more cameras or require that the releases are always done in the same place, although there may be logistical difficulties).
External injuries (scale) (*)	Condition and injuries of the specimens that are released. Injury scale used at ICCAT: Unknow (undetermined); Alive: Perfect (no visual injuries); Alive: Moderate (superficial injuries); Alive: Severe (could affect survival); Dead (release). (Notes: discards of tunas are usually composed of dead discards. The condition and injuries of other discarded species (e.g., sharks, turtles) can be doubtful).

(*) Items marked with an asterisk reflect ST-09 data fields that may not be possible to collect through EMS without specific system or fish handling adaptations. In the absence of such adaptations, these data should be collected and reported through human observer programmes or other appropriate means.

Description of the Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)

The VMP shall meet the following conditions:

1. The VMP shall be developed for each vessel on which EMS is to be installed and shall be delivered to the flag CPC competent authorities.
2. The VMP shall be developed in collaboration with the EMS service provider, vessel owner and relevant CPC fishing authorities.
3. A survey of the vessel to be fitted with EMS shall be carried out by the EMS provider and/or CPC fishing authorities and the following factors shall be taken into consideration in the development of the VMP, with a view to ensuring the system meets the minimum data collection requirements laid out in **Annex 2** or **3**:
 - a) Camera positioning and settings.
 - b) Number of cameras to be installed to ensure optimization of the view of the catch-handling area.
 - c) Key areas to be surveyed are catch handling areas for species identification and storage of the individuals and areas of discards or release.
4. The minimum sections to be contained in a VMP are:
 - Contact information: current contact information for the vessel owner, vessel operator and EMS service provider as long as the contract lasts.
 - General vessel information: basic information about the vessel and its fishing activities and operations (e.g., vessel name, registration number, target fishery, areas, fishing gear, LOA, etc.).
 - Vessel layout: equipment of the vessel with detailed information, plan of the vessel disposition and different areas (deck, processing, storage, etc.).
 - EMS equipment set up: description of the settings of the EMS, such as time running, number of cameras, settings of the cameras (frame rate and resolution), and areas covered, time recording for each of the cameras, number of sensors, where applicable, software used, control box disposition, etc.
 - Catch handling procedures: description of the crew and their operations.
 - A shot and image taken by each camera shall be inserted in the VMP.
5. Any physical changes on the vessel, fishery, categorization of the vessel (fleet segmentation), catch handling deck, etc., shall be reported to the Flag CPC authorities, and the VMP should be updated accordingly before the next fishing trip.
6. The VMP shall be signed off by the vessel owner and approved by the Flag CPC competent authority.
7. The EMS equipment shall not adversely affect vessel stability by posing risk to vessel operations, crew, or environment, nor shall it impede the vessel's safe navigation.

An example template of a VMP is detailed in **Appendix 1**. CPCs may choose another template of a VMP.

Data management

Data storage and retention

EM service/technology providers and EM analyst shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the vessel and accept this requirement in writing.

Standards for where, how, and how long video footage will be stored after it has been reviewed, shall be specified in the EMS domestic programmes. Storage decisions shall be based on the EM programme's goals and the personnel who will need to access monitoring records, at what frequency, and for what purpose.

Once footage is reviewed, it shall be stored for at least 3 years, except if national data retention regulations require a shorter period. When the system is to be used for enforcement purposes, the data collected by the EMS shall be stored for as long as necessary until the possible infringement proceedings have been finalized.

EMS shall have sufficient autonomy and capacity to safeguard and store all recorded images and, where appropriate, sensor information for at least the duration of a complete fishing trip.

EMS records shall have an output format that is compatible with the standardized electronic codes list developed by the SCRS to ensure collected information is consistent with current ICCAT data reporting requirements.

EMS video records shall contain at least the following information: the vessel name and vessel ID and trip ID, camera number, geolocation data (date, time (UTC), latitude and longitude), sensor data where appropriate, camera recording status and EM system status, where available, and images.

Data transmission or retrieval

When EMS records are retrieved by extracting the memory device or when a memory device is replaced between trips, traceability of every memory device and information recorded on board shall be guaranteed. The chain of custody of the EMS memory device shall be assured.

A detailed protocol on how to retrieve the data from the vessel to the authorities or to the data analyst shall be detailed and agreed on the vessel monitoring plan by both the vessel owner, the respective authorities.

When EMS records are transmitted (via WI-FI, mobile data network or satellite), the transmission of the data shall be done at the end of the fishing trip where possible. If not possible the data shall be securely stored and transmitted without delay/at the earliest opportunity. This type of transmission shall ensure proper encrypted data, when required/decided by national authorities.

Data review and reporting

The EMS shall have dedicated software to assist in data review. This software shall permit the analysis of all the stored data, images, and sensor data where appropriate, in a synchronized way. CPCs shall ensure that data analysis procedures ensure good traceability and effective analysis of data. At a minimum, analysis software shall allow for the report of the following:

- identification of fishing operations date/time;
- identification of set type;
- estimation of the catch by set, including bycatch;
- estimation of species catch composition and sizes;
- estimation of discards or release species, and its condition;
- FAD deployment (for purse seine vessels).

The CPC shall appoint analysts that have the following qualifications to accomplish their responsibilities:

- a) Sufficient knowledge and experience to understand relevant fishing operations and catch handling, identify species, and collect information on different fishing activities. In this regard, previous at sea observer experience is valuable.
- b) Satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures if the EMS domestic programme is being used for compliance monitoring purposes.
- c) The ability to use properly the dedicated analysis software and observe and record accurately data to be collected under the programme.
- d) Not be an employee of a fishing vessel company involved in the observed fishery or have other direct conflicts of interest.

When EMS is used for scientific data collection purposes, CPCs shall submit relevant data to ICCAT in a format that is compatible with (1) any data collected and reporting pursuant to their domestic scientific observer programmes (including observer's databases), as well as (2) ICCAT data reporting requirements and templates for data submission.

When the EMS is to be used for compliance monitoring purposes, data analysis shall be based on risk assessment.

Taking into account ICCAT recommendations that authorize or require the use EMS to monitor compliance with certain conservation and management measures, CPCs shall provide a list of relevant ICCAT measures for which it is using EMS for this purpose, to CPC appointed analysts. Each CPC shall establish a protocol for reporting and following up on potential infringements of ICCAT requirements detected using EMS.

Example Template of a Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)
 This example is not binding and is provided only for reference purposes

Part A
(Shall be handed over by the vessel owner)

1. Information provided by the owner of the vessel

External registration		Main fishery(es)	
Vessel name		Gear type(s)	
ICCAT Fleet register No.		Crew size	
IRCS		May carry an observer	
Home port		Name of the owner(s) representative	
Vessel length		Phone No.	
Vessel type		E-mail	

2. Description of the crew fish handling and any other useful details

3. If available, copy or image of the vessel general arrangement plan

4. General layout and handling (not necessarily to scale)

5. General remarks

Part B

(Responsibility of the flag CPC competent authority and to be validated by the flag CPC competent authority)

1. Vessel image

2. System Configuration

a) System Operation – General Description

Sensor recording, where applicable:	Description of the settings:
Video recording:	Description of the settings:

b) System Components Location

Control box: - Image of location of the control box	User Interface:
GPS: - Image of location of the GPS	GPS details:
Drum Rotation Sensor: - Image of location of the Drum Sensor	Drum Rotation Sensor details:
Hydraulic Pressure Sensor: - Image of location of the Hydraulic Pressure Sensor	Hydraulic Pressure Sensor details:

Sensor XX - Image of location of the XX Sensor	XX Sensor details:
Sensor XX - Image of location of the XX Sensor	XX Sensor details:
Sensor XX - Image of location of the XX Sensor	XX Sensor details:
Sensor XX - Image of location of the XX Sensor	XX Sensor details:

Camera 1 - Deck Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 1	View and Objectives
Image deck camera	Camera Settings
Camera 2 - Retain/General View Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 2	View and Objectives
Image Retain/General View Camera	Camera Settings
Camera 3 - Sorting Belt Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 3	View and Objectives
Image Sorting Belt Camera	Camera Settings
Camera 4 - Discard Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 4	View and Objectives
Image Discard Camera	Camera Settings

Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives
Image XX Camera	Camera Settings
Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives
Image XX Camera	Camera Settings
Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives
Image XX Camera	Camera Settings
Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives
Image XX Camera	Camera Settings

Control Box Setting Summary	Camera Setting Summary
Main Configuration Screen	

Sorting Area Measurement Details

Part C

(To be completed by the service provider)

1. EM User Guide

- a) Description on how to retrieve memory devices
- b) Description on how to power up the system
- c) Description on how to do a function test

2. Vessel-specific handling protocols

Description of any special protocols that may apply to the vessel referred in the VMP

- a) Description and diagrams of control points with specific procedures carried out. For each area description, there must be a protocol on how to ensure the catch remains in camera view.

Part D

(To be completed by the service provider)

List of EMS service providers contact information:

<i>Name and Last Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office address</i>

Part E

(To be completed by the vessel owner and the service provider)

This part should certify that the vessel owner/operators have been trained in the function and operation on the EMS installed on the vessel, and that the operator agrees to comply to the VMP.

Vessel operator name and last name: _____

Vessel owner/operator signature: _____

Date and time: _____

EMS Service provider Name and Last name: _____

EMS Service provider signature: _____

Date and time: _____

23-21

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING AND REPLACING
RECOMMENDATION 18-13 ON AN ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMME**

RECOGNIZING the situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the rebuilding plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that ICCAT has adopted, including the need for complementary market related measures;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to clarify and improve the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme, providing detailed instructions for the issuance, numbering, completion and the validation of the bluefin tuna catch document;

NOTING that, in 2021, the Commission adopted an amendment to paragraph 13b) through the adoption of Rec. 18-13;

CONSIDERING the absence of information in the electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) systems relating to the processing of fish from farms and traps on board processing vessels;

BEARING IN MIND the deliberations on the technical aspects by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM);

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

**Part I
General provisions**

1. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to implement an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of any bluefin tuna in order to support the implementation of conservation and management measures.
2. For the purpose of this programme:
 - a) "Domestic trade" means:
 - trade of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel or trap, which is landed in the territory of the CPC where the vessel is flagged or where the trap is established, and
 - trade of farmed bluefin tuna products originating from bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel which is flagged to the same CPC where the farm is established, which is supplied to any entity in this CPC, and
 - trade between the Member States of the European Union of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels flagged to one Member State or by a trap established in one Member State.
 - b) "Export" means:

Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or farm is established to the territory of another CPC or non-Contracting Party, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CPC which is not the flag CPC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non-Contracting Party.

c) "Import" means:

Any introduction of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) into the territory of a CPC, which is not the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or the farm is established.

d) "Re-export" means:

Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of a CPC where it has been previously imported.

e) "Flag CPC" means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged; "trap CPC" means the CPC where the trap is established; and "farm CPC" means the CPC where the farm is established.

3. A Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) shall be completed for each bluefin tuna in accordance with **Annex 3**.

Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territories shall be accompanied by a validated BCD, except in cases where paragraph 13(c) applies and, as applicable, an ICCAT transfer declaration or a validated Bluefin Tuna Reexport Certificate (BFTRC). Any such landing, transfer, delivery, harvest, domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna without a completed and validated BCD or a BFTRC shall be prohibited.

4. In order to support an effective BCD, CPCs shall not place bluefin tuna into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT record.

5. Farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC origin. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna are caught in the context of a joint fishing operation (JFO) between different CPCs, farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of JFOs.

6. At the time of caging, relevant BCDs may be grouped as a "Grouped BCD" with a new BCD number in the following cases, provided that caging of all the fish is conducted on the same day and all the fish is caged in the same farming cage:

a) Multiple catches made by the same vessel

b) Catches made by JFO

The Grouped BCD shall replace all the related original BCDs and be accompanied by the list of all the associated BCD numbers. The copies of such associated BCDs shall be made available upon request of CPCs.

7. Farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna are harvested from farms in the same year in which they were caught, or before the beginning of the purse seiners fishing period, if harvested in the following year. In the case where harvesting operations are not completed before this date, farm CPCs shall complete and transmit an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after this date. Such declaration shall include:

- Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish intended to be carried over,
- Year of catch,
- Average weight,
- Flag CPC,
- References of the BCD corresponding to the catches carried over,
- Name and ICCAT number of the farm,
- Cage number, and
- Information on harvested quantities (expressed in kg), when completed.

8. Quantities carried over in accordance with paragraph 7 shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm on the basis of the catch year.
9. Each CPC shall provide BCD forms only to catching vessels and traps authorized to fish bluefin tuna in the Convention area, including as bycatch. Such forms are not transferable. Each BCD form shall have a unique document identification number. Document numbers shall be specific to the flag or trap CPC and assigned to the catching vessel or trap.
10. Domestic trade, export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirements of this Recommendation.

Part II Validation of BCDs

11. The catching vessel Master or trap operator, or its authorized representative, or the operator of farms, or the authorized representative of the flag, farm, or trap CPC, shall complete the BCD by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request validation in accordance with paragraph 13 for a BCD for catch landed, transferred to cages, harvested, transhipped, domestically traded or exported on each occasion that it lands, transfers, harvests, transships, domestically trades or exports bluefin tuna.
12. A validated BCD shall include, as appropriate, the information identified in **Annex 1** attached. A BCD format is attached as **Annex 2**. In cases where a section of the BCD format does not provide enough room to completely track movement of BFT from catch to market, the needed information section of the BCD maybe expanded as necessary and attached as an annex using the original BCD format and number. The authorized representative of the CPC shall validate the annex as soon as possible but not later than the next movement of BFT.
13.
 - a) The BCD must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the CPC of the seller/exporter, or the trap or farm CPC that caught, harvested, domestically traded or exported the bluefin tuna.
 - b) The CPCs shall validate the BCD for all bluefin tuna products only when all the information contained in the BCD has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps, and when those products comply with other relevant ICCAT provisions of the conservation and management measures.

The requirement that CPCs shall only validate BCDs when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, does 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 the catch is subject to confiscation in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs shall take necessary measures to prevent catch, which is over its national quota from being exported to other CPCs. The weight of each consignment related to catches exceeding the vessel quotas shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat without delay and will be examined by the Compliance Committee during each annual meeting.

- c) Validation under 13(a) shall not be required in the event that all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged by the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC that fished the bluefin tuna.
- d) Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than one 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.

Part III
Validation of BFTRCs

14. Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated BFTRC. In cases where bluefin tuna is imported live, the BFTRC shall not apply.
15. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the BFTRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the bluefin tuna consignment to be re-exported. The completed BFTRC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD(s) relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported.
16. The BFTRC shall be validated by an authorized government official or authority.
17. The CPC shall validate the BFTRC for all bluefin tuna product only when:
 - a) all the information contained in the BFTRC has been established to be accurate,
 - b) the validated BCD(s) submitted in support to the BFTRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the BFTRC,
 - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same product on the validated BCD(s), and
 - d) a copy of the BCD(s) shall be attached to the validated BFTRC.
18. The validated BFTRC shall include the information identified in **Annex 4** and **Annex 5** attached.

Part IV
Verification and communication

19. Each CPC shall communicate a copy of all validated BCDs or BFTRCs, except in cases where paragraph 13(c) applies, within five working days following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not take more than five working days, to the following:
 - a) the competent authorities of the country where the bluefin tuna will be domestically traded, or transferred into a cage or imported, and
 - b) the ICCAT Secretariat.
20. The ICCAT Secretariat shall extract from the validated BCDs or BFTRCs communicated under paragraph 19 above the information marked with an asterisk (*) in **Annex 1** or **Annex 4** and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel or trap names.

Part V
Tagging

21. CPCs may require their catching vessels or traps to affix a tag to each bluefin tuna preferably at the time of kill, but no later than the time of landing. Tags shall have unique country specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the BCD and a summary of the implementation of the tagging programme shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps.

**Part VI
Verification**

22. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution, take steps to identify each consignment of bluefin tuna landed in, domestically traded in, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated BCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of bluefin tuna. These competent authorities, or authorized individuals or institutions, may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the BCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the operators concerned.
23. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 22 above, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a BCD, the final importing State/CPC and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the BCD(s) or BFTRCs shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
24. If a CPC involved in trade of bluefin tuna identifies a consignment with no BCD, it shall notify the findings to the exporting CPC and, where known, the flag CPC.
25. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 22 to confirm compliance of the bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant Recommendations, the CPCs shall not grant its release for domestic trade, import or export, nor, in the case of live bluefin tuna destined to farms, accept the transfer declaration.
26. Where a CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 22 above and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that a BCD or BFTRC is invalid, the domestic trade, import, export or re-export of the bluefin tuna concerned shall be prohibited.
27. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties that are involved in domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna to cooperate with the implementation of the programme and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

**Part VII
Notification and communication**

28. Each CPC that validates BCDs in respect of its flag catching vessels, traps or farms in accordance with paragraph 13(a), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the government authorities, or other authorized individuals or institutions (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, and as appropriate tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BCDs or BFTRCs. This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme shall be communicated with the initial notification, including procedures to authorize nongovernmental individuals or institutions. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.
29. The information on validating authorities transmitted by notifications to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be placed on the password protected page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the ICCAT Secretariat. CPCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of BCDs and BFTRCs.
30. Each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the organization(s)) that should be notified when there are questions related to BCDs or BFTRCs.
31. Copies of validated BCDs and notification pursuant to paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 shall be sent by CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat, by electronic means, whenever possible.
32. Copies of BCDs shall follow each part of split shipments or processed product, using the unique document number of the BCD to link them.

33. CPCs shall keep copies of documents issued or received for at least two years.
34. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat a report each year by 15 September for the period from 1 January to 31 December of the preceding year to provide the information described in **Annex 6**.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall post these reports on the password protected section of the ICCAT website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the reports received by the ICCAT Secretariat.

35. The compliance with the processing information section shall be subject to the development of the necessary functionality in the eBCD system.
36. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* (Rec. 18-13) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* (Rec. 21-19).

Data to be included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)**1. ICCAT bluefin tuna catch document number*****2. Catch Information**

Name of the catching vessel or trap name*
 Name of the other vessels (in case of JFO)
 Flag*
 ICCAT Record No.
 Individual quota
 Quota used for this BCD
 Date, area of catch and gear used*
 Number of fish, total weight, and average weight*¹
 ICCAT Record number of JFO (if applicable)*
 Tag No. (if applicable)
Government validation
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

3. Trade Information for live fish trade

Product description
Exporter/Seller information
Transportation description
Government validation
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date
Importer/buyer

4. Transfer information

Towing vessel description
 ICCAT Transfer Declaration No.
 Vessel name, flag
 ICCAT Record No.
 Number of fish dead during transfer
 Total weight of dead fish (kg)
Towing cage description
 Cage number

5. Transshipment information

Carrier vessel description
 Name, flag, ICCAT Record No., date, port name, port State, position
Product description
 (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)
 Total weight (NET)
Government validation
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

¹ Weight shall be reported by round weight where available. If round weight is not used, specify the type of product (e.g. GG) in the "Total Weight" and "Average Weight" section of the form.

6. Farming information

Farming facility description

Name, CPC*, ICCAT FFB No.* and location of farm
Participation in national sampling programme (yes or no)

Cage description

Date of caging*

Cage number*

Fish description

Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight*¹

ICCAT regional observer information

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

7. Harvesting information

Harvesting description

Date of harvest*

Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight*

Tag numbers (if applicable)

ICCAT regional observer information

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

8. Processing information

Processing vessel description

Name, flag, ICCAT Record No.

Product description of processed fish

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

Total weight (NET)

9. Trade information

Product description

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)²

Total weight (NET)*

Exporter/Seller information

Point of export or departure*

Export company name, address, signature and date

State of destination*

Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

Importer/buyer information

Point of import or destination*

Import company name, address, signature and date³

* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

² When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

³ DATE to be filled by IMPORTER/BUYER in this section is the date of signature.

Annex 2

1. ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)				No:		1/2	
2. CATCH INFORMATION							
VESSEL/TRAP INFORMATION							
NAME OF CATCHING VESSEL/TRAP		FLAG/CPC	ICCAT RECORD NO.	INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	CATCH		
NAME OF THE OTHER FISHING VESSEL		FLAG	ICCAT RECORD NO.	INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	CATCH		
CATCH DESCRIPTION							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)		AREA	GEAR				
No. of FISH		TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)	AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)				
ICCAT RECORD No. of Joint Fishing Operation							
TAG Numbers (if applicable)							
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY						SEAL	
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
3. TRADE INFORMATION							
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION							
LIVE WEIGHT (kg)		No. of FISH	ZONE				
EXPORTER/SELLER							
POINT OF EXPORT/ DEPARTURE		COMPANY		ADDRESS			
FARM OF DESTINATION		CPC	ICCAT FFB No.				
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION		(Relevant documentation to be attached)					
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY						SEAL	
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
IMPORTER/BUYER							
COMPANY		POINT IMPORTATION/DESTINATION (city, country, State)					
ADDRESS							
DATE OF SIGNATURE (dd/mm/yy)		SIGNATURE					
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)							
4. TRANSFER INFORMATION							
TOWING VESSEL DESCRIPTION							
ICCAT TRANSFER DECLARATION No.		FLAG		ICCAT RECORD No.			
NAME		TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH (kg)					
No. of FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER							
TOWING CAGE DESCRIPTION		CAGE No.					
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)							
5. TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION							
CARRIER VESSEL DESCRIPTION							
NAME		FLAG	ICCAT RECORD No.				
DATE (dd/mm/yy)		PORT NAME	PORT STATE				
POSITION (Lat/Long)							
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)							
F	RD (kg)	GG (kg)	DR (kg)	FL (kg)	OT(kg)	TOTAL WEIGHT "F" (kg)	
FR	RD (kg)	GG (kg)	DR (kg)	FL (kg)	OT(kg)	TOTAL WEIGHT "FR" (kg)	
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY						SEAL	
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)							

ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)										No.		2/2		
6. FARMING INFORMATION														
FARMING FACILITY DESCRIPTION		NAME			CPC		LOCATION			ICCAT FFB No.				
CAGE DESCRIPTION		NATIONAL SAMPLING PROGRAM ? Yes or No (circle one)					CAGE No.							
FISH DESCRIPTION		No. of Fish			TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)			AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)						
ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFO.		NAME			TITLE		SIGNATURE							
		SIZE COMPOSITION			< 8 Kg		8-30 Kg		> 30 Kg					
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION														
NAME OF AUTHORITY							SEAL							
TITLE														
SIGNATURE														
DATE (dd/mm/yy)														
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)														
7. HARVESTING INFORMATION														
HARVESTING DESCRIPTION														
DATE (dd/mm/yy)					No. of Fish		TOTAL ROUND WEIGHT (kg)							
AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)					TAG No. (if applicable)									
ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFO.		NAME			TITLE		SIGNATURE							
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION														
NAME OF AUTHORITY							SEAL							
TITLE														
SIGNATURE														
DATE (dd/mm/yy)														
8. PROCESSING INFORMATION														
PROCESSING VESSEL (PV) DESCRIPTION														
PV NAME														
FLAG														
ICCAT RECORD NUMBER														
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION OF PROCESSED FISH (indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)														
F	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT (kg)		TOTAL WT "F" (kg)			
FR	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT (kg)		TOTAL WT "FR" (kg)			
9. TRADE INFORMATION														
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)														
F	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)		TOTAL WT "F" (kg)			
FR	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)		TOTAL WT "FR" (kg)			
EXPORTER/SELLER														
POINT EXPORTATION/ DEPARTURE		COMPANY			ADDRESS									
STATE OF DESTINATION														
SIGNATURE														
DATE (dd/mm/yy)														
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION (Relevant documentation to be attached)														
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION														
NAME OF AUTHORITY							SEAL							
TITLE														
SIGNATURE														
DATE (dd/mm/yy)														
IMPORTER/BUYER														
COMPANY					POINT IMPORTATION / DESTINATION (city, country, State)									
ADDRESS														
DATE (dd/mm/yy)					SIGNATURE									
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)														

Instructions for the Issuance, Numbering, Completion and Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(1) Language

An official ICCAT language (English, French and Spanish) shall be used in completing the BCD.

(2) Numbering

CPCs shall develop unique numbering system for BCDs using their ICCAT country code or ISO code in combination with an 8-digit number, of which two digits shall indicate the year of catch.

Example: CA-09-123456 (*CA stands for Canada*)

In case of split shipments, or processed products, copies of the original BCD shall be numbered by supplementing the number of the original BCD with a two-digit number.

Example: CA-09-123456-01, CA-09-123456-02, CA-09-123456-03.

The numbering shall be sequential and preferably printed. The serial numbers of blank BCDs issued shall be recorded by the name of the recipient.

In case of producing a "Grouped BCD", the farm operator or his authorized representative shall request a new BCD number from the farm CPC. The number for Grouped BCDs shall contain "G" as in "CA-09-123456-G".

2. CATCH INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) *General principles*

This section is applicable to all catches of bluefin tunas.

The Master of the catching vessel or the trap operator or their authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag or trap CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the CATCH INFORMATION section.

CATCH INFORMATION section shall be completed no later than the end of transfer, transhipment or landing operation.

Remark: in case of JFO between different flags, one BCD for each flag shall be produced. In this case, each BCD shall indicate the same information in VESSEL/TRAP INFORMATION concerning the vessel which actually made the catch and all the other fishing vessels involved in that JFO, whereas CATCH DESCRIPTION shall indicate the catch information attributed to each flag based on the allocation key of the JFO.

In case of catches originating from one JFO comprising vessels of the same flag, the master of the catching vessel which actually made such catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall complete the BCD form on behalf of all the vessels participating in such JFO.

(b) *Specific instructions*

"NAME OF THE CATCHING VESSEL/TRAP": list the name of the catching vessel which actually made the catches.

“NAME OF THE OTHER FISHING VESSELS”: only applicable to JFOs and list the other participating fishing vessels.

“FLAG”: indicate the flag or trap CPC.

“ICCAT Record No”: indicate the ICCAT number of the catching vessel or trap authorised to fish bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area. This information is not applicable to catching vessels which fish bluefin tuna as by-catch. In case of JFO, list the ICCAT Record Numbers of the vessel which actually made the catch as well as other vessels participating in that JFO.

“INDIVIDUAL QUOTA”: indicate the amount of individual quota given to each vessel.

“QUOTA USED FOR THIS BCD”: indicate the amount of catch attributed to this BCD.

“GEAR”: indicate the fishing gear using the following codes:

BB	Baitboat
GILL	Gillnet
HAND	Handline
HARP	Harpoon
LL	Longline
MWT	Mid-water trawl
PS	Purse seine
RR	Rod and reel
SPHL	Sport handline
SPOR	Sport fisheries unclassified
SURF	Surface fisheries unclassified
TL	Tended line
TRAP	Trap
TROL	Troll
UNCL	Unspecified methods
OT	Other type

“No. of FISH”: in case of JFO comprising vessels of the same flag, indicate the total number of fish caught in such operation. In case of JFO between different flags, indicate the number of fish attributed to each flag in accordance with the allocation key.

“TOTAL WEIGHT”: indicate the total round weight in kilograms. If round weight is not used at the time of catch, indicate the type of product (e.g., GG). In case of JFO between different flags, indicate the round weight attributed to that flag in accordance with the allocation key.

“AREA”: indicate Mediterranean, western Atlantic, eastern Atlantic or Pacific.

“TAG Numbers (if applicable)”: additional lines may be added to allow the listing of each tag number by individual fish.

(2) Validation

The flag or trap CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the CATCH INFORMATION section unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation.

3. TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is only applicable to export of live bluefin tunas.

The Master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE section.

The TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE section shall be completed before the first transfer operation, i.e. the transfer of fish from the catching vessel net to the transport cage.

Remark: in case that a quantity of fish dies during the transfer operation and is domestically traded or exported, the original BCD (CATCH INFORMATION section completed shall be copied for the fish, and TRADE INFORMATION section of the copied BCD shall be completed by the master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC and transmitted to the domestic buyer/importer. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the CPC. Without the government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

In case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC, the Master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall be responsible for the completion.

(b) Specific instructions

"ZONE": indicate the area of transfer, Mediterranean, western Atlantic, eastern Atlantic or Pacific. "POINT OF EXPORT/DEPARTURE": indicate the CPC name of the fishery zone where the bluefin tuna were transferred or indicate "high seas" otherwise.

"TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION": attach any relevant document certifying the trade.

(2) Validation

The flag CPC shall not validate documents where the CATCH INFORMATION section is not completed.

4. TRANSFER INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is only applicable to live bluefin tunas.

The Master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion of the TRANSFER INFORMATION section. In case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC, the Master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall be responsible for the completion.

The TRANSFER INFORMATION section shall be completed no later than the end of the first transfer operation, i.e. the transfer of fish from the catching vessel net to the transport cage.

At the end of the transfer operation, the Master of the catching vessel (or the Master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches in case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC) shall provide the BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) to the Master of the tug vessel.

The completed BCD shall accompany the transfer of fish during transport to farm, including transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage or transfer of dead bluefin tuna from the transport cage to an auxiliary vessel.

Remark: in case that some fish die during the transfer operation, the original BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) shall be copied, and TRADE INFORMATION section of the copied BCD shall be completed by the domestic seller/exporter or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC and transmitted to the domestic buyer/importer. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the CPC. Without the authorized government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

(b) Specific instructions:

“NO. OF FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER” and “TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH”: information completed (if applicable) by the master of the tug vessel.

“CAGE No.”: indicate each number of cages in the case of a tug vessel having more than one cage.

(2) Validation

Validation of this section is not required.

5. TRANSSHIPMENT INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is only applicable to dead bluefin tunas.

The Master of the transshipping fishing vessel or his authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRANSSHIPMENT INFORMATION section.

The TRANSSHIPMENT INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the transshipment operation.

(b) Specific instructions

“DATE”: indicate the date of the transshipment.

“PORT NAME”: indicate the designated port of transshipment.

“PORT STATE”: indicate the CPC of the designated port of transshipment.

(2) Validation

The flag CPC shall not validate documents where the CATCH INFORMATION section is not completed and validated.

6. FARMING INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is only applicable to live caged tunas.

The Master of the tug vessel shall provide the BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) to the farm operator at the time of caging.

The farm operator or his authorized representative or an authorized representative of the farm CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the FARM INFORMATION section.

The FARM INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the caging operation.

(b) Specific instructions

“CAGE No.”: indicate each number of cage.

“ICCAT Regional Observer Information”: indicate name, ICCAT # and signature.

(2) Validation

The farm CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the FARM INFORMATION section.

The farm CPC shall not validate BCDs where the CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections are not completed and, where applicable, validated.

7. HARVESTING INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas.

The farm operator or his authorized representative or an authorized representative of the farm CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the HARVESTING INFORMATION section.

The HARVESTING INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the harvesting operations.

(b) Specific instructions

“TAG No. (if applicable)”: additional lines may be added to allow the listing of each tag number by individual fish.

“ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFO.”: indicate name, ICCAT # and signature.

(2) Validation

The farm CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the HARVESTING INFORMATION section.

The farm CPC shall not validate BCDs where the CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE, TRANSFER INFORMATION and FARMING INFORMATION sections are not completed and, where applicable, validated.

8. PROCESSING INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas and dead tunas caught by traps destined for processing vessels.

The Master or representative of the processing vessel shall be responsible for completion.

The PROCESSING INFORMATION section shall be completed within 48 hours after the completion of the processing operation for each farm or trap.

(b) Specific instructions

"PV NAME": list the name of the processing vessel.

"FLAG": indicate the flag CPC.

"ICCAT RECORD NO.": indicate the ICCAT number of the processing vessel.

"PRODUCT DESCRIPTION OF PROCESSED FISH": indicate processed weight in kg for each type of processed product.

(2) Validation

The validation of this section is not required.

9. TRADE INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles

This section is applicable to dead bluefin tunas.

The domestic seller or exporter or their authorized representative or an authorized representative of the CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section.

The TRADE INFORMATION section shall be completed prior to the fish being domestically traded or exported.

(b) Specific instructions

"TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION": attach any relevant document certifying the trade.

(2) Validation

The CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section, after reviewing the PROCESSING INFORMATION, as appropriate, unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation.

Remark: in cases where more than one domestic trade or export results from a single BCD, a copy of the original BCD shall be validated by the CPC of the domestic seller or exporter and shall be used and accepted as an original BCD. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the concerned CPC. Without the authorized government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

In cases of re-export, the RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE (**Annex 5**) shall be used to track further movements, which shall be related to the catch information of the original BCD of the catch via the original BCD number.

When bluefin tuna is caught by a CPC using the tagging system, exported dead to a country, and re-exported to another country, the BCD accompanying the re-exported certificate does not have to be validated. However, the re-exported certificate shall be validated.

After import, a bluefin tuna may be divided into several pieces, which then may be subsequently exported. The re-exporting CPC shall confirm that the re-exported piece is part of the original fish accompanied by the BCD.

Data to be included in the Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC)

1. Document number of the BFTRC*

2. Re-export section

Re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity
Point of re-export*

3. Description of imported bluefin tuna

Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT¹
Net weight (kg)*
BCD number(s) and date(s) of importation*
Flag CPC (s) of fishing vessel(s) or CPC of establishment of the trap, where appropriate

4. Description of bluefin tuna to be re-exported

Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT*¹
Net weight (kg)*
Corresponding BCD number(s) from section 3
State of destination

5. Statement of re-exporter

Name
Address
Signature
Date

6. Validation by governmental authorities

Name and address of the authority
Name and position of the official
Signature
Date
Government seal

7. Import section

Statement by the importer in the CPC of import of the bluefin tuna consignment
Name and address of the importer
Name and signature of the importer's representative and date
Point of import: City and CPC*

Note: Copies of the BCD(s) and Transport document(s) shall be attached.

* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

¹ When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

Annex 5

1. DOCUMENT NUMBER:	ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE				
2. RE-EXPORT SECTION					
COUNTRY / ENTITY / RE-EXPORT FISHING ENTITY:					
POINT OF RE-EXPORT:					
3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED BLUEFIN TUNA					
<i>F/FR</i>	<i>Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	<i>Net Weight (Kg)</i>	<i>Flag CPC</i>	<i>Date of import</i>	<i>BCD No.</i>
4. DESCRIPTION OF BLUEFIN TUNA FOR RE-EXPORT					
<i>F/FR</i>	<i>Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	<i>Net Weight (Kg)</i>	<i>Corresponding No. of BCD</i>		
* F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Guttled, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet OT=Other (Describe the type of product-----)					
STATE OF DESTINATION:-----					
5. RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION					
I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Name	Address	Signature	Date		
6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION					
I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal		
7. IMPORT SECTION					
IMPORTER CERTIFICATION					
I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Importer Certification					
Name	Address	Signature	Date		
Final Point of Import					
City	State/Province	CPC			

Note: If you use another language other than English, please attach the translation into English when completing this form.
Note: Valid transport document and copies of the BCDs shall be attached.

**Report on the Implementation of the
ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme**

Reporting CPC:

Period of reference: 1 January to 31 December [2XXX]

1. Information extracted from BCDs:

- Number of BCDs validated
- Number of validated BCDs received
- Total amount of bluefin tuna products traded domestically, with breakdown by fishing areas and fishing gears
- Total amount of bluefin tuna products imported, exported, transferred to farms, re-exported with breakdown by CPC of origin, re-export or destination, fishing areas and fishing gears
- Number of verifications of BCDs requested to other CPCs and summary results
- Number of requests for verifications of BCDs received from other CPCs and summary results
- Total amount of bluefin tuna consignments subject to a prohibition decision with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), reasons for prohibition and CPCs and/or non-Contracting Parties of origin or destination

2. Information on cases under Part VI paragraph 22:

- Number of cases
- Total amount of bluefin tuna with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), CPCs or other countries referred to in Part VI paragraph 22.

23-22

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A
STANDING CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME WORKING GROUP (CDS WG)**

RECALLING that ICCAT agreed at the 2019 Annual Commission meeting that detailed discussion should be continued without prejudging the future course of development of Catch Document Schemes (CDS);

FURTHER RECALLING that the Ad Hoc Working Group on CDS, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme* (Res. 21-21), exchanged views among CPCs on the expansion of CDS to other ICCAT species;

RECOGNIZING the ever-increasing market demand for fishery products whose legality are verified;

NOTING the successful development and implementation of an electronic bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme in ICCAT;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a process towards the establishment of a catch certification scheme for tuna and tuna-like species* (Rec. 12-09);

EMPHASIZING the need to implement a risk-based approach with respect to CDS;

MINDFUL of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes adopted by FAO in 2017, which set out guidance to States, RFMOs, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organizations when developing and implementing new CDS, or harmonizing or reviewing existing CDS;

RECOGNISING that the Convention amendment process consisted of two parts, *i.e.*, the first part focused on the review of the Convention and the second part focused on developing specific amendments, and a similar two-step approach could be a good way to proceed with the discussion on this issue;

NOTING the concern that the number of Working Groups has been increasing and the need to streamline the work of the Commission;

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

1. A Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall be established. The CDS WG shall also incorporate the function of and replace the eBCD Technical Working Group, which includes review of the technical specifications of eBCD and possible improvements.
2. The CDS WG is open to all CPCs and accredited observers.
3. The CDS WG will elect its own Chair.
4. Simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French, Spanish) will be provided during the meetings of the CDS WG.
5. The CDS WG shall first consider which species and the product types should be covered by any CDS, taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12-09. With a view to facilitating the implementation of any expanded CDS by CPCs, a phased/step-by-step approach should be considered, including technical approach. The CDS WG will then decide on details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, based on the information/views provided by CPCs, particularly regarding practical and technical considerations with respect to the design and implementation of any CDS, including the following:

- a) What practical and technical difficulties exist with respect to the design and implementation of CDS and how they might be overcome;
 - b) Whether it is feasible and appropriate to expand the eBCD system to other species, or if developing a separate electronic system is more appropriate;
 - c) What capacity development programmes for developing CPCs may be needed to support their implementation of any expanded CDS;
 - d) How to avoid duplication with existing national and international schemes and reducing the workload of exporting CPCs, if possible; and
 - e) How to ensure compatibility between CDS being developed or implemented in other tuna RFMOs.
6. The CDS WG shall also deal with technical issues related to the eBCD and possible expansion of the eBCD to other species if considered the appropriate tool.
 7. The CDS WG shall, as far as possible, identify the key components to facilitate the implementation of any expanded CDS, including taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of such schemes, among others.
 8. From 2024 to 2026, the CDS WG shall hold a meeting at least once a year unless otherwise decided by the Commission. If the CDS WG is held in-person, it should preferably be held in conjunction with an intersessional meeting, particularly the IMM Working Group, so that the Meeting Participation Fund can be efficiently utilized to support the participation of developing CPCs. If the CDS WG is held in conjunction with an IMM Working Group meeting, the total duration of these two meetings should be no more than five days, unless otherwise decided by the Commission. The CDS WG may meet to discuss technical issues related to the eBCD whenever the Chair of the CDS WG considers it necessary and logistically feasible.
 9. The CDS WG will, if appropriate, develop and submit a draft recommendation on any expanded CDS to the 2026 Commission meeting or earlier, if possible. If the CDS WG cannot submit the draft recommendation in 2026, it shall propose a new workplan to the Commission for approval.
 10. This Recommendation shall repeal and replace the *Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT Working Group on a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)* (Res. 21-21).

Resolutions adopted by ICCAT in 2023

23-15

BYC

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CETACEAN ENCIRCLEMENT

RECOGNIZING the potential for interactions between cetaceans and ICCAT fisheries;

CONCERNED about the incidental mortality or serious injury to cetaceans that may occur in ICCAT fisheries;

RECALLING that under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programmes* (Rec. 16-14), Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall require observers in their domestic scientific observer programmes to record and report on, *inter alia*, the bycatch of marine mammals, including cetaceans;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) are strongly encouraged to prohibit their flag vessels from intentionally setting purse seine nets on a school of tunas in the ICCAT Convention area if a cetacean is sighted in or above the tuna school.
2. In the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, CPCs are encouraged to require the master of the vessel:
 - a) to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release while taking into consideration the safety of the crew;
 - b) to report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, including details of the species (if known) and number of individuals, location and date of such encirclement, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the disposition of the animal on release (including, if known, whether the animal was released alive but subsequently died).
3. Each year, CPCs are encouraged to report on the implementation of this Resolution as part of their Annual Report.
4. The Commission requests that the SCRS, to the extent possible, develop further best practice guidelines for the safe handling and release of cetaceans caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, taking into account relevant guidelines already developed by relevant international organizations, and that these guidelines be submitted to the 2025 annual meeting for consideration and adoption by the Commission.
5. CPCs are encouraged to ensure that fishermen are aware of and use proper mitigation, identification, handling and release techniques and keep on board all necessary equipment for the safe release of cetaceans before the guidelines mentioned in paragraph 4 are developed and adopted.

23-19

GEN

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON NEXT STEPS
OF THE JOINT EXPERT GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN 2024**

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Climate Change* (Res. 22-13);

FURTHER RECALLING the important presentations and discussions held at the ICCAT Climate Change Experts Meeting (11-12 July 2023) that highlighted the climate crisis facing ICCAT;

RECOGNISING that the July 2023 ICCAT Climate Change Experts Meeting was the start of a critical conversation within ICCAT on Climate Change;

NOTING the draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change under development as a result of the July 2023 Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting and revised intersessionally leading up to the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission;

ACKNOWLEDGING that understanding, adapting to, and mitigating Climate Change impacts on ICCAT target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area, as well as understanding any related socioeconomic or other impacts on the fisheries, including on CPCs and their fishing communities, requires ongoing close cooperation and collaboration between the SCRS and the Commission;

CONVINCED of the need for ICCAT to consider in detail these Climate Change impacts as well as adaptation strategies to ensure climate resilient fisheries by leveraging the expertise of relevant scientists and managers, and the need for strategic oversight and coordination of ICCAT's Climate Change work;

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

1. In 2024, the ICCAT Joint Climate Change Experts Meeting will reconvene for at least one additional meeting and will be chaired by the existing Chair.
2. The draft agenda for the next ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting should include, but not be limited to, the following agenda items:
 - a) Presentation from the Chair of the Climate Change Experts Meeting held in July 2023, including presentation of the 2023 draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change;
 - b) Presentation and discussion of a 'stock-take' review on Climate Change work within ICCAT's subsidiary bodies, to be prepared in advance (see paragraph 3), including discussion of how climate-related information can be incorporated into the ICCAT decision-making processes, from both a management and scientific perspective;
 - c) In light of (b), identification of other priority areas of Climate Change work;
 - d) Consider, revise, and aim to agree on the draft ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change;
 - e) Consider whether another meeting is needed in 2024, and
 - f) Prepare a report to the Commission setting out proposed next steps, including the potential need for future meetings, the appropriate body or forum for those meetings, and their frequency.

3. To facilitate meaningful dialogue at the next meeting, the Chair, working with the SCRS, its Officers, Commission Officers, and Chairs of Ad hoc Working Groups as necessary, will prepare and circulate in advance, a 'stock-take' review of relevant ongoing ICCAT work which relates to, or is impacted by, Climate Change. This review will evaluate and provide comment on the approaches taken in the Panels and Working Groups.
4. The ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting will also consider how to engage with stakeholder groups to strengthen ICCAT's base of knowledge on Climate Change and its impacts and ensure more inclusive and informed decision making on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
5. The next ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting will take place after the 2024 Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch meeting and will be held in a virtual format, or hybrid format, if held directly in conjunction with the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch.
6. The Commission will consider the report of the 2024 ICCAT Joint Experts Group on Climate Change Meeting and any other outputs therefrom, such as an updated Plan of Action, at its 2024 Annual Meeting and decide on next steps to coordinate ICCAT's Climate Change work.

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CORE PRINCIPLES ON LABOUR STANDARDS IN ICCAT FISHERIES

DESIRING to uphold the safety of life at sea;

RECOGNIZING the challenges faced by fishers with respect to health, safety, and welfare due to the inherent dangers of working at sea;

NOTING the increasing global attention to instances of poor labour conditions and mistreatment of crews including forced labour and child labour on board fishing vessels;

RECALLING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that "States should ensure that fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards adopted by relevant international organizations";

FURTHER RECALLING the International Labour Organization's (ILO) five Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: freedom of association; elimination of forced or compulsory labour; abolition of child labour; elimination of discrimination in employment; and safe and healthy working environment;

MINDFUL OF the ILO's Work in Fishing Convention No. 188, which describes global labour standards relevant to all fishers;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the *Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programmes* (Rec. 19-10), the *Resolution by ICCAT on harmonization and improved observer safety* (Res. 19-16), and the *Resolution by ICCAT establishing a process to address labor standards in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 21-23);

AWARE OF efforts to address the issue of labour standards in the fisheries sector in other relevant international organizations and fora, such as the ILO;

EMPHASISING the important work of ICCAT's Working Group on Labour Standards and supportive of the implementation of its workplan;

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

1. CPCs are encouraged to consider ratifying relevant international instruments and to address the issue of labour standards in the fisheries sector in the relevant international organizations and fora, such as ILO. CPCs are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that their policies for the fisheries sector address labour standards.
2. CPCs are encouraged to make every effort to ensure workplace safety and health extend to all crew, including migrant workers, working on vessels flying their flag and engaged in fishing or fishing related activity under the competence of ICCAT in the ICCAT Convention area. In addition, where appropriate and applicable, CPCs are encouraged to adopt and implement measures to establish minimum standards regulating crew labour conditions. CPCs are further encouraged to ensure the adequate enforcement of all relevant laws and policies, and applicable international labour standards, including by identifying and prosecuting violations of relevant national laws and policies relating to the treatment of crew by vessel operators that call at their ports or operate in their waters.
3. Where a vessel described in paragraph 1 enters the port of a CPC, the port CPC is encouraged to detect possible labour rights violations in these vessels during port inspections, including forced labour. In those inspection efforts, CPCs can use relevant ILO detection tools. Port CPCs are encouraged to notify the flag CPC of relevant evidence or support investigation and, where appropriate, prosecution by the flag CPC, and to take other appropriate action with respect to the vessel and its master consistent with applicable laws.

4. CPCs are encouraged to adopt and implement measures, consistent with applicable international labour minimum standards for crew on fishing vessels, where applicable, to ensure fair and decent working conditions on board for all crew working on vessels flying their flag and engaged in fishing or fishing related activity under the competence of ICCAT in the ICCAT Convention area, including, *inter alia*:
 - a) The absence of forced labour, trafficking in persons, or any other form of involuntary or compulsory labour;
 - b) A safe and secure working environment with minimum risk to health, safety, and, to the extent possible, wellbeing;
 - c) Clear and understood terms of employment, including the prohibition of recruitment fees and related costs being charged to crew members, that are enshrined in a written work agreement (or other evidence of contractual or similar arrangements); this is made available to the employee, in a form and language that facilitates the employee's understanding of the terms, and is agreed by the employee. The respective rights and obligations under employment contracts are the responsibility of the parties to those contracts;
 - d) Decent working and living conditions on board vessels, including access to sufficient drinking water and food, vessel and operational safety protections, medical care, adequate periods of rest, and acceptable standards of sanitary hygiene;
 - e) Access to appropriate safety equipment onboard vessels and adequate safety training be provided by the CPC or a CPC designated or approved third party before first deployment on a vessel and at appropriate intervals thereafter; such training should be in line with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards and ILO safety and health standards on fishing;
 - f) Access to a communication device at no cost or at a reasonable cost not exceeding the full cost to the fishing vessel's owner and a designated point of contact in case of concerns related to safety or labour abuses;
 - g) Decent and regular remuneration, no less favorable than the flag CPCs domestic laws and regulations, for the crew;
 - h) Appropriate unemployment, accident, and other worker protections in case of work-related sickness, injury or death no less favorable than the flag CPC's domestic laws and regulations;
 - i) The opportunity to disembark, to access their identity documents, to terminate the contract of employment, to communicate with an organization that can render assistance to crew, to submit complaints regarding vessel working conditions, and to seek repatriation.
5. CPCs are encouraged to work with any entities involved in recruitment of crew to implement the provisions of this Resolution.
6. CPCs are strongly encouraged to develop and implement an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to be followed in the event a crew member dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, or suffers from a serious illness or injury. Such EAPs are encouraged to include, *inter alia*, the elements in the **Annex** to this Resolution.
7. CPCs are encouraged to apply and, where appropriate, strengthen, effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag and to exercise due diligence to improve and enforce requirements regarding labour conditions and crew safety on board vessels.
8. CPCs are encouraged to report on the implementation of this Resolution, including the EAP, as part of their Annual Report to the Commission. In addition, in order to assist in determining the scope of this issue in ICCAT fisheries and to further the work of the ILO in identifying indicators of forced labour in ICCAT fisheries, CPCs are encouraged to share information related to indications of potential labour abuses, subject to applicable confidentiality requirements, including port inspection reports, having occurred on vessels engaged in fishing or fishing related activity under the competence of ICCAT in the ICCAT Convention area.

9. To assist in the implementation of this Resolution, developed CPCs are encouraged to make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to assist, where needed, developing CPCs in the development and strengthening of relevant domestic laws and in their enforcement, including working with local industries and worker organizations to help them meet the core principles and minimum elements set out in this Resolution.
10. This Resolution may be reviewed three years after its adoption, taking into account, *inter alia*, reports by CPCs referred to in paragraph 8 above, reports of unions and federations, and any relevant guidance or standards developed by the relevant international organisations, including, FAO, the ILO, or the IMO or relevant RFMOs such as the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 1997 (No. 188), the ILO Work in Fishing Recommendation (No. 199), and the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1993 Protocol relating to the Torremolinos International Convention of 1977 for the Safety of Fishing Vessels.

Annex

Elements of Crew Member Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

1. In the event that a crew member dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, the CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged should 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) and flag CPC;
 - c) immediately commences search and rescue if the crew member is missing or presumed fallen overboard, and assists the MRCC efforts until the crew member is found or the MRCC actively suspends search efforts, or unless instructed by the flag CPC to continue searching;¹
 - 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;
 - g) promptly provides a report on the incident to the appropriate flag State authorities; and
 - h) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and quarters of the deceased or missing crew member.
2. In addition, in the event that a crew member dies while onboard, the flag CPC should require that the fishing vessel ensure that the body is well-preserved for the purposes of an autopsy, investigation and repatriation, except for the limited cases where the flag CPC's law allows burial at sea and the vessel Master has the consent of an appropriate representative of the crew member's country.
3. In the event that a crew member suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, the flag CPC should take necessary measures to require that its fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the flag CPC and relevant MRCC to advise if a medical evacuation is warranted;
 - c) takes all reasonable actions to care for the crew member and provide any medical treatment available and possible on board the vessel;
 - d) where necessary and appropriate, if not already directed by the flag CPC, facilitates the disembarkation and transport of the crew member 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 should ensure that the appropriate MRCC is immediately notified of the incident, actions taken or underway to address the situation, and any assistance that may be required.
5. CPCs should encourage vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations being conducted by the vessels of other CPCs in the area, in accordance with the flag CPC's relevant law.
6. Relevant CPCs should, if so requested by a flag CPC, cooperate in investigations being conducted by that flag CPC of incidents indicated in paragraphs 1 through 3 above.
7. The action plans should specifically mention the channel of contact between the vessel and the flag and port State(s).

¹ In the event of force majeure, CPCs may allow their vessels to cease search and rescue operations before 72 hours have elapsed.

23-23

MISC

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INSTRUMENTS**

NOTING the recent conclusion of two new international instruments related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, notably the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

CONSIDERING that the Commission's mandate to sustainably manage tuna and tuna-like species within the Convention area has significant relevance to the processes, objectives, and targets under these instruments, and vice versa;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the Commission has accumulated, over many years, an extraordinary level of expertise in fisheries and marine science, of experience in fisheries management and ocean governance; and aware that the expertise and experience should be of utmost importance to ensure an effective, evidence-based implementation of the new global instruments in the pelagic ecosystem;

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

- Its members should further ensure the necessary coordination with a view to duly take into account the fisheries managed by ICCAT when implementing the new instruments, and should explore all possible ways in which the Commission could take an active role in the discussions leading up to the implementation of these instruments;
- Its members should further promote collaboration with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and, in particular, tuna RFMOs, with a view to a possible concerted approach by RFMOs towards the implementation of the new instruments;
- The Secretariat should collaborate with the SCRS to evaluate the possibility for the SCRS to provide expertise and advice for the implementation of the instruments, and explore ways in which the workload of the SCRS could accommodate this new task;
- The SCRS should investigate workable examples of how marine biodiversity can be conserved in a way that is compatible with the conduct of responsible and sustainable fisheries, including other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), either as complementary or alternative measures to other area-based approaches;
- CPCs, the SCRS, and the Secretariat should report regularly to the Commission on progress on the above.

At its 2024 Annual meeting, the Commission should discuss how best to ensure that ICCAT has an active role in the discussions leading up to the implementation of these instruments, including by adding a standing agenda item on this issue to the annual meetings of the Commission and SCRS.

Other decisions adopted by ICCAT in 2023

6.1 Revised roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes adopted by the Commission in 2023

This schedule is intended to guide the development of harvest strategies for priority stocks identified in *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (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, which has been revised regularly based on the SCRS advice and Commission decisions. It provides an aspirational timeline that is subject to revision and should be considered in conjunction with the stock assessment schedule that is revised annually by the SCRS. Due to the amount of cross-disciplinary dialogue that may be needed, intersessional Panel meetings and/or meetings of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) will be necessary. However, the exact timeline for delivery is contingent on funding, prioritization, and other work of the Commission and SCRS. Tasks are divided into four categories: Commission intersessionally, SCRS development, SCRS implementation, and Commission at Annual Meeting.

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2023*	Commission intersessionally		<p>COMM (PA2) developed an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.</p>	<p>COMM (PA4) met intersessionally (March, June, October), with SCRS participation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discuss CMPs, operational management objectives, and performance indicators - refine CMP(s) - recommend operational management objectives and identify performance indicators <p>Ambassadors' meetings held in June and October.</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) dialogue with SCRS on management objectives and performance indicators to be used for tropical tunas MSE.</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) met intersessionally (May and October, with SCRS participation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators - consider final CMPs.

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2023*	SCRS development	SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE process				
		<p>New SS3 reference case developed for future conditioning of OMs.</p> <p>Reference and Robustness grid of OMs reconsidered.</p>	<p>SCRS provided final advice to COMM (PA2) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 2 in consultation with the SCRS.</p>	<p>SCRS incorporated feedback from COMM through PA4.</p>	<p>SCRS to list major sources of uncertainty to be considered in the MSE for multi-stock tropical tuna MSEs.</p> <p>Developing operating and observational error models.</p> <p>Capacity building workshops held.</p>	<p>SCRS advanced work on the SKJ-W MSE, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA1.</p>
	SCRS implementation	<p>SCRS conducted assessment to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p> <p>SCRS evaluated existence of exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>SCRS evaluated existence of exceptional circumstances taking into account, to the extent possible, the latest draft of the exceptional circumstances protocol provided to the SCRS by 1 September 2023.</p>			

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2023*	Commission at Annual Meeting	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set 2024-2026 TAC at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p> <p>Per Rec. 21-04, COMM to review the MP, taking SCRS analyses into account.</p>	<p>COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol as a new Annex in MP (Rec. 22-09).</p>	<p>COMM to review updated results.</p>		<p>COMM reviewed updated results on performance of CMPs.</p>

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2024*	Commission intersessionally			<p>COMM (PA4) to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur and continue any outstanding work from 2023.</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) to develop initial operational MOs for the multi-stock TRO MSE. PA1 also to provide guidance to the SCRS on how to handle: trade-offs in species yields; changes in effort over time; changes in gear use over time; changes in closure periods over time; and, variable allocations over time (and therefore changes in geospatial effort and gear type over time).</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) to meet intersessionally, with SCRS participation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider final CMPs - develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.

<p>2024*</p>	<p>SCRS development</p>	<p>SCRS will finalize a grid of reference and robustness OMs based on Stock Synthesis as part of a new MSE.</p> <p>SCRS to improve Observation Error Model by incorporating statistical properties of CPUE residuals.</p> <p>SCRS to test the adopted MP on the new uncertainty grid.</p>		<p>SCRS to update, review, and approve the combined index.</p> <p>SCRS to review and approve projections and CMP performance in light of the updated combined index.</p> <p>SCRS to test two-year data lags on CMP performance.</p> <p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA4) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 4 in consultation with the SCRS.</p> <p>The SCRS to continue to develop robustness scenarios.</p>	<p>SCRS to conduct yellowfin assessment.</p> <p>External peer review of Observation and Operating models.</p> <p>Meetings of Technical MSE Group.</p> <p>Initial development of candidate MPs and testing of MPs.</p>	<p>SCRS to complete MSE, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA1.</p> <p>The following abundance indices should be updated using data though 2023, if possible maintaining the model structure of these indices as used in the 2022 SKJ-W stock assessment: Baitboat Brazil Present, Handline Brazil, Purse Seine Venezuela, and Longline United States of America.</p> <p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA1) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 1 in consultation with the SCRS. SCRS to develop climate change scenarios to test robustness of MPs.</p>
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		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2024*	SCRS implementation	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.	<p>If possible, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances and advise on any necessary actions taking into account, to the extent possible, the latest draft of the exceptional circumstances protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to evaluate the MP relative to robustness scenarios.</p>	SCRS to develop clear educational material to explain how the 3 species interact in the proposed MSE and what information the SCRS needs from PA1 in order to begin constructing and testing the operating models, including capacity building workshops.	SCRS to evaluate the existence of exceptional circumstances and advise on any necessary actions taking into account, to the extent possible, the latest draft of the exceptional circumstances protocol.
	Commission at Annual Meeting			<p>COMM to adopt an MP, including the TAC.</p> <p>COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol as new Annex in MP.</p>		COMM to consider final evaluation of CMPs and adopt an MP with an exceptional circumstances protocol at the Annual Meeting.

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2025	Commission intersessionally				<p>COMM (PA1) to meet intersessionally, with SCRS participation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discuss CMPs, operational management objectives, and performance indicators - refine CMP(s) - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators <p>Ambassadors' meetings to be held.</p>	
	SCRS development	SCRS to test alternative candidate MPs (e.g, based on JABBA, or empirical).			SCRS to finalize MSE results, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA1.	

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2025	SCRS implementation	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.		SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.
	Commission at Annual Meeting		COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting.		COMM to adopt an MP, including the TACs.	
2026 and beyond*	Commission intersessionally	PA2 will provide guidance to SCRS on updated management objectives and performance statistics.			COMM (PA1) to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.	

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2026 and beyond*	SCRS development	<p>SCRS to test alternative candidate MPs (e.g., based on JABBA, or empirical).</p> <p>SCRS to complete new MSE in 2026.</p>	<p>SCRS to review the MP in 2027-2028 as outlined in Rec. 22-09.</p>	<p>The SCRS to review the MP in 202X-202X as indicated in Rec. 23-XX.</p>	<p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA1) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 1 in consultation with the SCRS.</p>	
	SCRS implementation	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stocks.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, SKJ-E)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2026 and beyond*	Commission at Annual Meeting	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set management measures on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting.</p> <p>Per Rec. 21-04, COMM to consider adoption of new MP in 2026.</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting.</p> <p>COMM to review the MP in 2028.</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p>	<p>COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol in 2026 as a new Annex in MP.</p> <p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TACs on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p>

*Assumes that the workplan is accomplished as described.

LIST OF ACRONYMS:

BET = Bigeye tuna
BFT = Bluefin tuna
COMM=Commission
CMP = Candidate Management Procedure
HCR = Harvest Control Rule
MP = Management Procedure
MSE = Management Strategy Evaluation
OM = Operating Model
SCRS = Standing Committee on Research and Statistics
TAC = Total Allowable Catch
TRO = Tropical tunas

6.2 Exchange of Letters of Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

This letter expresses the intention of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to work cooperatively with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) under the umbrella of the Agreement Between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which entered into force on 26 November 1973 (the "Agreement").

Consistent with the Agreement, in particular its Articles 3 to 6, ICCAT intends to exchange information and documents with WECAFC and cooperate in areas of mutual interest to the respective organizations, including data collection, research, and the provision of technical assistance. In particular, ICCAT and WECAFC intend to enhance cooperation to advance our common goals with regard to the sustainable use of living marine resources and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, within our respective mandates, governing rules, and conservation and management measures.

As voluntary participants in this work, ICCAT and WECAFC intend to strengthen collaboration and coordinate efforts, improve synergies, and avoid duplications in the context of the development of projects and programs focusing on regional priorities in order to foster improved governance and promote commonalities.

Specific activities of mutual interest on which ICCAT and WECAFC intend to work collaboratively may include, but are not limited to:

1. Planning of and participation in Working Groups relevant to both organizations, including collaboration in the development of fishery management plans and regional plans of action as appropriate;
2. Improving data collection and access to data for use in informing stock status determinations and fisheries management, including data collection for artisanal fisheries and sharing scientific analyses and expertise;
3. Enhancing communication in relation to monitoring, control and surveillance-related issues and exchanging relevant information on IUU fishing activities carried out in their respective Convention areas;
4. Continuing dialogue in view of the potential development of joint activities, including research and capacity building projects such as joint training activities, workshops, and information sessions (in-person or virtual); and
5. Exchanging views on the role of the RFBs in relation to cooperation and coordination with relevant global processes and agreements (e.g., Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, Global Biodiversity Framework, etc.), and, as appropriate, coordinating with respect to their engagement in these fora.

ICCAT and WECAFC hope that through this cooperation ICCAT and WECAFC can harmonize activities and optimize the use of resources to the extent possible.

If the foregoing is acceptable to FAO, on behalf of WECAFC, I propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming the acceptance of the contents of this letter, be regarded as constituting the entire arrangement between ICCAT and WECAFC, and that this arrangement shall commence on the date of your reply.

Yours sincerely,
[Insert name]
[Insert title]

6.3 Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereafter ICCAT) and the Secretariat of Sargasso Sea Commission (hereafter SSC); hereafter jointly called “the Participants”:

WHEREAS ICCAT is a regional fisheries management organization established in 1966 by the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (the Convention);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of ICCAT is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes;

RECALLING Article IV (1) of the Convention, which provides that the Commission shall, inter alia, be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and that such study shall include research on the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes; the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance;

NOTING that under Article XI of the Convention, ICCAT Contracting Parties 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 and that ICCAT may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations;

WHEREAS the 2014 Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea has now been signed by the Governments of the Azores, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Canada, Dominican Republic, Monaco, United Kingdom, and United States of America and conscious that some ICCAT Parties are also Signatories to the 2014 Hamilton Declaration;

WHEREAS the members of the SSC are appointed by the Government of Bermuda in consultation with the other government signatories of the Hamilton Declaration, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Hamilton Declaration;

AWARE that the SSC is a legal entity under Bermudian law; is composed of “distinguished scientists and other persons of international repute committed to the conservation of high seas ecosystems” that serve in their personal capacity; has no management authority; and that its mandate is to exercise a stewardship role for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity, and resilience under continual review, in collaboration with all who share a vision for the protection of the marine ecosystems of the Sargasso Sea;

WHEREAS the SSC has been seeking to promote collaboration to secure the effective conservation of the high seas ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea and, toward that end, it seeks, wherever appropriate, to cooperate with competent international or regional organizations;

RECOGNIZING that both Participants have their respective roles and responsibilities, and both desire to put in place this Memorandum of Understanding to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest;

The Participants intend to cooperate with each other, as follows:

1. Objective of this Memorandum

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter Memorandum) is to facilitate cooperation between ICCAT and the SSC Secretariat to support efforts to enhance the conservation and sustainable management of the ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea, which falls entirely within the ICCAT Convention area.

2. Areas of cooperation

ICCAT and the SSC intend to consult, cooperate, and collaborate within their respective areas of competence and in accordance with their respective procedures, on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to enhancing the conservation and sustainable management of the ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea, including, as appropriate, the following:

- a) Exchange of expertise, techniques, and knowledge relevant to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in relation to ICCAT fisheries;
- b) Development of approaches for exchanging and analyzing data on fisheries, habitats, and related species relevant to ICCAT and the Sargasso Sea, with a view to supporting the development of ecosystem indicators and the monitoring of fisheries impacts and ecosystem management;
- c) Reciprocal participation with observer status at the relevant meetings of ICCAT and the SSC, as appropriate; and
- d) Coordination between the Participants on issues of mutual interest relating to public announcements, the modalities for the mutual use of logos in appropriate circumstances, and similar issues.

3. Financial implications

Any collaborative activities undertaken by either Participant, in furtherance of this Memorandum, will not involve any financial responsibility for the other Participant unless agreed otherwise in advance and in writing.

4. Legal status

The Participants acknowledge that this Memorandum is not legally binding.

5. Effective date and discontinuation

- a) This Memorandum is to remain operative for six years. Prior to its expiration, the Participants intend to review the operation of the Memorandum and decide whether to renew or modify it or to allow its expiration.
- b) Either Participant may discontinue this Memorandum prior to its expiry date by giving six months written notice to the other Participant.
- c) This Memorandum becomes operative as of the last date of signature.

Signed on the [date to inserted] in [six] originals, in English, French and Spanish, all texts being equally authoritative.

6.4 Rules of procedure for the administration of the special Meeting Participation Fund

23-25

MISC

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND**1. Definitions**

Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties are considered to be those Contracting Parties that are classified under Groups B, C or D, in accordance with the criteria used in the contributions calculation (Regulation 4 - Provision of funds, ICCAT Financial Regulations).

2. Eligibility criteria***Applicant criteria***

To qualify to receive assistance through the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), the following minimum criteria shall be met to control costs and minimize administrative burdens, while taking into account Commission needs and interests with respect to the participation of the applicant:

- a. A developing Contracting Party that sends more than six official delegates to a meeting of the Commission or more than four to one of its subsidiary bodies through utilization of its own means or financial sources (not including the MPF) is not eligible to receive travel funding support from the MPF for that meeting.
- b. Applicants shall:
 - i travel using only the most cost-effective economy class fare unless another fare class is available at a lower cost; and
 - ii make their flight itinerary definite no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.

Participation in ICCAT scientific meetings

Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).

Any eligible scientist from a developing Contracting Party seeking travel funding assistance should submit a completed application by the established deadline, including a detailed description of the applicant's contribution to the meeting. After obtaining the approval of the rapporteurs of the Species Groups involved and/or the SCRS Chair, the Secretariat will carry out the necessary procedures to fund the trip.

Participation in ICCAT non-scientific meetings

All applications shall be made for attendance to a single meeting by one participant per Contracting Party, and shall be subject to the approval of the Commission Chairman, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary, in addition to the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought in the case of subsidiary bodies. Notwithstanding, two official delegation members (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive travel funding assistance to attend meetings of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM), subject to the same approval process.

Any official delegate of a developing Contracting Party seeking travel funding assistance shall submit a completed application by the established deadline.

3. Application procedures

1. The Secretariat will publish the travel form by invitation 60 days in advance of commencement of the meeting.
2. MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form 45 days in advance, including:
 - a. An official letter of nomination for the request for assistance signed by the Head of Delegation, together with a list of the official delegates that will attend the meeting. If this list includes more than four delegates in the case of subsidiary body meetings, or more than six delegates in the case of Commission meetings, funding will not be provided for the applicant.
 - b. All the candidate's contact details, including personal mobile telephone number.
 - c. A copy of the photo/data page of the person's current passport.
 - d. A copy of the necessary bank details (including name of bank, address of bank, precise name of the account holder, account number, IBAN and SWIFT).
 - e. A request for a *note verbale*, if needed, to apply for a visa and the place where it will be processed.
3. The Secretariat shall review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and shall offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants who have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat will send an invitation to the selected candidates with travel itinerary based on the dates indicated in the form (no less than 30 days prior to the commencement of the meeting).
5. Applicants must apply for and send a copy of the visa together with the verification and acceptance of the itinerary no less than 15 days prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Secretariat may make exceptions to this deadline on a case-by-case basis.
6. If a reply is not received with all the requirements set out above, the Secretariat will send an application rejection notification.

4. Approval of funding

Applications will be approved on a first come first served basis, as received by the Secretariat. Only complete applications that duly meet all the requirements will be considered.

Funding for travel can only be guaranteed if funds are available, irrespective of whether a complete request has been submitted by the established deadline or preapproved.

Once a request that meets all the eligibility criteria stipulated in Section 2 of these rules of procedure has been approved by the Secretariat, no subsequent modification in the lists of participants shall be made by the Contracting Party that would result in its delegation exceeding the threshold limit on the number of official delegates as established under paragraph (a) of the Applicant criteria.

5. Management of the fund

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, as well as the details of the assistance to be made available.

In accordance with point 8 of Recommendation 20-09, funds shall be distributed in a manner that ensures balanced distribution between scientific and non-scientific meetings.

The funds will be separated into two six-month periods in order to provide for the participation of scientists and delegates in meetings held later on in the year.

6.5 Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports

23-24

MISC

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Introduction

The purpose of Annual Reports is to provide a mechanism for the submission to ICCAT of relevant information on the tuna-related activities of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) during the preceding year.

2. Submission process

Complete Annual Reports, comprising Sections 1-3, should be submitted in two parts by 15 September each year as follows:

- a) through a Word document, in two parts, described by sections 1 and 2 below; and
- b) through two tables in the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), described by Section 3 below.

The layout of the Word file should follow the structure and format specified below and must be in one of the official languages of ICCAT (English, French or Spanish).

However, if the SCRS meeting takes place prior to 22 September, Section 1 should be submitted to the SCRS one week before the start of the SCRS Plenary Session (i.e., by 9:00 am on the first day of the Species Groups meetings), as notified to the Commission by the Secretariat.

3. Annual Report sections

The Word file portion of the Annual Report should contain specific, separate sections on fisheries, research, management and inspection activities and may optionally include appendices containing additional information pertinent to these sections. Information presented in Annual Reports should be divided into the relevant sections to facilitate the extraction and copying of particular information required by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

The overall structure of the Word file should be as follows:

Summary

A summary (not to exceed 20 lines, or half a page) must be included with the report. This summary should be submitted in one (or more) of the three official languages of the Commission (English, French or Spanish). The ICCAT Secretariat will translate these summaries to the other official two languages.

Section 1: Information on fisheries, research and statistics

Please note that national fisheries information and information on research and statistics **should be concise**. Detailed information of a more scientific nature, or for discussion by individual Species Groups, should be presented to the SCRS as a scientific paper. **Fisheries statistics should be reported separately by the Statistical Correspondent in accordance with the ICCAT Request for Atlantic tuna and shark statistics.**

1.1 Annual fisheries information

This report section should provide complementary information relating to the data submitted to ICCAT on total catches, effort, size-frequency, biological sampling and tagging data and briefly describe trends in tuna fisheries during the preceding year. Attention should be given to changes in fishing patterns or new developments in fisheries, as well as any socio-economic factors which influence or explain such changes and developments.

1.2 Research and statistics

This report section should provide a description of the statistical data collection systems implemented by CPCs to monitor fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species, with an indication of the degree of coverage of catch, effort and size data for fishing operations in both the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and High Seas. Attention should be given to problems, changes and improvements in such statistical systems and, where possible, the coverage of retained catches of target and bycatch species, and of discarded catches, whether the animal is dead or alive.

This section should also present summarized information on tuna-related research activities and results of particular interest to ICCAT, such as research related to stock delineation, stock assessment, migration and environmental factors.

A brief description and summarized results of observer programmes may also be included in this section.

A list of the information submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Commission requirements and which is to be reviewed by the SCRS should also be included in Part 1 for submission to the SCRS.

Section 2: Information on conservation and management measures

2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

This section should summarise the legislation adopted and other relevant measures taken to ensure the implementation of the active ICCAT conservation and management measures that are not included in the Online Reporting Section below, and any other information of interest to the Commission. Titles of any relevant legislation should be translated into one of the official languages of ICCAT. This section should not exceed four pages in length.

2.2 Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures

This section should outline any difficulties encountered in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures and/or explanations of why reporting requirements or deadlines could not be met, and any steps that have been or are being taken to overcome these difficulties. In addition, if standard forms have not been used, a brief indication of the difficulties encountered in the use of these forms should be included.

Appendices (if any)

Appendices may be included as a supplement to the information contained in the main body of the Annual Reports to be submitted to ICCAT. The purpose of such Appendices should be to provide detailed supplementary information to the main sections of the Annual Reports. As such, information contained in the Appendices should be considered to have been formally transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, as will be the contents of the body of the Annual Reports. However, such Appendices will not be included in the subsequent publication of Annual Reports but will be made available on request¹.

¹ Appendices which, due to their length, format, presentation or the complexity of the data, cannot be directly transferred into the document compiling all the Annual Reports will not be published.

Section 3: Online reporting

Information on reporting requirements must be made through the IOMS, as required by Recommendation 22-17. Online reporting comprises two parts, and upon completion, IOMS will generate two tables:

Part 1²: Research and Statistics reporting (in accordance with the request for statistics on Atlantic tunas and associated species in the ICCAT Convention area circulated annually by the Secretariat).

Part 2³: Management reporting.

Help files are integrated into the IOMS, but any CPC requiring assistance with access to or reporting through the IOMS should contact the Secretariat through general@ioms.iccat.int. Please ensure that you are responding to the latest requirement and that your response is appropriate, as changes from previous years may have taken place. Some requirements in the table allow you to indicate whether a requirement is applicable by means of a checkbox. In other cases, mandatory requirements cannot be deselected using the checkbox. A checkbox that is not interactive is indicated by shading.

If a requirement is applicable, the corresponding date and/or a sentence that explains how it was fulfilled must be completed. In the event that a requirement is not applicable, the reason why it is not applicable must be provided in the appropriate cell. Responses provided in such cases should not contain the text "not applicable" and the explanation should not repeat this text since deselecting the checkbox already defines that the requirement is not applicable.

It is recommended not to fill in the requirements of Tables 1 and 2 with references to previous years or previously cited elements. Examples of text to avoid using include: "like last year," "like the previous requirement," "see above," etc.

Where date of submission is requested in the IOMS, the date should pertain to the current year, even though the submission made may contain information pertaining to the previous year. For example, Task 1 submitted on 31 July 2023, which contains data for 2022; the response in the Annual Report template would be 31 July 2023.

4. Formats

General text must be in Cambria 10 (see margins below). Section headings are standardized; further sub-headings should be short, reflect a logical sequence, and follow the rules of multiple subdivision (i.e., there can be no subdivision without at least 2 two sub-headings). The entire text should be intelligible to readers and, therefore, acronyms and abbreviations should be written out and all lesser-known technical terms should be defined the first time they are mentioned. Dates should be written as follows: 10 November 2003. Measures should be expressed as metric units, e.g., metric tons (t).

Tables should be placed after the text, followed by the figure(s); they should be in MSWord files. Tables should be cited in numerical order in the text. Tables should be numbered (Arabic) and the table heading should be included above the table; avoid using grids. Headings in tables should be short but sufficient to allow the table to be intelligible on its own. All unusual symbols should be explained in the table legend. Other incidental comments may be footnoted.

Figures should be in MSWord files and placed after tables. Figures should be cited in numerical order in the text. Figures should be numbered (Arabic) and the figure caption should be included beneath the figure; avoid using grids. Clearly identify numerical scales, units and legends for the X- and Y-axes for each figure. If graphics are prepared in colour, please be sure that the information plotted or depicted can also be easily read in black and white (e.g., use ■, ◆, •, etc. or colours that are easily distinguishable).

Appendices should be placed after figures and following the standardized headings.

² Formerly Part 1, Annex 1.

³ Formerly Part 2, Section 3.

Summary of Formatting Instructions

Software:	Please prepare in MSWord.
Paper size:	A4
Margins:	(Top, Bottom, Left, Right): 2.5 cm; headers 1.5 cm, footers 2.0 cm.
Line spacing:	Single (or 1.0); Double space between paragraphs; Triple space before new major headings. For contributors using an East Asian version of MSWord, please ensure that the printed copy is indeed single-spaced.
Page numbering:	None (for electronic copies).
Header:	ANN-xxx/year [insert year and document number as provided by the Secretariat]; page 1 header only (different first page), Arial 10, right justified. No other running headers.
Font type:	Cambria
Font size:	Cambria 10. Footnotes should be in Cambria 8.
Case:	Only the document title on the title page should be in CAPS.
Tabs:	Every 0.75 cm; no paragraph indents.
Files:	Please submit one file with the formatted text (and tables, figures and appendices, should there be any).

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 15 November 2023 by its Chair, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted with one minor modification (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**).

4. Reports from the Secretariat

4.1 2023 Administrative Report

The 2023 Administrative Report was presented by the Executive Secretary, which summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat during 2023. The Executive Secretary noted that there had been no changes in ICCAT Contracting and Cooperating Parties since the last Annual Meeting. He provided a brief report of key activities over the year, including the entry into force of recommendations adopted in 2022; the intersessional meetings; training courses; meetings in which ICCAT was represented (summaries are contained in Annex 1 of the Administrative Report); the lottery held during the SCRS; the letters sent to CPCs concerning ICCAT financial obligations; the publications issued in 2023; as well as the 22 programmes and funds managed by ICCAT.

He also provided a summary of key staff changes at the Secretariat, advising that the positions of Mr Juan Antonio Moreno and Mr Cristóbal García had been filled, following their retirement, and welcoming Ms. María Bonacasa as Head of the Department of Administration and Finance and Ms. Ingrid Ferrer as Administrative Assistant in the Department of Administration and Finance. The Executive Secretary further noted that the contract for the IOMS Developer position, which is covered by Mr Dashiell Portel, through European Union financing, has been extended for one year.

Finally, he indicated that the audit firm for the next five years (2023-2028) would have to be selected this year, and informed that, based on interviews and quotations requested, the best offer had been received from Grant Thornton. There was no opposition to the Secretariat's proposal and the selection of Grant Thornton as audit firm for 2023-2028 was approved.

The 2023 Administrative Report was adopted.

4.2 2023 Financial Report

The Executive Secretary presented the Secretariat's 2023 Financial Report. He noted that, as at 13 October 2023, the Working Capital Fund equalled 56.00% of the total budget, and that the expenditures incurred and revenue received represented 69.84% and 78.14%, respectively, of the budget approved for 2023.

Finally, he indicated that the Secretariat's estimated end-of-year expenditure would total €1,637,256.33 and that if no new revenue was received before the end of the current financial year, the Working Capital Fund would stand at 26.76% of the budget (€1,498,084.96).

The 2023 Financial Report was adopted.

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

The Executive Secretary presented the document "Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and Review of Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions", which reflected the accumulated debt of Contracting Parties by year, taking into account the latest payments received from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mauritania. He noted that the total debt of the Contracting Parties amounted to €2,361,267.55, which poses a great risk to the activities of the Secretariat and the Commission.

Several CPCs expressed concern that significant delays in making contributions continue to occur, requested more communication with Contracting Parties with arrears, as although progress was being made in the payment of contributions, there were many non-payments and delays, and urged CPCs to explain this situation.

The Executive Secretary indicated that two letters continued to be sent each year, reminding Contracting Parties with arrears that they must pay their contributions.

Guinea (Rep.), Nigeria, Venezuela, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Mauritania explained their debt situations and the progress that they would be making towards payment.

5. Assistance to developing CPCs

5.1 Review of procedures and funding for the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

The Chair introduced the document "Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)" which included information on the financial situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) and reflected the revenue and expenditures within the Fund during 2023.

The United States submitted "Draft Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (Ref. 20-10)", which proposed amending the deadlines related to requesting support from the MPF with the objective of being able to schedule SCRS meetings in the first quarter of the calendar year. Following discussion and input from CPCs, the United States presented a revised version of this proposal, also co-sponsored by Algeria, that shortened the time required to complete each step in advance of each relevant meeting. The revised document with the new timetable was forwarded to the plenary for adoption.

6. Consideration of methods to ensure the availability of rapporteurs

In past meetings of the Virtual Working Group on Review of Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP), the issue of availability of rapporteurs to cover the Commission's meetings was raised. At its 2022 meeting, STACFAD considered a number of options for addressing the difficulty in securing rapporteurs and having to rely on the Secretariat to fill this function, including establishing a pool of rapporteurs, instituting an assistant rapporteur position, or hiring professional rapporteurs, although this would entail a significant financial burden that was not contemplated in the budget.

STACFAD further discussed ideas for expanding the pool of available rapporteurs without incurring additional costs, such as using the recordings of the meeting, using students and interns, running training courses for rapporteurs, as well as using new artificial intelligence technologies. CPCs committed to working to identify candidates that can serve as rapporteurs and volunteer their services well before the next meeting.

7. Review of progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF)

STACFAD decided that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) would continue to work in 2024 by correspondence, and that an online meeting would be held if necessary to address, inter alia, the following issues:

- Reducing the costs of the Annual Meeting to the Commission and to host CPCs, including identifying ways to change the meeting arrangements and planning process that could save money, and finding ways to generate revenue to offset meeting expenses;
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of the "Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund"; and
- Developing a set of recommendations to alleviate the burden of intersessional meetings on CPCs, the SCRS and the Secretariat.

8. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests

The SCRS Chair presented the document "SCRS Research Activities Requiring Funding for 2024 and 2025", which summarizes the research activities requiring funding that were requested by the SCRS for the next biennial period. The SCRS Chair noted that the full request reflected a number of activities that had been postponed or delayed during the pandemic, and that the resulting unused balance in the strategic research fund could offset more than half of the full cost identified in 2024.

Following the discussions of the ICCAT budget for the 2024-2025 financial years under agenda item 9 below, STACFAD approved a revised version reflecting a 15% reduction in activities (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**).

9. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed

The STACFAD Chair presented a proposed revision to the template for a cover sheet that would accompany new proposals in order to provide a streamlined and user-friendly way for CPCs to identify the financial, administrative, and scientific workload implications of new proposals. Following discussion and input, STACFAD approved a revised version of the Chair's proposal and forwarded it to the plenary for adoption (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**).

10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2024/2025

10.1 ICCAT budget

The document "Explanatory Note on the ICCAT Budget for Financial Years 2024-2025" was presented.

Clarifications were requested for several budget chapters due to the proposed increase.

Several CPCs raised concerns over the percentage increase to the items related to travel, and sought further clarification regarding the Secretariat's use of business class for air travel, the criteria for deciding which meetings Secretariat staff would attend in person versus virtually, the level of travel projected for ICCAT Officers, and the justification for such a large percentage increase in these items compared to 2023. The Executive Secretary noted that the increase to travel-related items reflected the higher costs of airfares and per diem (noting that, for example, per diem in Madrid had increased by around 20% in 2023) and the increase in the number of both ICCAT intersessional meetings and in broader fisheries-related meetings where the Secretariat would be expected to participate. He noted that business class was only utilized for trips that exceed 6-8 hours and circulated an information paper with details of the Secretariat's travel in 2023, including a breakdown of trips taken in economy versus business class. He further advised that Chapter 13 covers travel by Officers from developing countries, as well as travel by the SCRS Chair, and that the costs associated with the latter were high because the current Chair is based in the United States and attended meetings every month requiring trans-Atlantic flights.

CPCs also raised concerns over the large increase requested for chapter 3 "Commission meetings (Annual and intersessional)" and sought additional explanation. The Executive Secretary noted that the increases reflected the projected level of scientific and Commission intersessional meetings for 2024, based on both the recommendations of the SCRS and the anticipated decisions of the Commission. For the Annual Meeting, he noted that the amount shown in the proposed budget was only a part of the total cost of the Annual Meeting, and the high costs of ICCAT Annual Meetings must now be mostly borne by the hosting CPC. The Chair recalled the Commission's decision in 2018 to begin regularizing the costs of core Commission activities within the regular budget, including funding a greater percentage of Annual Meeting costs from the Commission budget. CPCs recognized the previous Commission decision and the benefits of ensuring that Annual Meeting costs do not fall only on one CPC but were concerned about absorbing such a significant increase in the next budget and requested this chapter be revised.

CPCs sought additional explanation of the large balance remaining in the Strategic Research Programme and the resulting proposed decrease to Chapter 11 in 2024. The Executive Secretary and the Chair of the SCRS noted that the Commission budget funds only a part of the scientific priorities identified by the SCRS and approved by the Commission. Much of ICCAT's scientific work has been funded instead by voluntary contributions, in particular from the European Union. As a result of the pandemic and other disruptions over the past three years, many scientific projects were either scaled back or delayed. As a result, there is a large balance that can be used to fund a larger portion of the agreed scientific research programme in 2024-2025. This allows a sharp reduction in the Commission funding for this work next year, though the Commission contribution would be expected to return to usual levels in 2026.

In addition, the European Union requested more information about the proposed addition of two permanent GBYP-focused positions to the Secretariat that had until now been filled via contract. The Executive Secretary explained that much of the GBYP work had been funded by an EU voluntary contribution that was expected to decrease. Because key elements of the GBYP programme will continue long-term, it was necessary to incorporate GBYP into the Strategic Research Programme, grouping all species together and unifying all scientific activities. He also advised that, in light of recent changes in Spanish law, the Secretariat's legal advisor had noted certain legal risks of maintaining annual personnel contracts long-term. CPCs requested additional information about the legal risks and noted concerns about the budgetary implications of the two new positions.

The Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT), Dr Bryan Keller (USA), presented the working group's workplan (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7**), including the recommendation that the Secretariat hire two more specialized software developers to oversee the development and maintenance of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), as reflected in chapter 14 of the draft budget. CPCs expressed support for this work and the expected benefits it will bring to the Commission, CPCs, and the Secretariat, though some CPCs raised questions about the costs and the timeframe for hiring the new staff.

The European Union requested that in the future detailed information be incorporated into the budget proposal as it becomes available. The Chair suggested that this discussion on the format for presenting information on the budget could be raised when the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) resumes its work in 2024.

Albania and Russia noted their concerns over the significant increase in their projected contributions and asked for an explanation for this change. The Executive Secretary explained that the most recent information from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) resulted in these two Contracting Parties moving to a different group for the purposes of calculating their share of the budget, and that the source of data used for the distribution had been the same as in previous biennial budgets.

The Chair added that the formula for calculating the contributions was provided for in ICCAT's financial regulations.

A new version of the budget was presented containing all the revisions requested during the first session, with an increase for financial year 2024 of 3.72% with respect to 2023 and 11.98% for 2025 with respect to 2024.

STACFAD was not able to agree on the revised draft budget for both 2024 and 2025 and therefore forwarded it to plenary for further consideration and decision (**Tables 1 to 7**).

10.2 eBCD system budget

The document "Explanatory note on the eBCD system budget for the financial years 2024 and 2025" was presented. The budget for financial year 2024 contained an increase of 6.06% with respect to 2023 and for financial year 2025 an increase of 5% with respect to 2024.

The eBCD system budget (**eBCD Tables 1 to 7**) was approved and forwarded to the plenary for adoption.

11. Election of Chair

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States) was reelected as the STACFAD Chair for a further two years.

12. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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

Table 1. 2024-2025 ICCAT Budget (Euros).

Chapters	2023	Increase	2024	Increase	2025
1. Salaries	2,282,985.65	4.68%	2,389,752.12	5.00%	2,509,239.73
2. Travel	40,000.00	12.50%	45,000.00	0.00%	45,000.00
3. Commission meetings (annual)	282,729.85	23.79%	350,000.00	0.00%	350,000.00
4. Publicationes	20,600.00	0.00%	20,600.00	0.00%	20,600.00
5. Office Equipment	16,231.77	4.73%	17,000.00	0.00%	17,000.00
6. Operating Expenses	151,496.52	-0.99%	150,000.00	0.00%	150,000.00
7. Miscellaneous	8,224.10	0.92%	8,300.00	0.00%	8,300.00
8. Coordination of Research					
a) Salaries	1,255,152.87	12.12%	1,407,276.44	5.00%	1,477,640.26
b) Travel to improve statistics	30,000.00	16.67%	35,000.00	0.00%	35,000.00
c) Statistics-Biology	19,570.00	12.42%	22,000.00	0.00%	22,000.00
d) Computer-related items	42,230.00	65.60%	69,931.40	0.00%	69,931.40
e) Database maintenance	27,810.00	25.85%	35,000.00	0.00%	35,000.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	34,505.00	1.43%	35,000.00	0.00%	35,000.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	82,782.03	8.72%	90,000.00	0.00%	90,000.00
h) Interpretation SCRS meetings	249,650.00	-14.74%	212,850.00	0.00%	212,850.00
i) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,741,699.90</i>	<i>9.49%</i>	<i>1,907,057.84</i>	<i>3.69%</i>	<i>1,977,421.66</i>
9. Services requiring specialized external consultancy (i.e., legal advice, total quality management project, etc.)	70,555.00	0.00%	70,555.00	0.00%	70,555.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	65,468.14	0.00%	65,468.14	0.00%	65,468.14
11. Strategic Research Programme	0.00				
a) Strategic Research Programme	416,635.00	-89.20%	45,000.00	344.44%	200,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>416,635.00</i>	<i>-89.20%</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>	<i>344.44%</i>	<i>200,000.00</i>
12. Compliance					
a) Compliance database maintenance	31,827.00	0.54%	32,000.00	0.00%	32,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>31,827.00</i>	<i>0.54%</i>	<i>32,000.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>32,000.00</i>
13. Travel					
a) Travel by ICCAT/SCRS Chairs	51,500.00	16.50%	60,000.00	0.00%	60,000.00
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	170,000.00	47.06%	250,000.00	0.00%	250,000.00
c) Travel by ICCAT Officers (Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties)	30,900.00	100.00%	61,800.00	0.00%	61,800.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>252,400.00</i>	<i>47.31%</i>	<i>371,800.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>371,800.00</i>
14. Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)					
a) Integrated Online Management System	212,180.00	54.98%	328,846.67	25.34%	412,180.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 14</i>	<i>212,180.00</i>	<i>54.98%</i>	<i>328,846.67</i>	<i>25.34%</i>	<i>412,180.00</i>
15. Contingencies	5,410.59	0.00%	5,410.59	0.00%	5,410.59
TOTAL BUDGET	5,598,443.51	3.72%	5,806,790.36	7.37%	6,234,975.12

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2024-2025.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2021	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	A	6,129	3,034	157	0	157	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	3,747	1,855	1,585	0	1,585	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	2,294	1,136	42	0	42	X	-	X	X	3	Angola
Barbados	C	16,572	8,204	268	0	268	X	-	-	X	2	Barbados
Belize	C	4,229	2,094	29,483	9,852	39,335	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	C	7,487	3,706	49,136	3,169	52,305	X	-	X	X	3	Brazil
Canada	A	52,140	25,812	2,371	0	2,371	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,214	1,591	11,979	15,252	27,231	X	X	-	X	3	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	12,132	6,006	4,672	0	4,672	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	2,517	1,246	13,136	0	13,136	X	-	X	X	3	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	57,510	28,470	25,258	0	25,258	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	3,715	1,839	648	0	648	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,451	2,203	22,863	2,429	25,292	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	44,028	21,796	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	8,117	4,018	129	0	129	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Gambia	D	763	378	30	0	30	X	-	-	X	2	Gambia
Ghana	C	2,321	1,149	85,154	29,398	114,552	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	8,598	4,256	932	0	932	-	-	-	-	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	4,776	2,364	10,713	0	10,713	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	8,208	4,063	46	0	46	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	1,314	650	1,210	0	1,210	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	698	346	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,713	1,343	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	68,448	33,885	1	0	1	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	39,749	19,678	24,510	0	24,510	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	A	34,700	17,178	2,660	0	2,660	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	541	268	3,196	0	3,196	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	D	6,992	3,461	2,328	1,350	3,678	X	X	-	X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,513	1,739	17,489	957	18,446	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	C	1,994	987	11,615	5,330	16,945	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	B	10,089	4,995	7,496	0	7,496	X	X	-	X	3	Mexico
Namibia	C	4,981	2,466	9,232	0	9,232	X	X	X	X	4	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,996	988	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	2,151	1,065	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	88,792	43,956	134	0	134	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	13,740	6,802	24,157	0	24,157	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	3,412	1,689	0	0	0	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	A	12,197	6,038	2,283	0	2,283	X	X	-	-	2	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	7,394	3,660	639	0	639	X	X	X	X	4	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,313	1,145	1,175	0	1,175	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,630	807	49,261	9,229	58,490	X	X	-	X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	479	237	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	6,341	3,139	4,903	0	4,903	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	0	0	76	0	76	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	13,956	6,909	2,695	0	2,695	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	3,525	1,745	10,392	6,826	17,218	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Türkiye	B	9,535	4,720	12,668	0	12,668	-	X	-	X	2	Türkiye
Union Européenne	A	40,114	19,858	233,906	299,107	533,013	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	47,337	23,434	417	0	417	X	X	X	X	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	67,904	33,616	27,822	9,438	37,260	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	17,218	8,524	0	0	0	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Venezuela	D	0	0	2,783	279	3,062	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

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

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2024 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Catch +	% Catch +	% Member +	Membership	Panel	Variable fees	Variables fees	Total	Contracting Party	
Party	Group ^a	Canning ^a	Panels ^a	Canning ^b	Panels ^c	fee ^d	Membership ^e	for Member ^f	Catch-Canning ^g	fees ^h	Party
Albania	A	157	1	0.02%	4.44%	937.00	937.00	57,443.24	646.17	59,963.41	Albania
Algérie	D	1,585	2	7.83%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	10,802.57	17,181.84	Algérie
Angola	D	42	3	0.21%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	4,757.69	286.25	8,791.94	Angola
Barbados	C	268	2	0.07%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	15,779.52	452.03	19,042.55	Barbados
Belize	C	39,335	4	9.56%	7.58%	937.00	3,748.00	26,299.20	66,345.45	97,329.65	Belize
Brazil	C	52,305	3	12.71%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	88,221.66	113,009.01	Brazil
Canada	A	2,371	3	0.38%	8.89%	937.00	2,811.00	114,886.47	9,758.41	128,392.88	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	27,231	3	6.62%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	45,929.91	70,717.27	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	4,672	4	1.13%	7.58%	937.00	3,748.00	26,299.20	7,880.16	38,864.35	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	13,136	3	3.19%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	22,156.19	46,943.55	Côte d'Ivoire
Curacao	A	25,258	1	4.02%	4.44%	937.00	937.00	57,443.24	103,955.26	163,272.50	Curacao
Egypt	D	648	2	3.20%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	4,416.45	10,795.71	Egypt
El Salvador	C	25,292	1	6.14%	3.03%	937.00	937.00	10,519.68	42,659.44	55,053.12	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	0	3	0.00%	8.89%	937.00	2,811.00	114,886.47	0.00	118,634.47	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	129	2	0.03%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	15,779.52	217.58	18,808.10	Gabon
Gambia	D	30	2	0.15%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	204.47	6,583.73	Gambia
Ghana	C	114,552	1	27.83%	3.03%	937.00	937.00	10,519.68	193,212.26	205,605.94	Ghana
Grenada	C	932	0	0.23%	1.52%	937.00	0.00	5,259.84	1,571.98	7,768.82	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,713	2	2.60%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	15,779.52	18,069.37	36,659.89	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	46	2	0.01%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	15,779.52	77.59	18,668.10	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	1,210	2	5.98%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	8,246.76	14,626.03	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	0.00	6,379.27	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	0.00	6,379.27	Honduras
Iceland	A	1	1	0.00%	4.44%	937.00	937.00	57,443.24	4.12	59,321.35	Iceland
Japan	A	24,510	4	3.90%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	143,608.09	100,876.69	249,169.78	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	A	2,660	4	0.42%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	143,608.09	10,947.86	159,240.95	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	3,196	2	15.79%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	21,782.35	28,161.62	Liberia
Libya	D	3,678	3	18.17%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	4,757.69	25,067.42	33,573.11	Libya
Maroc	C	18,446	3	4.48%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	31,112.45	55,899.81	Maroc
Mauritania	C	16,945	3	4.12%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	28,580.75	53,368.10	Mauritania
Mexico	B	7,496	3	16.91%	33.33%	937.00	2,811.00	56,818.57	57,658.27	118,224.84	Mexico
Namibia	C	9,232	4	2.24%	7.58%	937.00	3,748.00	26,299.20	15,571.40	46,555.60	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.45%	937.00	937.00	2,378.85	0.00	4,252.85	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	0.00	6,379.27	Nigeria
Norway	A	134	2	0.02%	6.67%	937.00	1,874.00	86,164.86	551.51	89,527.36	Norway
Panama	B	24,157	4	54.50%	41.67%	937.00	3,748.00	71,023.21	185,812.53	261,520.74	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	0.00	6,379.27	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	A	2,283	2	0.36%	6.67%	937.00	1,874.00	86,164.86	9,396.23	98,372.08	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	639	4	3.16%	8.62%	937.00	3,748.00	5,947.11	4,355.11	14,987.22	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,175	2	5.80%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	8,008.22	14,387.48	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	58,490	3	14.21%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	98,653.75	123,441.11	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,568.27	0.00	6,379.27	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	4,903	3	24.22%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	4,757.69	33,416.41	41,922.10	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	76	1	0.38%	3.45%	937.00	937.00	2,378.85	517.98	4,770.82	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,695	2	0.65%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	15,779.52	4,545.60	23,136.11	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	17,218	2	4.18%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	15,779.52	29,041.21	47,631.73	Tunisie
Türkiye	B	12,668	2	28.58%	25.00%	937.00	1,874.00	42,613.93	97,440.62	142,865.55	Türkiye
Union Européenne	A	533,013	4	84.87%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	143,608.09	2,193,740.83	2,342,033.92	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	417	4	0.07%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	143,608.09	1,716.26	150,009.35	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	37,260	4	5.93%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	143,608.09	153,352.33	301,645.42	United States
Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	21,039.36	0.00	24,787.36	Uruguay
Venezuela	D	3,062	3	15.13%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	4,757.69	20,869.07	29,374.76	Venezuela

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

Table 4. Contributions by group 2024. 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	12	33	628,064	---	67.50%	11,244.00	30,921.00	3,877,418.49	3,919,583.49
B	3	9	44,321	3.00%	9.00%	2,811.00	8,433.00	511,367.13	522,611.13
C	19	47	411,637	1.00%	19.00%	17,803.00	44,039.00	1,041,448.17	1,103,290.17
D	18	40	20,244	0.25%	4.50%	16,866.00	37,480.00	206,959.57	261,305.57
TOTAL	52	129	1,104,266		100.00%	48,724.00	120,873.00	5,637,193.36	5,806,790.36

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

Table 5. Contracting Party Contributions 2025 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Catch + Group ^a	Catching ^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	A	157	1	0.02%	4.44%	937.00	937.00	61,725.08	694.34	64,293.42	Albania
	Algérie	D	1,585	2	7.83%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	11,808.31	18,519.79	Algérie
	Angola	D	42	3	0.21%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	5,200.64	312.90	9,261.54	Angola
	Barbados	C	268	2	0.07%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	17,012.17	487.34	20,310.51	Barbados
	Belize	C	39,335	4	9.56%	7.58%	937.00	3,748.00	28,353.62	71,528.18	104,566.80	Belize
	Brazil	C	52,305	3	12.71%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	95,113.29	121,544.19	Brazil
	Canada	A	2,371	3	0.38%	8.89%	937.00	2,811.00	123,450.17	10,485.81	137,683.98	Canada
	Cabo Verde	C	27,231	3	6.62%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	49,517.83	75,948.72	Cabo Verde
	China, People's Rep. of	C	4,672	4	1.13%	7.58%	937.00	3,748.00	28,353.62	8,495.73	41,534.35	China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	13,136	3	3.19%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	23,886.97	50,317.87	Côte d'Ivoire
	Curaçao	A	25,258	1	4.02%	4.44%	937.00	937.00	61,725.08	111,704.14	175,303.22	Curaçao
	Egypt	D	648	2	3.20%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	4,827.63	11,539.11	Egypt
	El Salvador	C	25,292	1	6.14%	3.03%	937.00	937.00	11,341.45	45,991.88	59,207.33	El Salvador
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0	3	0.00%	8.89%	937.00	2,811.00	123,450.17	0.00	127,198.17	France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	129	2	0.03%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	17,012.17	234.58	20,057.75	Gabon
	Gambia	D	30	2	0.15%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	223.50	6,934.98	Gambia
	Ghana	C	114,552	1	27.83%	3.03%	937.00	937.00	11,341.45	208,305.47	221,520.92	Ghana
	Grenada	C	932	0	0.23%	1.52%	937.00	0.00	5,670.72	1,694.78	8,302.51	Grenada
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,713	2	2.60%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	17,012.17	19,480.90	39,304.08	Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	46	2	0.01%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	17,012.17	83.65	19,906.82	Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	1,210	2	5.98%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	9,014.55	15,726.03	Guinea, Rep. of
	Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	0.00	6,711.48	Guinée-Bissau
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	0.00	6,711.48	Honduras
	Iceland	A	1	1	0.00%	4.44%	937.00	937.00	61,725.08	4.42	63,603.51	Iceland
	Japan	A	24,510	4	3.90%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	154,312.71	108,396.09	267,393.80	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	A	2,660	4	0.42%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	154,312.71	11,763.92	170,761.63	Korea, Rep. of
	Liberia	D	3,196	2	15.79%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	23,810.32	30,521.80	Liberia
	Libya	D	3,678	3	18.17%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	5,200.64	27,401.24	36,349.88	Libya
	Maroc	C	18,446	3	4.48%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	33,542.87	59,973.76	Maroc
	Mauritania	C	16,945	3	4.12%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	30,813.40	57,244.29	Mauritania
	Mexico	B	7,496	3	16.91%	33.33%	937.00	2,811.00	61,100.42	62,003.39	126,851.81	Mexico
	Namibia	C	9,232	4	2.24%	7.58%	937.00	3,748.00	28,353.62	16,787.80	49,826.42	Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.45%	937.00	937.00	2,600.32	0.00	4,474.32	Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	0.00	6,711.48	Nigeria
	Norway	A	134	2	0.02%	6.67%	937.00	1,874.00	92,587.63	592.62	95,991.25	Norway
	Panama	B	24,157	4	54.50%	41.67%	937.00	3,748.00	76,375.52	199,815.36	280,875.89	Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	0.00	6,711.48	Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	A	2,283	2	0.36%	6.67%	937.00	1,874.00	92,587.63	10,096.62	105,495.25	Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	639	4	3.16%	8.62%	937.00	3,748.00	6,500.80	4,760.57	15,946.38	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,175	2	5.80%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	8,753.80	15,465.28	São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	58,490	3	14.21%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	106,360.32	132,791.21	Senegal
	Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	937.00	1,874.00	3,900.48	0.00	6,711.48	Sierra Leone
	South Africa	D	4,903	3	24.22%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	5,200.64	36,527.54	45,476.18	South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	76	1	0.38%	3.45%	937.00	937.00	2,600.32	566.20	5,040.52	Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,695	2	0.65%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	17,012.17	4,900.68	24,723.86	Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	17,218	2	4.18%	4.55%	937.00	1,874.00	17,012.17	31,309.83	51,133.00	Tunisie
	Türkiye	B	12,668	2	28.58%	25.00%	937.00	1,874.00	45,825.31	104,783.75	153,420.06	Türkiye
	Union Européenne	A	533,013	4	84.87%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	154,312.71	2,357,263.37	2,516,261.08	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	417	4	0.07%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	154,312.71	1,844.19	160,841.90	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	37,260	4	5.93%	11.11%	937.00	3,748.00	154,312.71	164,783.29	323,781.00	United States
	Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	6.06%	937.00	2,811.00	22,682.89	0.00	26,430.89	Uruguay
	Venezuela	D	3,062	3	15.13%	6.90%	937.00	2,811.00	5,200.64	22,812.02	31,760.66	Venezuela

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

Table 6. Contributions by group 2025. 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	12	33	628,064	---	67.50%	11,244.00	30,921.00	4,166,443.20	4,208,608.20
B	3	9	44,321	3.00%	9.00%	2,811.00	8,433.00	549,903.76	561,147.76
C	19	47	411,637	1.00%	19.00%	17,803.00	44,039.00	1,122,803.27	1,184,645.27
D	18	40	20,244	0.25%	4.50%	16,866.00	37,480.00	226,227.88	280,573.88
TOTAL	52	129	1,104,266		100.00%	48,724.00	120,873.00	6,065,378.12	6,234,975.12

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>	2019			2020			2021			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania	156 t		156	168 t		168	148 t		148	Albania
Algérie	1,446		1,446	1,655		1,655	1,655		1,655	Algérie
Angola	0 t		0	28 t		28	99 t		99	Angola
Barbados	207 t		207	280 t		280	317 t		317	Barbados
Belize	30,175	7,079	37,254	31,736	10,027	41,763	26,538	12,451	38,989	Belize
Brazil	48,085	2,354	50,439	46,805	2,702	49,507	52,519	4,450	56,969	Brazil
Canada	2,074	0	2,074	2,396	0	2,396	2,643	0	2,643	Canada
Cabo Verde	12,952 t	15,252 coo	28,204	15,552 t	15,252 coo	30,804	7,432 t	15,252 coo	22,684	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	6,763	0	6,763	4,977	0	4,977	2,275	0	2,275	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	16,378 t		16,378	10,301 t		10,301	12,728 t		12,728	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	28,708 t		28,708	22,544 t		22,544	24,521 t		24,521	Curaçao
Egypt	541 t		541	442 t		442	961 t		961	Egypt
El Salvador	24,240	998	25,238	26,166	2,909	29,075	18,182	3,380	21,562	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	t		0	t		0	t		0	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	151 t		151	42 t		42	195 t		195	Gabon
Gambia	t		0	30 t		30	t		0	Gambia
Ghana	96,618	24,500	121,118	90,254	32,660	122,914	68,589	31,035	99,624	Ghana
Grenada	1,271 t		1,271	1,113 t		1,113	412 t		412	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	12,587 t		12,587	10,203 t		10,203	9,348 t		9,348	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	45 t		45	46 t		46	46 t		46	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	t		0	t		0	1,210 t		1,210	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	t		0	t		0	t		0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	t		0	t		0	t		0	Honduras
Iceland	t		0	1 t		1	1 t		1	Iceland
Japan	27,648		27,648	23,803		23,803	22,080		22,080	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	3,071 t		3,071	2,259 t		2,259	2,650 t		2,650	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	205 t		205	8,806 t		8,806	578 t		578	Liberia
Libya	2,241 t	1,350 coo	3,591	2,396 t	1,350 coo	3,746	2,348 t	1,350 coo	3,698	Libya
Maroc	15,134 t	957 coo	16,091	17,914 t	957 coo	18,871	19,418 t	957 coo	20,375	Maroc
Mauritania	6,091 t	5,330 coo	11,421	15,832 t	5,330 coo	21,162	12,921 t	5,330 coo	18,251	Mauritania
Mexico	9,319 t		9,319	7,409 t		7,409	5,759 t		5,759	Mexico
Namibia	4,307 t		4,307	9,052 t		9,052	14,338 t		14,338	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	t		0	t		0	t		0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	t		0	t		0	t		0	Nigeria
Norway	49	0	49	194	0	194	158	0	158	Norway
Panama	23,860	0	23,860	24,646	0	24,646	23,965	0	23,965	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,500		1,500	3,916		3,916	1,433		1,433	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	938	0	938	791	0	791	187	0	187	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	1,329 t		1,329	830 t		830	1,366 t		1,366	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	52,493 t	9,229 coo	61,722	42,308 t	9,229 coo	51,537	52,981 t	9,229 coo	62,210	Senegal
Sierra Leone	t		0	t		0	t		0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	4,179 t		4,179	5,418 t		5,418	5,113 t		5,113	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	72 t		72	79 t		79	t		0	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	2,620	0	2,620	2,595	0	2,595	2,869		2,869	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	11,657 t	6,826 coo	18,483	10,305 t	6,826 coo	17,131	9,213 t	6,826 coo	16,039	Tunisie
Türkiye	4,679		4,679	26,824		26,824	6,501		6,501	Türkiye
Union Européenne	267,998	299,107	567,105	215,386	299,107	514,493	218,334	299,107	517,441	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	503 t		503	310 t		310	439 t		439	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	19,293	8,396	27,689	37,008	10,342	47,350	27,166	9,576	36,742	United States
Uruguay	t		0	t		0	t		0	Uruguay
Venezuela	2,960	161	3,121	2,548	294	2,842	2,842	382	3,224	Venezuela
TOTAL	744,543	381,539	1,126,082	725,368	396,985	1,122,353	662,478	399,325	1,061,803	TOTAL

coo = Transfer of the data received (S19-01573).

t = Transfer of the latest data received/obtained from the database.

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication.

(Data updated until 27 October 2023)



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 2,02 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2017-2018-2019 Catches (t)
d	Average 2017-2018-2019 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

Table 3 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

eBCD Table 1. 2024-2025 eBCD system budget (Euros).

eBCD system fund	2023	%	2024	%	2025
Support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system	304,500.00	5.09%	320,000.00	5.00%	336,000.00
Developments in the web application ("Flexible" allotment): Development activities requested by the Working Group (WG)*					
a) Other developments as required*	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Salaries	87,376.71	9.45%	95,630.66	5.00%	100,412.19
TOTAL BUDGET	391,876.71 	6.06%	415,630.66 	5.00%	436,412.19

* Note, these amounts may be subject to change depending on decisions taken during the 2023 Commission meeting.

eBCD Table 2. Basic information to calculate the 2024-2025 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	Average Catch ^b (2017-2019)	% Average Catch ^b	No. of Trade ^c	% No. of Trade ^c	Import weight ^d	% Import weight ^d	Contracting Parties
Albania	A	157.44	0.66%	3	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	Albania
Algérie	D	1,578.50	39.10%	33	19.64%	0.00	0.00%	Algérie
Canada	A	618.40	2.59%	4,921	3.28%	54.05	0.04%	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	C	96.98	1.64%	449	3.80%	66.58	100.00%	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	D	237.34	5.88%	76	45.24%	0.00	0.00%	Egypt
Iceland	A	0.41	0.00%	32	0.02%	0.93	0.00%	Iceland
Japan	A	3,102.93	12.98%	14,884	9.93%	93,418.24	75.30%	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	A	240.65	1.01%	2,955	1.97%	10,657.92	8.59%	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	D	2,171.34	53.78%	57	33.93%	0.00	0.00%	Libya
Maroc	C	3,222.66	54.56%	10,744	90.88%	0.00	0.00%	Maroc
Mexico	B	43.00	2.01%	103	4.38%	0.00	0.00%	Mexico
Norway	A	133.79	0.56%	230	0.15%	20.83	0.02%	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	D	50.39	1.25%	2	1.19%	0.00	0.00%	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	C	2,587.42	43.80%	629	5.32%	0.00	0.00%	Tunisie
Türkiye	B	2,095.20	97.99%	2,247	95.62%	0.00	0.00%	Türkiye
Union Européenne	A	18,453.93	77.21%	114,546	76.40%	17,064.62	13.76%	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	1.80	0.01%	470	0.31%	162.49	0.13%	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	1,192.08	4.99%	11,893	7.93%	2,680.01	2.16%	United States

a), b), c), d): See the legends in the Annex.

eBCD Table 3. 2024 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

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	A	0.66%	0.00%	0.00%	655.90	727.53	2.95	0.00	1,386.38	Albania
	Algérie	D	39.10%	19.64%	0.00%	655.90	257.66	171.61	0.00	1,085.17	Algérie
	Canada	A	2.59%	3.28%	0.04%	655.90	2,857.65	4,833.43	48.12	8,395.10	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	C	1.64%	3.80%	100.00%	655.90	51.72	159.53	3,150.37	4,017.52	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	5.88%	45.24%	0.00%	655.90	38.74	395.22	0.00	1,089.86	Egypt
	Iceland	A	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	655.90	1.91	31.43	0.83	690.07	Iceland
	Japan	A	12.98%	9.93%	75.30%	655.90	14,338.75	14,619.13	83,169.92	112,783.69	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	A	1.01%	1.97%	8.59%	655.90	1,112.04	2,902.41	9,488.71	14,159.06	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	D	53.78%	33.93%	0.00%	655.90	354.43	296.41	0.00	1,306.75	Libya
	Maroc	C	54.56%	90.88%	0.00%	655.90	1,718.72	3,817.46	0.00	6,192.08	Maroc
	Mexico	B	2.01%	4.38%	0.00%	655.90	204.30	590.25	0.00	1,450.45	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.56%	0.15%	0.02%	655.90	618.25	225.91	18.54	1,518.60	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	1.25%	1.19%	0.00%	655.90	8.23	10.40	0.00	674.53	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	43.80%	5.32%	0.00%	655.90	1,379.93	223.49	0.00	2,259.32	Tunisie
	Türkiye	B	97.99%	95.62%	0.00%	655.90	9,954.89	12,876.59	0.00	23,487.39	Türkiye
	Union Européenne	A	77.21%	76.40%	13.76%	655.90	85,276.29	112,507.56	15,192.57	213,632.31	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.01%	0.31%	0.13%	655.90	8.30	461.64	144.66	1,270.50	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	4.99%	7.93%	2.16%	655.90	5,508.63	11,681.35	2,386.00	20,231.89	United States

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

eBCD Table 4. 2024 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	9	23,901.42	149,934.00	124,059.09	---	90.00%	5,903.10	110,449.35	147,265.80	110,449.35	374,067.59
B	2	2,138.20	2,350.00	0.00	3.00%	6.00%	1,311.80	10,159.20	13,466.84	0.00	24,937.84
C	3	5,907.05	11,822.00	66.58	1.00%	3.00%	1,967.70	3,150.37	4,200.49	3,150.37	12,468.92
D	4	4,037.57	168.00	0.00	0.25%	1.00%	2,623.60	659.06	873.64	0.00	4,156.31
TOTAL	18	35,984.25	164,274.00	124,125.66		100.00%	11,806.20	124,417.98	165,806.77	113,599.71	415,630.66

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

eBCD Table 5. 2025 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

						Exchange rate: 1 €=		1.067 US\$ (11/2023)			
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	A	0.66%	0.00%	0.00%	655.90	764.49	3.10	0.00	1,423.49	Albania
	Algérie	D	39.10%	19.64%	0.00%	655.90	292.60	194.88	0.00	1,143.37	Algérie
	Canada	A	2.59%	3.28%	0.04%	655.90	3,002.82	5,078.97	50.56	8,788.26	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	C	1.64%	3.80%	100.00%	655.90	54.79	169.01	3,337.40	4,217.10	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	5.88%	45.24%	0.00%	655.90	44.00	448.81	0.00	1,148.70	Egypt
	Iceland	A	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	655.90	2.01	33.03	0.87	691.81	Iceland
	Japan	A	12.98%	9.93%	75.30%	655.90	15,067.18	15,361.80	87,395.09	118,479.98	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	A	1.01%	1.97%	8.59%	655.90	1,168.54	3,049.86	9,970.75	14,845.05	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	D	53.78%	33.93%	0.00%	655.90	402.49	336.60	0.00	1,395.00	Libya
	Maroc	C	54.56%	90.88%	0.00%	655.90	1,820.75	4,044.10	0.00	6,520.76	Maroc
	Mexico	B	2.01%	4.38%	0.00%	655.90	215.09	621.40	0.00	1,492.39	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.56%	0.15%	0.02%	655.90	649.66	237.38	19.49	1,562.43	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	1.25%	1.19%	0.00%	655.90	9.34	11.81	0.00	677.05	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	43.80%	5.32%	0.00%	655.90	1,461.85	236.76	0.00	2,354.51	Tunisie
	Türkiye	B	97.99%	95.62%	0.00%	655.90	10,480.27	13,556.17	0.00	24,692.34	Türkiye
	Union Européenne	A	77.21%	76.40%	13.76%	655.90	89,608.46	118,223.13	15,964.37	224,451.87	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.01%	0.31%	0.13%	655.90	8.72	485.09	152.01	1,301.72	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	4.99%	7.93%	2.16%	655.90	5,788.48	12,274.79	2,507.21	21,226.38	United States

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

eBCD Table 6. 2025 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	9	23,901.42	149,934.00	124,059.09	---	90.00%	5,903.10	116,060.36	154,747.15	116,060.36	392,770.97
B	2	2,138.20	2,350.00	0.00	3.00%	6.00%	1,311.80	10,695.36	14,177.57	0.00	26,184.73
C	3	5,907.05	11,822.00	66.58	1.00%	3.00%	1,967.70	3,337.40	4,449.87	3,337.40	13,092.37
D	4	4,037.57	168.00	0.00	0.25%	1.00%	2,623.60	748.42	992.10	0.00	4,364.12
TOTAL	18	35,984.25	164,274.00	124,125.66		100.00%	11,806.20	130,841.55	174,366.68	119,397.76	436,412.19

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

eBCD Table 7. Eastern and western bluefin tuna catch figures (in t) for 2019-2021 of the members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>2019</i>			<i>2020</i>			<i>2021</i>			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania	156.25		156.25	167.67		167.67	148.40		148.40	Albania
Algérie	1,436.95		1,436.95	1,648.68		1,648.68	1,649.86		1,649.86	Algérie
Canada		632.87	632.87		591.60	591.60		630.73	630.73	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	88.96		88.96	100.99		100.99	100.99		100.99	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	263.34		263.34	122.08		122.08	326.61		326.61	Egypt
Iceland	0.00		0.00	0.70		0.70	0.54		0.54	Iceland
Japan	2,523.73	406.29	2,930.02	2,781.63	407.58	3,189.21	2,779.99	409.57	3,189.56	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	232.43		232.43	247.27		247.27	242.24		242.24	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	2,051.65		2,051.65	2,228.20		2,228.20	2,234.18		2,234.18	Libya
Maroc	2,920.00		2,920.00	3,453.71		3,453.71	3,294.26		3,294.26	Maroc
Mexico		39.00	39.00		28.00	28.00		62.00	62.00	Mexico
Norway	49.30		49.30	194.39		194.39	157.68		157.68	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	71.97		71.97	79.20		79.20	0.00		0.00	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	2,379.13		2,379.13	2,653.38		2,653.38	2,729.74		2,729.74	Tunisie
Türkiye	1,770.78		1,770.78	2,257.88		2,257.88	2,256.95		2,256.95	Türkiye
Union Européenne	17,064.09		17,064.09	19,134.03		19,134.03	19,163.67		19,163.67	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		0.34	0.34		1.42	1.42	2.92	0.71	3.63	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States		1,190.78	1,190.78		1,184.99	1,184.99		1,200.46	1,200.46	United States
TOTAL	31,008.58	2,269.28	33,277.86	35,069.80	2,213.59	37,283.39	35,088.02	2,303.47	37,391.49	TOTAL

Catch figures (in t) based on Compliance Table tabled at 2022 annual meeting (COC-304 - Tables 2022).

ANNEX: Legends

Table 2

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t
b	Average catches (t) for 2017-2019
c	Total number of trades in the eBCD system 2017-2019
d	CPC's overall volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system (The relevant trade and import data from the eBCD system shall reflect the same time period used to determine the relevant catch and canning data pursuant to paragraph 1(b)(ii).)

Table 3 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

Appendix 1**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reports from the ICCAT Secretariat
 - 4.1 2023 Administrative Report
 - 4.2 2023 Financial Report
 - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Assistance to developing CPCs
 - 5.1 Review of procedures and funding for the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)
6. Consideration of methods to ensure the availability of rapporteurs
7. Review of progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing
8. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests
9. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed
10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2024/2025
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2024 and 2025

This 2024 and 2025 science budget proposal, contained in the **Tables 1 and 2** below, was developed by the SCRS Chair together with the Secretariat, based on SCRS priorities and on the following:

- 1) Estimated balance of the Science Envelope that amounts to €2,171,731.42 at the end of 2023 SCRS activities, of which €1,170,906.08 corresponds to the Strategic Research Fund (see STF_202/2023, item 18) and €940,359.57 corresponds to ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) (see STF_202/2023, item 7), respectively. This balance results from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SCRS planned activities throughout 2020 to 2022, as well as to the priority given by the Secretariat to the use of the voluntary contributions available.
- 2) The assumption that the Commission will contribute a total of €45,000.00 and €400,000, through the regular budget in 2024 and 2025, respectively.
- 3) The remaining amount requires voluntary contributions from ICCAT CPCs. For that purpose, the Secretariat has been working closely with some CPCs, which regularly provide voluntary contributions, to secure additional funds for the 2024 and 2025 Science Budget.

Therefore, as detailed in **Tables 1 and 2**, the total budget of the 2024 Science Envelope will be €1,939,400, of which €885,000 corresponds to bluefin tuna (GBYP). Whereas the total budget of the 2025 Science Envelope is estimated at €1,788,100, of which €815,000 corresponds to bluefin tuna (GBYP).

Table 1. SCRS requested funds for carrying out its activities in 2024.

Activity	<i>Biology</i>								<i>Other fisheries related studies</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>MSE</i>	<i>Workshops</i>	<i>Coordination</i>	Total
	Tagging	Reproduction	Age and growth	Genetics	Sample collection and shipping	Other	Consumables	Sub-total	(inc. data recovery of fisheries statistics; update ICCAT manual)	Expert to be hired	MSE	Workshops	(incl. Salaries)	
Bluefin tuna (GBYP)	50,000			75,000	50,000	365,000		540,000		10,000	5,000		330,000	885,000
Albacore (ALBYP)	33,000	20,000	7,500		6,500			67,000			30,000		97,000	109,125
Billfish (EPBR)	30,000	10,000	20,000		7,000	11,000		78,000		10,000				100,125
Sharks (SDCRP)	100,000	7,500	10,000	20,000	2,000			139,500		20,000				171,625
Small tunas (SMTYP)		5,000	5,000	5,000	7,500			22,500			16,000			50,625
Swordfish (SWOYP)	110,000	10,000	20,000	70,000	7,000	15,000		232,000	3,000		95,000	25,000		367,125
Tropicals tunas (TTRDCP)	7,000		15,000					22,000			125,000			159,125
SC Ecosystems								0		16,400		20,000		48,525
Stock Assessment methods								0		5,000		31,000		48,125
SC Statistics								0						0
Total	330,000	52,500	77,500	170,000	80,000	391,000	0	1,101,000	3,000	61,400	255,000	92,000		427,000

Table 2. SCRS requested funds for carrying out its activities in 2025.

Activity	<i>Biology</i>								<i>Other fisheries related studies</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>MSE</i>	<i>Workshops</i>	<i>Coordination</i>	Total
	Tagging	Reproduction	Age and growth	Genetics	Sample collection and shipping	Other	Consumables	Sub-total	(inc. data recovery of fisheries statistics; update ICCAT Manual)	Expert to be hired	MSE	Workshops	(incl. Salaries)	
Bluefin tuna (GBYP)	50,000			100,000	55,000	365,000		570,000		10,000			235,000	815,000
Albacore (ALBYP)	32,750	20,000	7,500		5,000			65,250			30,000		200,000	120,250
Billfish (EPBR)	27,750	10,000	10,000		7,000			54,750		10,000		25,000		114,750
Sharks (SDCRP)	50,000	7,500	7,000	20,000		28,500		113,000				20,000		158,000
Small tunas (SMTYP)		7,500	7,500	7,500	10,000			32,500				16,850		74,350
Swordfish (SWOYP)	116,500	10,000	15,000	60,000				201,500			20,000			246,500
Tropicals tunas (TTRDCP)	8,750		15,000					23,750			100,000			148,750
SC Ecosystems								0		14,500		20,000		59,500
Stock Assessment methods								0		26,000				51,000
SC Statistics								0						0
Total	285,750	55,000	62,000	187,500	77,000	393,500	0	1,060,750	0	60,500	150,000	81,850	435,000	1,788,100

Template for Cover sheet to accompany new proposals

(submitted by the Chair of STACFAD)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution:

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues:

1. Does it create new **reporting obligation(s)** for CPCs? Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

2. Does it require additional input or **work by the SCRS**? Yes No

Is this work already included in the current SCRS workplan Yes No

Brief description of new scientific work required (i.e. stock assessment, analysis, external consultant):

3. Does it involve the creation of a **new working group or intersessional process**? Yes No

4. Does it require a new **programme or additional activities to be managed by the Secretariat**?

Yes No

Brief description of new Secretariat work required:

5. What is the proposed timeframe for implementation, and are there different specific timeframes for certain CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.:

6. Is there any other relevant information regarding the resource and workload implications of the proposal:

For example, 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)? Will the proposed measure eliminate redundancy, streamline reporting requirements, or reduce unnecessary burden to CPCs? Will the new proposal, and any requirements therein, apply to the whole Convention area or does it contain a geographical delimitation?

Proposed Commission budget for Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) 2024-2025

(submitted by Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT))

Executive summary

In 2016, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the development of an online reporting system (Rec. 16-19)* in an effort to simplify and streamline reporting by CPCs, including by consolidating and reducing reporting requirements, which reduces duplication in the reporting process. The Recommendation set out terms of reference establishing a Working Group to develop an online reporting system covering ICCAT reporting requirements. In 2022, the Commission adopted *Recommendation 22-17*, which requires that CPCs (1) register at least one user in IOMS; (2) submit Part I, Annex 1 and Part II, Section 3 of the Annual Report directly in IOMS beginning in 2023; and (3) use IOMS to submit additional reporting information in the future as new modules enter into production. In addition to Rec. 22-17, the *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System (Rec. 21-20)* and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System (Rec. 16-19)* remain in place.

Phase I of the IOMS was covered through extra-budgetary contributions. Since 2020 (Phase II of IOMS), the ICCAT budget has included the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) as Chapter 14. This budget item included an allocation of €200,000.00 for 2020 and €206,000.00 for 2021 (see document [STF_203A/2019](#) for further details). For 2022-2023, the budget item was €206,000.00 and €212,180.00, respectively (see document [STF_203A/2021](#) for further details). **Table 1** contains an overview of these funding amounts. The budget for Phase II and III includes the salary of a senior back-end software developer and a senior front-end software developer, in addition to the infrastructure and staff support necessary for incorporation of new models into the system platform. Approximately 85% of the budget is dedicated to salary for staff support, with the remaining 15% dedicated to expenses related to training/capacity building (workshops and other user support), IT elements (software licenses, IOMS cloud servers and services, etc.) and external services (translation of the user's manuals of the IOMS Dynamic Help System – including updates).

Proposed budget for 2024-2025 – Phase IV

In 2023, the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) discussed increasing the IOMS budgetary request to allow for fulfilment of the WG's workplan. The following discussion is an excerpt from the 2023 report of the WG-ORT:

“Regarding the budget of the IOMS, the ICCAT Secretariat elaborated that currently the team that is devoted to the IOMS comprises 2 developers that are funded by ICCAT's regular budget (agreed biennial; currently at about €200,000/year) plus 1 developer that is currently funded via the voluntary contribution of the EU. Furthermore, there are two additional main roles that the IOMS team carries out besides the development of the IOMS: maintenance and user support. Maintaining these three important roles with the current team is unsustainable in the long run. The ICCAT Secretariat stressed that it is imperative to request an increase in ICCAT's regular budget for the IOMS, with the goal of having a permanent team of highly specialised, dedicated IOMS experts comprising optimally three or four developers.”

In response to the Secretariat:

“The WG-ORT acknowledged that the IOMS is a large, long-term project that requires more than the current available capacity and funding (covering 2 software developers working full-time) to deal with the three major operational tasks (new development, maintenance, user support). [...] Considering the increasing scope and functionality development needed to support the work of the Commission, additional staff support and a more consistent, sustainable budget are required in order to ensure timely development of current and future planned phases. The WG-ORT discussed potential budget increases that it could request from the Commission at the next Annual Meeting.”

After further discussion, the WG-ORT agreed to *request a €200,000/year increase in the IOMS budget allocation* to support the hiring of two additional software developers. If agreed, this increased budget would, therefore, cover the salary of a total of two senior back-end and two senior front-end software developers as well as continue to ensure maintenance, development of new modules, and user support. Complementarily, this budget increase will also improve the IOMS sustainability and resilience in the long run, by allowing the training of the two additional software experts on the IOMS adopted technologies. The budget would continue to be allocated as it currently is, with 85% going to staff salary and the remaining 15% covering IOMS operational costs. The funds dedicated to system operations are necessary as IOMS is evolving and requires higher capacity/power cloud servers to support the increasing number of modules (and other IT services), more training workshops on the use of the system, and development of additional training manuals, including translation. The 15% allocation for IOMS operational costs can only be used to provide IT services related to the revision or expansion of current IOMS modules. Use of funds from this earmarked allocation for other purposes would require a recommendation from the WG-ORT and agreement by STACFAD and the Commission.

The workplan of the WG-ORT (**Table 2**) to advance the use of IOMS within ICCAT is a massive undertaking and the proposed budget increase to support Phase IV is necessary to ensure adequate staff for system development, maintenance, and support for CPCs as they transition to use this system. Further, it should be highlighted that development of this automated platform will, in the future, afford significant savings and increased efficiency in the workload of the Secretariat in particular, and the Commission in general. The request for this increase will be sent to the Commission for consideration by STACFAD during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Table 1. Budgetary review of previous IOMS phases and request for Phase IV.

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget (€)</i>	<i>Phase</i>
2020	200,000	Phase II
2021	206,000	Phase II
2022	206,000	Phase III
2023	212,180	Phase III
2024	412,180 (requested)	Phase IV
2025	412,180 (requested)	Phase IV

Table 2. This table provides the WG-ORT workplan to develop the IOMS. Copied from the 2023 Report of the WG-ORT. It covers ongoing and future development phases. Shaded cells indicate the major updates made to the 2022 workplan. Details of each phase are shown at the bottom. Phases 4 and 5 are preliminary module references.

Phase start	Priority	Module /Task	Description	Data requirements	Dev. Status	Date start	Date end	Phase end	Budget	Remarks
1	1	Module	IOMS core/database	n/a	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	2	Module	IOMS annual report (Part II/Section 3, Part I/Annex 1)	S:GEN01, M:GEN01	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	3	Task	IOMS in production		COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	1	Task	Training/workshop sessions (Phase 1)		COMPLETE	2022-04-28	2022-09-01	2	COM-18	Two sessions (4 hours each)
1	1	Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)		Ongoing	2019-06-01	n/a	n/a	COM-18	Continuous task (maintenance)
2	1	Module	Dynamic Help system (module)	n/a	COMPLETE	2021-03-31	2022-03-31	2	CPC (EU)	EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022)
2	1	Task	Adjustments to the new roles definition	n/a	COMPLETE	2022-02-15	2022-03-15	2	COM-19	Adopted by WG-ORT 2022
2	1	Module	ICCAT Vessel Manager	Up to 21 data requirements (Vessel registration, 11 authorisation lists, carriers, chartering arrangements, transhipment authorizations, previous year activity)	Ongoing	2021-03-01	2023-10-31	3	COM-19 & CPC (EU)	Development extended to Phase 3 (10 additional months) jointly with UN/FLUX integration. Partially covered by EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023)
2	1	Task	UN/FLUX integration into Vessel Manager	All requirements of Vessel registration and authorizations (11 lists)	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2023-11-30	3	CPC (EU)	EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023)
2	2	Module	Enhancements to Dynamic Help system (generalization)	n/a	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2023-03-31	3	CPC (EU)	Near completion (final tests)
2	1	Task	Vessels training/workshop session(s)	n/a	Planned	2023-10-05	2023-10-05	3	COM-19	IOMS users preliminary tests on Vessel module (1 session)
3	1	Module	Form Manager	Module to upload and manage all ICCAT forms (ST, CP, TG)	Planned	2023-07-01	2023-12-31	3	COM-21	Start & end dates: estimates
3	2	Module	Port Manager	M:BFT21, M:SWO10	Planned	2024-01-01	2024-05-31	3	COM-21	Start & end dates: estimates
3	1	Task	Form manager & Port manager training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD	3	COM-21	To decide of 1 session each
3	1	Module	Shark/Billfish Check Sheets Manager	M:SHK05, M:BIL01	Planned	2024-05-01	TBD	4	COM-21	To study the possibilities of re-using AR module code / Start date may change
3	1	Task	Shark/Billfish Check Sheets training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD	3	COM-21	
4	1	Module	T1NC (Task 1 nominal catches) Manager	S:GEN03	Planned	2024-06-30	TBD		COM-23	Start date may change (pending study on time required)
4	2	Module	Compliance tables (COCT) Manager	M:GEN03	Planned	2024-06-30	TBD		COM-23	Start date may change (pending study on time required)
4	1	Task	T1NC/COCT training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
4	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
5	1	Module	SDP programs (SWO, BET)	M:TRO06, M:SWO01	Planned				COM-23	
5	2	Module	Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager	M:BFT22, M:BFT23, M:TRO14 weekly BET	Planned				COM-23	
5	3	Module	Task 2 - Catch and effort	S:GEN04	Planned				COM-23	
5	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing		Planned				COM-23	

Complementary information on IOMS Phases:

Phase	Start	End	Budget (months)	COM meeting	Budget Year	Budget Type
Phase 1	2019-06-01	2020-05-31	12	annual	2018	Extraordinary
Phase 2	2020-06-01	2022-05-31	24	biennial	2019	Regular
Phase 3	2022-06-01	2024-05-31	24	biennial	2021	Regular
Phase 4	2024-06-01	2026-05-31	25	biennial	2023	Regular

Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4

8.1 Report of the Meeting of Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr Paul Bannerman (Ghana), opened the meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Callan Yanoff (United States) was appointed as the Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Panel reviewed the draft agenda.

At the request of a CPC, the Chair of Panel 1 explained how he intended to approach agenda item 8 on conservation of stocks.

With that clarification, the meeting agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1**).

4. Review of Panel membership

The Chair of Panel 1 reported that Barbados and The Gambia had joined the Panel, bringing its membership to 43 CPCs. The 43 members are Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Craig Brown, presented information from the SCRS report on tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack). The presentation summarized the status of the yellowfin and bigeye stocks and explained the results of the 2022 western and eastern skipjack stock assessment. He also described the 2023-2024 SCRS funding requests and communicated the progress of the tropical tunas management strategy evaluation (MSE) for both the multi-stock MSE and the western skipjack MSE. The SCRS Chair responded to questions on historical FAD data analysis, management objectives, and improving the MSE roadmap, in addition to other topics.

The 2019 yellowfin stock assessment indicated the stock was not overfished but recent catches had greatly exceeded the TAC (110,000 t), bringing the fishing mortality rate near the overfishing threshold. Catches of 120,000 t or less are expected to maintain healthy stock status with at least a 63% probability of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot.

The latest bigeye stock assessment was conducted in 2021, using data up to 2019. The last assessment results were significantly different from the previous one conducted in 2018, in part due to new estimate of the natural mortality rate and its uncertainty, and changes in how the joint longline index of abundance was calculated, this last due to complications related to the pandemic. Per the 2021 assessment, the stock was overfished, just below the level that supports maximum sustainable yield (MSY) (0.94). The SCRS cautioned that the projected probabilities in the Kobe table should be viewed with caution as it did not reflect important uncertainties.

The 2022 assessments conducted for the eastern and western stocks of skipjack tuna included data through 2020 and were the first assessments to provide quantitative estimates of management reference points and projections of stock status for both skipjack stocks. Catches of the eastern stock have increased steadily since the 1950s and in 2022 exceeded 270,000 t, the second highest on record. The catches of the western stock are lower than for the eastern stock and have been more constant over time. Dr Brown highlighted the MSY level on the Kobe phase plot, showing that the stock status of eastern skipjack in 2020 was estimated with a high probability (78%) to be in the green quadrant (not overfished/no overfishing). He noted that, according to the Kobe II Strategy Matrix (K2SM), a future constant catch using the median MSY (216,617 t) would have about a 55% probability of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant through 2028. At that constant catch level, however, he noted with concern that the probability of the stock biomass (B) being below 20% of B_{MSY} in 2028 was about 17% and the probability of it being below 10% of B_{MSY} was about 14%. For the western stock, the SCRS Chair reported that the stock in 2020 was estimated with a high probability (91%) to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot. Per the K2SM, a future constant catch using the median MSY (35,277 t) would have about a 70% probability of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant by 2028. The probability of the western stock biomass being either below 20% or 10% of B_{MSY} in 2028 was low at less than 1%.

Dr Brown summarized the management objectives for the western Atlantic skipjack MSE and noted that the requested climate change robustness tests are not complete yet. The 3-year management cycle was decided intersessionally and the candidate management procedures (CMPs) included constant catch, empirical, and model-based. The various western skipjack CMPs showed the stock in a positive status and that Kobe plots predict good performance - with the stock trajectory in the green quadrant. The SCRS highlighted a positive projected 30-year time series of the spawning stock biomass relative to MSY levels. The SCRS Chair closed this presentation by showing the specific abundance indices that were updated and added to the table.

One CPC requested more precise information about bigeye tuna management measures and the stock status, noting the need for more information on fleet capacity since there seemed to be a discrepancy for certain vessels. The CPC additionally requested more information on the movement of bigeye tuna in light of climate change. Finally, the CPC suggested that catches of juveniles have been reduced, indicating that the management measures adopted in 2019 are working well.

The SCRS Chair responded that the Committee would work with the Secretariat to identify and try to resolve any discrepancies regarding capacity. Dr Brown noted that a decrease in available bigeye tuna as they move deeper in the water column is one of the potential impacts of climate change, and ICCAT should further consider thermocline impacts.

One CPC questioned the reason tropical tunas warrant special emphasis on uncertainties, as it is typically less with other species groups. The SCRS Chair highlighted an emphasis in reducing the uncertainties in the stock assessment inputs. Bigeye tuna assessments use a combined index, which substantially improves modeling. CPCs debated the different data treatments used in the most recent bigeye tuna assessment and the related uncertainties, with several CPCs stressing the important impact these data treatments had on the results of the assessment.

Another CPC highlighted that the most recent yellowfin tuna catch exceeded the TAC by 35% and recommended the Commission conduct a stock assessment in 2024. Some CPCs recalled the decision support tool and asked that it be used to evaluate management alternatives on small fish and fleet allocations in 2024. The SCRS Chair confirmed that the tool was first used in 2018 and noted that it had been updated and could be used to provide information to the Panel next year.

6. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair of Panel 1 confirmed all CPCs have reviewed the reports. The [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 on Western Skipjack MSE](#); [Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#); [Report on Fourth Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) were approved.

7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans

The Chair of Panel 1 urged CPCs to examine the compliance tables and provide any updates to the Secretariat without delay. Senegal presented its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Senegal’s Bigeye Tuna Payback Plan”, covering overharvests from 2021-2023. The Panel discussed the rationale behind the 10-year time period for Senegal’s payback plan since other CPCs have a less flexible timeline. In light of this, a few CPCs suggested lowering the timeline to 2-5 years. Brazil presented its response letter and its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Brazil’s Bigeye Tuna Payback Plan” for its accumulated overharvest and highlighted its commitment to improving monitoring and control mechanisms. Following additional discussion and clarification, the payback plans were updated and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)

The Chair of Panel 1 stated his desire for progress on tropical tuna conservation measures and acknowledged the limited sessions during the meeting. He requested another session of Panel 1 be added later in the week, which was done. To facilitate the work of the Panel, CPCs that had tabled proposals agreed to work together to develop a single document.

The United States presented its “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna” to support development of the multi-stock tropical tuna MSE. The proposal included objectives related to status, safety, yield, and stability while also seeking input on and consideration of the impact of size selectivity in the development of operational management objectives for the stocks. One CPC suggested that, if a multi-stock approach is to be taken, the establishment of some or all operational management objectives might need to be by stock since some stocks are more robust to overfishing than others. Another CPC queried if this resolution was meant to be legally binding as most resolutions are not. In response, the United States clarified that, as proposed, the management objective values to be identified by the Panel would be the same for the three stocks. The United States noted, however, that the Panel could consider different values for the management objectives applicable to each stock if appropriate. The United States also confirmed that the proposal was intended to be a non-binding resolution just as those previously adopted for bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish. Further, as with bluefin tuna and northern swordfish, the United States envisioned that development of initial operational management objectives would be undertaken by the Panel through the usual intersessional process. Several CPCs supported the resolution as a useful starting point to support discussion and development of operational management objectives for the multi-stock MSE, while other CPCs requested more time to consider the proposal and indicated that they were not in a position to support such a proposal at this stage.

Taking into account input received, the United States presented an updated proposal. The United States responded to feedback from CPCs about the need for this proposal, noting that the timing of the proposal is consistent with the MSE Roadmap. The proposal was forwarded to the Commission for further consideration.

South Africa presented a joint proposal with Brazil and Japan “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” for a management measure for tropical tunas, explaining that the proposal aimed to find a common ground between Panel 1 members with a view to development of one unified measure. The proponents noted that ongoing conversations were happening on the margins, and they expected to introduce an updated document later in the meeting.

The United States presented a “Proposal to enhance the conservation and management of bigeye tuna through the establishment of a minimum size and related measures” and explained the concept of small fish sub quotas and small harvester limitations. A few CPCs commended the creativity in this proposal but expressed concern about enforceability as well as the feasibility of getting a substantive paper such as this adopted given the short time left in the meeting. Another CPC questioned the scientific basis of small fish bycatch limit amounts. The United States noted that it would be up to CPCs to determine the best way to implement the proposal based on the specific circumstances of its fisheries and noted its flexibility in the potential approaches to address catches of juvenile fish. A number of CPCs agreed the SCRS should offer advice on bigeye tuna minimum size requirements. There was no consensus on the proposal.

The Chair of Panel 1 turned attention to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, submitted by South Africa, Japan, Brazil, Namibia, Angola, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uruguay and the European Union, which attempted to merge three different proposals for conservation and management tropical tunas with a view to finding consensus. While appreciating the effort, a number of CPCs stressed frustration with the way the document was developed. Guatemala stressed the importance of equitable coordination between developing and developed CPCs on tropical tunas conservation measures. Guatemala highlighted the communication challenges faced by Panel 1 during past and current annual meetings, and encouraged CPCs – both big and small harvesters – to work together towards their common goals. Some other CPCs agreed there had been a lack of transparency and inclusivity at this annual meeting on this matter. Proponents of the proposal expressed regret that others felt excluded, stressing the difficult nature of the task and welcoming the input and contributions of all CPCs.

South Africa, supported by its co-sponsors, explained the changes made to this proposal from the previous draft. The key changes related to the allocation categories (Category A, B, C) of CPCs, bigeye tuna catch limits, and measures related to FADs.

A handful of CPCs disagreed with the point made that the draft proposal reflected the majority of the CPC interests discussed during the various intersessional meetings. Several CPCs requested further consideration of how small or medium harvesters are categorized and prioritized and called for a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities.

A “Statement by Belize, Curaçao, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to Panel 1” (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**) was presented by Guatemala to address the adoption of non-discriminatory catch limits for Central American CPCs.

In an effort to advance development of an allocation arrangement, Japan informally circulated a table late in the meeting that was a compilation of initial catch limits requested by CPCs, taken from several sources including previous tropical tuna proposals and direct input from CPCs, in order to highlight that the compilation of the requested figures is likely to cause the overshoot of TAC, and thus the CPCs subject to catch limit need to have a spirit of compromise. Japan repeatedly explained that this was not a proposal as such but simply a working document intended to facilitate further discussion by the Panel since the allocation issue had not made much progress to date. Nevertheless, several CPCs had negative reactions to the substance of the table, including because the allocation total exceeded the level of TAC being discussed by the Panel, the various catch limits by category would leave nothing in the reserve for minor harvesters to participate in the fishery, and the initial catch limits reflected were not considered by several CPCs to be equitable with some expressing particular concern that the interests of developing CPCs were not sufficiently reflected. Japan emphasized that the document was intended to make it clear that it would be impossible for the Commission to fully meet the desired quantities of each country and insisted that such work should be led by the Chair of Panel 1, and that Japan, which voluntarily worked on behalf of the Chair of Panel 1, was not to be blamed for this work.

After emphasizing the need to find consensus and highlighting the dwindling time, the Chair proposed a one-year rollover proposal, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 22-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” with revisions only to ensure expiring paragraphs would remain active. After some revisions, the Panel approved the measure and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption. The Chair closed the agenda item by emphasizing the need to establish as a priority a workplan and roadmap for finalizing a comprehensive conservation and management measure for 2024.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

No outdated measures were identified.

10. Research

The SCRS Chair provided an overview of the work to be done in 2024, including conducting a yellowfin tuna stock assessment and updating the indices of abundance from the last stock assessment of western skipjack MSE with 2023 data. Dr Brown requested that CPCs support their scientists in updating those indices, so that a western skipjack management procedure (MP) could be adopted in 2024. The SCRS hopes to advance the western skipjack work through the roadmap by testing performance of CMPs, and undertaking robustness testing.

11. Election of Chair

The Chair of Panel 1 opened the floor to elect a Chair for the 2024/2025 biennial period, noting that he would not be available to continue as Chair of Panel 1 as he had retired from government service but that Ghana was eligible for re-election.

One CPC called attention to ICCAT's policy and practice of electing Contracting Parties to serve as Panel chairs rather than individuals, and noted that this approach is not required under the Convention or Rules of Procedure. One CPC suggested it would be preferable to change the current approach and begin electing individuals on a rotational basis according to geography. Another CPC noted that Contracting Parties had already been elected to Chair the three other Panels during the ICCAT annual meeting. This CPC further noted that the Commission could decide to change its longstanding policy and practice regarding the election of Panel chairs but that any such change would need to be agreed by the Commission prior to elections taking place and implemented consistently across all Panels.

Senegal nominated Ghana to continue as Chair of Panel 1 for the 2024-2025 biennial period. There was some discussion of this matter given the need for an experienced chair to help the Panel navigate the complex issues it was facing. To address concerns, Ghana shared the credentials of its nominee, Dr Emmanuel Dovlo, who was duly elected.

The Panel thanked the outgoing Chair and wished him well in his retirement.

12. Other matters

A statement was submitted to Panel 1 by Guatemala and is contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**. Statements were also submitted to Panel 1 by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena), Europêche*, International Pole and Line Foundation, and Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) (**Appendices 4 to 6 to ANNEX 8**).

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted through correspondence. After thanking the Secretariat, the interpreters, Panel members, and others for their cooperation, assistance, and hard work, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

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

8.2 Report of the Meeting of Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr Shingo Ota (Japan). The Chair welcomed all the members and expressed his wish for a fruitful meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Eva De Bleeker (European Union) was appointed as the Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary reported that Brazil had withdrawn from Panel 2 and the Panel was composed of the following 28 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Canada, Cabo Verde, China (P.R.), Egypt, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Russia, Senegal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Venezuela.

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

Dr Craig Brown, the Chair of the SCRS, provided a detailed presentation of the SCRS report. Various CPCs asked clarifying questions on the management roadmap, on the Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Protocol, on observer coverage reporting forms for BFT-E, on the number of indices that trigger ECs, on the SCRS' concerns about stereo camera footage availability, and on missing data.

The Chair of the SCRS informed Panel 2 that a new Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was calculated through the management procedure (MP) for North Atlantic albacore, which is a 25% increase from the previous level. This new figure, 47,251 t, was recommended by the SCRS as the SCRS did not detect any ECs.

In response to the European Union's question in relation to Atlantic bluefin tuna on what constitutes ECs and whether the number of missing indices that would trigger EC would be from one stock, or both together, the reply was that EC applies to both stocks and three indices missing in one year would trigger EC. In cases where one index was missing from the West and one from the East, this would not constitute an EC. However, in case three or more indices were missing it would be an EC.

6. Review of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair briefly explained the results of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023. All the fishing management plans were endorsed except for Syria, which was later endorsed through correspondence. As Namibia did not submit any fishing plan, its bluefin tuna fishing was suspended in 2023 in accordance with paragraph 11 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)*. The *Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2* was adopted.

7. Review of compliance table

No discussion took place under this agenda item.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)

8.1 North Atlantic albacore

The European Union and the UK both submitted a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore” including an MP and EC protocol for North Atlantic albacore, respectively. The UK proposal would establish the new TAC for North Atlantic albacore for 2024-2026, at 47,251 t, which corresponds to a 25% increase calculated by the MP. As a consequence, each CPC’s quota allocation would also increase by 25%, and the catch limits for other CPCs would receive a pro rata increase to 302.5 t. The proposal included the UK’s share in the quota table as established by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU and would replace the transfer footnote included in [Rec. 21-04](#), paragraph 6, as previously endorsed by Panel 2. Finally, the proposal also incorporated the catch limit previously accessible by the UK Overseas Territories, further to the request made by the UK at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023. This was drawn from the unallocated portion of the TAC. The percentage allocations of Contracting Parties were therefore unaffected.

Along the lines of the UK proposal, the EU proposal included an increase of the TAC by 25% proportionately as well, while the catch limits for other CPCs would increase to 250 t. The proposal did however not foresee a quota for the UK Overseas Territories. The proposal included a provision that Japan, by way of derogation from paragraphs 6 and 7, shall endeavour to limit the total weight of its North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4.5% of the weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

After consultations between the EU, the UK and various other CPCs, the EU proposal was amended. It included an increase in catch limits for other CPCs to 302 t, an increase in the UK’s quota for the period 2024-2026 the proposed 552.8 t to 752.8 t, and correction of the end date of the derogation for Japan to 2026. The additional 200 t for the UK were reserved exclusively for catches in respect of the UK Overseas Territories covered by the ICCAT Convention.

The revised EU proposal was adopted and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

8.2 Atlantic bluefin tuna

8.2.1 On allocation of Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

Korea (Rep.) tabled a “Proposal on BFT-E allocation” and the UK tabled a discussion paper on this subject entitled “Towards a more equitable allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna”.

Korea (Rep.) presented its paper which starts from the observation that in the past time constraints often made it difficult to have thorough discussions on the allocation of BFT-E and the belief that it is necessary to ensure that Panel 2 members can share initial views before the 2025 Annual Meeting, where the next allocation discussion is likely to occur. Korea (Rep.) explained that it acknowledges the complexity of factors involved in the allocation process, but firmly believes that two principles are crucial for the discussions: mitigation of the growing polarization of quotas among CPCs and special attention to the needs of developing coastal CPCs. The proposal suggested that larger allocation holders should accept less increase when TAC increases and more reduction when TAC decreases.

The UK presented its paper and explained that the UK joined the consensus on [Rec. 22-08](#) on the condition that further discussions on allocation, including its possible amendments, would take place even before 2025. Since the UK was disappointed with no progress on this matter at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023, the UK proposed that the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2024 should be extended by up to two days to discuss this matter and whether it is necessary to schedule further intersessional meetings in 2024 and 2025. The UK would like to obtain the commitment of Panel 2 that a fairer and more equitable allocation of fishing opportunities for this stock will be made by no later than the Commission meeting in 2025.

Several CPCs reacted to the proposals and underlined the importance of thorough and timely discussions but also underlined that the allocations were set for a three-year period. The EU recalled its position from the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023, reinforcing its message that EU engagement in any discussion would be constrained by having the bluefin tuna allocation key set by *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Rec. 14-04)* as the departing point. Algeria wanted the Commission to take its regional historical position into account.

The Chair proposed that the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2024 be extended by two days with the objective of having further discussions on bluefin tuna allocation. This was agreed.

8.2.2 Amendment to the Rec. 22-08 – Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

The Chair explained the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” [PA2_609/2023], which he had submitted based on the discussion at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023. The paper was adopted and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

8.2.3 Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 22-08 – Farming capacity

The EU tabled the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-08” as there was a need to update the current ICCAT provisions regarding bluefin tuna farming and input capacities, given the clear distinction of the significance of two concepts: “wild input capacity” and “farming capacity.” The suggestion was to delete the ceiling of farming capacity linked to the register of farms in 2018 as set in paragraph 21 of *Rec. 22-08*, and to delete paragraph 22, which would then become irrelevant. The EU indicated that, in light of the current monitoring and control provisions, there was no longer any relevance in linking farming capacity to fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna. Furthermore, the EU holds the view that the current limitations on farming capacity, which are tied to the situation in 2018 as stated in paragraph 21 of *Rec. 22-08* (“total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT in 2018”), lack provisions to accommodate any expansion or adaptation to yearly needs. These limitations are considered outdated and not pertinent for the purpose of ensuring the sustainable management of the eastern Atlantic bluefin stock, particularly when similar farming structures are concurrently being developed and constructed by CPCs interested in aquaculture of BFT. In this regard, the EU believed that paragraphs 21 and 22 of *Rec. 22-08* should be removed, and paragraph 20 should be amended.

Several CPCs and observers expressed concerns about the proposal related to the risk of creating overcapacity, the possibility for loopholes, difficulties for monitoring, the farming management capacities, the impact on the wider eco-system of farming, the environment, and other stocks.

In order to address the concerns expressed by other CPCs and observers and based on consultations with various CPCs the EU submitted an amended proposal. This was adopted and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

*8.2.4 “Draft Resolution by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea”*

The EU presented its “Draft Resolution by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea”, which involves experimenting with bluefin tuna farming activity in the Cantabrian Sea for the purpose of carrying out fattening activity, with the use of submersible cages, and, in case it proves successful, escalating to commercial activity and transferring this innovation to other areas or activities in the future.

One CPC asked if the EU had considered analysis of ecological concerns such as on wild fish and habitats. The EU confirmed that the information was included in an environmental impact statement.

The EU amended its proposal based on comments from other CPCs. This was adopted and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

8.2.5 "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-09 establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas"

The Chair explained that he had submitted a draft recommendation based on the intersessional discussion, including scientific inputs from the SCRS, on Annex 4 dealing with an Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (ECP). The Chair also informed that there were still several pending issues that had not been resolved through the intersessional discussion and CPCs should find solutions for them if the protocol was to be adopted at this meeting.

At the Chair's request, various CPCs gathered to discuss the text proposed. Together with Japan and Canada, the EU tabled a new proposal addressing the most contentious points of the proposed text. These points notably included the TAC overages that would trigger ECs, which was finally agreed at 20% for any given year, and the measures to be taken in case the SCRS advised that there are indications of a decline in one or both stocks that warrant an alternative management action. If the Commission is unable to agree on such an action, it was agreed that the TACs of the West area and/or the East area shall be reduced by 10% for the implicated areas(s) for the following year.

The amended document was adopted and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

It was confirmed that if the exceptional circumstances protocol proposal referred to above is approved by the Plenary, it shall repeal and replace *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas (Rec. 22-09)*.

10. Research

10.1 Review of existing requests to the SCRS

As to item 19.10 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part II (2023), Vol. 2* related to the impact of extending or modifying fishing seasons and/or areas, the SCRS answered that it would need more details on what is asked exactly and that the SCRS would analyse something that exists, for which there are data, e.g., the impact of a particular extension. In case there are specific plans or combinations of extensions that need to be analysed, this can be done. The Panel agreed to suspend this request.

As to item 19.12 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part II (2023), Vol. 2* related to the evaluation of the procedures related to stereoscopic camera footage, the SCRS answered that since the footage obtained by the SCRS is limited and merely on the transportation of the fish it is impossible to perform a detailed and meaningful analysis. Unless the CPCs can provide the necessary footage, no thorough analysis can be done. In response to the US question on stereoscopic cameras, the SCRS Chair informed that the sample should not be less than 20%, however there were some confidentiality issues as well as additional workload for the Secretariat. The EU informed that its Member States were ready to make available the footage to the SCRS as needed, and also that the confidential elements should be handled by the CPCs' administrations themselves. The EU asked the SCRS, with the support of the Secretariat, to inform how much footage would be needed, with the identification of the number by geographical location, and the identification of the best approach for the transfer of the files which are expected to be many megabytes long. This request to the SCRS was therefore maintained for SCRS responses in the next year.

10.2 New request to the SCRS

In relation to the derogations in paragraph 34 of [Rec. 22-08](#) (Annex 1, paragraph 3) on the minimum size of bluefin tuna by small scale coastal fleet, the EU requested that the SCRS advise what the impact of increase of the said derogation from 2% to 3 or 4% would be in terms of the objective of the Recommendation, the impact on the BFT-E stock and the management system. The SCRS Chair, after consulting with other Committee members, informed that the question raised by the EU was at this stage difficult to quantify, although the Committee anticipated that the impact would be minor. Thus, it was concluded that the question would not be addressed by the SCRS this year.

11. Election of Chair

The US proposed that Japan continue the Chair of Panel 2 and this was seconded by other CPCs. Japan was re-elected.

12. Other matters

Moreover, statements were submitted to Panel 2 by Europêche, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), and Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) which are contained in **Appendix 7 to 9 to ANNEX 8**.

12.1 "Pilot Project for short-term storage of bluefin tuna; trials onboard MS VESTBRIS 2023"

This report was submitted by Norway and updated the CPCs on project implementation. No further discussion took place.

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

This report was submitted by the Secretariat. No discussion took place on the paper.

12.3 Performance Review

The Chair informed Panel 2 that he had worked with the Secretariat to update the performance review matrix "Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 2" and asked if there were any comments. No CPC had any comments or questions on the paper. The document was endorsed (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8**).

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted through correspondence. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

8.3 Report of the Meeting of Panel 3

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr Qayiso Kenneth Mketsu (South Africa), the Chair of Panel 3.

2. Appointment of rapporteur

The Secretariat served as rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**) was adopted with no changes.

4. Review of Panel membership

There were no changes to the Panel membership.

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

The SCRS Chair updated the Panel on southern albacore (ALB-S) and southern bluefin tuna stocks. ALB-S had a TAC of 24,000 t from 2017-2021. The last assessment, in 2020, indicated that the southern albacore stock was not overfished, and overfishing was not occurring. It also showed that constant catches of 28,000 t would result in an 83% probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2033. [Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023-2026 \(Rec. 22-06\)](#) sets the TAC for ALB-S at 28,000 t. For 2021-2022, catches for ALB-S have been below the TAC.

The SCRS Chair also provided a summary of the most recent scientific information regarding southern bluefin tuna. It is managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). Information on the status of the stock can be found in the [2023 CCSBT stock assessment](#).

The Chair opened the floor for comments and questions.

5.1 Research

The SCRS Chair reminded the Panel that the SCRS is striving to continue research activities within the Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP) for both southern Atlantic albacore and northern Atlantic albacore under a common umbrella, with a view to optimizing this scientific engagement. The Group will conduct a review of potential Climate Change effects on the stock(s) as well as work on reproductive biology and electronic tagging. The budget proposed for these scientific activities for 2024 is €127,278. For 2025 it is €138,722.

6. Review of Compliance Tables

The Compliance Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**) show that Namibia has exceeded its quota. CPCs noted their interest in hearing from this CPC how their payback of the overage will be fulfilled and their assurances that such overages would not happen going forward. In response, Namibia is aware of the overharvest that occurred in 2022 and the Secretariat advised Namibia of adjustments to its TAC to pay back its overharvest in 2024.

The following Parties expressed their desire to carry over their quota underage(s) for 2024: Belize, China (P.R.), Korea (Rep.), and Chinese Taipei. The UK also wished to carry over its underage of 22 t to 2024.

The Chair reiterated that if CPCs had already communicated their intention to carry over in COC documents, there was no need to repeat such statements here.

7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Ref. 01-25)

There were no comments or questions on this agenda item.

8. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

No outdated measures were identified.

9. Election of Chair

Several CPCs recommended that the existing Chair continue his excellent work in his capacity as Chair. The matter was deferred to the Plenary for its final decision.

10. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was decided that the Report of Panel 3 would be adopted by correspondence. The meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

8.4 Report of the meeting of Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 4, Mr Amar Ouchelli (Algeria).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Dr Lisa Crawford (United States) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary announced that Barbados requested to become a member of Panel 4 in July of 2023. Panel 4 comprises the following 42 members: Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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

Dr Craig Brown, Chair of the SCRS, presented information on the status of billfish, sharks, swordfish, and small tunas.

Billfish

The last stock assessment for blue marlin was conducted in 2018; the species is overfished but not undergoing overfishing. In 2021, catch (1,711 t) of blue marlin exceeded the total allowable catch (TAC) (1,670 t) but catch was lower than in 2020 (1,888 t). White marlin are overfished, but overfishing is not occurring according to a 2019 stock assessment. Catch in 2020 (179 t) and 2021 (120 t) did not exceed the TAC (335 t).

The eastern and western sailfish stocks were assessed in 2023 using data through 2021. The eastern sailfish stock is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing. The western sailfish stock is overfished but not undergoing overfishing. Catch of eastern sailfish decreased in 2022 (1,110 t) compared to 2021 (1,706 t), whereas catch of western sailfish increased in 2022 (1,029 t) compared to 2021 (876 t). Relative abundance indices used in the assessments showed conflicting trends for both stocks with certain time series showing decreasing trends, while others showed increased trends. Dr Brown provided management recommendations for the Commission to consider: for eastern sailfish, the Commission should consider managing to catch levels that will keep the stock in the green zone of the Kobe matrix with a high probability; western sailfish results should be interpreted with extreme caution as there is concern that despite reported catch below maximum sustainable yield (MSY), the stock continues to be overfished and it is believed that reported catches are severely underreported. For the western stock, should the Commission choose to continue setting the catch level at 67% MSY, that value would be 1,080 t (an increase from the current value of 1,030 t).

Under the Billfish Work Plan for 2024, several high priority tasks have been identified for blue marlin including review of catch (Task 1) and catch, effort, and size data (Task 2), application of a newly-developed discard estimation tool, and updates to life history parameters. Two intersessional hybrid meetings are prioritized for 2024 to assess the blue marlin stock: a hybrid data preparatory meeting in March and a stock assessment meeting in July.

General recommendations from the Billfish Species Group include: continue the growth study of the three priority billfish species, initiate a reproduction study of blue marlin, conduct a workshop on collecting and reporting data from small-scale/artisanal fisheries in the Central America and Caribbean regions, continue the electronic tagging of marlins, and conduct a technical workshop focusing on age reading and building a reference set for both spines and otoliths in 2025.

Sharks

The SCRS reviewed catches for each shark species and stock. Overall, total accumulated catches of sharks show a decreasing trend.

Blue shark

North Atlantic blue shark catches have been below the TAC since 2018, and catches increased by 174 t to 22,057 t in 2022. The South Atlantic stock catches have been 10-20% over the TAC since 2018. In 2022 southern stock catch decreased by 1,744 t to 31,727 t. Blue shark stocks were assessed by ICCAT in 2023. The North Atlantic stock is not overfished and no overfishing is occurring, but the biomass is very close to B_{MSY} indicating that the northern stock probability is very close to overfished. Overfishing is occurring for the South Atlantic stock, though the probabilities are very close to no overfishing occurring, but the stock is not overfished.

Shortfin mako

Shortfin mako catch in the North Atlantic declined by 365 t to 831 t in 2022, while the South Atlantic stock catch increased by 229 t to 2,485 t. The Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP) is conducting age and growth studies, satellite tagging, and reproduction studies on shortfin mako. The SRDCP completed age readings in 2023 and is currently working on alternative approaches to overcome the limited number of samples by fitting Bayesian growth models.

Porbeagle

Captures of porbeagle sharks in the Northwest Atlantic display a decreasing trend, with less than 20 t since 2018. Catch in the Northeast Atlantic was also low (15 t) in 2022. There have been no catches in the South Atlantic for several years. Porbeagle genetics studies are being led by Japan based on the 2020 stock assessment research recommendation. The results of the studies indicated that there is a high possibility of species differentiation between the North and South Atlantic clades.

Swordfish

The North and South Atlantic swordfish stocks were assessed in 2022. The assessment showed that the North Atlantic stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring. The South Atlantic stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Mediterranean swordfish stock was assessed in 2020 and was found to be overfished but overfishing was not occurring, though the fishing mortality level was only slightly lower than F_{MSY} . SCRS work on swordfish in 2023 was focused on the SWO-N MSE, as described above. Several swordfish intersessional meetings were planned for 2024.

Small tunas

An Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group was held in May 2023. A Workshop on Swordfish, Billfish, and Small Tunas Age Reading took place in February 2023. A Workshop on Data Limited Assessment Methods for Small Tunas was also held in early 2023. The species group updated the statistics data and presented results on biology, growth, genetics, and length-weight relationships studies. The ICCAT Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP) developed preliminary growth parameters for wahoo. The group had previously pointed out the issues with the quality of data reporting, and now noted data gaps in geographic sampling areas and size class representation.

The SCRS Chair presented the work plan for the small tunas species group for 2024. A consortium to progress biological studies of small tunas led by Brazil is ongoing. The objective of data-limited methods workshops is to evaluate robustness tests for their appreciativeness to provide management advice. The SCRS Chair advised that a second workshop on data-limited models should be held in early 2024.

Comments on the SCRS presentation

One CPC noted that *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) (Rec. 22-12)* requested that the SCRS review the southern boundary of the range and advise the Commission and asked if the Chair could note any advice from SCRS on the southern boundary. The SCRS Chair explained that given the new available information on the distribution of the loggerhead sea turtle, the limit could be extended in the western South Atlantic to 40 degrees south, the eastern boundary could be kept at 35 degrees south, and the dividing line is proposed to be at 20 degrees west.

One CPC noted that the majority of shark species were excluded from the report, and given that many shark species are to be listed under CITES, asked if there would be difficulties when providing responses to the Commission. The SCRS Chair explained that there is still a need to understand shark biology and life history better and this is still the case for the species that have not been assessed. The prohibitions on the transport of the sharks that are listed under CITES created challenges to advancing assessment work. He explained that ICCAT needs to work with CITES to identify mechanisms for collaboration to facilitate the assessment of shark species regardless of their listing status. There is currently no solution to this problem, but it is considered to be a major problem in the Shark Species Group. The primary reason why blue, shortfin mako, and porbeagle sharks were the species that were assessed was because of availability of landings data, but historical data still require major restructuring. This process is anticipated to be more difficult for other species.

The Executive Secretary explained that he had attended the CITES Standing Committee Meeting and information was available in Relevant Notes from the Convention on 2023 International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) Standing Committee Meeting. He shared relevant information about expedited sampling procedures that already exist as well as accelerated permits for sampling for research organizations. CITES is aware of the administrative challenges related to sampling. He invited CPCs to come forward with issues and advised them to also notify CITES. The second issue he noted had to do with non-detriment findings. Blue sharks were listed in Appendix 2 of CITES, effective 9 days after this Panel 4 session, meaning permits would be required prior to landing blue sharks. CITES and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) were planning a regional non-detriment finding workshop that the SCRS could be involved in.

One CPC noted that the Mediterranean swordfish stock will not be assessed in 2024 and asked why the SCRS has not provided advice in the form of a TAC. The SCRS Chair explained that the TAC is not determined by the SCRS, rather by the Commission based on advice from SCRS.

One CPC asked if there had been any conclusive results regarding size at maturity or size-weight relationships for small tunas.

6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions

Intersessional meetings of Panel 4 were held on 6 March ([Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy evaluation \(MSE\)](#)), 30 June ([Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy evaluation \(MSE\)](#)), and 10-11 October 2023 ([Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy evaluation \(MSE\)](#)).

The Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) Chair introduced Dr Kyle Gillespie, the SCRS Swordfish Species Group Coordinator. Dr Gillespie presented an overview of the key discussions and decisions undertaken by Panel 4 in 2023 and communicated the latest results of the North Atlantic swordfish (SWO-N) management strategy evaluation (MSE).

At the October meeting, the Panel had two main requests for the SCRS: the first was to tune the remaining candidate management procedures (CMPs) to meet the 60% PGK (probability of the stock to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot) threshold in each 10-year period: PGKshort, PGKmedium, PGKlong; and the second was to create a new CMP using model-based SPSSFox with a bifurcated stability rule (no cap or limit on reduction in total allowable catch (TAC) when the estimated $B < B_{MSY}$). Following the October meeting, the SCRS completed the requested tuning and developed a new model-based CMP, SPSSFox2.

At the Annual Meeting, the SCRS updated the combined index using data from seven CPCs that accounted for 95% of SWO-N catch. The SCRS Chair explained that there was limited time to work on the model since data were provided late in the process. The model did not converge, i.e., reach a solution. Therefore a new model was constructed that was identical to the previous model with the exception of a change in the distribution type: the distribution was changed from a delta log normal distribution to a delta-gamma distribution. The statistical properties of the two indices were similar but displayed small differences across the years tested, and thus the performance of the CMPs might have been different between the two, and the results on the Shiny application might have been different when using the old model relative to the new model. The CMPs were evaluated using the new combined index model and the results presented to Panel 4 at the Annual Meeting.

Of the seven CMPs that were still under consideration (CE_b, MCC5_b, MCC5_c, MCC7_b, MCC7_c, SPSSFox_b, SPSSFox2_b), all met Safety and Status management objectives. There were differences in stability for each CMP, particularly when considering whether stability was “capped” or not. The Panel was asked to consider the new CMP, SPSSFox2_b, described above. This CMP performed better in the robustness test scenarios. When recruitment was stopped, B continued to grow at a higher scale than the other CMP types and appeared to avoid the limit reference point (LRP). TAC1 values were fairly variable for each CMP, but some have the exact same values because they had the same base TAC and the TAC change was capped at 25%. The Panel was tasked with the selection of the final management objectives (Safety, Status, Yield, Stability), management procedure (MP) type (considering the remaining 7 CMPs), and implementation schedule.

One CPC expressed concern regarding the last-minute changes to analyses and questioned if there could be miscalculations or errors. Dr Gillespie and the SCRS Chair acknowledged the possibility of errors but expressed confidence in the results because there was consistency between the new results and the results when the prior index was used. The results were reviewed by the SCRS technical team but not the whole SCRS, and it was noted that the SCRS did not consider it urgent to adopt the MSE and that its advice based on the last stock assessment was still valid.

One CPC asked about the consequences of delaying the adoption of the MP, highlighting the need to develop the exceptional circumstances (EC) protocols and further steps in the MSE process. The SCRS Chair did not anticipate a significant amount of additional work nor a disruption to the EC protocol plan. He reiterated concern that late data submissions could result in further delays in analysis. He also noted that given the delays, the current measure would likely expire before an MP is adopted.

One CPC asked for clarification regarding the selection of 60% PGK as the final management objective selected at the October intersessional meeting, explaining that this value would allow for the Panel to select a CMP with a PGK of 70% since the management objective says 60% or greater. Dr Gillespie clarified that the minimum 60% threshold would be applied.

One CPC asked the SCRS to clarify if all three options for Safety were still being considered as it was their understanding that one option (5%) was eliminated at the October intersessional meeting and only 10 and 15% were still being considered. Dr Gillespie explained that the SCRS was aware that there was no formal decision regarding the probability value for Safety, and thus all three values were presented. However, following discussion, the “North Atlantic Swordfish MSE: Final Results, Decision Guide, and CMP Specifications” was updated to reflect that the Panel has previously eliminated the 5% option. Dr Gillespie elaborated that the probability threshold for whichever safety level is chosen would not affect the CMPs under consideration as all have >95% LRP.

7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans

One CPC referred to prior discussion during the meeting of the Compliance Committee, and raised the question of whether CPCs that do not have a hard catch limit should be required to submit compliance tables. They noted that this point would be raised during discussion of the management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue sharks under agenda item 8. It was agreed that agenda item 7 remain open until the end of the Panel 4 sessions.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a pay back plan for blue marlin by Curaçao”

Curaçao introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a pay back plan for blue marlin by Curaçao”. One CPC supported Curaçao’s payback plan, but asked for details regarding their implementation of the provisions of Recommendation 19-04. Curaçao elaborated that in 2022 the payback plan was 2.5 t annually, and the country had exceeded this amount and paid back 3.7 t. For 2023 Curaçao projected a payback of 5 t. For the remaining years, Curaçao anticipated maintaining the payback plan of 2.5 t annually. One CPC suggested that paragraphs 2-4 of the proposal be deleted. The proposal was amended based on the input received and the revised version was agreed and referred to Plenary for adoption.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Ref. 01-25)

North Atlantic Swordfish

Dr Kyle Gillespie presented two scenarios for the Panel to consider regarding the SWO-N MSE. The first scenario was for the Panel to adopt an MP, make final decisions about specifications, and discuss the two draft recommendations submitted. The second scenario was for the Panel to delay the adoption of an MP and either rollover the 2023 TAC or set a new TAC for 2024. Two CPCs suggested that the Panel should try to come to an agreement on an MP given the amount of work that was completed by the SCRS and the progress that was made during the three intersessional meetings.

The United States and European Union proposed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish” based on *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02)*, with the goal of adopting management objectives and an MP, similar to the measure that was adopted for bluefin tuna (*Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas (Rec. 22-09)*). Canada introduced a similar “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for North Atlantic Swordfish” that was also based on *Recommendation 17-02*, and a revised version.

Several CPCs expressed gratitude for the work done by the technical team to refine the CMPs but voiced concerns about the delay in receiving final scientific advice due to late data submissions. Many CPCs were hesitant to adopt an MP at the meeting, with several mentioning the second scenario, to delay the adoption of an MP and adopt a recommendation to extend the provision for SWO-N for 2024. The United States, the European Union, and Canada agreed to work together to draft a proposal to rollover the SWO-N provisions. Several CPCs reiterated their support for the MSE process and expressed optimism that a comprehensive MSE could be adopted in 2024.

The SCRS Chair explained that deciding on the final value for the safety management objective was optional as all of the CMPs met the strictest safety criteria. He also suggested that Panel 4 should have a two-day intersessional meeting in June 2024 following the Intersessional Meeting of the SCRS Swordfish Species Group to discuss the exceptional circumstances protocol and MSE, and if matters are not resolved in the first meeting, then another intersessional meeting could be scheduled for later in the year. The Panel supported the proposed schedule.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish”

Canada along with the European Union, Japan and the United States introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish”. Canada indicated that the draft recommendation included clear guidance regarding the work plan for the SCRS to undertake during 2024 for the SWO-N MSE, with the goal of adopting an MP in 2024. The SCRS Chair clarified that the review and approval of the combined index might warrant revision to the model structure to understand why the model failed to converge. He also explained that the majority of the evaluation of the model performance would occur after a new combined index is approved and would need to be tuned and tested against the approved combined index. This would need to occur before the SCRS plenary. Considering the work done on the SWO-N MSE, the SCRS proposed modifications to the MSE Roadmap for 2024. The revised proposal was supported by the Panel and sent to Plenary for adoption. Morocco thanked Japan for offering a quota transfer of 150 t and requested 200 t from the United States for 2024. The United States supported the request to transfer quota to Morocco, with contingent on the details of this transfer to be worked out bilaterally between the two CPCs.

Mediterranean Swordfish

A statement was submitted to Panel 4 by Egypt requesting a quota of Mediterranean swordfish (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**), and the Chair of Panel 4 asked Egypt to draft a proposal for introduction and consideration by Panel 4.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the establishment of catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish for Egypt”

Egypt introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the establishment of catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish for Egypt” that asked for the establishment of a Mediterranean swordfish catch limit of 150 t for 2024. Several CPCs supported Egypt’s proposal. Egypt clarified that the request would not affect the allocation of any other CPC. One CPC was not supportive of the proposal stating that proper procedure for introducing the proposal was not followed, and there was not sufficient time to properly analyze the proposal. Egypt clarified that it had submitted a request for catch limits for Mediterranean swordfish on 17 November and engaged in conversations with several CPCs. The proposal was referred to Plenary for further discussion.

Sharks

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”

The United States introduced, on behalf of numerous co-sponsors, a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT” that requires sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries to be landed with their fins naturally attached. The United States explained that the proposal had received support from many CPCs and had been introduced at previous ICCAT meetings. The United States emphasized the conservative life history of sharks and how important it is for shark fins to remain attached through landing to improve species-specific data collection and to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures. The United States elaborated that the Second Performance Review of ICCAT emphasized that shark fins should be naturally attached to the carcass at landing. Though the proposal received broad support from CPCs, one CPC reiterated its opposition to the measure. The CPC explained that the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopted a High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme to enforce compliance with the implementation of a fin to carcass ratio when conducting inspections at sea. This CPC indicated willingness to reconsider the proposal if the proposed HSBI Scheme was adopted by ICCAT. The CPC also stated that there is no concrete evidence of shark finning. The Panel was not able to achieve consensus on the proposal.

An observer organization, The Shark Trust, encouraged ICCAT to take action for the conservation of sharks, including by adopting this draft recommendation, all shark and ray proposals, and by supporting shark proposals at CITES.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus) interacting with ICCAT fisheries”

The European Union, along with several cosponsors, introduced a proposal for the conservation of whale sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries. The European Union noted that ICCAT does not have such a provision to protect whale sharks and emphasized that the SCRS has discussed the vast amount of scientific literature on whale shark life history and threats from fisheries bycatch. The European Union explained that the proposal would prohibit bringing whale sharks on board vessels to minimize mortality and increase post release survivability. The European Union invited the SCRS to revisit the effectiveness of this measure in the future.

Several CPCs voiced support for the proposal, noting that the precautionary approach should be followed and reiterating that protecting whale sharks is a critical step for ICCAT that has already been taken by other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), CITES, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Other CPCs voiced concern regarding the lack of scientific input from the SCRS and the SCRS workload, stating that binding recommendations should be considered by CPCs without scientific advice. One CPC raised a technical concern about the definition of interactions between whale sharks and longline gear. One CPC questioned the scope of the recommendation and noted that whale sharks are a tropical species. The CPC emphasized that the recommendation should not apply to CPCs that do not fish in tropical areas as these CPCs would be required to implement the measure and there would be implications for compliance and exemptions in shark check sheets.

The European Union revised the proposal based on the feedback of CPCs and included a statement saying the measure would have a delayed entry into force until 1 January 2025 depending on interpretation of SCRS advice provided and consensus of the CPCs in 2024. The *“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”* was accepted and forwarded to Plenary for adoption.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”

The European Union submitted a *“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”*. The United Kingdom submitted a proposal on this subject under the same title. One CPC claimed that the MSE schedule should be reconsidered to avoid significant burden on the SCRS, and the SCRS Chair voiced the concern and asserted that little experience of MSE on shark species should be taken into account. After initial consideration of the two proposals by the Panel, they were merged into a combined North Atlantic blue shark proposal, with the TAC set at 30,000 t, which was within the scientific advice of the SCRS. The combined proposal also accommodated the concerns regarding the transfer to Morocco and the timing of SCRS review. A revised version of the combined proposal was sent to Plenary for discussion and adoption.

An observer, Sharkproject International, mentioned the need for harvest control rules and an MSE for blue sharks. They suggested that the precautionary approach should be taken and supported the original proposal from the United Kingdom. They also emphasized they need to consider the catch limits for small harvesters and developing States.

An observer, Européche, asserted that the population of North Atlantic blue shark has increased and mortality has decreased, and suggested maintaining the TAC at 39,000 t. They explained that there is a lack of consideration for the socio-economic values of coastal communities who depend on this share of TAC and emphasized that any diminishment of North Atlantic blue shark TAC would negatively impact European fishing.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”

The European Union introduced a draft recommendation on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark to reduce the TAC to the level of MSY as stated in the SCRS report. The European Union explained that the proposal would introduce an allocation table where the five major harvesters should reduce their catches to achieve the TAC, and there will also be a reserve for harvesters with only occasional catches. The European Union noted that the proposal takes a differentiated approach that accounts for the reduction in catches for developing States and higher reductions for developed States. The proposal also asked that the SCRS advise on the feasibility of the recommendation and define a roadmap for the South Atlantic blue shark MSE. The SCRS Chair indicated that the SCRS could more reasonably conduct a feasibility study in 2025.

Several CPCs raised concerns that the needs of developing States would not be met within the scope of the proposal. It was noted that the small percentage of the TAC allocated to developing States would be insufficient to cover the catch levels in 2022. One CPC raised the point that developing States have not been responsible for the depletions in the South Atlantic blue shark stock, and thus restricting their catch would be inequitable. Another CPC noted that certain States can catch blue sharks in the North and South Atlantic, and thus States that are limited to catching South Atlantic blue sharks should experience less of a reduction. Many CPCs were also concerned about the workload of the SCRS and suggested that the European Union revise the timing of the MSE Roadmap development in the proposal.

Based on the feedback of the Panel, the European Union made several changes to the proposal including setting the catch threshold to 1000 t for developing States. At the end of the Panel 4 sessions, the proposal was still under consideration by several CPCs, so the measure was referred to Plenary for additional discussion and adoption.

Bycatch

“Draft Resolution by ICCAT on cetaceans encirclement”

Korea (Rep.) introduced a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on cetaceans encirclement” with the support of several cosponsors, recognizing that ICCAT did not have any cetacean measures in place and encouraged CPCs to not set purse seine nets on school tunas when cetaceans are present. The resolution would also encourage vessel masters to report cetacean encirclement, implement safe handling and release guidelines for cetaceans, and encourage annual reporting of the implementation of this resolution. One CPC reiterated the ICCAT principle to apply a precautionary approach, noting that other RFMOs have already adopted cetacean bycatch measures. Several CPCs encouraged Korea to turn this resolution into a binding measure, noting the vulnerability of cetaceans to purse seine fisheries. Japan was hesitant to support the document given the lack of scientific advice from the SCRS; however, Japan provided a statement (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**) that it would not block the adoption of this proposal since it is a non-binding resolution, but oppose the proposal if the resolution was converted to a binding recommendation in the future unless it was accompanied by clear scientific advice from the SCRS. Another CPC raised the issue of the significant workload of the SCRS and questioned the burden of proof needed to adopt certain measures. The proposal received support from several other CPCs and was referred to Plenary for adoption.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on mobulid rays (family Mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”

The United Kingdom, with the support of several co-sponsors, presented a proposal to prohibit the retention of mobulids caught in ICCAT fisheries, noting that many species are listed as endangered by IUCN and are listed by CITES. Several CPCs voiced support for the proposal, with certain CPCs highlighting the need to take a precautionary approach and raising the point that other RFMOs have implemented bycatch protections for mobulid rays. One CPC again raised the concern about the lack of scientific advice from the SCRS and the lack of evidence surrounding mobulid bycatch. The CPC also raised concerns that the probability of interactions with longline gear is significantly higher for mobulids compared to whale sharks or cetaceans. In response to several comments from CPCs, the United Kingdom made the suggested revisions to the proposal to remove the overall prohibition on sale and included language describing that unintentionally caught frozen mobulid ray could be donated for consumption, though sale or barter

prohibited, if the catch was inspected. The revisions also included language specifying that the SCRS would conduct a review of mobulids in 2024 to determine if prohibitions are warranted and then advise on future research. New language was also added to state that if there was consensus on the scientific advice and measures at the 2024 annual meeting, then the recommendation would become effective in mid-2025. The proposal was accepted with the suggested language and forwarded to Plenary for adoption.

“Draft supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”

Canada submitted a “Draft supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”, which was cosponsored by the United States, that aimed to amend paragraph 6a in line with the new scientific advice of the SCRS regarding the modifications to the southern boundary of the sea turtle range and to fix a typographical error in paragraph 1 b) of Recommendation 22-12. The proposal received support from several CPCs and was referred to Plenary for adoption.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

The Chair of Panel 4 indicated that this agenda item would be left for discussion during Plenary.

10. Research

The SCRS Chair indicated that this matter was addressed under agenda item 5 “Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)”, and there was no additional information to present to Panel 4.

11. Election of Chair

Several CPCs supported the continuation of Algeria as the Chair of Panel 4. Multiple CPCs spoke to the difficulty of chairing Panel 4 and commended the current Chair for his efforts and accomplishments. The Chair thanked the Panel for its continued support.

12. Other matters

Statements were submitted to Panel 4 by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena) Europêche, The Ocean Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), and a joint statement was submitted by Oceana, Pro Wildlife, and Sharkproject International (**Appendices 13 to 17 to ANNEX 8**).

Barbados introduced plans to address its blue and white marlin overharvest and asked for increased allocation of blue and white marlin. Barbados noted that the additional 125% penalty for overages is impossible to pay back and asked that a more appropriate system be used to help CPCs that are struggling with repayment. Barbados elaborated that the 125% penalty should only be applied on the excess of that year and the accumulated debt and that there should be debt forgiveness, such as 25% debt overage for those CPCs that can reduce catch levels in a given time period. One CPC requested additional information from Barbados regarding their request and repayment plan. The Panel 4 Chair invited Barbados to draft a proposal on their payback plan to be discussed at the next meeting of Panel 4.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Panel agreed to adopt the report by correspondence.

The Chair thanked the meeting participants, interpreters, and Secretariat. The Secretariat congratulated the Chair on his election for another term. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**Panel Agendas*****Panel 1***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
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 the 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 compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
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 3

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
 - 5.1 Research
6. Review of compliance tables
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)
8. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Ref. 01-25)

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

Statement by Belize, Curaçao, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to Panel 1

Guatemala, on its behalf as well as Belize, Curaçao, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama thanks the Chair of Panel 1 for the discussions that are taking place, aimed at agreeing on the fishing possibilities for bigeye tuna for each CPC, in force in the triennium 2024-2026, in the context of the management measures to be adopted. It should be highlighted that in accordance with the mandate of the Commission, it is indispensable to ensure equitable possibilities and non-discriminatory shares, bearing in mind the specific needs of each of our countries, that are commensurate with their fishing capacity. We wish to inform of our expectations for the process of sharing the bigeye tuna catch limits by country, which should be included in any distribution table during this cycle of meetings:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>2024-2026 catch limit</i>
Belize		2070 t
Curaçao		2771 t
El Salvador		2342 t
Guatemala		1566 t
Honduras		Not subject to limit as below the threshold
Nicaragua		Not subject to limit as below the threshold
Panama		2413 t

We recognize that the adoption of non-discriminatory catch limits is fundamental for the smooth functioning of the Commission and with that approach we appreciate that these aspirations are part of the bigeye tuna management measure to be developed during this cycle of meetings. Guatemala thanks the Commission staff for their efforts during the preparation and holding of these meetings and is committed to continue working on the conservation and sustainable use of the resources under ICCAT's mandate.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Guatemala to Panel 1**

Chairman, distinguished delegates of the CPCs and observers present,

Agreement on scientific, technical and political input within the framework of ICCAT is the essential basis to ensure conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources under its mandate. This organisation has faced and successfully overcome great challenges, demonstrating the wisdom of those who envisaged and paved the way for establishment of a coherent and robust system of global fisheries management. Achieving consensus is, admittedly, a complex process. Evidence of this is provided by the decision of the International Court of Justice in the North Sea Continental Shelf case in 1964 when it ruled that:

“...The Parties were under an obligation to enter into negotiations with a view to arriving at an agreement and not merely to go through a formal process of negotiation. They were so to conduct themselves that the negotiations were meaningful, which would not be the case when one of them insisted upon its own position without contemplating any modification of it...”

My delegation, like those of the other Central American countries and Curacao, come year after year to this and other international bodies in the highest spirit of cooperation, which implies substantive, critical, analytical and propositional participation. The subject matter of this Panel 1 is an overriding interest, a priority that stems from our concern regarding the imbalance between the huge fishing possibilities for tropical tunas allocated to the major harvesters and the diminishment of fishing rights of the developing countries; this, combined with the constant challenge of ensuring that target and associated stocks are maintained at levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, will never be an easy task.

Despite this, since 2019 and up to the present, ICCAT has been able to verify the benefits of that cooperation, which in that year facilitated the design of a rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna and consistent measures for yellowfin and skipjack tuna. What was envisaged in 2019 was an interim measure, fostering the spirit of cooperation to continue and the tasks that had been programmed since then to facilitate confirmation of the effort and the introduction of improvements as appropriate.

During the last few years this Panel has not been successful in the cooperation processes, leading to the obligatory adoption of rollovers of the measure, which contradicts the dynamic approach to fisheries management, as we have not been able to carry out the commensurate analysis of the benefits of the effort deployed, of which there are many.

During 2023, this Panel has not been able to integrate 5 different proposals into a common vision. Two costly and lengthy in-person meetings and one virtual meeting, in addition to a roadmap that has been drawn up and wasted, bear witness to this inability.

We came to this meeting in Egypt convinced that the accumulated experience would serve the good cause of cooperation, without forgetting what happened at the Commission meeting in Croatia in 2018, where consensus was prevented, when one or two delegations thought they possessed absolute wisdom, disregarded the contributions of the other CPCs and promoted a position, at the end of the discussions, that was clearly unworkable, basically because that position had not been conceived in a participatory manner.

In 2019 we were all aware that the strategy had to change and this required enormous efforts with extensive work in parallel by delegations, even into the small hours of the morning, to produce the tropical tuna management framework that governs us, which unfortunately is due to expire on the last day of this year 2023.

We came to Egypt conscious of the effort that had to be made to ensure that revamped and robust tropical tuna management measures were in place. We recognized that the process was already in the hands of the CPCs and that we all needed to emulate the great experience of 2019 and integrate in a transparent, participatory, informed manner that is consistent with the rights of each delegation, to arrive at the anticipated outcome.

The delegations of Central America and Curaçao were pleased when the Commission Chair assured that the request of our delegations for transparent and inclusive participation on equal terms for those working online was guaranteed. In addition, this region ensured the presence of two delegations that would serve as a coordination mechanism to ensure that the Chairman's commitment would materialise and that information would flow appropriately, which implied, if necessary, extending videoconferences during the parallel discussions that must reasonably be held to promote a common final proposal, without authors, without reservations, with compromises and with virtues.

Since the opening of the 28th Regular Meeting, this delegation approached other delegations that had indicated the same level of commitment. We spoke with the European Union, with South Africa, and jointly with West African countries, and with many other delegations, as a follow-up to inter-sessional meetings where we reiterated our commitment to work together.

Recognising that it is the prerogative of each delegation to establish its strategy for cooperation, but bearing in mind the positive experiences gathered over time, we urged these delegations to start working together as soon as possible to produce the proposal and expressed our interest in participating from the beginning of the process; this would ensure that our delegation, but above all the delegations that follow us online, would have access to the information and could make the relevant contributions, guaranteeing that the authorship of the final product could be attributed to the Commission and ensuring that we had moved from an individual approach to a common approach.

Each time we reached out in the following days, to encourage joint work, this delegation was informed that delegations were not yet ready to participate and that only a few bilateral contacts were taking place. This was their prerogative and we believed that, even at the risk of the time available becoming short, it was essential to create optimal and unforced conditions as the basis for cooperation.

On Thursday morning of this week, this delegation began to hear in the corridors about advancements that had led to a document in progress; therefore, we approached the delegations referred to above and were told that work had not yet begun. The evidence of this information was mounting, which uncomfortably led us to the opposite conviction. In the afternoon on that Thursday 16 November, this delegate was invited by the representatives of Brazil and the group of African countries to what was supposed to be the start of the joint work. I enthusiastically informed the other countries of Central America and Curaçao that the moment to work together had been announced, that there was no document as yet and, with that, we agreed that I would participate initially to foster the integration of the rest of the countries of this region.

At 6pm on that Thursday, I went to the meeting room of the distinguished delegation of Japan where I had been invited and, in the hall, I was unofficially informed that a document had already been drawn up between the delegations of the European Union, Brazil, South Africa, Japan and the countries of West Africa. My surprise and disillusion at what this implied in terms of the commitment shown by our countries was evident; nevertheless, exercising the required flexibility, we entered the meeting at 18:38 when those summoned were present. At that time, I saw an image on the screen of a Word document projected from the computer of the European Union delegate, showing two paragraphs of what was presumably a proposal on tropical tuna conservation measures, with the changes shown in track changes. I enquired about the nature of the meeting and was told that we were to review a text and that no one had had the opportunity to review it before. At 18:47, naturally, I asked, for the first time, for a copy of the document to also see it on my computer and was told that it could not be shared because it would be worked on, on the screen first. I reminded those present that my function, in addition to representing this delegation, was to promote coordination with the other countries of the Central American region, so I could not anticipate the regional position and that the document was indispensable for this reason. We moved forward with the review, and I saw that the document had more edits in track changes, and that options had already ruled out FAD closures, where the two alternatives contained in the document of 65 and 80 days were deleted. I enquired about the rationale for the deletion and was informed that the "Group" considered that this was the best approach. I countered that options could not yet be excluded without taking into account the view of this delegation and the others in the Central American and Curaçao group and, with the authorisation of others, the EU delegate reinstated these options. The review progressed and on four occasions I insisted on the need to have a copy of the document to be able to review it reasonably and in depth and to transmit the document to our region and I was denied this opportunity; only the delegation of Japan expressed a positive view, also queried the rationale for this

decision, at the time infamous. In conclusion, I witnessed that we had been lied to and excluded, that more than 50 paragraphs had been edited, which involved a significant and special effort, from which we were excluded.

Discriminatory treatment, lack of transparency, a breakdown in trust, are precisely the characteristics of a failed negotiation. They are the converse of what the International Court of Justice recognised as substantive negotiation, leading to the argument of formal, empty, unsubstantiated, impossible and failed argumentation.

Document PA1_520, which was made available last Friday night at 21:17 hours, less than 24 hours ago, suggests that it is the result of that work, which we reject, because it was not participatory; because it discouraged trust, because it wrongly assumed that there are privileged parties and others whose points of view are trivial or unimportant. On the substance of the document, we have not yet expressed an opinion. We are confronted with it with very little time to react. The same time should be available to us as those parties who subscribe to it had to acknowledge and consult it.

At a glance, we note that the document is still empty in areas that we feel are crucial: the allocation key, equitable distribution of fishing opportunities with a redistribution for the benefit of developing States. Other areas are still represented with bracketed options, showing the disregard for the time that has been taken, because these issues should have been addressed from day one.

This delegation has indicated since March of this year that a rollover of the current measure was not an option, because it recognizes the need to review and to recognize the benefits and excesses of the current closure and the urgent need to improve in areas where the measure is still weak, such as the existence of parallel systems of bilateral reallocation of fishing opportunities that do not contribute to a balanced structure, improvement of the credibility of the data absent from the onboard observers system, and without doubt, to ensure that tasks assigned to other bodies are carried out. We are concerned, however, that we are facing a strategy developed to minimize the effort and prompt the status quo of a rollover that benefits those who represent more than 50% of the tropical tuna catches. In this regard, we must warn that, if we continue along this route, we would fail in the greatest of our purposes, which is the strengthening of management for the sustainability of the resources.

We hope that the Panel will take good note of this situation, reflect and adopt urgent measures to bring the process back on track, in an effectively inclusive manner, in the few minutes we have left before concluding the meetings due to the obligatory time limit we have agreed upon. To this end, you can count on our reiterated willingness. Let these statements be recorded in the minutes of this meeting. Thank you very much.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena) to Panel 1

This year, CPCs have to necessarily adopt a new tropical tuna (TT) measure, in order to end several years of stalemate and demonstrate ICCAT's capability of reaching consensus on the sustainable management of the stocks under its remit.

Ensure sustainable management of bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna (BET) continues to show signs of recovery but the uncertainties around the stock assessment still exist. Therefore, Sciaena recommends that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for BET does not exceed 73,000 tons, in order to give an increased probability of the stock not being overfished or under overfishing in future years.

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

Sciaena urges CPCs to maintain or enhance the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management measures which are in place, by adopting elements of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tuna” (documents [PA1_508/2023](#) and [PA1_509/2023](#)), such as: a limit of 300 FADs per vessel or lower; requirements on FAD non-entanglement and biodegradability; and the adoption of measures to increase accountability for FAD sets (such as a FAD registry and a FAD marking scheme).

In order to increase the transparency and improve the management of tropical tuna fisheries, Sciaena supports proposals that aim to increase observer and remote electronic monitoring coverage of the fleets that catch BET and other tropical tuna species, as well as additional restrictions and monitoring on at-sea transshipments.

Sciaena also urges Panel 1 to decisively move towards the development and adoption of a tropical tuna MSE in 2024, or 2025 at the latest, by adopting an intersessional work plan for this purpose. We therefore welcome proposal “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna” (document [PA1_510/2023](#)) and ask CPCs to endorse and adopt it.

In adopting a successful new tropical tuna measure, CPCs must also set measures that end yellowfin tuna overage, by setting an allocation key for the stock.

Adopt a western skipjack Management Procedure

We considered the adoption of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the western skipjack stock to be of a high priority for this year’s annual meeting. As of the moment of submission of this statement, no proposal has been tabled, we urge Panel 1 to agree on an intersessional workplan for 2024 that ensures the adoption of a western skipjack MSE in 2024.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8

Statement by International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) to Panel 1

During 2023, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has spent much time deliberating and discussing measures to manage tropical tunas during four intersessional meetings of Panel 1. It is concerning that discussions have taken up so much time while IPNLF believe ICCAT will have to show more ambition and determination to ensure the sustainability of tuna fishing, and preservation of Atlantic Ocean ecosystems for future generations, than we have seen recently. IPNLF urges the Commission to address the follow priorities:

Sustainable, robust management

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocations for bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT) tunas have been exceeded multiple times in recent years. Whilst the BET stock may no longer be subject to overfishing, it remains overfished and should be given time to recover before it faces increased fishing pressure. The status of the YFT stock remains less clear, but it’s concerning that since the last stock assessment in 2019, the TAC has been consistently exceeded, by as much as 35% in some years. This situation ultimately puts the future of these important stocks, fisheries, and the livelihoods they support in jeopardy.

What is IPNLF asking ICCAT to do?

- Adopt precautionary TAC limits for bigeye (overfished) and yellowfin (awaiting assessment after consistent overages) tuna stocks in line with the SCRS advice which provide a high likelihood of stock recovery within the next 2 generations (15 years for BET, 14 years for YFT) while critically meeting the needs of small-scale fisheries and the communities dependent upon them.

- Prepare and implement Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for both the bigeye and yellowfin stocks based on the latest scientific advice, and encourage the Commission to adopt HCRs for other tropical tunas as established in Rec. 15-07.
- Implement stronger monitoring, conservation and management measures to prevent catches beyond the TAC, with suitable consequences defined for overages.

Supply vessels

Supply vessels increase the capacities of the purse seine fisheries to damage tuna stocks and ecosystems, with those fleets being the major drivers of overfishing of multiple tuna stocks. As a result of their negative impacts, supply vessels have been banned in both the WCPFC and IATTC, through capacity management and conservation measures, and have also been limited at the IOTC. The lack of regulations for these vessels in the Atlantic Ocean is driving concerns for sustainability, traceability and compliance monitoring.

What is IPNLF asking ICCAT to do?

- As a minimum, limit the number of support vessels permitted per purse seine vessel, as has been done at IOTC, or even ban support vessels as WCPFC and IATTC have done.
- Pay full attention to analyses presented on the impact of support vessels on juvenile YFT and BET catches by the SCRS, as illustrated in paragraph 33 of Recommendation 22-01.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 1

Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates the work of Panel 1 and understands that most of the agenda may be devoted to discussions on the draft recommendation for a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas. We urge members to merge the proposals on “Draft Recommendations by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” (documents [PA1_508/2023](#) and document [PA1_509/2023](#)) to adopt a measure that includes improved FAD management and relaunch the regional observer program. We also ask that the Chair and members balance priorities with other work that has been progressed and is ready for adoption this year. One such effort includes setting conceptual management objectives for the multi-stock management strategy evaluation through adoption of a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna” (document [PA1_510/2023](#)), and we recommend adding an objective related to managing fishery selectivity to optimize the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

Pew regrets that a proposal for a western Atlantic skipjack management procedure (MP) has not been posted yet. The SCRS stated its support for MP adoption this year, noting that, “the model-based MPs tested can be considered viable candidates for management of the western Atlantic skipjack tuna stock and can serve as the basis for MP adoption in 2023 consistent with the MSE roadmap”. In addition, Panel 1 made considerable progress in finalizing operational management objectives for the stock at its dedicated intersessional in May, and no CPCs have expressed opposition to moving forward this year. As such, we urge the main fishing nations to lead work within Panel 1 to adopt an MP for western skipjack this year in accordance with the MSE workplan. Significantly, this would be the first tropical tuna MP in the Atlantic Ocean and will lay the foundation for more progress in the management of other Atlantic tropical tunas.

Lastly, Pew joins other NGOs in expressing disappointment for the disregard of the yellowfin tuna total allowable catch (TAC). As landings continue to exceed the TAC – for a decade now, with a 35% overage in 2022 – we urge Panel 1 to adopt a yellowfin tuna allocation key as an urgent priority to hold CPCs accountable for respecting the TAC and recommend a stock assessment be conducted in 2024.

Statement by Européche to Panel 2

North Atlantic albacore tuna

Recital:

- Noting the outcomes of the Report of the 2023 ICCAT North Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting (including MSE) which indicated that the probability of the stock currently being in the green area of the Kobe plot is 99.6%;
- Considering the adoption of Recommendation 21-04, replacing Recommendations 16-06 and 17-04 as amended on conservation and management measures for North Atlantic albacore;
- Noting that Article 14 (a) of Recommendation 21-04 provides for new analyses to be carried out to test other HCRs supporting the management objectives associated with a wider range of control parameters than that currently explored for fishing mortality and biomass values;
- According to the SCRS 2022 report¹, it would be possible to increase the F-target value from 0.8 to 0.9 without compromising the sustainability objective for this stock. Table 17.23.1 of this report states that by only changing the F-target value to 0.9, the probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe diagram would be 61.65%;
- Observing that the selected HCR in 2017 by Recommendation 17-04 on a provisional basis for the period 2018-2020, led to the setting of a TAC lower than the Maximum Sustainable Yield, since the fishing mortality applied in 2018 represented only 62% of the fishing mortality associated with the MSY, and the catches in 2021 were well below the objectives of MSY;
- Recalling that ICCAT Recommendation 15-07 provides that the management strategy evaluation (MSE) is an inclusive, interactive and iterative process used to evaluate, inter alia, the effectiveness of harvest control rules and reference points in meeting management objectives, including the risk of not meeting those objectives.

Europêche recommendation:

Noting that no exceptional circumstances have been detected, Européche recommends applying the management strategy (MS) to the current biomass estimate to set the next TAC for the 2024-2026 period. The recommended TAC obtained by applying the MS is 47 251 t, which represents a 25% increase of the previous TAC, with respect to the Recommendation 21-04.

However, capping the TAC with a fishing mortality value of $F=0.8$ results in an excess of precaution. Européche advocates for the purposes of the management strategy for North Atlantic albacore, the reference point for the F-target value be re-evaluated from 0.8 to 0.9. *In this context, the TAC for the 2024-2026 period should be set by applying this F-target value of 0.9.*

Finally, the application of the management strategy being conditional on the efforts of the CPCs to respect their fishing possibilities, Européche is strongly opposed to open discussions on the distribution key between the contracting parties, nor of the distribution ratio between CPCs holding allocated TAC and those limited to a catch limits.

¹ https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_22-23-1-2.pdf

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) to Panel 2**

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers firmly believes that the proposed amendment to Recommendation 22-08 by the European Commission is not only necessary but also justified. As experienced practitioners in the field of aquaculture, representing the bluefin tuna farms in the EU and beyond, we want to assure everyone that the removal of the term “farming capacity” will not lead to an increase in farming activity in the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The current provisions related to the register and keeping track of farming facilities will remain unchanged, meaning that there will be no rise in the number of farming facilities.

Moreover, it is important to note that the current limit of bluefin tuna (BFT) that can be farmed in the approved facilities is already prescribed by Recommendation 22-08 as the input capacity. Therefore, there is no direct correlation between the input capacity and the term “farming capacity” within the Recommendation, rendering the term redundant.

We fully support the EU CPC's stance that the term is legally redundant, lacking a clear legal definition. To ensure consistency and clarity, we stand behind the EU's decision to remove this terminology from Recommendation 22-08.

Furthermore, it is crucial to understand that Recommendation 22-08 consolidates the provisions concerning BFT growth rates. This means that the amount of BFT that can be harvested from a farm is determined by applying the relevant growth rate based on the level of input capacity. This mechanism guarantees that a farm cannot exceed the biomass levels allowed by the accepted growth rate table.

We would also like to emphasize that the control system currently in place will not be affected by the removal of the term “farming capacity”. National environmental considerations, which are strictly addressed by national requirements and not by the ICCAT recommendation, will also remain unaffected.

In conclusion we firmly believe that the removal of the term “farming capacity” is merely a realignment of Recommendation 22-08 with the latest needs and status of the aquaculture sector. Therefore, the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers strongly supports the proposed amendment put forth by the European Union.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 2**

Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes this opportunity to comment on important work being considered by Panel 2 at the 28th Regular Meeting of the ICCAT Commission. This year, there are two clear decision points for Panel 2 to progress based on successful deliberations throughout the year. *Pew commends the Panel on the development of the Atlantic bluefin tuna exceptional circumstances protocol, which should be adopted at the Commission meeting. In addition, the Panel should agree to a higher Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for North Atlantic albacore, in accordance with the current management procedure (MP).*

Pew was among the many groups to congratulate ICCAT on the monumental achievement of adopting an MP for Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2022. Now, ICCAT must finalize that work by adopting an exceptional circumstances protocol (ECP) for this iconic species. Building off the ECP already agreed for North Atlantic albacore, Panel 2 has worked closely with the SCRS to develop a plan for how to identify and respond to rare or unforeseen events that may warrant reconsideration of the MP. Pew urges members to finalize and adopt the draft ECP for Atlantic bluefin submitted by the Chair (Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-09 establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas (Document [PA2_611_2023](#)).

ICCAT should also agree to a new TAC for North Atlantic albacore based on the current MP, which this time allows for a substantial increase of 25%. The 2023 stock assessment showed continued growth of the stock, evidence that the MP is working. As a result, the MP calls for an increase to 47,251 t per year for 2024-2026. We are encouraged that the two proposals up for Panel 2's consideration (Draft Recommendations by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore (documents [PA2_612/2023](#) and [PA2_614/2023](#)) mirror one another in calling for adoption of this TAC. This is a clear example of how MPs can streamline science-based fisheries management.

Finally, Pew strongly opposes lifting capacity restrictions on bluefin tuna ranching operations, as proposed in Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-08 (document [PA2_607/2023](#)). Farming operations continue to pose compliance challenges, noting the unresolved Tarantelo case and new allegations of illegal activity involving farms in Croatia, and it would be unwise to remove capacity restrictions until proven monitoring and control measures are in place at all bluefin tuna farms. The Panel should reject this proposal.

This year, Panel 2 has only a few of key decision points to progress, and that is the result of good work over the past 5 years to ensure that the three primary stocks the Panel is responsible for are managed by MPs. Pew encourages other Panels to follow this path.

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.		Ongoing
	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.	Ongoing

<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>
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 in PWG. Standardisation has already been taken into account by Panel 2.	No further work required by Panel 2 until PWG indicate any change in current position.

<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>
Reporting Requirements	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.	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, but Panel 2 may also wish to consider redundancies.	Ongoing.
	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	COM	X	S	Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.			Ongoing.

<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>
	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.							
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.	Progress on allocation of fishing opportunities has been made in respect of some species under the Panel 2 purview.	Ongoing.
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.		The management objectives and reference points have already been adopted for BFT and ALB-N through the MSE process. Similar ones should be established for Mediterranean albacore.	Ongoing

<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>
	<p>115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.</p>		<p>See 114 above. In 2022, the Commission adopted the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Management Procedure for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna to be Used for both The Western Atlantic and Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Management Areas</i> (Rec. 22-09). A similar recommendation should be adopted for Mediterranean albacore.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<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>
	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 ALB-N based on scientific advice that takes a precautionary approach. A similar approach should be done for Mediterranean albacore.	Ongoing

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Egypt to Panel 4**

In the beginning, Egypt would like to appreciate your efforts that are given continuously to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international rules. Throughout 16 years which reflect our contribution in ICCAT since Egypt joined in 2007, we have been trying hard to fulfill all our obligations and compliance with the ICCAT recommendations.

In 2019 Egypt requested to catch swordfish to benefit from its territorial water resources and we provide all evidence showing our historical rights to have our own quota in Mediterranean swordfish as Egypt has great and large-scale fishing vessels which are submitted yearly in the Annual Report to ICCAT. It is indicated that Egypt has more than 3000 registered fishing “coastal catching” vessels operating only in the Mediterranean Sea. Also, Egypt includes data of its catch of swordfish every year in the Annual Report submitted to the Commission, and due to our domestic observation, the catch of the swordfish is still limited. However, the abundance of the swordfish in the Egyptian water allows for more catch.

In point No. 5 on page 2 of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on Mediterranean Swordfish, held in Madrid in February 2017, the Egyptian delegation announce our position regarding the distribution of the allocated swordfish quota as following:

5. Establishment of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned

The delegates of Egypt and the United States also reserved their positions, in order to consult. Further, the delegate of Egypt reported that its government would gather and report catch statistics to the SCRS and reiterated Egypt’s interest in being included in the quota for Other CPCs.

In November 2018 at the Compliance Meeting in Croatia, Egypt reaffirmed its rights in a rightful quota.

So, in that regard, Egypt would like to recall the request raised during the 23rd Special Meeting held in Portugal in 2022 to ask for a fair quota of SWO. Egypt has therefore submitted a fishing plan as well as a management plan besides a record of its vessels and ports registered in ICCAT records as a step to comply with the regulation and Recommendation of ICCAT.

During this year, Egypt renews its request for a fair quota, specially when observing that the total allocated catch of SWO-MD is estimated at 10500 t in reference to Rec. 16-05 and the total quota fished during 2023 for the Med. countries is computed as 8962.61 t. And if we add the current catch of Egypt which is estimated by 75 t as mentioned in the fishing plan submitted by Egypt, the total catch of SWO-MD will be 9037.3 t. Furthermore, in the SCRS report for SWO-MD, the new recommended TAC is to be 9500 t.

From previous calculations we conclude that if the Commission decided to allocate a share for Egypt from the unallocated quota which exceeded 900 t, we would find a good opportunity for Egypt to have a fair quota of 250 t from the unallocated quota which will not affect the conservation of SWO-MD stock, because we are still under the new recommended Total Allowable Catch by more than 200 t.

Today, with a deep understanding of the importance of preserving our fish resources, Egypt asserts its claim within this meeting to assign a fair and equitable share of the Mediterranean swordfish quota with a kind request for the approval from different CPCs in PA4.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Japan to Panel 4**

Japan is concerned about the lack of scientific advice from the SCRS regarding several proposals put for Panel 4 this year, particularly PA4_806A/2023. In the spirit of compromise and cooperation, Japan does not block the adoption of this proposal since this is a non-binding resolution. However, Japan will oppose if this resolution is converted to a binding recommendation in the future unless it is accompanied by clear scientific advice from the SCRS.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena) to Panel 4*****Adoption of an MSE for North Atlantic swordfish***

As in previous years, Sciaena will closely follow the decisions regarding the pelagic longline fishery, as it is of the utmost importance for Portugal and the EU. A key decision in ensuring that this fishery embraces sustainability will be the adoption of an MSE for the North Atlantic swordfish, and we are certain that CPCs will not hesitate to take this decision, in order to culminate the extremely well led process and to fulfil the SCRS work plan on MSEs.

Sciaena hopes that the proponents of proposals PA4_817 and PA4_819 can agree to merge their proposals, in order to ensure the adoption of a management procedure at the end of this year's meeting.

Define sustainable limits for the blue shark stocks

Following the historic measures adopted by ICCAT on other shark species in recent years, namely for the shortfin mako stocks in the Atlantic, ICCAT will have to follow the SCRS advice and set sustainable catch limits for another species of key importance for the longline fisheries and the health of the Atlantic's pelagic ecosystems, the blue shark. Sciaena recommends a TAC of 20,000 tonnes, for the northern Atlantic stock, and a TAC of 25,000 tonnes for the southern stock, to ensure at least 60% probability of each stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2026 for the North Atlantic and for the next 10 years for the South Atlantic. Sciaena will also be supportive of additional measures that protect this key species, such as setting an allocation key for the southern stock.

Sciaena is also supportive of steps towards developing MSE frameworks for the two Atlantic blue shark stocks, such as the elements in this regard in proposals PA4_813 and PA4_814.

It should be noted that regarding the two stocks of blue shark, Sciaena is very much in support of statement PA4_820, submitted by fellow observer organisations.

We also welcome and urge the adoption of proposals PA4_807, PA4_808 and PA4_809, as they would contribute to reducing the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sensitive elasmobranch species and, thus, improve the health of pelagic ecosystems. Sciaena is also supportive of proposal PA4_811, which aims to improve the existing measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch, in light of the new scientific advice.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Europêche to Panel 4*****Prohibiting shark finning***

Europêche supports conservation measures of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT, which included the obligation to provide more data to the scientists and to land the fins naturally attached to the carcasses, an obligation already implemented in the European Union.

Europêche urges Panel 4 to adopt Draft Recommendation PA4_809/2023 concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.

Maintaining catch levels for blue shark, which is not overfished

According to the SCRS, North Atlantic blue shark is neither overfished, nor in a situation of overfishing. The current catches are below what the SCRS considers MSY. Data collected indicate that the population has increased, and fishing-related mortality has decreased since the last assessment. Despite the stock's healthy condition, there is a proposal to reduce the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) by 17%, from 39,000 tons to 32,600 tons.

South Atlantic blue shark is not overfished but subject to occasional overfishing as current catch levels appear to exceed the SCRS recommendations. There is a proposal to reduce current catch levels by 18% compared to the 2019-2021 period for all fleets, which would represent a more significant effort for the EU fleet compared to other fleets.

Europêche recommends:

- Maintaining the current TAC for North Atlantic blue shark, as any decrease would be unnecessary and will adversely affect the European fishing sector;
- realizing a continual assessment of the current trend and information on southern blue shark;
- considering the high variability of South Atlantic blue shark fisheries while deciding on measures to reduce catches, as the stock is not overfished. Catch reductions should not unduly burden the fishing industry.

Europêche also regrets that, as it is the case for all species in general, and for blue shark in particular, there is clearly a lack of consideration of social and economic values for coastal communities.

Northern Atlantic swordfish

While Europêche acknowledges that HCRs can contribute to stability in fisheries management, timing may not be ideal this year due to more pressing issues, as North Atlantic swordfish is neither overfished nor in a situation of overfishing.

Europêche then recommends:

- As regard new results obtained recently on the development of a management procedure, adoption of an HCR-based management for northern swordfish in a future ICCAT meeting;
- Encouraging close collaboration between relevant stakeholders, including scientific institutions and industry representatives to ensure that the future management measures for swordfish are well-considered and supported by comprehensive data and expertise.

In addition to the above detailed recommendations, Europêche invites Panel 4 to adopt:

- PA4_807: Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) interacting with ICCAT fisheries;
- PA4_808: Recommendation by ICCAT on manta and mobulid rays (family Mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

In the event of discussions on management measures, Europêche points out that the fishing sector must be at the heart of the process and each management measure must be studied on a case-by-case basis in the interests of effectiveness.

Statement by The Ocean Foundation to Panel 4

The Ocean Foundation, in alignment with other shark conservation observer organizations, appreciates this opportunity to contribute to Panel 4 deliberations.

Closing gaps in protections for endangered mobula rays and whale sharks

ICCAT is the only tuna RFMO that has not adopted safeguards for whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) and rays of the family Mobulidae (manta and devil rays). Fisheries management is essential to fulfilment of commitments under various environmental treaties, including obligations for strict protection for Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Protocol).

Retention bans and release protocols (as proposed by the UK in PA4_808 and EU in PA4_807) are vital to minimizing bycatch mortality and are in line with 2009 SCRS shark management advice (for precautionary measures to protect low-data species with high vulnerability and conservation concern). Adoption by ICCAT can also bolster existing protections and amplify guidance for maximizing survival.

Ensuring blue shark sustainability

ICCAT has led RFMOs in managing fisheries for blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*), but TACs are too high to ensure long-term sustainability, according to the new stock assessment. The SCRS recommends reducing both regional TACs after determining that the South Atlantic population is being overfished and the current North Atlantic TAC has only a 3% chance of preventing overfishing and maintaining population health over the next decade. Near-term application of the 70% probability standard (warranted for elasmobranchs) results in 2024 TACs of:

- less than 20,000 t for the North Atlantic and
- no more than 25,000 t for the South Atlantic.

We urge ICCAT to also immediately allocate the South Atlantic TAC among CPCs (to end substantial overages) and direct the SCRS to elevate the priority of a blue shark harvest control rule.

Recovering shortfin mako sharks

SCRS calculations reveal that fishing mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) remains excessive. To reverse dangerous declines, we urge Parties to:

- extend the North Atlantic retention ban;
- ensure compliance with South Atlantic limits; and
- prioritize bycatch mitigation throughout the Atlantic.

Strengthening the finning ban

ICCAT's shark finning ban relies on a complicated fin-to-carcass ratio that is hard to enforce and exacerbates inadequacies in shark catch information. Requiring that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (as proposed by the US and many other CPCs in PA4-809) can:

- ease enforcement;
- eliminate wiggle-room to fin sharks; and
- facilitate collection of species-specific catch data.

Improving swordfish management

We also urge ICCAT to adopt a management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish to set the TAC from 2024 onward.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) to Panel 4

The Pew Charitable Trusts recognizes the significant intersessional work completed by Panel 4 and appreciates the opportunity to comment on this year's agenda.

North Atlantic swordfish

After many years of hard work, both by the SCRS and Panel 4, it is time to adopt a management procedure (MP) for North Atlantic swordfish to set the total allowable catch (TAC) starting in the 2024 fishing year. Pew would like to commend the SCRS Swordfish Species Group - led by scientists from Canada - for progressing these efforts and facilitating Panel 4 agreement on some MP elements, including a 3-year management cycle and a minimum TAC change threshold of 200 t. Now, Panel 4 must adopt a final MP, and ensure a 60% minimum probability of being in the green zone of the Kobe plot and a 5% maximum probability of breaching the limit reference point. *Pew urges members to finish this work by merging proposals* "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for North Atlantic Swordfish" (document [PA4_817/2023](#)) and "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic Swordfish" (document [PA4_819/2023](#)) from Canada and the U.S./EU, respectively, and adopting the MP this year. An allocation concern unresolved for 17 years should not be the cause of delayed adoption, especially recognizing the current TAC expires this year.

Blue sharks

Noting the results of the 2023 stock assessments for Atlantic blue sharks, where the southern stock catch continues to exceed the TAC by more than 15% annually and the northern stock has just a 3% chance of remaining in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot under the current catch limit, we urge members to reduce the TACs for both populations to target a 60 to 70% chance of being in the green zone. Furthermore, Panel 4 should adopt an allocation mechanism for the southern TAC as a high priority. Pew also supports the language appearing in all the three proposals ("Draft Recommendations by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries" document [PA4_813](#) and document [PA4_818](#) and "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries" document [PA4_814](#).) that tasks the SCRS with progressing the long-standing request to develop harvest control rules for these stocks, a timely effort since MSE work is now underway for blue sharks.

Other matters

In addition to the above detailed recommendations, Pew urges Panel 4 to:

- Adopt "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks" (document [PA4_807/2023](#));
- Adopt "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on manta and mobulid rays (family *Mobulidae*) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries" (document [PA4_808/2023](#));
- Adopt "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT" (document [PA4_809/2023](#));
- Adopt "Draft supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries" (document [PA4_811/2023](#));
- Strengthen and adopt "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on cetaceans encirclement" (document [PA4_806/2023](#)).

Joint Statement by Oceana, Pro Wildlife, and Sharkproject International

Blue sharks are at high risk of overfishing in all oceans, primarily due to their significant overlap with industrial longline fisheries operations and their inherently lower reproductive rates compared to tunas and other target species. As a result of industrial fishing over the last 50 years, the spawning biomass of both Atlantic stocks has nearly halved¹.

While tuna stocks and many other species are now subject to comprehensive management procedures at most RFMOs, similar measures have not yet been initiated for commercially exploited blue sharks despite their economic importance. This long overdue omission should be corrected immediately. Even more so as the 2023 ICCAT stock assessment highlights the threat both stocks are exposed to. The stock in the South Atlantic is subject to overfishing and the stock in the North Atlantic stock is at risk of being already overfished.

As conservation organisations, we are concerned about the continued overexploitation of blue sharks, targeted without adequate and suitable management. The absence of comprehensive management procedures, critical for ensuring the long-term sustainability of these removals and for maintaining populations at levels to perform their vital role in marine ecosystems, we call on the Commission to act. We urge that ICCAT comply with its commitment to the sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species, leveraging demonstrated competence in managing migratory and oceanic shark species, and apply a precautionary approach to the adoption of TACs for both stocks.

We therefore call on the Commission in 2023 to:

- task the SCRS to provide, by 2025, options for candidate management procedures with the associated limit, target, and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.
- reduce the TACs for both the North and the South Atlantic so that the probability of both stocks being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot is at least 60% throughout the projection period until 2033.
 - For the North Atlantic stock, the TAC should be set no higher than 20,000 tonnes in order to bring the stock into the green Kobe quadrant with at least a probability of 60% by 2026.
 - For the South Atlantic stock, the TAC should be set at 25,000 tonnes so that the stock has at least a 60% probability of staying in the green quadrant throughout the next ten years. The future TAC should be allocated among the CPCs as foreseen in Rec 19/08.²
- work through the Compliance Committee to ensure all CPCs comply with ICCAT's reporting requirements for sharks and fully report discards (dead and alive) as required by ICCAT Recommendations 2004-10 and 2007-06, as well as all other applicable resolutions and recommendations.³

Background

ICCAT has previously pioneered the adoption of management measures for several other shark species. Following the uncertain outcome of the 2015 stock assessments, ICCAT set TACs for both blue shark stocks in 2019 as a precautionary measure.

¹ ICCAT Rec. 04-10, Rec. 07-06, Rec. 11-15, Rec. 18-06

² ICCAT Rec. 19-08

³ ICCAT Rec. 04-10, Rec. 07-06, Rec. 11-15, Rec. 18-06

However, till to date no HCRs have been proposed, although the SCRS was mandated already back in 2016 to develop “in the light of the results of the next stock assessment of blue shark [...], 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,” and this has been reiterated in Recommendation 2019/07 and Recommendation 2019/08. In addition, since adoption in 2019, the precautionary TAC of 28,923 tonnes for the South Atlantic has been exceeded by more than 15% every year due to the absence of an allocation key.⁴

In summary, ICCAT continues to treat blue sharks as a bycatch species instead of recognising that they are a target species for which comprehensive management procedures should be developed.⁵

The results of the blue shark stock assessments in 2023 show that urgent action is needed.

- The 2023 stock assessment indicated a 49.7% probability of the *North Atlantic stock* being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (i.e. not overfished and not subject to overfishing), while there is a 49.6% probability of the stock being in the yellow quadrant (i.e. overfished but not subject to overfishing). The SCRS advise that “the Commission reduces the current TAC to catch levels that will maintain the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a high probability”.⁶
- The 2023 assessment showed that the *South Atlantic stock* was not overfished in 2021 but is subject to overfishing, i.e. has a 46.5% probability of being in the orange quadrant of the Kobe plot, while the probabilities of being in the green quadrant and the red quadrant (i.e. overfished and subject to overfishing) are 44.7% and 8.02%, respectively. The SCRS concludes that “recent catches (2019-2021; 34,983 t mean catch) are [...] not sustainable in the long term [and indicates] that catches of 27,711t (the estimated 2021 MSY) or less will immediately stop overfishing”.⁷

⁴ ICCAT Report of the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics, 26-30 September 2022; p. 233f

⁵ ICCAT Rec. 15-07

⁶ ICCAT Report of the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics, 26-30 September 2022; p.231

⁷ ICCAT Report of the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics, 26-30 September 2022; p. 232

Report of the Meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Derek Campbell, Chair of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (“Compliance Committee or “COC”), provided an overview of the COC’s sessions and plan of work.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Eva De Bleeker (European Union (EU)) was appointed rapporteur of this Compliance Committee meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

4. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and next steps

The Chair explained that the use of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) was mandatory for the submission of the Annual Report for the first time in 2023. The Chair of the WG-ORT, Dr Bryan Keller, explained that following several virtual training sessions in 2023, a total of 46 CPCs (41 Contracting Parties; 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties) used the IOMS (81% of the 57 CPCs) and completed the two sections (P1A1: Part 1/Annex 1; PA2S3: Part 2 /Section 3) of the 2023 Annual Reports via the online interface. Less than 10% of users requested support. The WG-ORT Chair updated the Commission on past, present and future work, drawing the attention to the third phase of the program (from June 2022-May 2024) that aims to finalize and improve the IOMS system, in particular the Vessel Manager module, the Form Manager module, the Shark/Billfish Check Sheets Manager module, and the Port Manager module. He underlined that the workload for the IOMS team is heavy and unsustainable with the current budget. More personnel are needed in order to improve and extend the system. The WG-ORT Chair ended his presentation by expressing his gratitude to the previous WG-ORT Chair, Ms. Terra Lederhouse. The “2023 Status Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)” is contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

The [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#), which was held virtually from 7 to 8 February 2023, was endorsed by the Committee. The Committee recommended that STACFAD positively consider the budget request relating to the IOMS.

The COC Chair also recommended that the Secretariat and Commission explore the feasibility of progressively translating Annual Report questionnaire sections, which are currently published in the original language only. The Chair noted that in many and possibly most cases, CPCs completing an Annual Report via IOMS will simply confirm the continued validity of the previous year’s reporting information for a particular reporting field. As such, ICCAT could consider translating different sections of submitted annual reports each year, until all sections have been subject to initial translation, and then at that point turn to translating only the form fields that are updated. Clearly this comes at a cost, but one that could be spread out and that could decrease over time. The Chair recommended that this idea be taken into consideration by the WG-ORT in cooperation with the Secretariat.

5. Consideration of ways to use capacity building to improve compliance

The Secretariat provided an update on compliance missions, in which the Secretariat sends experts from the Secretariat to meet in-country with CPCs to provide technical assistance in meeting ICCAT requirements. The programme is undertaken with funding from the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Global Environment Facility (GEF) project of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Chair notes that in Annual Reports, including the Part V narrative section, a number of CPCs have expressed that they face difficulties with completing the reporting forms. Three CPCs (Egypt, Senegal and São Tomé e Príncipe) have requested a compliance mission in the future, contained in the document "Information submitted by some CPCs in Section 5 of their Annual Report". In accordance with previous approval of the Commission, there will be one compliance mission per year for 2024, 2025, and 2026.

CPCs exchanged views on process for decision on future compliance mission recipients, criteria for selection, prioritizations, the need to measure the effects of such missions and the willingness of CPCs to seek compliance missions. All CPCs underlined the importance of capacity building. Honduras and The Gambia expressed interest in the compliance missions and capacity building training.

The Secretariat clarified that the three annual compliance missions will focus on reporting obligations, but expressed a willingness to expand the scope of these missions to include capacity building relating to other issues if the Commission should so decide. This could be discussed intersessionally.

Beyond decisions regarding recipients of compliance missions, the Chair emphasized the importance of COC actions to support capacity building as a positive way to improve CPC compliance with ICCAT requirements. There was support for maintaining a permanent COC agenda item on capacity building as a tool to improve compliance. In furtherance of the COC's work in this regard, the Chair proposed creation of a meeting document that could serve as a repository for compliance-related capacity building opportunities from both within and outside of ICCAT (including from CPCs and other organizations), so that CPCs in need of such assistance can connect with available resources. Further, in the future such a document could be complimented by a companion repository document containing information on CPC identification of capacity building needs, which could be utilized by the COC to connect CPCs with available resources inside and outside of ICCAT. CPCs were in agreement with this approach.

In the interest of beginning to collect resources on available capacity building opportunities, the Chair invited meeting participants to provide information at this COC meeting on capacity building that they provide or have received.

Norway informed the COC that it has a number of capacity building projects that ICCAT members can use to improve their implementation of ICCAT requirements. Norway launched Blue Justice in 2019 in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and has launched an ocean surveillance programme. Through this programme, countries will have access to satellites. Norway also supports the West African task force to combat large-scale illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Lastly, Norway informed ICCAT of its support of a project to enhance inspection of containers to address fisheries crimes.

The EU expressed disappointment that only three requests for capacity building missions were made to the Secretariat. During the review of the compliance meeting documents, it became evident that a lot of CPCs struggle to meet reporting requirements. The EU encouraged CPCs to apply, noting that CPCs need to express a need in order to appropriately provide capacity building. The COC should also consider this matter in the context of CPC by CPC review, as compliance matters are identified - CPCs with an identified need could be encouraged to apply for support.

Regarding EU capacity building activities, the EU informed the COC of improved regional fisheries governance in western Africa (PESCAO), a six year programme with 50 million euros of funding with an objective to improve fisheries governance in the West Africa region. The programme addresses capacity building at the regional and national level, has supported 13 countries, and has produced results. The EU is looking to replicate this programme further south in Africa in the first half of 2024.

Several CPCs thanked the EU for the PESCAO trainings.

The EU also informed the meeting of their proposal to create a working group on the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme (HSBI), which they will present in the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). In September 2023, with support from the EU and the United States, an ICCAT seminar was organised on this topic which focused on interchanging best practices in existing HSBI and on the discussion of organisational and practical aspects of this possible ICCAT scheme. During the seminar the need for capacity building for the performance of this High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme became very clear.

Japan informed ICCAT of the ICCAT/Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Project (JCAP), under which it has provided capacity building assistance to ICCAT CPCs, focusing on developing coastal CPCs.

Morocco stressed the importance of prioritizing capacity building needs every year.

Guatemala mentioned that besides creating a list of the existing capacity building initiatives, it should be ensured that CPCs participate in these activities. Furthermore, the actual capacity levels of the CPCs should be evaluated.

Based on a suggestion by China (P.R.), the Chair proposed to also include next year under this agenda item an overview of how other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) address capacity building.

At the conclusion of the COC meeting, the Chair recommended, without objection, that São Tomé e Príncipe receive the compliance mission in 2024, as their needs (in particular, fulfilment of reporting obligations) are most in alignment with the focus of the compliance missions.

6. Consideration of any outstanding matters in Performance Review recommendations as well as recommendations from the Expert Workshops on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs

The document “Follow up of the ICCAT Performance review – COC” contains a chart and recommendations for actions by ICCAT to improve its work. The Chair noted there has been a lot of progress the past few years to address the Performance Review Panel’s recommendations, with most recommended actions either addressed or referred to the appropriate subsidiary body.

With respect to the “Expert Workshops on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs”, the Chair explained that the related document was circulated in 2022, and that he included it in this agenda item because it is always important for the COC to be thinking about ways to improve how it carries out its mandate, and this process has a number of helpful suggestions for tuna RFMO compliance processes. At the same time, ICCAT and the COC have adopted or initiated a number of new processes in recent years, so from the Chair’s perspective, the Expert Workshops recommendations could be particularly helpful for the COC as it considers how best to carry out these new processes and the approaches it has taken in recent years. To this end, the Chair encouraged CPCs to review this report and consider whether some of its recommendations could be applied to the COC’s work in the future.

One CPC underlined the need for regional composition of the expert groups in order to ensure a better understanding of what is feasible to strengthen the work of ICCAT.

7. Review of ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee

The Chair underlined the importance of the “Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee” as it is a very helpful tool to look at compliance in a crosscutting way, by measure instead of by CPC. It is an opportunity to highlight systemic or cross-cutting issues that exist in relation to specific Recommendations.

Tropical tunas (Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas (Rec. 21-01))

Guatemala expressed doubts on how to evaluate compliance with the various catch reporting requirements in this measure. Some CPCs must provide catches monthly, quarterly and weekly. The Secretariat noted that these overlapping reporting requirements sometimes result in double counting.

The Chair explained that the Compliance Committee's role in this instance is to bring the matter to the attention of the CPCs, not to undertake redrafting of the measures. It was suggested that Panel 1 consider the frequency of reporting requirements for tropical tunas, particularly for yellowfin and skipjack stocks, which are not managed under CPC quotas.

Mediterranean swordfish (Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish (Rec. 03-04) and (Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish (Rec. 16-05))

No comments by CPCs.

North Atlantic swordfish (Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of north Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02), Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 21-02) and Recommendation by ICCAT on Senegal's Bigeye Tuna Payback Plan (Rec. 23-03))

No comments by CPCs.

South Atlantic swordfish (Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-04 (Rec. 17-03), Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Recommendation 17-03 amending the Recommendation 16-04 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 21-03) and Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 22-04))

The Chair highlighted a comment by the Secretariat: Many of the responses in the context of North and South Atlantic swordfish on the maximum bycatch limits are incoherent as some CPCs have not understood the requirements. Often species are mixed up or irrelevant replies are given. For example, a response that this is not a targeted fishery is not an appropriate reply in relation to ICCAT management measures that are not limited in their applicability to directed fishing in all cases. Normally these measures have provisions that are relevant regardless of whether the species is taken as non-target catch. This is a cross cutting issue, not limited to this measure.

Albacore (North/South/Mediterranean) (Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern albacore catch limits for the period 2017 to 2020 (Rec. 16-07), Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic albacore (Rec. 21-04), Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a Rebuilding Plan for Mediterranean Albacore (Rec. 22-05), and Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023-2026 (Rec. 22-06))

The Chair made clear that the remarks on bycatch limits mentioned above are relevant for albacore as well.

Bluefin tuna (eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean) (Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08) and Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08))

Questions were discussed related to the frequency of reporting reflected in Table 8 and the accuracy of the reporting efforts by each CPC, which the Chair suggested could be taken up in the context of individual CPC review.

The Chair took note of a comment from the Secretariat in the “Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee” requesting CPCs to make every effort to finalize any quota transfers before the start of the fishing season and before the submission of Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) in order to avoid problems that are reflected therein. It was observed that this issue is linked to the eBCD system. If the transfers are known upfront then it would be useful that we know upfront as it would make this much less complex for the Secretariat from an administrative point of view.

Marlins (Recommendation by ICCAT to establish Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish (Rec. 19-05))

No comments by CPCs.

North and South Atlantic blue shark (Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-07 amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 21-10) and Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 21-11))

The Secretariat raised a point to the attention of the Committee: for northern blue shark, the overall TAC has been exceeded in 2022. This will come up in the context of the review of the Compliance Tables. We will have a discussion on the utility of the Compliance Tables to monitor how CPCs are carrying out their obligations on their soft limit on catches in that fishery.

North and South Atlantic mako (Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 21-09) and Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 22-11))

For South Atlantic shortfin mako, Task 1 reflects catch in excess of the overall TAC.

The Chair inquired about what the COC’s role could be in addressing this type of issue, where overall TAC is exceeded but there are not individual CPC limits. He suggested that the COC should highlight that the TAC has been exceeded and the issue can then be addressed in Panel 4.

Sea turtles (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) (Rec. 22-12))

The United States referred to the document “Responses from IOMS to M: BYC01 – Turtles”, noting that despite the mandatory reporting requirements, a number of CPCs have not reported on turtle bycatch by purse seiners and longliners and some CPCs have not reported on their implementation of bycatch mitigation measures. The United States recommended that the COC follow up with individual CPCs with these issues.

Penalties applicable in the case of non-fulfilment to reporting obligations (“no data, no fish”) (Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfilment of reporting obligations (Rec. 11-15))

In cases where CPCs have not submitted their annual catch data for species by the July 15 deadline, the Secretariat has done a lot of work reaching out to determine whether the CPCs have missed the reporting deadline or have zero catch.

The Chair proposed the following approach, consistent with previous years: we could ask the Secretariat to send out a message following the annual meeting to encourage the CPCs to provide any missing information or a declaration of no catch in the coming weeks, given the January 1 implementation date of [Rec. 11-15](#) provisions.

For CPCs that have incomplete data with Task 1 data submitted only for certain species, it may be helpful to mention what exactly is missing and mention that in the “Draft Compliance Summary Tables” and remind CPCs that they are prohibited from retaining those species until Task 1 data are provided.

The Chair also noted the utility of notifying the Commission in the future of a list of all CPCs that are subject to prohibitions under [Rec. 11-15](#), as well as timely notification of the Commission when a CPC’s prohibition is lifted, so CPCs engaged in trade with the subject CPC or with an enforcement presence in the region of the CPC can take into account the CPCs status under [Rec. 11-15](#) accordingly.

Port State measures (Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Rec. 18-09))

The Secretariat noted in its report that with respect to the requirement for CPCs to report infringements of ICCAT requirements detected in port inspections, in some cases, it is not clear from the reports if infringements have taken place, and if/when these infringements relate to ICCAT requirements. To ensure correct implementation of the requirement and publication of relevant information concerning the infringement on the password-protected ICCAT website, the Secretariat expressed that it would be helpful if the CPCs submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the flag State.

Guatemala requested clarification regarding the scope of infringement reports required by [Rec. 18-09](#), and whether infringements of a domestic nature are reported to ICCAT.

The Secretariat explained that CPCs can provide contextual information about the nature of the infringements in their summary report, which can help clarify whether it is an infringement that falls within the scope of [Rec. 18-09](#). The Chair noted that [Rec. 18-09](#) applies to IUU activities as referred to in [Recommendation by ICCAT on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities \(Rec. 18-08\)](#), which include not only infringements of ICCAT requirements, but also where a vessel harvests “tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State’s laws and regulations.”

Large-scale vessel list (Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area (Rec. 21-14))

There are issues related to retroactive reporting of authorized large-scale vessels and there were IMO numbers missing. The dialogue with the CPCs concerned is ongoing.

Access agreements (Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic albacore supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme, Rec. 16-06 (Rec. 17-04))

The Chair drew attention to an issue raised by the Secretariat in “Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee” concerning a revised submission form (CP39) to report access agreements and the catches made under such an agreement. The section on catch reporting is not currently used by CPCs. The United States noted that inconsistent catch reporting could be resulting in double counting or underreported catches.

In response to a question from Cote d’Ivoire the Chair explained that the reporting related to access agreements should, based on Rec. 17-04, be done either by each of the CPCs individually or jointly by both CPCs. The EU explained that in the case of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with several African countries, the EU, as a fishing CPC, submits form CP39. In case of the access agreement with the UK, the EU complemented the information provided by the UK.

Transshipment (Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment (Rec. 21-15))

The Chair elaborated on the Secretariat’s request that CPCs should limit themselves to submitting to the Secretariat only documentation required by Rec. 21-15. Two declarations are required for submission, as applicable: the at-sea transshipment declaration in accordance with Appendix 1 of Rec. 21-15 and the supply declaration (ICCAT Form CP54). There is no requirement under Rec. 21-15 to report transshipment at port or associated documents, which the Secretariat notes was discussed and confirmed at the 16th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), held in June 2023. In addition, many of the supply declarations are not labelled as such, and the incorrect format is used; CPCs were urged to either use the official format or to at least reference the ICCAT Form number CP54 in order to identify supply declarations. The Secretariat gets hundreds of emails on this subject that it has to analyse, but that are mostly irrelevant, thus unnecessarily increasing their workload. The Secretariat has written to the CPCs to request their cooperation on this matter as well as to the vessel masters directly.

The Chair urged CPCs to pay attention to this matter and suggested including this issue in next year’s report. This suggestion was supported by the United States.

Miscellaneous section

Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports (Ref. 12-13)

The Secretariat requests that in order to improve IOMS reporting, CPCs should avoid writing “see above”, “no change”, “same as last year”.

The Chair underscored the difficulty that these kinds of responses cause for reviewing Annual Reports, as it requires the reviewer to reference other documents or determine what response above is applicable. The Chair also noted that it should not be difficult to enter unchanged information into the IOMS, as the system allows CPCs to choose to include the same response as last year.

8. Priority review of Recommendations, taking into account measures identified for review in the 2022 COC meeting, the schedule of expiration of Recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate

Measures identified by the Commission for priority review include shortfin mako, billfish check sheets, shark check sheets, and Minimum Standards for Scientific Observer Programs (Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs (Rec. 16-14))

- a) *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 18-06) (Shark Check Sheet)*

On Shark Check Sheets, the Chair drew attention to the summary in the document “Shark Check Sheets received in accordance with Rec. 18-06” to support the review. This document is a snapshot of how CPCs have responded. There is also a submission from two observer organisations (Ecology Action Centre and Shark Trust) relevant to this review as well as responses from certain CPCs contained in the document “Information submitted under Rec. 08-09 and responses”.

The Chair introduced and thanked Mr Dion Browne (Canada), who participates in the Friends of the COC Chair Group, for conducting a review of the CPC Shark Check Sheet submissions and preparing an overview to facilitate the COC's review of the Shark Check Sheets.

Mr Browne presented an overview of his observations. He highlighted positive advancements and improvements in Shark Check Sheet reporting observed since 2019, with 12 CPCs noted as having significantly improved their submissions, referencing domestic regulations to implement shark retention prohibitions and shark fin to carcass ratios upon landing. Positive developments were also noted in terms of CPCs providing specific references to domestic laws and regulations and CPCs initiating educational campaigns to inform industry representatives on the obligations for shark reporting.

However, substantial information and reporting gaps persist, signalling room for improvement, especially from CPCs who have significant tuna and shark catch. Notably, 8 CPCs failed to submit reports, and 11 were submitted late.

The use of No, Yes, or NA exhibits reporting inconsistencies, prompting a recommendation of a discussion/training session with CPCs and development of a potential form guide to enhance expectations, understanding, and check sheet completion.

Some CPCs show incomplete check sheet sections, often stating that sharks are non-targeted, or that their vessels do not fish in certain waters, without referencing any domestic regulations. A prevalent issue is the lack of legally binding measures for implementing ICCAT shark Recommendations, both species specific and general requirements. Some CPCs appear to be relying solely on citation of international obligations like CITES without implementing ICCAT obligations at the national level, therefore highlighting a need for strengthened domestic support.

Concerns arise regarding bycatch reporting, as certain CPCs claim no fishery for sharks as a basis of an effective exemption from reporting requirements, without having obtained an exemption from the SCRS Shark Species Group. However, no clear process for obtaining this exemption exists and, therefore, establishing such a process is necessary. Encouragingly, some developments such as the establishment of domestic regulations, improved observer programs and industry educational circulars, have been noted since 2019, but a need for more detailed information on implementation of ICCAT recommendations persists.

Some ICCAT requirements, like [Rec. 21-09](#) para 17 (collection of biological samples during commercial fishing operations), may not necessitate specific domestic regulations, thus potential changes to the check sheet may be required. Highlighting in the check sheet what can be omitted for certain CPCs could be beneficial. Language interpretation issues seem to result in empty blocks, vague responses, and contradictions among answers, impeding the overall effectiveness of the reporting system.

Effective use of electronic logs and circulars is acknowledged but considering there is a notable compliance concern with shark finning, particularly in terms of accurate reporting concerning the 5% shark to fin ratio, this requires attention and support via domestic regulations.

Although the reporting system's accuracy and comprehensiveness has improved since 2019, greater attention is required for general reporting obligations, including recording dead discards and live releases of certain shark species. Emphasizing the importance of domestic regulations to support these obligations is crucial. These inconsistencies suggest potential gaps in understanding or adherence to reporting requirements, emphasizing the importance of continuous improvement in the compliance monitoring system.

The Chair thanked Mr Browne. This information helps the COC determine how to focus its future efforts with respect to shark recommendation implementation. We have identified that the SCRS discussions are needed to determine how exemptions can be improved, on a species by species, measure by measure. We should continue to engage on this matter. We should try to get this on the agenda at the SCRS. There is a recurring issue that CPCs say that they do not fish in certain areas or not in certain years. This is not a sufficient answer. Nevertheless, it is helpful to hear that there is more compliance through having domestic regulations in place.

The Chair then introduced Ms. Shannon Arnold from the observer organization Ecology Action Centre, and thanked her for presenting the submission under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a process for the review and reporting of compliance information (Rec. 08-09)* entitled Bridging the Gaps that Hinder Shark Conservation contained in the document “Information submitted under Rec. 08-09 and responses”, which was prepared and submitted by Ecology Action Centre, Shark Advocates International (a project of The Ocean Foundation), and Shark Trust, all non-government observers to ICCAT. The Chair explained that this useful gap analysis was recently updated with data reported for this meeting cycle, and that it was included in this agenda item because it was most relevant to the Shark Check Sheet discussion.

Ms. Arnold explained that the analysis includes a review of CPCs’ Shark Check Sheet and catch data submission. It was conducted by our Shark League coalition – Ecology Action Centre, the Shark Trust, and Shark Advocates International (a project of the Ocean Foundation) – and is part of a thorough analysis of CPCs’ performance with respect to various shark data and conservation obligations under both ICCAT and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Ms. Arnold noted that COC_312/2023 contains responses received from two CPCs, and thanked Costa Rica and the European Union for their direct responses to the submission.

The review highlights many individual CPCs for a lack of inclusion of required details in their Shark Check Sheet submissions as well as vague, inconsistent, or contradictory information in their Shark Check Sheets and data in their Task 1 species reporting. There continue to be CPCs that are not submitting the Shark Check Sheets or shark catch data as required. Most importantly, many CPCs still lack the required binding domestic shark fishing restrictions. Some fail to report on such policies in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the related ICCAT measure. For example, some CPC will state ‘yes’ in the column ‘status of implementation’ to indicate they have prohibited the catch of a certain species as required by the ICCAT measure, but they do not have a domestic regulation listed for implementation at the national level. Or in some cases general fisheries regulations are listed by title but there is not enough detail given to understand if those national level regulations are specific enough for the species-specific management measures required by the ICCAT.

In addition, a great number of CPCs, despite repeated COC guidance, continue to include invalid answers in the check sheets. For instance, many CPCs continue to state that a given shark species is not targeted, or not found in their waters or present where their fleets fish even though the SCRS has not yet granted exemptions on these bases. Most concerning are the several cases where the range of the species in question clearly overlaps with the CPC’s waters. The check sheet answers also continue to suggest confusion among CPCs regarding application of ICCAT shark obligations, in terms of which vessels and fisheries they apply to.

The Shark League highlighted several species-specific issues based on their review. In CPCs’ reports regarding implementation of ICCAT measures for hammerhead (*Recommendation by ICCAT on hammerhead sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT (Rec. 10-08)*) and silky sharks (*Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 11-08)*) there were concerning gaps in information provided by coastal developing States claiming an exemption from the prohibition on retention. Information from some of these CPCs is incomplete or contradictory – it is not clear how they are meeting the associated conditions for retention, which are to submit their Task 1 data, prevent catch increases, and prevent international trade. These exceptions and other complications are allowing substantial continued landings of these highly threatened species that many people have assumed are protected by ICCAT (because of the measures’ main provisions). The Shark League urges ICCAT to discuss this and consider ending any exemptions in these Recommendations and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area (Rec. 09-07)*.

Ms. Arnold also sought to draw attention overall to the low level of reporting of discards for all shark species, despite ICCAT measures that ban the retention or encourage the release of at least nine shark species. There are five countries of the top 10 ICCAT shark landing countries that report no discards at all and there are only six CPCs that have reported more than 100 t of discards over the last decade. The Shark League also documented concerns regarding some CPCs’ failure to demonstrate adherence to the 5% fin-to-carcass ratio limit required under the ICCAT shark finning ban. We urge ICCAT to prioritize the best practice for finning ban enforcement – a ban on at-sea shark fin removal – over more information on ratio compliance.

Ms. Arnold noted that the Friends of the COC Chair Group's earlier submission was based on 2022 check sheets, and that they have briefly reviewed the 2023 check sheets, and are pleased to see some significant improvements in CPCs' 2023 reporting. This year, check sheets were received from CPCs that had never submitted one before or had not done so for many years, and at least 12 countries significantly improved their answers by clarifying or citing domestic regulations implementing shark retention prohibitions and the 5% fins-to-carcass ratio limit or fins naturally attached. Notably, several CPCs without ICCAT or large-scale pelagic vessels have nonetheless newly demonstrated compliance, citing specific domestic measures and reporting artisanal catch even while other CPCs with significant tuna and shark catch reports still fall short.

While noting these improvements, Ms. Arnold stressed that there is still much to do to ensure shark measure compliance and reporting. To this end, the Shark Trust asks the COC to further emphasize to CPCs that:

- There is an obligation to provide details on domestic regulations for the implementation of all ICCAT measures, including every shark Recommendation; and
- Reporting of this information, as well as Task 1 catch data, is required for all fisheries (including industrial, small-scale, and recreational fishing), even when sharks are caught incidentally and/or discarded.

The COC should also elaborate guidance on domestic implementation, data reporting, and Shark Check Sheet details for:

- CPCs without active ICCAT vessels; and
- ICCAT-managed shark species caught in artisanal and/or inshore fleets, and non-pelagic gear.

Finally, as the Friends of the COC Chair Group noted in the previous presentation, a clear process needs to be developed by the COC and the SCRS, as per [Rec. 18-06](#), to validate any CPC exemption requests for reporting based on species or population range.

Lack of information on shark fishing and trade is a primary and persistent hurdle to conservation noted in countless SCRS, ICCAT and CITES documents. There is a need for increased scrutiny of the implementation of shark-specific measures through the Compliance Committee Shark Check Sheet review process.

A statement was submitted by Ecology Action Centre, Shark Trust and The Ocean Foundation to the Compliance Committee, which is contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

The UK expressed support for suggestions made in the presentations, such as clearer guidance on completing the check sheet, and development of a clearer process for determining any exemptions on reporting against the check sheets. The UK also inquired about the possibility of integrating check sheets into the IOMS, as this would help CPCs to increase the quality of their check sheets. The Secretariat responded that this was discussed at the [Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#) in 2023 and they are exploring options for implementation.

The United States thanked the presenters for the information on implementation of the ICCAT shark measures and highlighted that recent collaboration on the implementation of this important tool resulted in improved submissions of Shark Check Sheets from Barbados, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Gabon, Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, and Costa Rica. The United States recommended specifically that the Secretariat examine the compliance by all CPCs with ICCAT Recommendations that prohibit the retention of certain shark species and that their findings be introduced in the next version of the "Draft Compliance Summary Tables" and in the outgoing letters of the Chair.

Japan noted that many CPCs have not submitted the Shark Check Sheet or they mention in their Shark Check Sheet that they have not transposed the current requirements into their domestic regulations. It is important that all CPCs first fully implement the existing requirements before the Commission considers additional measures.

Regarding [Rec. 21-09](#), the United States noted that although CPCs have taken action to prohibit retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako, few have reported taking meaningful actions to minimize the mortality of incidentally caught shortfin mako, as required by this measure. Implementation of reporting requirements is also of critical importance for tracking the long-term progress of stock recovery. For this reason, CPCs are required to report live and dead discard data for shortfin mako, but many CPCs failed to fulfill this important requirement. The United States suggested that this issue be included in future versions of the “Draft Compliance Summary Tables”.

Guatemala and other countries underlined that they consider shark management and other bycatch measures very important. However, the recommendations from the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are merely suggestions and background information for the reviews. Uruguay suggested engaging CPCs individually on how they addressed the tasks and which problems they faced.

b) Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area (Rec. 18-05) (Billfish Check Sheet)

The Chair drew attention to the Billfish Check Sheets and the summary prepared by the Secretariat. There have been issues in the past in responses that suggested that the obligations were “not applicable” to the CPC because there was no directed fishery or based on misunderstanding that small-scale fisheries are not included. The Chair reminded CPCs that these requirements apply regardless of whether or not there is a directed fishery for billfish and regardless of the nature of the fishery.

The United States noted that the summary indicates that eight CPCs have never submitted check sheets for billfish. Was this due to a misunderstanding of the reporting requirements, a lack of capacity, or other reasons? Some CPCs have responded with “not applicable” without an explanation why. Moreover, as the Chair has noted, a response of no targeted or industrial marlin fisheries does not exempt CPCs from the obligations under the [Recommendation by ICCAT to establish Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish \(Rec. 19-05\)](#), which apply regardless of the nature of the fishery. Also of concern is that many CPCs appear to have no laws or regulations in place as they do not have targeted or industrial fisheries. However, the reduction of incidental mortality in non-targeted fisheries is a key component in the rebuilding program in place for these stocks. In some cases, CPCs have indicated compliance with the measures, but without more information on how these are implemented or reference to domestic regulations.

The Chair agreed with the observations of the US and UK. He also noted that another matter that comes up every year for some CPCs is the significant overharvest of certain billfish fisheries. This needs to be taken into account when identifying compliance issues for some CPCs.

The EU concurred with most of the observations made by the United States. They identified a lack of consistency in implementation of the provisions of the Recommendations. The information on implementation of the measures does not provide consistent and relevant data (discard data). The EU noted how worrisome the conclusions are in light of the status of the stock. Blue marlin is overfished and subject to overfishing.

c) Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program (Rec. 16-14)

In introducing this item, the Chair thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document “Information on implementation of scientific observer programmes as reported by CPCs”. The Chair noted that this measure has been prioritized for review by the COC for many years, however the COC’s ability to conduct a meaningful review has been significantly hampered by lack of reporting by CPCs on how their domestic scientific observer program is designed and failure of CPCs to properly seek exemptions from SCRS prior to claiming an exemption for small vessels.

The United States noted that data collected by observers are of critical importance as the SCRS relies on this information for many of its assessments and analyses, and expressed concern that 17 CPCs did not provide any information to the Commission pursuant to the requirements of [Rec. 16-14](#). Further, only 20 CPCs provided a description of their scientific observer programs as required under para 10(d) of [Rec. 16-14 \(Form ST09\)](#). All CPCs should report on their program as the SCRS bases its analyses on these reports. The United States requested that the Secretariat post copies of the available reports pursuant to para 10(d) on the password-protected website. Capacity building is also needed in this regard.

The United States further noted that no response in the Annual Report template was provided on implementation of [Rec. 16-14](#) by a number of CPCs. Other CPC responses indicated the CPC lacks a scientific observer program and has requested capacity-building on this matter.

When analysing the document circulated the EU noted that about 50% of ICCAT CPCs do not follow the scientific observer program. The scope of this Recommendation is not yet fully grasped by the CPCs and non-CPCs. The EU recalled that the scope of [Rec. 16-14](#) applies to all the ICCAT fisheries. The Recommendation is not related to any specific stock or gear.

The EU identified a positive element to signal: the SCRS has provided its advice on minimum standards vis-à-vis the scientific requirements. [Rec. 16-14](#) prescribes that an electronic monitoring system (EMS) may be installed on board of fishing vessels in order to complement the collection of scientific data, which can help CPCs to overcome the difficulties. The EU underscored the key importance of EMS minimum standards, which can be a game changer for scientific data collection. The EU called on all CPCs to engage in the PWG discussions on the proposed EMS measure, towards an adoption this year in line with the commitments made in the tropical tunas measure to have such EMS minimum standards adopted in 2023.

Morocco informed the COC that a lot of progress has been made regarding these measures. They have now translated these measures into national regulations, and have drafted questionnaires to obtain input of small scale fisheries. Regarding longline fisheries for swordfish, Morocco issued a ban on fishing this species before their legislation came into place. Capacity building is needed to inform the scale fisheries of the rules.

The observer organization Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) regretted that many CPCs do not manage to report observer coverage levels, and expressed concerns about the fact that many CPCs have not met the requirements of [Rec. 16-14](#). This measure needs to be updated. They supported the comments of the EU on the importance of EMS, agreed with the US that investments in capacity building are needed to increase reporting efforts, and echoed other concerns raised by the US.

9. Considerations of updates to the Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities

The Chair explained that in the past the Secretariat has gathered input from CPCs to help identify measures for priority review at the next COC meeting, while noting that the Strategic Plan first elaborated at the 2019 Annual Meeting has not been updated since. Receiving no comments from CPCs during this agenda item, the Chair committed to circulating proposed priorities and a request for input during the intersessional period.

10. Review of responses to Chair's letters arising from the 2022 meeting

The COC Chair referred to the document "Responses from CPCs to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee" following the 2022 COC meeting and its addendums. This year, more attention will be given to the reply letters in order to better address the CPCs compliance issues raised by the COC.

Therefore, the Chair proposed to discuss the replies CPC by CPC, inviting CPCs to raise questions about the response letters and identify where the response was insufficient. The Chair also observed that in the future the Chair, the Friends of the COC Chair Group, and/or the Secretariat could collaborate to prepare a document on this issue that can then be a starting point of the discussion under this agenda item during the COC meeting.

The Chair further noted that, where a CPC has not provided a sufficient response to issues identified in the 2022 letters, those matters can be included in a letter following the 2023 meeting. Otherwise, if we continue the approach of the past and do not continue to raise the matter until a response is received, the matter could in essence disappear from COC consideration, which creates a disincentive to reply. The Chair also noted that further consideration should be given to how to document insufficient responses in following years in a way that makes the information usable by the COC, e.g., include a new field in the "Draft Compliance Summary Tables" or other means.

Algeria

The Chair explained that the requested information was partially sent. Algeria explained that it responded to the letter and that they are at the disposal of the Chair to answer any further questions.

Angola

The Chair informed the meeting that no response was obtained from Angola. Therefore, we will add Angola's issues from 2022 to the list of matters that we will ask for as outstanding issues that need to be addressed.

Barbados

The Chair explained that elements addressed related to continued overharvesting of blue marlin and white marlin and that the letter mentions measures taken as well as the lack of a scientific observer programme. The US shared its appreciation on the detail in Barbados' response, in particular on the new laws and regulations in the pipeline. They look forward to Barbados' update to the Commission on its efforts next year.

Belize

The Chair mentioned that there are some reporting issues, but that information was provided.

Brazil

The Chair explained that there were some issues with respect to bigeye tuna, but that the missing information was provided. Brazil acknowledged that it has overfished bigeye. It was a big challenge to get the control measures in place. The new Ministry of Fisheries has put extra efforts to set up a legislative framework and to rebuild the research and monitoring programme. The new national regulatory framework has established a 2023 catch limit as well as a monitoring and control measuring system in order not to overharvest. Port monitoring and observers will be part of the programme, as well as a digital reporting logbook. Data collection on effort, size and biological aspects will be in place as of 2024.

Cabo Verde

The Chair reminded Cabo Verde that the response template is missing from its response, and that the missing information was not provided. The US noted that Cabo Verde expressed its firm conviction to address the outstanding issues and that it has requested capacity building to reach this goal.

China (P.R.)

The Chair thanked China (P.R.) for its reply. No further questions or comments by other CPCs.

Côte d'Ivoire

The United States noted that Cote d'Ivoire's response highlighted the work done together with the Secretariat via IOMS to improve its reporting and that it has taken advantage of online training opportunities. The US noted that even though Cote d'Ivoire has improved its Shark Check Sheet this year, it does not yet sufficiently explain its implementation of ICCAT's Recommendations. Furthermore, a scientific observer programme is lacking due to a need for capacity building in this area. The missing forms still need to be supplied (including the forms for 2021 and 2022).

Curaçao

The Chair explained that Curaçao provided an extensive reply and requested support for the training of onboard observers.

Equatorial Guinea

The Chair thanked Equatorial Guinea for its reply and the additional information provided. The US requested further information on a specific aspect mentioned in the response. It mentioned that tuna fishing is carried out by foreign vessels holding a license for this activity and that catches were reported as zero. The US asked if these foreign vessels have formal access agreements in place and if catches by these vessels are being reported by flag States. As Equatorial Guinea was not present, these questions will be taken up later, including as appropriate via the Compliance Chair letter.

EU

The Chair thanked the EU for the very detailed reply.

Regarding ongoing investigations, the United States thanked the EU for the continued updates on Operation Tarantello. The United States requested to keep on the record that this activity resulted in an unprecedented amount of illegally harvested and unreported eastern bluefin. It understands that investigations take time. When the scope of the matter is established, the Commission should hold the EU accountable to payback the quota overharvest in accordance with the Commission's longstanding rules on payback of overharvest. Additionally, the United States mentioned it would like to see the issue of miscoded marlin species from 2020 and 2021, which resulted in unreported catches of blue marlin and white marlin, again included in the "Draft Compliance Summary Tables" for the EU. The United States recognised that the EU is preparing a scientific paper on this, but given that the issue has remained unresolved for several years, it requests this issue to be noted in the "Draft Compliance Summary Tables" until those data have been corrected.

The EU explained that Tarantello is a huge judicial case, related to many breaches that are fish-related, but also money laundering and other crimes, which is keeping the Spanish courts very busy. The case is still being investigated. We are waiting on the results of the court case. On payback the EU sought to clarify that in the EU farms, where according to the investigation the illegal fish originates, both EU-caught BFT and BFT caught by other CPCs are caged. Knowing the origin of fish that has been traded illegally can be complicated and any discussion on payback should have to take into account the share of other CPCs in the fish caught but not reported. We expect that that share caught by other CPCs would not be insignificant. On the blue marlin and white marlin issue, the EU informed the COC that there was a miscoding issue that was going on for quite a while. The EU is going to submit a scientific paper in which it explains the methodology developed by its scientists to reconstruct the catch data. The catch data need to be reconstructed for blue and white marlin that were miscoded under Indo-pacific species. This methodology has already been used on the 2022 Task 1 data, but not yet for the previous years. The EU explains that it will submit the methodology developed to the SCRS in order to have it validated. Once this is done, the EU intends to apply the methodology on the data from previous year. The EU suggested that there is no need to keep the matter in the compliance table. The Chair suggested to keep a notation in the compliance table that those figures are subject to review and updates based on ongoing work. The EU agreed with this approach. The Secretariat confirmed that it received the data and the methodology and that it will be looking into the data. As such it believed that including a footnote in the compliance table mentioning that the matter will be addressed next year makes sense. The Chair concluded this point by saying that this case can be seen as a good practice to solve issues related to reporting problems.

The Gambia

The Chair explained that there are reporting issues addressed in the Chair letter, but that no response was received. The Gambia acknowledged the compliance issues, which result from capacity problems. The Gambia will provide all the missing information related to compliance. The EU mentioned a couple of IUU fishing activities that it reported last year and for which it has requested information related to the catches and exports to the EU, but no information on these activities was provided. The Gambia explained that it is trying to find all the information on IUU in 2021 and 2022 and progress has been made. The information on the vessels and on the origin of the catch certification will be communicated to the EU as soon as possible.

Ghana

The Chair announced that the Secretariat received a reply using the template.

Grenada

The Chair expressed his concerns about the fact that recurrent significant and overharvest issues are met with silence. The EU expressed its concern about the lack of response to the Chair's letter as it undermines the compliance process itself. This concern should be reflected in the follow-up with Grenada.

Guatemala

The Chair did not have a record of a response letter. Guatemala stated that responding to compliance matters is absolutely important. They have faced some issues with breaking down aggregate historical data and there has been confusion about the e-mail addresses that should be used to provide the information. The Secretariat confirmed that on 2 October an update was received on the Task 2 data (FADs) (which supplied missing information but was not a direct response letter to the Compliance Chair letter).

Guinea-Bissau

The Chair regretted that no response was received to the letter of the Chair. The EU noted a worrying trend that this year's performance by this CPC is worse than before. The EU has noticed this for a number of CPCs. The natural expectation from this compliance process is that especially in the case of significant non-compliance, there would be improvements made by the CPCs concerned. Instead, the situation is getting worse for this CPC and some other countries.

Guinea (Rep.)

The Chair regretted that no response was received to the letter of the Chair. As with other CPCs, the matters raised in the previous Chair's letter to Guinea (Rep.) can be carried over to correspondence with Guinea (Rep.) following the 2023 meeting.

Honduras

The Chair regretted that no response was received to the letter of the Chair. As with other CPCs, the matters raised in the previous Chair's letter to Honduras can be carried over to correspondence with Honduras following the 2023 meeting.

Japan

The Chair thanked Japan for its response.

Korea (Rep.)

The Chair thanked Korea (Rep.) for its response.

Liberia

The Chair explained that the missing information was partially obtained. The US appreciated that Liberia is working with the Secretariat on the missing information. It noted that no quarterly reports for tropical tunas were submitted as two vessels were authorised to fish for the first time, but these vessels were de-flagged. Liberia has no scientific observer programme, but it asked for capacity building to address this information. The US acknowledges the progress made by Liberia on submitting shark and billfish reports.

Libya

The Chair explained that Libya has some outstanding issues. This will be included in the list for follow-up.

Mauritania

The Chair mentioned that Mauritania has submitted a late reply, which was included in Addendum 1 to "Responses from CPCs to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee".

Namibia

The Chair thanked Namibia for supplying missing information and using the template for their response. The US asked if Namibia has any legislation in place to implement the ICCAT marlin measure (Rec. 19-05). Furthermore, the US asked for more details on Namibia's fisheries observer programmes, at sea inspectors and port measures. The US appreciated that missing data and reports have been submitted, but noted that more information should be given on data reporting requirements, in particular on chartering reports. The EU echoed the comments made by the US. The EU noticed that the overharvesting has been going on for a couple of years. The EU would like more details on the measures taken to address this problem in particular the regulatory enforcement programs. Namibia replied that the challenge it is facing is not the regulatory framework, rather it is the training of observers and inspectors. What is happening is miscategorization of species and miscount of catches and lumping together of species e.g. any billfish is labelled as blue marlin. It is currently investing in improving reporting. By 2024 there will be a significant improvement of reporting by Namibia.

Nicaragua

The Chair noted that the template was not used. The Chair encouraged countries to use the template. Nicaragua stated that it did send a communication on 18 September. In the future they will use the template. Nicaragua took part in the capacity building on IOMS. It assured the Commission that it is working hard to improve the reporting.

Nigeria

The Chair noted that there has not been a follow-up of the reporting issues. Nigeria explained that there have been communication issues with the staff. It will send the relevant management plans to the Commission.

Panama

The Chair thanked Panama for its response and providing the missing information and using the template.

São Tomé e Príncipe

The Chair said that the missing information was not received. Japan explained that it voluntarily contributed to the JCAP project which has provided help to São Tomé e Príncipe to improve data collection for three years, but still data for Task 1 and Task 2 are missing and São Tomé e Príncipe has not submitted its Annual Reports for several years. Japan expressed its regret on this matter and hopes to see improvement soon.

Senegal

The missing information was provided in accordance with the template. The EU noted that the identification letter was substantial. The EU is of the opinion that the reply requires the attention of the COC. For some of the points the answers provided were insufficient, knowing that the problems are significant and have existed for years. The EU underlined that it had not seen the action plan requested by the Chair.

Sierra Leone

The Chair explained that there was no response in the records. The EU reiterated its concern about CPCs not reacting to the Chair's letters.

South Africa

The missing information was provided using the template.

St Vincent and the Grenadines:

The Chair mentioned that there are reporting issues but no response was provided.

Syria

Information was provided on implementation and reporting issues.

Trinidad and Tobago

A detailed reply was provided using the template and providing the missing information. The US welcomed the fact that Trinidad and Tobago mentioned in its response that the implementation of ICCAT's scientific observer programme is a high priority for the country. The US appreciated that the other issues have been addressed and the detailed explanation of the modernisation of the regulatory framework.

Tunisia

The Chair explained that Tunisia's response had been received in the morning but was not yet included in the addendum. Tunisia informed the Commission that it notified the Secretariat on 12 June 2022 of a shipwreck of a vessel, according to paragraph 53 of the regulation and that further information was provided in the morning.

Venezuela

The Chair refers to the response that has been included in Addendum 1 to "Responses from CPCs to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee". The US mentioned that it needs more time to analyze the late replies.

Bolivia

Bolivia explained its regret that the response had been sent, 10 days late, using the template. Bolivia conveyed to the Commission its commitment to replying as well as possible to the letter and to complying with all the reporting obligations.

Costa Rica

Some information is missing, and this will be included in a follow-up letter.

Guyana

Some of the information was obtained, the missing information will be requested in the follow-up letter.

11. Review of Compliance Tables

The relevant document is "2022 Compliance Tables received in 2023", and updated versions including extra information received were published. The Chair thanked the CPCs and the Secretariat for its work.

Two CPCs proposed payback plans for their bigeye tuna overharvests. This will be discussed in Panel 1 and if adopted, the Chair noted that it would need to be incorporated into the Compliance Tables. One CPC proposed a payback plan for blue marlin, for which the same approach is taken in Panel 4.

The Chair sought CPC input as to whether catches of North Atlantic blue shark should be reflected in a compliance table for that species, as there are no hard limits for some CPCs. It appears that a number of CPCs have provided compliance tables for these species. Even though there is no hard limit, there is a soft catch limit for these species with the understanding that CPCs should make best efforts to keep catches in a certain range. The Chair expressed support for CPCs continuing to provide a compliance table in such circumstances because it is useful for the Commission to be able to view catch in the context of the soft limit. However, in response to one CPC for which absence of a compliance table for a soft limit species had been identified in the compliance summary table, the Chair clarified that because there is not a hard limit, lack of submission of a compliance table should not be treated as a compliance issue that requires further action.

The EU drew the attention of the Committee to the bigeye compliance table where last year the EU and two other CPCs have included a footnote, footnote 5, in which the EU disagrees with the initial catch limit that was attributed to the EU in this table. This footnote was kept, and the amount has not been revised. The EU announced it would raise this matter in Panel 1 and hoped this amount can then be adapted. The EU explained this matter is related to the way the reduction of the catch limits are implemented. In relation to the footnote, Guatemala raised the issue of the wording of Annex 1 “Application of over/underharvest” to “2022 Compliance Tables received in 2023”, in particular of the reduction of the TAC, the catch limits and the fishing rights. The method should be agreed in Panel 1 and this was not the case. The Chair explained that the reductions have been made according to the interpretation of the measure agreed in 2022. If the overall TAC is reduced, the catch limits are reduced accordingly. The compliance tables reflecting this approach were agreed in 2022, apart from three CPCs and this will be discussed and needs to be resolved in Panel 1 discussions. Guatemala, El Salvador, South Africa and Nicaragua underlined that if the matter would not be resolved in Panel 1 of the Commission, there is no room for interpretation of Recommendations by the Secretariat.

The Chair referred the matter to Panel 1.

Upon conclusion of its scheduled sessions, the COC approved all compliance tables with the exception of the following compliance tables, which were to be updated based on subsequent actions by the Panels as follows:

- BET compliance tables to add payback plans agreed in Panel 1 for Senegal and Brazil;
- BUM compliance tables to add payback plan agreed in Panel 4 for Curaçao, and to add a footnote for the EU;
- WHM to add a footnote for the EU;
- SWO and ALB to add a footnote for Senegal.

The final version of the “2022 Compliance Tables received in 2023” are contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**.

12. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under Rec. 08-09

The Chair referred to the relevant document “Information submitted under Rec. 08-09 and responses”, along with the additional information, including CPC responses, in the addendums. He explained that [Rec. 08-09](#) is a process developed to better enable CPCs, non-CPCs and stakeholders to provide information that suggests non-compliance with ICCAT rules in a transparent and inclusive process, for consideration of the Compliance Committee. An increase of the use of this instrument has been recorded, which the Chair noted positively, including its increased use by CPCs to report information.

Some of the submissions have been addressed during the discussions on the Shark Check Sheets under agenda item 8a).

The Chair provided details on the other submissions: one by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) regarding potential IUU activities by a CPC vessel, one by Greenpeace on potential IUU activities by a CPC vessel, and one by the EU on potential non-compliance by multiple other CPCs.

Review of submission by EJF

EJF’s submission contains allegations of IUU fishing and human and labour rights abuses across a number of vessels under the ownership of the China National Fisheries Corp (CNFC) operating predominantly in the ICCAT Convention area (FAO 34 and 47). The allegations stem from information from former crew members of vessels detailed in the submission (*JIN FENG 1, 3, 4, and 5; JIN SHENG 7; and CHANG RONG 1, 5, and 7*), which indicates are currently licensed to operate in the ICCAT Convention area and were also licensed to do so when the alleged offences occurred.

China (P.R.) explained that it has already provided the official investigation results to the Secretariat. The case has been presented by an NGO, but China (P.R.) suggests it is a CPC that is behind the allegations, claiming this case is political action against China (P.R.) by another CPC. China (P.R.) has conducted an investigation and it rejects all accusations. A CPC suggested the Compliance Committee should analyse first

if the allegations are valid and confirm evidence in order for it to be considered. The Chair and other CPCs emphasized the value of the [Rec. 08-09](#) process and expressed concerns that adding these kinds of requirements to the process could effectively render it meaningless, with the Chair noting that the COC already maintains discretion as to whether to consider, and how much weight to give to, information submitted to ICCAT through this process.

Senegal provided documented information on fishing activities as well as information from a report of its maritime authorities in the context of this case. Panama informed the COC that the activities of the Panama vessels named in this case were duly reported to the authorities and that onboard observers have gathered information. The UK undertook a thorough investigation, as requested by EJJ, regarding the vessels belonging to the China National Fisheries Corp and came to the conclusion that there has been no IUU fishing in Metropolitan UK or UK overseas territories waters during this period. The EU reported that no identified vessels had imports into the EU at the time. The US noted numerous alleged infringements, including illegal finning of sharks and the illegal transshipment of fins. The information gathered related to this case is very concerning. The EU echoed the concerns of the US and made the link to the High Seas boarding schemes (to be discussed in the PWG), which can help fight this kind of activity. The UK supported the interventions made by the EU and the US.

Review of submission by Greenpeace

Greenpeace's submission contains allegations of illegal shark finning, transshipment, and forced labour by vessels in Chinese Taipei's distant water fishing fleet.

During the discussion, CPCs primarily shared views on how the [Rec. 08-09](#) review process should be undertaken by the COC.

Guatemala underlined that the inputs in some of these cases are provided by NGOs and that the COC is not a court. It is very important that the COC has the right procedures in place to analyse and address the accusations and that the aim is to improve practices. The Chair agreed with Guatemala that the COC is not a court and that procedures should exist for appropriate transparency and review of these submissions, and explained that it was precisely this concern that provided the basis for developing [Rec. 08-09](#) in the first place. Further, he noted it was important to recognise that information on non-compliance can come from various sources.

China (P.R.) agreed with Guatemala and explained that the entity making submissions should have observer status and be present at the meetings. The Chair suggested that the organisation could indeed seek observer status, but that requiring its presence would be unduly limiting. Japan supported China's position on participation so that discussions can be constructive and suggested that, while information from NGOs can be useful, evidence provided by NGOs should be discussed and validated by the COC before being confirmed as a fact based on unilateral information. Several CPCs supported the intervention.

The EU supported the view of the Chair that [Rec. 08-09](#) is an important channel through which CPCs, non-CPCs and NGOs can share their views on non-compliance. On the reports of NGOs, the EU was of the view that, even though the resources of NGOs are limited, they provide important information and shed light on issues that are difficult and that need to be addressed in the COC.

Regarding the suggestion that information needs to be validated by the COC in order to be considered as a fact, the Chair reminded participants that, in line with previous observations that the COC is not a judicial body, the COC is not a fact finding body, and adding this requirement as a threshold that needs to be cleared to consider information would severely limit the scope of relevant information on compliance that the COC could consider and represent a substantial step backwards by the COC. The COC can take into account the quality, source, and veracity of information as it weighs the information in determining whether it warrants action by the COC to address the potential non-compliance. This is what the COC does with information received from other sources, such as from CPCs, inspection reports, and independent observers. ICCAT measures are clear that the COC has the discretion to consider a variety of sources of information, and it has discretion as to whether the information warrants a particular response by the Commission.

The US aligned itself with the comments of the EU and expressed its appreciation for the information provided by the NGOs pursuant to [Rec. 08-09](#).

Submission by the EU

The EU requested to address this matter under agenda item 13.

13. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases

The Chair explained that the primary document for this review is “Draft Compliance Summary Tables”. The version discussed included written responses received on these issues. Other relevant documents include “Issues of potential non-compliance arising from ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes and Responses”, which contains a consolidation of observed potential non-compliant activities and CPC responses, the “Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee”, and “Information submitted under Rec. 08-09 and responses”.

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 “Draft Compliance Summary Tables” prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the COC Chair. CPCs were asked to provide updated information on actions taken or planned to address potential compliance issues raised in COC meeting documents, and other information as needed. On the basis of this discussion, and taking into account additional information provided by CPCs in writing to the Secretariat, the “Draft Compliance Summary Tables” were updated. With respect to certain requests from CPCs for edits, the Chair responded that this is a working document that is not meant to be itself the subject of negotiations – rather, it is meant to reflect potential compliance issues and summarize CPC written responses, where available.

The final version of the “Compliance Summary Tables” are contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

14. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs

The Chair refers to the document “Correspondence with Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (Non-CPCs)” and explained that generally the ICCAT Secretariat reaches out to non-CPCs when fishing activity comes to its attention and it was believed that it was important to get these parties to the table.

On the methodology used for outreach to non-CPCs, the Chair declared that following the 2022 Annual Meeting, the same approach as in the past was taken: sending letters to non-CPCs previously in receipt of such letters requesting them to provide information, and sending to additional non-CPCs as the COC determines is warranted on the basis of available information.

Many letters were sent in recent years and many of the addressees responded. We agreed last year pursuant to para 1 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 03-20 on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating Non-contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT \(Rec. 21-24\)](#) to send letters to certain countries engaged in ICAT fisheries, requesting information about their fisheries and management measures and encouraging them to consider becoming Cooperating Non-contracting Parties or Contracting Parties. Recipients included Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Lebanon, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Israel and Montenegro. Saint Lucia submitted their Task 1 catch data and Israel is in the process of lodging its instrument of adherence or ratification.

A letter was also sent by the Chair of the Commission to Gibraltar due to annual catches of eastern bluefin tuna. The response can be found in the document “Correspondence with Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (Non-CPCs)”.

The Chair of the Commission suggested that ICCAT reconsider its methodology to determine how to address fishing by ICCAT non-CPCs, noting with concern the significance of catch by some non-CPCs. In response, Japan prepared “A concept paper on how to deal with non-CPCs” (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**) with catch data reported to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for ICCAT species caught by non-CPCs and a suggested methodology for how to determine actions to take regarding non-CPCs that harvest ICCAT species. The document provides suggestions on a methodology, a standard approach.

Taking into account the suggestions in the paper from Japan and data therein, the Chair proposed a stepwise approach, asking the Secretariat to prepare an analysis and compile additional information, including catches of ICCAT species by non-CPCs in recent years, as envisioned in the paper, which could then be the basis for the discussion at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Several CPCs expressed support for this approach, noting the importance of bringing to the table non-CPCs with significant interactions with ICCAT species.

For this year, the Chair recommended sending letters to NCPs that previously received letters, with the exception of Lebanon and Israel. For Israel, this recommendation is in consideration of the understanding that Israel is in the process of submitting its instrument of ratification of the ICCAT Convention.

15. 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 the Compliance Annex*
- b) *Identifications or other actions under the [Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures \(Rec. 06-13\)](#)*
- c) *Action under the [Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations \(Rec. 05-09\)](#) and the [Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfilment of reporting obligations \(Rec. 11-15\)](#)*
- d) *Any other actions under the [Schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions \(Ref. 22-18\)](#)*

The Chair took up all sub-items for this agenda item together, with the exception of a) Endorsement of the Compliance Annex, which was addressed under Agenda item 11 - Review of Compliance Tables.

At the last COC session, the Chair presented the document “Draft Compliance Actions developed by COC Chair in consultation with Friends of COC Chair Group”, which provided recommended actions for endorsement by the COC and adoption by the Commission to respond to compliance issues reflected in “Compliance Summary Tables”. The Chair further explained that this would be the first year for the Committee to apply [Rec. 22-18](#), which was adopted by the Commission at the 2022 Annual Meeting following over a decade of development of the measure. This is reflected in the [Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures \(Res. 16-17\)](#), which was developed pursuant to the COC’s mandate under [Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the mandate and Terms of Reference adopted by the Commission for the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee \(COC\) \(Rec. 11-24\)](#) to develop and make recommendations to the Commission to address issues of non-compliance or lack of cooperation with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

In introducing the recommended actions in the document “Draft Compliance Actions developed by COC Chair in consultation with Friends of COC Chair Group”, the Chair thanked the Friends of the COC Chair Group participants for contributing to the COC’s work, and noted that due to time limitations he was not planning to review CPC by CPC. Instead, the Chair offered remarks on methodology and highlighted the cases of certain CPCs in the interest of greater clarity and transparency.

With regard to late reporting issues raised in the case of Panama in the previous year’s letter from the COC Chair, the Chair thanked Panama for submitting missing information and said that he would work with the Secretariat to carefully review whether there was any further outstanding information requested following the 2022 meeting that was in need of fulfilment, in order to determine whether any such information should be sought in the recommended letter.

In response to interventions by some CPCs regarding the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for Scientific Observer Programs (Rec. 16-14)*, which was raised again this year for many CPCs, the Chair explained that the implementation of *Rec. 16-14* allows for alternative approaches only in certain circumstances when having an onboard observer is not possible. However, in that case, a process needs to be undertaken where that alternative approach is presented for input and endorsement from the SCRS. The COC recommended to the SCRS that, if it has not already developed an approach for CPCs to facilitate that endorsement on alternative observer programs, this should be done as soon as possible.

The Committee concluded this item by approving the recommendations with revisions (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**) and referring them to the Commission for adoption.

16. Consideration of requests for cooperating status

The Chair informed the Commission that no new requests for cooperating status have been received, and that pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (Rec. 03-20)*, cooperating status is renewed unless the Commission decides otherwise. With no concerns expressed regarding maintaining cooperating status for all those that currently enjoy such status, it was deemed renewed for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname.

17. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

The Chair proposed the following recommendations from the COC to the Commission, which he developed based on the deliberations of the COC, in addition to the endorsements and other decisions taken by the COC in earlier agenda items.

1. The COC will maintain an agenda item devoted to capacity building related to compliance. A repository document should be created that lists information on capacity building opportunities from a variety of sources available to CPCs of relevance to ICCAT. It will be a living document. This should be developed based on information provided at the meeting and solicited by the Secretariat intersessionally, and could be complimented by a companion document that compiles information from CPCs on areas where their compliance could be improved through technical assistance and capacity building.
2. The COC will continue in taking meaningful steps to progressively implement the schedule of actions in response to potential compliance issues, including if possible working with the Secretariat and the Friends of the COC Chair Group during the intersessional period to develop formats and methodologies to ensure its implementation is efficient, fair, and transparent.
3. The COC requests that the SCRS Billfishes and Shark Species Groups develop procedures for requesting and reviewing exemptions from Billfish and Shark Check Sheets (related to paragraph 3 of *Rec. 18-05* and *Rec. 18-06*).
4. The COC Chair should reach out intersessionally to CPCs regarding non-submission of information regarding turtle measures to support a more detailed review in 2024.
5. A standing agenda item to discuss process improvements to COC, possibly as a component of agenda item 17 "Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance", in order to periodically assess the procedures and documentation we use to carry out our work.
6. The COC Chair recommends to STACFAD and the WG-ORT to explore with the Secretariat the feasibility of progressively translating sections of the Annual Report that appear in the IOMS.
7. The COC should continue to explore how to streamline the documents submitted in advance for the Compliance Committee. To this end, the Secretariat welcomed all information on how to make the presentation of documents clearer and requested that CPCs send the documents in time and ideally without revisions or addendums. Another option suggested by a CPC for exploration is the possibility of externalizing review of COC documents.

18. Election of the Chair

Following nomination by Japan and support from a number of other CPCs, Mr Campbell was re-elected to serve as Chair of the Committee.

19. Other matters

The Chair referred to the “Proposed Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports”. The Chair explained that this document is updated from time to time to reflect changes in how the applicable measures apply and how the Commission does its work. It should offer a clear set of guidance to CPCs on how to complete the reporting requirements. The COC endorsed the document and referred it to plenary for adoption.

A statement was submitted to the Compliance Committee by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), which is contained in **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**.

20. Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of the Committee would be adopted by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-TOR) and next steps
5. Consideration of ways to use capacity building to improve compliance
6. Consideration of any outstanding matters in Performance Review recommendations as well as recommendations from the Expert Workshops on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs
7. Review of ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee
8. Priority review of recommendations, taking into account measures identified for review in the 2022 COC meeting, the schedule of expiration of recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate
 - a) *Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Rec. 18-09)*
 - b) *Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area (Rec. 18-05) (Billfish Check Sheet)*
 - c) *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 18-06) (Shark Check Sheet)*
 - d) *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program (Rec. 16-14)*
9. Considerations of updates to the Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities
10. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2022 meeting
11. Review of Compliance Tables
12. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under Rec. 08-09
13. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases
14. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs
15. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 6
 - a) Endorsement of the Compliance Annex
 - b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures recommendation (Rec. 06-13)
 - c) Action under data recommendations (Recs. 05-09 and 11-15)
 - d) Any other actions under Ref. 22-18

16. Consideration of requests for cooperating status
17. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
18. Election of Chair
19. Other matters
20. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)

2023 Status Report

Summary of 2023 Working Group activities

During 2023, the ICCAT Secretariat continued to progress during Phase 3 (2 years: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2024) in the development of the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS). Critical achievements advancing the working of the WG-ORT include finalizing the enhancements to the dynamic help system; further improving the Annual Report manager module; continuing the advancements to the development of the Vessel Manager module; and including the work on the UN/FLUX integration. In addition, improvements have been constantly made to several IOMS administrative tools and functionalities (user activity auditing manager, user's profiles/roles manager, notification manager, thread manager, change logger, etc.). Due to its complexity, the Vessel Manager module together with the UN/FLUX integration (where two specific implementation documents - vessel registration and fishing vessel authorizations - are being drafted by EU and the Secretariat, for a posterior consideration by the WG-ORT), represents the largest amount of development work that took place in 2023.

One virtual training workshop session was also conducted during 2023 to train registered IOMS users on the use of the IOMS, with a particular focus on the use of the Vessel Manager module. Additional training sessions exclusively dedicated to the Vessel manager will continue during 2024. In addition, the Secretariat also assisted all ICCAT CPCs with completing the 2023 Annual Reports in IOMS, as recommended by the WG-ORT.

The WG-ORT met virtually 7-8 February 2023 to review progress on the development of the IOMS and provide input on its continued development. The report from the meeting is available as document [COC_302/2023](#). Among others, two important decisions were made:

- a) The final adoption of the improved IOMS user roles characterization (profiles, access rights, read/write permissions, etc.), now with additional user types and higher resolution levels in IOMS functionality (users right per module/section/element), respectively presented in Tables 4 and 5 of [COC_302/2023](#). The revision of the IOMS user roles started in 2022.
- b) Adoption of the Form Manager module (to manage and track all the ICCAT standard electronic forms that are reported by the CPCs) as a priority development task. This decision aims to make effective use of the IOMS on the CPCs data form provision to ICCAT and can potentially accelerate the IOMS development process. A detailed description is made in section 8.2 of [COC_302/2023](#).

With Phases 1 and 2 completed and Phase 3 (2 years: June/2022 to May/2024) progressing as planned, the WG-ORT also discussed the activities of Phase 4 (2 years: June/2024 to May/2026). The 2022 workplan was rescheduled (as shown in the WG-ORT 2023 workplan) to accommodate the agreed changes of Phases 3 and 4, and also to delineate the activities planned for Phase 5. The adopted workplan is presented in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**. The Working Group approved the following activities for Phases 3 and 4 activities (shown by order of priority):

Phase 3

- Vessel Manager module (includes the UN/FLUX integration)
- Form Manager module (for all ST, CP, and TG standardized type forms)
- Shark/Billfish Check Sheets Manager module (to continue in Phase 4)
- Port Manager module (to continue in Phase 4)

Phase 4

- Task 1 nominal catches manager
- Compliance Tables manager

The IOMS workplan will be revised by the WG-ORT at the 2024 intersessional meeting (around February/2024), and potentially adjusted considering the progress achieved at the meeting, and the priorities determined by the Commission at the 2023 Annual Meeting. These adjustments will include a more detailed overview of the activities and priorities scheduled for Phase 5.

In addition to the 2023 development work, the IOMS development team had also worked on code maintenance of the existing IOMS (bug corrections and minor improvements) and to provide support to all the IOMS users (Secretariat staff, CPC officers, and ICCAT officers). The WG-ORT was concerned with the workload of the small IOMS development team and the tasks they are responsible for on a daily basis, including the three main roles described above. The WG-ORT determined that maintaining these three important roles with the current IOMS development team is unsustainable in the long run and agreed on the need to increase the ICCAT regular budget for the IOMS, with the goal of having a permanent team of three or four highly specialised developers dedicated to IOMS development and maintenance. The document [STF-211/2023](#) “Proposed Commission budget for IOMS 2024-2025”, submitted by WG-ORT Chair, addresses this concern.

2023 intersessional tasks

In addition to the various IOMS enhancements (Table 3 of [COC_302/2023](#)) adopted by the WG-ORT together with the ICCAT Secretariat, the WG also agreed to continue to work intersessionally on the following tasks (during 2023 and until the next WG-ORT intersessional meeting, planned for Feb/2024):

- a. Review and approve¹ updated user roles and rights (especially for the Vessel Manager module and flag States).
- b. Review and approve¹ modifications to the workplan.
- c. Review and adopt February 2023 meeting report.
- d. ICCAT Secretariat to review the possibility of using annual report module to complete shark and Billfish Check sheet at an earlier date (before the next WG-ORT intersessional meeting).
- e. Plan and participate in Vessel Manager module training and testing (planned October 5, 2023)
- f. Draft and approve budget increase request to present to COC and STACFAD in 2023 (in advance of 90 days deadline/June 2023).
- g. ICCAT Secretariat to continue the study potentially redundant reporting requirements with the aim of developing a strategic plan to eliminate such redundancies (show progress at next meeting).
- h. Review and provide feedback on the standard responses of the annual report (31 July 2023 with assistance from the Chair of the Compliance Committee).
- i. ICCAT Secretariat to continue developing the ability for IOMS users to export all Annual Reports for a given year (prior to 15 September 2023).

These tasks have progressed as planned and with no major adjustments. Specifically, tasks a-c, e, f, and i are considered complete at the time of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

IOMS training sessions

The WG-ORT agreed to hold a unique IOMS training session in 2023 (held online on 16 October 2023) exclusively dedicated to the Vessel Manager module so that the CPCs could initiate testing of this important module. More than 70 participants from 32 CPCs as well as ICCAT Officers participated in the training sessions. Additional training sessions are planned for the vessel manager module due to its complexity.

To facilitate the planning of the 2024 Commission meetings calendar, the WG-ORT has planned in advance two additional training sessions in 2024. The exact dates will be agreed at the next intersessional WG-ORT meeting.

Complementary support was given to the IOMS users of several CPCs during 2023 following requests to the Secretariat for individual sessions. The ICCAT Secretariat recalled that this complementary user support modality will be maintained in the future and that recorded trainings remain available for CPCs to review.

¹ Approval was undertaken as part of the adoption of the 2023 WG-ORT meeting report.

2023 Annual reporting

The ICCAT IOMS has been in production since 1 August 2021, with the annual report module (Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3) available online for the last three years. The submission of annual reports via IOMS for 2021 (experimental year) and 2022 (recommended for online completion) served mostly for training purposes, whereas submission of the annual report (Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3) via IOMS was a requirement in 2023 (paragraph 2 of [Rec. 22-17](#)).

A summary of statistical indicators regarding submission of annual reports via online completion (IOMS, as of 2023-11-04) for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 are presented in **Table 1**. The indicators of 2021 and 2022 annual reports (IOMS probation years) were included for comparative purposes. In 2023, a total of 46 CPCs (41 Contracting Parties; 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties) used the IOMS (81% of the 57 CPCs) and completed the two sections (P1A1: Part 1/Annex 1; PA2S3: Part 2 /Section 3) of the 2023 Annual Reports via the online interface. There are, however, some CPCs that have yet to complete one or both sections of the 2023 annual report via the IOMS (P1A1: 11 CPCs; P2S3: 14 CPCs). Among all CPC that used IOMS, the number of CPCs requesting the Secretariat support to complete the two sections of the annual report decreased across 2021 and 2023 for both sections of the annual report (P1A1: 42% in 2021, 28% in 2022, 5% in 2023; P2S3: 42% in 2021, 23% in 2022, 2% in 2023). This trend likely indicates an increasing gain of autonomy on the utilization of the IOMS by the CPCs users, reflecting the reasonable investment and success of the IOMS user support policy over the last two years.

In line with paragraph 1 of [Rec. 22-17](#), all the ICCAT CPCs have at least one IOMS users registered as of the 2023 Annual Meeting. This achievement was possible further to the recommendation of the WG-ORT for the ICCAT Secretariat to work together with WG-ORT Chair to contact urgently the CPCs without users registered in the IOMS. These statistics are also available to the IOMS registered users (both CPC roles: administrators and officers) in the IOMS online portal (<https://ioms.iccat.int>).

Part II, Section 5 of the 2023 Annual Report invited CPCs to inform the Commission of primary difficulties encountered in the implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. No CPCs reported difficulties in using IOMS in this section (see [COC_311/2023](#) for further details).

2024 and beyond

In order to continue the WG-ORT's progress in reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements for both the Secretariat and the CPCs and to increase access to valuable information, the WG-ORT requests to meet virtually during the 2024 intersessional period to continue its work on Phases 3 and 4. The WG-ORT also supports the previously agreed additional IOMS training session(s) to take place in 2024.

Table 1. Number of annual reports (and relative ratios) in the IOMS for 2021, 2022, and 2023, by section, completion status, and completion mode (with/without Secretariat support). Values in “red” indicate the number of pending sections that have to be completed by various CPCs in the future.

Indicator	Section	Completion status	Party type	Year of annual report / Secretariat support [Yes/No]												
				2021				2022				2023				
				No	Yes	pending	Total	No	Yes	pending	Total	No	Yes	pending	Total	
Number of annual reports	Compliance (P2S3: Part 2/Section 3)	complete	CP	18	19		37	32	10		42	37	1		38	
			NCC	1	3		4	5		5	5		5		5	
		incomplete	CP	3	2	10	15	1	3	6	10			14	14	
			NCC			1	1									
		Total			22	24	11	57	38	13	6	57	42	1	14	57
	Statistical (P1A1: Part 1/annex 1)	complete	CP	17	21		38	32	10		42	36	1		37	
		NCC	2	2		4	5		5	5		5		5		
incomplete		CP	4	1	9	14	1	6	3	10	2	2	11	15		
		NCC			1	1										
	Total			23	24	10	57	38	16	3	57	43	3	11	57	
Ratio (%)	Compliance (P2S3: Part 2/Section 3)	complete	CP	32%	33%		65%	56%	18%		74%	65%	2%		67%	
			NCC	2%	5%		7%	9%		9%	9%		9%		9%	
		incomplete	CP	5%	4%	18%	26%	2%	5%	11%	18%			25%	25%	
			NCC			2%	2%									
		Total			39%	42%	19%	100%	67%	23%	11%	100%	74%	2%	25%	100%
	Statistical (P1A1: Part 1/annex 1)	complete	CP	30%	37%		67%	56%	18%		74%	63%	2%		65%	
		NCC	4%	4%		7%	9%		9%	9%		9%		9%		
incomplete		CP	7%	2%	16%	25%	2%	11%	5%	18%	4%	4%	19%	26%		
		NCC			2%	2%										
	Total			40%	42%	18%	100%	67%	28%	5%	100%	75%	5%	19%	100%	

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

IOMS revised workplan (2023), covering the ongoing and future development phases

Phase start	Priority	Module /Task	Description	Data requirements	Dev. Status	Date start	Date end	Phase end	Budget	Remarks
1	1	Module	IOMS core/database	n/a	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	2	Module	IOMS annual report (Part II/Section 3, Part I/Annex 1)	S:GEN01, M:GEN01	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	3	Task	IOMS in production		COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	1	Task	Training/workshop sessions (Phase 1)		COMPLETE	2022-04-28	2022-09-01	2	COM-18	Two sessions (4 hours each)
1	1	Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)		Ongoing	2019-06-01	n/a	n/a	COM-18	Continuous task (maintenance)
2	1	Module	Dynamic Help system (module)	n/a	COMPLETE	2021-03-31	2022-03-31	2	CP C (EU)	EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022)
2	1	Task	Adjustments to the new roles definition	n/a	COMPLETE	2022-02-15	2022-03-15	2	COM-19	Adopted by WG-ORT 2022
2	1	Module	ICCAT Vessel Manager	Up to 21 data requirements (Vessel registration, 11 authorisation lists, carriers, chartering arrangements, transshipment authorizations, previous year activity)	Ongoing	2021-03-01	2023-10-31	3	COM-19 & CP C (EU)	Development extended to Phase 3 (10 additional months) jointly with UN/FLUX integration. Partially covered by EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023)
2	1	Task	UN/FLUX integration into Vessel Manager	All requirements of Vessel registration and authorizations (11 lists)	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2023-11-30	3	CP C (EU)	EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023)
2	2	Module	Enhancements to Dynamic Help system (generalization)	n/a	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2023-03-31	3	CP C (EU)	Near completion (final tests)
2	1	Task	Vessels training/workshop session[s]	n/a	Planned	2023-10-05	2023-10-05	3	COM-19	IOMS users preliminary tests on Vessel module (1 session)
3	1	Module	Form Manager	Module to upload and manage all ICCAT forms (ST, CP, TG)	Planned	2023-07-01	2023-12-31	3	COM-21	Start & end dates: estimates
3	2	Module	Port Manager	M:BFT21, M:SWO10	Planned	2024-01-01	2024-05-31	3	COM-21	Start & end dates: estimates
3	1	Task	Form manager & Port manager training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD	3	COM-21	To decide of 1 session each
3	1	Module	Shark/Billfish Check Sheets Manager	M:SHK05, M:BIL01	Planned	2024-05-01	TBD	4	COM-21	To study the possibilities of re-using AR module code / Start date may change
3	1	Task	Shark/Billfish Check Sheets training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD	3	COM-21	
4	1	Module	T1NC (Task 1 nominal catches) Manager	S:GEN03	Planned	2024-06-30	TBD		COM-23	Start date may change (pending study on time required)
4	2	Module	Compliance tables (COCT) Manager	M:GEN03	Planned	2024-06-30	TBD		COM-23	Start date may change (pending study on time required)
4	1	Task	T1NC/COCT training/workshop sessions	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
4	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing	n/a	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
5	1	Module	SDP programs (SWO, BET)	M:TRO06, M:SWO01	Planned				COM-23	
5	2	Module	Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager	M:BFT22, M:BFT23, M:TRO14 weekly BET	Planned				COM-23	
5	3	Module	Task 2 - Catch and effort	S:GEN04	Planned				COM-23	
5	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing		Planned				COM-23	

* Preliminary dates (tentative) for ongoing (Date End) and future (Date Start/Data End) activities.

**Statement by Ecology Action Centre, Shark Trust and The Ocean Foundation
to the Compliance Committee**

We thank the Compliance Committee for the opportunity to participate in this process, including through our July submission (Circular 7689/2023) reviewing *CPC's Shark Check Sheets and catch data submissions*. This review was conducted by the Shark League coalition as part of a thorough analysis of CPC's performance with respect to various shark data and conservation obligations under both ICCAT and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The review highlights many CPCs for a lack of required details as well as vague, inconsistent, or contradictory information in their shark check sheets and for potential discrepancies in their Task 1 species reporting.

We thank Costa Rica and the European Union for the responses to our document "Information submitted under Rec. 08-09 and responses submission" (refer to COC_312/2023) and we invite other CPCs to consider our evaluation and related efforts to improve implementation of CPCs' obligations as a complement to other reviews by the Secretariat and COC.

We are pleased to see some significant improvements in CPCs' 2023 Shark Check Sheets.

In particular, Check Sheets were received from CPCs that had never submitted one before or hadn't done so for many years. At least 12 countries significantly improved their answers by clarifying or citing domestic regulations implementing shark retention prohibitions and the 5% fins-to-carcass ratio limit.

Several CPCs without ICCAT or large-scale pelagic vessels have nonetheless newly demonstrated compliance, citing specific domestic measures and reporting artisanal catch.

We stress, however, that much improvement toward shark measure compliance and reporting through the Check Sheet process is still urgently needed.

Most important, many CPCs still lack the required binding domestic shark fishing restrictions. Some fail to report on such policies in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the related ICCAT measure. Opaque answers require close reading to even understand what some CPCs are trying to convey.

In addition, a great number of CPCs, despite repeated COC guidance, continue to include invalid answers to excuse their lack of compliance. For instance, many CPCs continue to state that a given shark species is not targeted, found in their waters or present where their fleets fish even though the SCRS has not yet granted exemptions on these bases. Most concerning are the several cases where the range of the species in question clearly overlaps with the CPC's waters.

The Check Sheet answers also continue to suggest confusion among CPCs regarding application of ICCAT shark obligations, in terms of vessels and fisheries.

We therefore ask the COC to further clarify for CPCs that:

- there is an obligation to provide details on domestic regulations for the implementation of all ICCAT measures, including every shark Recommendation; and
- reporting of this policy information, as well as Task 1 catch data is required for all fisheries (including industrial, small-scale, and recreational fishing), even when sharks are caught incidentally and/or discarded.

The COC should also elaborate guidance on domestic implementation, data reporting, and Shark Check Sheet details for:

- CPCs without active ICCAT vessels active; and
- ICCAT-managed shark species caught in artisanal and/or inshore fleets, and non-pelagic gear.

Last, a clear process needs to be developed by COC and the SCRS, as per Rec. 18-06, to validate any CPC exemption requests for reporting based on species or population range.

We look forward to this year's CPC-by-CPC shark compliance review and the opportunity CPC's to address outstanding concerns and continue improving compliance processes.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 4281.62 t ($=3926+655.62-100-200$) due to the inclusion of 2016 underage and 2018 initial catch quota and the respective transfers of 100 t to SVG and 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 4543.93 t ($=3926+(3271.70*0.25)-200$) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage and 2019 initial catch quota and the transfer of 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 4707.5 t ($=3926*(1+0.25)-200$) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfer of 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 5198.4 t ($=4416.9+3926*0.25-200$) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfer of 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 5198.4 t ($=4416.9+3926*0.25-200$) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2022 initial catch quota and the deduction of the transfer of 200 t to Belize.

SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catches							Reference					Adjusted quotas/catch limits					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000																		
ANGOLA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	7.23	14.87	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	48.83	42.77	35.13				
BELIZE	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	122.86	219.03	310.52	158.14	162.13	30.84	12.74	189.64	934.7	1.98	154.36	89.85	281.66	299.76	312.50	312.50	312.50	
BRAZIL	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	657.59	496.85	396.00	1002.66	617.00	516.00	543.00	2042.41	2103.15	2204.00	1597.84	1983.00	2194.00	1897.04	2700.00	2600.00	2600.00	
CHINA (P.R.)	300.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	240.00	94.37	184.55	116.45	132.07	182.94	9.66	33.19	20.63	20.05	132.55	87.98	66.06	240.24	218.21	125.00	204.60	250.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	10340.00	8907.00	9090.00	9227.00	9626.00	9851.00	10519.00	8894.00	2843.00	2660.00	2522.00	2124.00	1699.00	1005.00	2290.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	120.00	0.00	122.40	6.18	19.36	45.23	0.00	0.64	125.00	2.60	96.43	105.64	79.77	100.00	99.36	125.00	125.00	102.60	
CUBAÇAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	60.00	12.00	13.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.93	28.00	36.70	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	32.07	50.00	50.00	50.00	
EU	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1765.00	54.77	178.20	103.81	81.73	60.47	70.94	71.53	1782.73	1659.30	1734.69	1755.77	1777.03	1766.56	1765.97	1837.50	1837.50	
GUINEA EQ																									
GUANA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	0.04	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	24.96	25.00	22.00	24.00	34.94	25.00	25.00				
JAPAN	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1630.00	1212.80	2135.80	1654.50	1465.57	1621.80	1487.60	1741.20	480.95	-418.70	239.25	470.73	1071.95	206.15	-47.45	1693.75	1717.10	1993.75	
KOREA (REP.)	340.00	340.00	340.00	340.00	340.00	340.00	170.00	48.27	85.96	166.64	170.01	131.45	131.02	152.92	126.73	89.04	8.36	4.99	16.91	13.97	3.99	175.00	175.00	175.00	
NAMIBIA	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	4320.00	994.00	365.62	898.90	966.50	2165.75	3412.63	6745.00	3506.00	4111.38	3612.00	3523.50	2334.25	1087.37	-2245.00	4500.00	4477.00	4500.00	
PANAMA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	3.20	23.50	0.00	13.00	31.54	17.22	12.43	21.80	1.50	25.00	12.00	-6.34	1.44	12.52				
PHILIPPINES	340.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	340.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	
SOUTH AFRICA	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	5280.00	2065.00	1762.00	2572.50	4402.87	4025.92	3922.52	5586.99	2335.00	3728.00	2927.50	197.13	874.08	674.61	0.00	4400.00	5500.00	
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	170.00	107.40	101.00	98.21	30.65	0.00	14.43	21.68	-0.73	30.27	41.79	144.37	175.00	160.87	153.25	106.67	129.27	140.00	
TR. & TOBAGO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.60	25.00	25.00	21.70	25.00	25.00	25.00				
UK	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	325.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
URUGUAY	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	497.05	550.00	550.00	550.00	
USA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	na	na		
TOTAL CATCH								34279.70	14778.20	15543.38	18072.95	18897.26	20139.09	23016.17											
Rec. number	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07	16-07	20-05	21-05	22-06																	

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-07, para 4b).
 BELIZE: intends to use 1.98 t of its underages from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).
 BELIZE: Belize's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).
 BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2020 in 2022 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).
 BELIZE: intends to use 62.5t of its underages from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 16-07, para 4b).
 BRAZIL: Brazil's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 BRAZIL: IQ2022 + 25% MAX2020 - 129.95t [South Africa will invoke para 4f of the ICCAT Rec. 16-07, supplemented by ICCAT Rec. 21-05 to cover the over shooting of its catch limits (URY: 26.47 BRA: 129.95t)].
 CHINA (P.R.): informs the Commission in 2017 of an adjusted quota of 25% in 2018.
 CHINA (P.R.): in accordance with para 4b of Rec. 16-07, the 25% carryover request made by China at the 2017 Regular Commission meeting has been completed using their underage from 2016 of 30.63 t and 19.37 t of the total underage of the TAC from 2016.
 CHINA (P.R.): in accordance with para 4b of Rec. 16-07, wishes to request its intention of such carryover.
 CHINA (P.R.): China's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 EU: EU's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 KOREA (Rep.): underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.
 JAPAN: 2017 to 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: informed the Commission in 2017 that its underage in 2016 will be carried over to the 2018 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: informed the Commission in 2019 that its underage in 2018 will be carried over to the 2020 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 1,355 t (Limit) - 418.7 t (2017 overage (para 5 of Rec. 16-07))+100 t (transfer from Brazil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 100 t (transfer from S. Africa (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 800 t (transfer from S. Africa (Circular #0888/19)).
 JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2019 was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(Limit)+239.25 t (2018 carry over (para 4a of Rec. 16-07)) + 99.5 t (complement from underage from the total TAC (para 4b of Rec.16-07))+100 t (transfer from Brazil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07))+100 t (transfer from S. Africa (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 500 t (transfer from S. Africa (Circular #1304/20)) + 200 t (transfer from Chinese Taipei (Circular #4313/20)) + 100 t (transfer from Brazil (Circular #4498/20))
 JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(Limit)+338.75 t(2019 carry over(1355*25%)) (para 4a of Rec. 16-07))

NAMIBIA: Namibia's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending the adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondence.

SENEGAL (*): Subject to revision based on results of further investigations relating to potential overharvest.

SOUTH AFRICA: transferred 800 t of its SALB to Japan in 2019.

SOUTH AFRICA: will transfer 500 t of its SALB to Japan in 2020.

SOUTH AFRICA: in accordance with the Rec. 16-07, South Africa is also transferring 100 t of its SALB to Japan until 2020.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa will invoke para 4f of the ICCAT Rec. 16-07, supplemented by ICCAT Rec. 21-05 to cover the over shooting of its catch limits (URY: 26.47 BRA: 129.95t)

ST VINCENT AND GRENADINES: St Vincent and Grenadines' underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

URUGUAY: Uruguay's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

URUGUAY: Adjusted limit 2022 = initial limit 2022 (440) + available balance 2020(not to exceed 25% of initial quota) (110) - 26.47t [ZAF will invoke para 4f of the ICCAT Rec. 16-07, supplemented by ICCAT Rec. 21-05 to cover the over shooting of its catch limits (URY: 26.47 BRA: 129.95t)]

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 25th Regular meeting.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 21st Special meeting.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11550.00 t (=9400*(1+0.25)-200) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfer of 200 t to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Chinese Taipei's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 11524.00 t (=9400+2124) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 11244.00 t (=9400+1699) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2021 initial catch quota + 85t (Rec. 16-07 Para 4b) as complement from total underage from the TAC.

GUYANA: Guyana is currently reviewing the reporting of this species to confirm that they have not confused it with the northern albacore with respect to the information presented on page 3 of the document included here: https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf. Until such time we will continue to report the stock as is.

N.B. This suspicion is guided by the reporting of this species under the northern stock in the past e.g. in 2019 Task 1 - Nominal Catches.

MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits		Current catches	Balance	Adjusted quota/catch limit		
	2022	2023	2022	2022	2022	2023	2024
TAC	2500	2500					
EU	2169.68	2089.93	1857.72	311.96			
EGYPT	177.27	150.27	177.00	0.27			
LIBYA	23.00	23.00					
MAROC	10.00	10.00	9.50	0.50			
SYRIA	1.80	1.80					
TÜRKIYE*	118.25	225.00	118.25	0.00		150.00	150.00
TOTAL CATCH			2162.47				
Rec. number	22-05	22-05			22-05	22-05	22-05

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

EU: the underharvest of the EU in 2017 is of 1852.04 t, 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 St Pierre et Miquelon as provided in Rec. 17-02.

EU: the EU adjusted quota for SWO-N takes into account the transfer of 0.01% of its initial quota to the United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

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: 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: adjusted quota/catch limit of SWO-N 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 (2017 carryover (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 (2018 carryover (para 4 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)) - 25 t (transfer to Mauritania (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 842 t (limit) + 831.01 t (2019 carry over (para 4 of Rec. 17-02)) - 150 t (transfer to Morocco (para 1a of Rec. 19-03)) - 35 t (transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) - 25 t (transfer to Mauritania (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

MOROCCO: 2020 adjusted quota: 995 t = initial quota allocated to Morocco (850t) + 150 t (transferred by Japan to Morocco) + 20 t (transferred by Chinese Taipei) + 25 t (transferred by T&T) Rec. 19-03/para 1 amending Rec. 17-02 - 50 overharvest in 2018.

MOROCCO: 2021 adjusted quota: the total of 1095 t has been confirmed for the year 2021, in addition to the current quota of 950 t (850 t + 100 t from Japan) and following the agreement of related CPCs, an additional quota of 95 t will be transferred to Japan (50 t), to Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and to Chinese Taipei (20 t) + 50 t underharvest in 2019.

MOROCCO: 1101.66 t will be confirmed once Morocco obtains for 2022, in addition to the current quota of 950 t an additional quota of 95 t that will be transferred to Japan (50 t), to Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and to Chinese Taipei (20 t) + 56.66 (15% initial quota) underharvest 2020.

MOROCCO: 2022 adjusted quota: 1172.5 t will be confirmed once Morocco has obtained for 2023 in addition to the initial quota of 850 t and underage of 127.50 t (15% of the initial quota) an additional quota of 195 t which will be transferred to Japan (150 t) from Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and Chinese Taipei (20 t).

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 catch limit + (2017 catch limit x 0.4) - Canada transfer = 250 + (250*0.4) - (125 + 25) = 200 t

SENEGAL: 2019 adjusted limit = 2019 limit + max. balance (limit 2018*0.4) - transfer Canada (125 t) = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - 125 = 225 t.

SENEGAL: 2020 adjusted limit = 2020 limit + max. balance (limit 2019*0.4) - transfer Canada (125 t) = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - 125 = 225 t.

SENEGAL (*): subject to revision based on results of further investigations relating to potential overharvest.

UK-OT: 50% carry forward of underage until 2017, and then a 40% carry forward of underage; 50% = 17.50; 40% = 14.00.

USA: 2016-2017 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania. No transfers were authorised for 2018-2020.

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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 323 t (=270+270*40%-35-20) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 323 t (=270+270*40%-35-20) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 323 t (=270+270*40%-35-20) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2022 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

GUYANA: 2022, these catches were initially reported as SWO-S which seemed incorrect based on this source (https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf).

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catches					Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit							
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TAC*	10185	9879	9583	9296	9017	9017																	
ALBANIA																							
ALGERIE	533.49	517.49	501.98	486.94	472.33	472.33	528.00	517.49	500.95	451.48	471.78	5.49	0.00	1.02	35.46	0.55	533.49	517.49	501.975	486.94	472.33	472.33	472.33
EGYPT								5.00	4.00	12.00	26.00												
EU	7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63	6363.63	3937.33	5197.8	4820.4	4571.5	4389.96	3250.84	1774.74	1942.96	1988.98	1973.67	7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63	6363.63	
LIBYA																							
MAROC	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47	896.47	1013.00	982.26	951.00	924.20	890.86	0.61	0.00	1.79	0.00	5.61	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47	896.47	896.47
SYRIA																							
TUNISIE	977.45	948.13	919.68	892.09	865.33	865.33	974.00	934.00	917.92	890.66	857.23	3.45	14.13	1.78	1.43	8.10	977.46	948.14	919.70	892.09	865.33	865.33	
TÜRKIYE	427.77	414.94	402.49	390.42	378.70	378.70	427.00	414.00	402.40	389.99	378.70	0.77	0.94	0.09	0.43	0.00	427.77	414.94	402.49	390.42	378.70	378.70	378.70
TOTAL CATCH							6879.33	8050.53	7596.66	7239.79	7014.53												
Rec. number	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05											16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05

*NOTE: 3% reduction from 10,500, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limit								Current catch								Balance								Adjusted quota/catch limit							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
TAC	19296	22705	39200	32260	36000	36000	36000	48570																								
ALBANIA	47.40	56.91	100.00	156.00	170.00	170.00	264.00	45.79	56.00	100.00	156.25	167.67	349.40	177.60	0.51	0.93	0.00	-0.25	2.08	21.60	1.00	46.80	56.91	100.00	156.00	169.75	170.00	178.50	264.00			
ALGERIE	202.29	242.70	1260.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	2022.00	448.59	1037.67	1249.99	1484.95	1648.68	1649.98	1654.00	4.59	6.02	6.01	9.02	6.22	5.04	1.00	462.08	1042.70	1206.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	2022.00	2022.00			
CHINA (P.R.)	55.00	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	112.00	57.00	64.59	78.99	98.56	100.99	100.99	112.00	0.01	0.23	0.01	1.04	1.01	1.01	20.19	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	112.00			
CHINESE TAIPEI	59.20	59.27	79.00	94.00	90.00	90.00	101.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.28	59.97	29.00	24.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	49.20	59.27	79.00	54.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	51.00			
EGYPT	94.67	132.67	193.00	266.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	59.33	122.67	180.99	265.94	122.00	226.61	67.62	0.24	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.39	3.30	99.67	122.67	193.00	266.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	51.31		
EU	11202.94	15451.25	15950.00	17623.00	19460.00	19460.00	21503.00	10974.55	12084.50	15594.70	17064.09	19134.01	19165.67	18950.90	229.19	267.06	265.30	558.91	325.97	573.90	786.67	11202.94	15451.25	15950.00	17623.00	19460.00	19737.57	19737.57	22289.67			
ICELAND	43.71	52.48	94.00	147.00	180.00	180.00	224.00	5.76	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.54	0.24	37.09	52.06	94.00	147.00	179.46	179.79	42.05	52.48	94.00	147.00	180.00	180.00	180.00				
JAPAN	1608.21	1920.88	2279.00	2544.00	2819.00	2819.00	2819.00	1578.27	1910.65	2269.76	2523.73	2781.63	2779.99	2871.24	4.84	0.23	9.24	20.27	57.64	96.65	44.49	1688.21	1910.88	2279.00	2544.00	2829.27	2876.64	2916.65	318.839			
KOREA (REP.)	113.66	136.46	160.00	194.00	200.00	200.00	221.00	163.08	181.19	207.97	232.43	247.27	242.24	252.28	2.58	0.27	2.03	1.57	4.20	12.06	7.72	163.66	193.46	210.00	234.00	251.57	254.20	260.00	278.72			
LIBYA	1822.28	1588.77	1846.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	2255.00	1367.80	1630.15	1791.60	2051.65	2228.20	2234.18	2226.42	5.48	8.02	8.40	8.35	26.80	20.82	28.58	1872.28	1628.77	1800.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	2255.00	264.80			
MOROCCO	1752.29	2122.71	2570.00	2948.00	3284.00	3284.00	3284.00	1788.30	2141.20	2571.00	2920.00	3462.71	3294.32	3565.02	5.68	11.61	7.00	28.00	34.91	34.65	3.22	1752.29	2122.71	2570.00	2948.00	3488.62	3218.91	3562.27	3703.00	3700.00		
MAURITANIA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00											
MAURITIA								50.00																								
NORWAY	43.71	52.48	104.00	239.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	269.00	43.80	50.88	12.21	49.20	194.29	357.68	123.27	-0.09	1.53	91.69	189.70	117.56	157.32	191.82	42.71	52.29	104.00	239.00	231.95	231.00	231.00	282.00		
SENEGAL								5.00																								
SYRIA	47.40	56.91	66.00	72.00	80.00	80.00	129.00	47.39	56.91	66.00	73.97	79.20	0.00	79.20	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.80	0.80		47.40	56.91	66.00	72.00	80.00	80.00	80.00				
TUNISIE	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2655.00	2655.00	3000.00	1490.58	1789.64	2102.09	2375.12	2653.38	2729.74	2652.79	1.13	1.46	12.81	20.87	22.02	26.01	26.29	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2675.40	2755.75	2679.72	3020.00			
TÜRKIYE	785.59	943.21	1434.00	1980.00	2395.00	2395.00	2600.00	1324.20	1614.70	1283.70	1770.78	2257.88	2266.19	2294.85	137.52	2.6020	120.30	109.22	47.12	39.82	10.15	1461.82	1775.00	2414.00	1980.00	2395.00	2395.00	2260.00	2600.00			
UK	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.40	48.40	48.40	67.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.92	4.61	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45.48	46.20	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.40	50.82	65.42			
TOTAL CATCH																																
Rec. number	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	21-08	22-08	19424.13	23642.23	27549.11	31000.58	35069.00	35097.25	34991.22								14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	21-08	22-08		

EU: the EU adjusted quota for BFT takes into account the transfer of 0.25% of its initial quota to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2017 excluded 20 t transferred to Korea (Rep.).

JAPAN: current catch for 2017 includes 5.3 t of dead discards as reported in Task 1 data.

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 7.42 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 2544.00 t (limit) (para 5 of Rec. 18-02).

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 9.25 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 2819.00 t (limit) (para 5 of Rec. 19-04) + 20.27 t (2019 carry over (para 7 of Rec. 19-04)).

KOREA (REP.): since 2018, Chinese Taipei transferred 50 t of its quota to Korea (Rep.) every year.

KOREA (REP.): Korea (Rep.) carried forward its unused quota of 2019 (1.57 t) to 2020.

LIBYA: transfers 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

MOROCCO: 2020 adjusted quota = 2020 national adjusted quota following the transfer (204.62 t) of Egypt (3284+204.62 = 3488.62 t).

MOROCCO: 2021 national adjusted quota following the transfer of underage 34.91 t (3284 + 34.91 = 3318.91 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MOROCCO: 2022 national adjusted quota following the transfer of underage 24.65 t and transfer from Egypt of 259.62 t (3284+24.65 +259.62 = 3568.27 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MOROCCO: the 2023 adjusted quota includes the carryover of the remaining 3 t (3700+3 = 3703 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

NORWAY: according to Rec. 19-04 para 5, Norway was initially allocated a quota of 300 t of eastern BFT in 2020. Referring to Rec. 19-04, para 7, Norway requested in Panel 2 to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. A total of 49.3 t of the Norwegian catch quota (239 t) was utilised in 2019, and 11.95 t (5% of 239 t) may, according to para 7, be transferred to 2020.

SENEGAL: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

SYRIA: in accordance with Rec. 19-04 para 10, Syria will transfer 79.2 t to Tunisia to be caught by vessel (MOHAMED ESSADOK, AT000TUN00051) only for this fishing season 2021.

TÜRKIYE: the adjusted quota for 2017 indicating 1775.00 t is the independent catch limit announced for 2017 by Türkiye in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

UK: 2021 quota resulting from the agreed percentage shares of the quotas transferred from the European Union to the United Kingdom following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. See ICCAT Circular #4088 / 21 (48.40 t, rounded to two decimal places). UK TAC share as 0.25% of BFT-E EU+UK TAC.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 29 (=79-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea (Rep.).

CHINESE TAIPEI: agrees to transfer 50 t of its 2019 quota to Korea (Rep.) (Rec. 18-02).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 34 t (=84-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea (Rep.).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea (Rep.).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea (Rep.).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea (Rep.).

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit													
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TAC	2000	2000	2350	2350	2350	2350	2726	2726																							
CANADA	452.47	452.47	530.59	530.59	530.59	530.59	558.65	558.65	466.11	471.65	553.98	632.87	591.60	628.53	635.17	38.63	75.43	95.84	20.84	44.05	51.33	39.59	504.74	547.08	649.82	653.71	635.65	679.86	674.76	663.42	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	6.18	6.18	9.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.32	4.19	9.50	1.00	6.31	2.06	3.46	9.02	4.19	9.50	1.00	1.53	2.06	3.46	4.46	
JAPAN	345.74	345.74	407.48	407.48	407.48	407.48	664.52	664.52	345.49	345.83	407.00	406.29	407.58	409.57	657.80	1.34	1.25	1.73	2.92	2.82	0.73	7.45	346.83	347.08	408.73	409.21	410.40	410.30	665.25	671.97	
MEXICO	108.98	108.98	128.44	128.44	128.44	128.44	149.34	149.34	55.00	34.00	80.00	39.00	28.00	62.00	60.00	23.98	42.98	17.44	46.44	67.44	33.44	62.78	78.98	76.98	97.44	85.44	95.44	95.44	122.78	152.12	
UK	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	6.18	6.18	0.00	0.46	0.41	0.34	1.42	0.71	0.00	8.00	8.56	10.21	9.87	9.20	9.91	11.49	8.00	9.02	10.62	10.21	10.62	10.62	11.49	12.36	
USA	1083.79	1083.79	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1341.14	1341.14	1026.70	996.80	1028.26	1190.78	1184.99	1205.69	1361.89	165.47	195.37	352.98	209.37	215.16	194.46	106.54	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	1400.15	1400.15	1400.15	1468.43	1447.68	
TOTAL LANDING									1902.64	1848.74	2069.65	2269.28	2213.59	2306.50	2714.86																
Discards																															
CANADA																															
JAPAN																															
USA																															
TOTAL DISCARDS																															
TOTAL REMOVAL																															
Rec. number	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	21-07	22-10															14-05	14-05	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	21-07	22-10	22-10

CANADA: all 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CANADA: as of 2018, the Canadian fishing season opens on 24 June and closes on 23 June of the subsequent year. All 2019 and 2020 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CANADA: initial quota/catch limit includes 15 t allocation for bycatch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a & Rec. 20-06 para 1 (4).

FRANCE (St Pierre & Miquelon): would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 9.62 t of bluefin tuna from its 2018 and 2019 quota allocation.

FRANCE (St Pierre & Miquelon): would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 4.78 t of bluefin tuna from its 2020 and 2021 quota allocation.

JAPAN: the underharvest of up to 10% of the initial quota allocation may be added to next year (Rec. 14-05, 16-08, 17-06).

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 1.10 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 407.48 t (limit) + 1.73 t (2018 carryover (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 0.21 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 407.48 t (limit) + 2.92 t (2019 carryover (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

MEXICO: transfer of its adjusted quota to Canada for 2017 is 73.98 t (Rec. 16-08, para 6d).

MEXICO: transfer of 60.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2018 to Canada (Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

MEXICO: transfer of 79.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2019 to Canada (Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

MEXICO: transfer of 100.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2020 to Canada (Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

USA: initial quota/catch limit includes 25 t allocation for by-catch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a & Rec. 20-06 Para 1 (4).

This entailed a proportionate reduction of the overharvest of the total TAC in the 2017 catches of these CPCs.

CANADA: all 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA (P.R.): adjusted limit for 2018 = initial quota (5376) + 5376*15% (available balance of 2016) + 1,000 t transfer from Japan = 7182.4 t.

CHINA (P.R.): adjusted limit for 2019 = initial quota (5376) + 5376*15% (available balance of 2017) + 1,000 t transfer from Japan = 7182.4 t.

CHINA (P.R.): adjusted limit for 2020 = initial quota (4462.08) + 4462.08*15% (available balance of 2018) + 600 t transfer from Japan = 5731.39 t.

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

EL SALVADOR: In the years previous to 2020, El Salvador was not subject to a limit (Rec. 16-01, para 34.a), but to a fishing expectation, and therefore does not apply the limits, adjusted limits or balances. A limit is recognized for 2020 (Rec. 19-02).

GHANA: committed to pay back the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t per year.

GHANA: adjusted limit for 2017 = initial quota + 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.

GHANA: 2020 catch limit for Ghana has been corrected from 3716.00 to 3968.23 as the former one was reported by Ghana applying a payback condoned in Rec. 18-01 para 2.

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carryover from 2016 underage and excluded 1,000 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 carryover from 2017 underage and excluded 1,000 t transferred to China (P.R.) and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: adjusted catch limit for 2017 does not take into account the "payback" stipulated in para 2a of Rec. 16-01.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 15415.88 t (it was deducted by the "payback" provision in para 2a of Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 17,696 t (limit) + 2,654.4 t (2018 carryover (17696*15%) (para 8 of Rec. 16-01) - 1,000 t (transfer to China (P.R.) (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 discards.

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 16.60 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit is 13,079.84 t (after transferring 600 t to China and 300 t to EU).

KOREA (REP.): since 2018, Korea transferred 223 t of its quota to Chinese Taipei every year.

KOREA (REP.): 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 (REP.): 20 t of bigeye catch quota had been annually transferred to Ghana until 2015.

KOREA (REP.): in light of the decisions at the 21st Special Commission meeting, Korea's BET adjusted quota for 2017 is 1,708.9 t.

KOREA (REP.): 2018 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

KOREA (REP.): 2019 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

KOREA (REP.): In 2015, 5.91 t of dead discards and/or releases were not included in the catch amount in the Compliance Table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.

PANAMA: 2020 catch limit for Panama has been corrected from 1707.05 to 1717.05 as the former one was an erratum.

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE: catches are artisanal.

(*) SENEGAL: Senegal agreed on a payback plan for 2020 bigeye overharvest of 1377.77 t: 137.77 t per year from 2023 to 2032 on. (Approved.)

USA: current catch for 2020 includes 11.5 t of dead discards.

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 (Rep.).

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 (Rep.).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11201.26 t = 9226.41 t (initial quota) + 11679*15% (carryover of 15% of 2018 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 16-01) + 223 t (transfer from Korea (Rep.)).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 10617.31 t = 9226.41 (initial quota) + 11679*10% (carryover of 10% of 2019 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 19-02) +223 (transfer from Korea (Rep.)).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 10298.24 t = 9152.60 (initial quota) + 9226.41*10% (carryover of 10% of 2020 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 21-01) +223 (transfer from Korea (Rep.)).

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JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2021 adjusted limit = 328.1 t (limit) + 39 t (2019 carryover (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA (REP.): underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

KOREA (REP.): in 2015, 1.47 t of dead discards were not included in the catch amount in the Compliance Table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.

NAMIBIA: Namibia reviewed its recorded catches and noted that, prior to the period in question, catches for targeted species were low. Thus, Namibia increased its effort to improve catch performance which could have resulted in increased blue marlin catches. Further scrutiny of the catches leads to the conclusion that the increase in blue marlin catches reporting may also have resulted from misidentification. We suspect that the BUM catches should be black marlin. Namibia thus identified the need for further training in species identification of fishermen and observers. Namibia believes that such training will help to address this deficiency and may approach ICCAT for assistance in this regard, as in the past.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: adjusted limit for 2020 = 1Q2020+Balance2019+2 t EU transfer provided by Rec. 19-05.

USA: total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2019 include 79 BUM, 75 WHM, and 35 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2020 include 74 BUM, 95 WHM, and 66 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2021 include 98 BUM, 56 WHM, and 21 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2022 include 100 BUM, 38 WHM, and 12 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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 165 t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 165 t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 141.2 t = 126.2 (initial landing limit in 2020) + 150*10% (2018 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 141.2 t = 126.2 (initial landing limit in 2021) + 150*10% (2019 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 126.2 t in accordance with para 3 c) of Rec. 19-05.

GUYANA: the data stated as white marlin is actually blue marlin so the figures will be adjusted. There should be no negatives.

WHITE MARLIN

YEAR	Landings (t wet)								Current landings								Balance						Adjusted landings (limit)							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
TA C	355	355	355	400	355	355	355	355																						
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	14.22	17.40	17.50	11.56	14.86	10.00	9.70	-2.22	-5.40	-9.73	-6.96	-14.09	-6.96	-17.31	7.77	4.60	0.27	3.04	-7.61	1.20		
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	66.92	46.58	62.00	76.21	46.00	0.00	0.00															
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.03	2.30	1.64	1.50	0.24	1.65	0.63	8.97	7.70	10.26	10.50	11.76	10.35	9.32	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00			
CHINA (P.R.)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	2.53	3.23	2.88	1.81	1.57	2.13	11.74	9.48	8.77	9.12	10.19	10.43	7.87	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00			
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	10.00	5.00	6.00	2.00	5.40	5.20	2.00	45.00	50.00	49.00	53.00	49.60	49.80	48.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00			
COSTA RICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00																						
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.97	1.12	0.00	0.25	0.23	0.00	1.33	9.03	8.88	10.00	11.75	11.71	12.00	8.67	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00			
CUBA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00																						
EL SALVADOR	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.80	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
EU (**)	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	101.54	14.67	0.17	0.70	3.07	14.32	1.10	-77.64	9.23	27.43	26.90	29.53	40.68	48.90	27.60	27.60	32.60	55.00	50.00			
GHANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.10							1.90						2.00							
GUATEMALA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
GUYANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	48.42	57.20	67.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-47.06	-102.26	-167.26	-166.26	-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-100.26	-165.26	-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26		
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	12.60	9.20	14.40	10.38	7.90	6.10	6.40	29.40	32.80	27.60	31.16	34.10	35.90	28.60	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	35.00		
KOREA (REP.)	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	19.86	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	20.00		
LIBERIA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00				1.05	1.98						0.95	0.92										
MAROC	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.60	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	20.00	12.00	15.89	9.00	10.00	12.00	8.00	4.00	13.00	13.11	21.00	20.00	18.00	17.00	29.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00			
PANAMA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
S. TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	13.00	1.13	9.56	10.50	20.41	26.72	9.00	11.00	22.88	14.44	13.50	-0.41	-7.13	24.00	24.00	24.00		19.59	11.08		
SENEGAL	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00				0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00			1.78	2.00	2.00	2.00								
SOUTH AFRICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES			2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		8.00	0.00	5.12	8.98	0.00	0.00		-6.00	-4.00	-2.00	-8.98	-6.98	-4.98	-4.00	-2.00	0.00	-6.98	-4.98	-2.98		
TR. & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.00	-79.20	-64.20	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.56	10.44	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.20	10.44			
UK	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.25	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.19	0.10	1.75	1.70	1.81	1.79	1.71	1.81	1.90								
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	167.98	150.09	67.89	51.43	35.40	31.77	43.22	-107.98	-208.07	-225.96	-227.89	-212.79	-194.56	-236.62	-158.07	-175.96	-177.89	-162.79	-192.20	-245.52		
TOTAL LANDINGS									469.11	310.45	259.60	183.35	144.24	103.57	110.38															
USA (ft of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	235.00	175.00	150.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	15.00	75.00	100.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		
Rec. Number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05															15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	

BRAZIL: balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05 para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

BRAZIL: balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 19-05 para 9. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CANADA: all 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA (P.R.): adjusted limit for 2018 = initial quota (10) + available balance of 2016 (10*20%) = 12 t.

CHINA (P.R.): adjusted limit for 2019 = initial quota (10) + 10*20% = 12 t.

CHINA (P.R.): adjusted limit for 2020 = initial quota (10) + 10*20% = 12 t.

EU: will undertake to compensate the overharvest for 2016 by reducing WHM catch to zero for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (no consumption of the adjusted landings).

EU: in 2014 the quota was exceeded by 52.21 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years in 2016 and 2017, which corresponds to 26.10 t per year.

EU: in 2015 the quota was exceeded by 67.19 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 3 years in 2018, 2019, 2020, which corresponds to 22.4 t per year.

(**) EU: In 2023, the EU initiated a process of revising the BUM/WHM Task 1 NC data due to stocks miscoding from 2020 to 2022. Any payback derived from this process will be ascertained in 2024, after the EU receives the SCRS advice about the soundness of methodology adopted to revise data.

GUYANA: The data stated as white marlin is actually blue marlin so the figures will be adjusted. There should be no negatives.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 35 t (limit) + 7 t (2016 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 35 t (limit) + 7 t (2017 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 35 t (limit) + 7 t (2018 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit = 35 t (limit) + 7 t (2019 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA (REP.): underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

USA: total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2019 include 79 BUM, 75 WHM, and 35 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2020 include 74 BUM, 95 WHM, and 66 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2021 include 98 BUM, 56 WHM, and 21 RSP.

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USA: Total marlin landings for 2022 include 100 BUM, 38 WHM, and 12 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 55 t ($=50+50*10\%$) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 10% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 55 t ($=50+50*10\%$) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 10% of 2019 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 55 t = 50 (initial landing limit in 2020) + 50*10% (2018 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 55 t = 50 (initial landing limit in 2021) + 50*10% (2019 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 50 t in accordance with para 3 c) of Rec. 19-05.

NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK

YEAR	Initial catch limits				Current catches			Balance			Adjusted quota/catch limit				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TAC	39102	39102	39102	39102											
BELIZE					297.81	349.43	311.09								
COSTA RICA					0.12	0.23	0.09								
EU	32578.00	32578.00	32578.00	32578.00	30404.08	17347.38	17288.45	2173.92	32545.42	15256.98	32578.00	32545.42	32545.42	32512.46	
JAPAN	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	1896.60	1798.00	2237.30	2113.40	4010.00	1772.70	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	
KOREA					48.51	16.79	49.18								
LIBERIA					3.30	7.56	0.00								
MAROC	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1497.80	1636.19	1531.96	146.20	1644.00	112.04	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	
PANAMA					344.00	83.84	111.05								
TR. & TOBAGO					0.11	0.21	1.45								
UK	n.a.	32.58	32.58	32.58	0.01	4.22	5.18	n.a.	32.58	27.40	n.a.	32.58	32.58	32.58	
VENEZUELA					58.74	10.97	0.57								
TOTAL LANDING					34551.08	21254.82	21536.31								
Rec. number	19-07	19-07	21-10	21-10							19-07	19-07	21-10	21-10	

EU: The EU adjusted catch limit for BSH takes into account the transfer of 0.10% of its initial catch limit to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

UK: 2021 quota resulting from the agreed percentage shares of the quotas transferred from the European Union to the United Kingdom following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. See ICCAT Circular #4088 / 21 (32.58 t, rounded to two decimal places). UK TAC share as 0.10% of BSH-N EU+UK TAC.

Compliance with size limits in 2022

Species	SWO					HFT				
	ATN	ATC	Med	ATF	ATF	Adriatic	Med	ATF	Med	ATW
Age	17-02	17-03	16-05	21-08	21-08	21-08	21-08	21-08	21-08	17-06
Recommendation Number	83-10	86-7	815-17	8-34	8-34	8-34	8-34	8-33, 36	8-33, 36	89-9
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TR0Ls >17 m(1)	BB <17 m(2)	Adriatic catches taken for farming purposes(3)(4)	Coastal artisanal fisheries(5)	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	6.4 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 43 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
Atl-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be introduced for: (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 15kg/119cm	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 15kg/119cm	5%	0%	100 t(2)	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	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 catch	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			2.50%						0	
Albania										
Algeria										
Angola										
Barbados	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Belize	A: 7.26%	A: Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil										
Cabo Verde										
Canada	A: 5.7									0
China (P.R.)	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Chinese Taipei	B: 3.95% (≤125cm); 0% (≤119cm)	B: 0.12% (≤125cm); 0% (≤119cm)	n.a							
Costa Rica	The vessels of the Costa Rican fleet operating in the Atlantic do not have onboard observers, so there is no size information on northern swordfish or western bluefin tuna. There are no records of landings of western Atlantic bluefin tuna.									Costa Rica has no size information on northern swordfish or western bluefin tuna. There are no records of landings of western bluefin tuna in the Costa Rican Caribbean.
Côte d'Ivoire										
Curacao			0				0		0	
Egypt										
El Salvador										
EU raw data under min. size	A: 14%	A: 3%	1%	1351.81	100	855.27	348.19	0%	1%	0%
EU	Information not known. We take note of the existing regulation for future landings.									
France (SPM)										
Gabon										
Ghana		3%								
Grenada										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinea Bissau										
Guinée République										
Guyana	N/A									
Honduras	No tuna fishing was done in 2022.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Iceland								0%		
Japan	A: 0.6%	A: 0.5%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0%	Not applicable	0%
Mexico (Bep)	0	0						0		
Liberia										
Libya										
Maroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
Mauritania										
Mexico	A: 10.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0
Namibia	N/A	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0%	Not applicable	Not applicable
Panama										
Philippines										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Senegal	2.90%	0.00%								
Sierra Leone		0%								
South Africa	100%	90%								
St Vincent & Grenadines										
Suriname										
Syria								0	0	
Trinidad & Tobago	B: 0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Tunisia										
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	0.00%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.00%	n.a.
UK	No catches in 2022	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	16.67%	Not applicable	No catches in 2022
Uruguay										
USA	0.0%									3.5%
Venezuela										

In the event that harvest of any ICCAT stock exceeds specified minimum size tolerance adopted by the Commission, explain to the Compliance Committee:

- a) The magnitude of the overharvest;
- b) Domestic measures implemented to avoid further over-harvest;
- c) Monitoring of compliance with domestic measures; and
- d) Any other actions that be taken to prevent further over-harvest.

(1) CPCs may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic (Rec. 21-08, Annex I, §2);

(2) French baitboat vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay may catch a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg or 70 cm fork length (to be reported in t);

(3) Croatia may define a tolerance level for specimens of bluefin tuna with a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or 66 cm fork length, with a maximum of 7% by weight of the quantities caught by its vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes;

(4) CPCs may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Adriatic for farming purposes (Rec. 21-08, Annex I, §3);

(5) CPCs may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08, Annex I, §3).

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Compliance Summary Tables²

ALBANIA

Category (Res:16-17)	2021	2022				2023				
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A <i>Transit-time Tables</i> <i>On party, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	<i>Letter on reporting issues while noting positively that recent years have reflected substantial improvements</i>				<i>No action necessary.</i>				<i>Letter on reporting, request action plan due to recurring late vessel submission.</i>	
Category B <i>Annual Report</i>										
<i>Statistical data</i>			Observer programme in place but no ST09 received.				No ST09 form.			
<i>Other reports</i>										
Category C <i>IFC- species related</i>										
<i>IFC General</i> <i>Port Controls</i>										
<i>Vessel Controls</i>		Rec.21-08	Retroactive registry/authorization of a newly included vessel and an existing one.	For explanation see COC-305 App 3.		Rec.21-08	Listing of one BFT-E other vessel brought forward (vessel was listed 15 days in advance but date was brought forward) 2) Late authorization of one BFT-E other vessel.	1) Administrative oversight 2) Short fishing season resulted in towing vessels arriving earlier than anticipated to fishing grounds.		
<i>Other</i>			ROP-BFT, one PNC and response contained in COC-305. IS reports with possible infringement in COC-305 Appendix 4.							

² Compliance Summary Tables (COC_308) is a working document that includes information of potential relevance to the development of COC recommendations but is wholly without prejudice to the potential compliance status of individual CPCs.

ALGERIA

Category (Res 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	2022				2023				
		ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions Category B Annual Report Statistical data Other reports Category C MCS - species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls Other	No action necessary.				Letter on reporting.				Letter on reporting, request action plan due to recurring late or missing reports. Follow-up on issues for which there was a partial response in last year's Chair letter.	
		Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late (15 Sept 22).							
			No observer data (ST09).					No Task 2 data; no ST09 form.		
		Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.				Rec. 16-05	SWO-MD fishing plan received slightly late.		
							Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet received late.		
		JIS reports with possible infringement in COC-303_Appendix 4.			ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305; COC_312 (Shark Trust).					

ANGOLA

Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	2022			Actions taken by COC in 2022	2023			Actions taken by COC in 2023
		ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC		ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	
Category A	Letter on recurring reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, noting the possibility of identification next year under ICCAT's trade measure recommendation if substantial improvement is not made, and recommendation of technical assistance through the Secretariat.				Letter on recurring reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, no reply to 2021 COC letter, and fishing while subject to prohibition on retention of ICCAT species, while noting commitment expressed at the Annual Meeting and incremental progress with fulfilment of the Annual Report requirement yet also noting the possibility of identification next year under ICCAT's trade measure recommendation if substantial improvement is not made, and recommendation that Angola seek technical assistance through the Secretariat as needed.				Identification due to recurring significant late and missing reports, request action plan due to recurring late or missing reports, harvest of ICCAT species while under prohibition on retention of ICCAT species in effect under Rec. 11-15, no response to Chair letter. Follow-up on issues raised in last year's Chair letter (no response).
Compliance Tables		Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received. Possible underreported blue marlin catches; also possible fishing while under prohibition (see COC.306/22).			Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late with no size sheet; Difference between compliance tables and Task 1 (S. ALB). Unreported billfish catches remain unresolved.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report			Annual Report received late, in incorrect format and without explanation for "Not applicable" in many cases.				Some responses in IQMS incomplete/incorrect.		
Statistical data			No statistical data received.			Rec. 11-15	Fishing activity took place while under prohibition. No Task 2 data. No ST09.		
Other reports			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06 No Check Sheets received.			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.		
Category C									
MCS- species related						Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General		Rec. 16-14	No information on scientific observer programme.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
Port Controls	Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.		Rec. 18-09	No information on in-port transshipment.				
Vessel Controls									
Other		No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter.			No reply to COC Chair letter. Prohibition lifted as T1 received. COC_312 (Shark Trust and EU).				

BARBADOS

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022			2023				
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on reporting issues and lack of scientific observer program, but recognizing comprehensive response to 2020 letter and ongoing work to issue regulations and establish observer programme.				Letter on reporting issues, lack of scientific observer program, and continued overharvest of blue and white marlin.				Letter on lack of scientific observer program and to request additional information on actions planned for blue marlin and white marlin. Request action plan. Notify application of 125% payback (non-discretionary per Rec. 19-05).
		Rec. 19-05	<p>* Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -59.66 t BUM negative balance increasing: 2020 balance = -42.42 t, 2019 = -45.90 t, 2020 = -57.43 t</p> <p>* Continued overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -8.60. WHM Negative balance steady: 2020 balance = -9.73 t, 2019 = -8.60 t, 2020 = -14.09 t</p>	Barbados recognised the overharvest of marlins but has difficulty in reducing these given the abundance of marlins in their waters and the high dependence on fisheries for food security. Are trying to take some measures but unlikely to be able to payback all previous overharvests		Difference between Task 1 and Compliance table BSH. Overharvest of BUM and WHM.	Due to an oversight which will be rectified, overharvest does not take into account 125% penalty.		
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data						No ST09 received.	Domestic Observer programme not yet implemented but foreseen in suite of fisheries management regulations.		
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General		Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme	See AR and response to COC letter					
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other						COC_312 (Shark Trust).	All sharks have fins naturally attached; export and re-export controls are being reinforced.		

BELIZE

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				Letter on retroactive vessel notification and to request additional information relevant to historical FAD data requirement, while noting positively steps reported by Belize to address certain issues raised.				Letter on late reporting and to further inquire about implementation of Rec. 18-06 (shortfin mako), Rec. 19-05 (billfish) and Rec. 16-14 (scientific observers), and to seek a better understanding about whether and how Belize applies ICCAT rules in a legally binding manner for fisheries in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction.
Compliance Tables								Revised compliance tables submitted.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report								Sections 4 and 5 of Annual Report submitted late (summary, Part 1 and IOMs tables were completed).	
Statistical data			Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing					
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls		Rec. 18-09	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme	This matter is currently under investigation. Once our investigation is concluded we will be reporting back to the Commission.	Not related to an ICCAT infringement and hence no action necessary at ICCAT level.	Rec. 18-06	Indicates no targeting of mako but no discards reported.	Applicable to longline and purse seine fleet.	
Vessel Controls		Rec. 21-14 & Rec. 21-01	Retroactive authorization of a previously authorised vessel	Our Administration in currently in the pilot phase of a new data reporting/notification system. As a result minor system errors in the program did not identify the appropriate reporting period for vessel notification to ICCAT. As a result the data was not reported during the relevant period. These system errors are being rectified to ensure proper notification in the future. The authorization period was inconsistent with the standard period which resulted in this error.		Rec. 16-14	Implementation of scientific observer programme and of Rec. 19-05 (billfish) unclear.		
Other			See COC-312				See COC_312 (EU and Shark Trust) + response to EU allegation.		

BRAZIL

2021		2022				2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
<p>Category A</p> <p>Compliance Tables</p> <p>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</p>	No action necessary.	Rec. 21-02	<p>* Continued overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 5946.31, 2021 balance = - 793.69. Overharvest increasing: 2020 balance = -</p>		Letter on continued overharvest of BET (2 years). Inform that reduction of 125% for BET pursuant to Rec. 21-01 para. 11(b) may be applied if insufficient actions taken to address issue.	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of BET.	Payback plan presented to Panel 1.	Letter on continued overharvest of bigeye, while noting positively actions reported by Brazil and stated intention to payback. Follow up to last year's letter to request additional information regarding efforts related to improved port monitoring and observer coverage.	
<p>Category B</p> <p>Annual Report</p> <p>Statistical data</p> <p>Other reports</p>										
<p>Category C</p> <p>MCS- species related</p> <p>MCS General</p> <p>Port Controls</p> <p>Vessel Controls</p>										
<p>Other</p>										
								COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

CABO VERDE

2021		2022				2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A	Letter on recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers. <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received.		<i>Letter on recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers, no reply to 2021 COC letter, and to request tropical tuna fishing plan and FAD management plan in light of BET catches in excess of 1,000 t.</i>	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET.		<i>Identification due to recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers, in-port transshipment, FAD management plan, vessels without IMO numbers, recommendation to consider request for further capacity building. Response template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter, missing information requested in Chair letter not provided. Request action plan. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18).</i>	
Category B										
<i>Annual Report</i>										
<i>Statistical data</i>		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing.					No ST09.		
<i>Other reports</i>										
		Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet received late (19 September 2022).			Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.			
		Rec. 19-02/21-01	No monthly or quarterly reports of tropical tunas; No tropical tuna fisheries management plan/FAD management plan.			Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			
Category C	<i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme but study in place for future implementation.			Rec. 22-01 Rec. 21-14 Rec. 18-09 Rec. 16-14	No FAD management plan. Four vessels over 20m without IMO Number (reported in July with IMO number pending receipt). No information on in-port transshipment. No scientific observer programme.			
Other		Other		No reply to COC Chair letter.		COC-312 (Shark Trust and EU).	Fished for ICCAT species without a licence.			

CANADA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021				2022				2023			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data.	The differences were due to rounding approaches between Task 1 and compliance tables, but Canada are fully	No action necessary.				<i>No action necessary.</i>		Differences between Task 1 and compliance tables for SWO-N, BFT-W, BET, WHM.	SWO-N = Manual data entry error; BFT-W - difference between fishing and calendar year; BET not all dead discards included; WHM not all dead discards included; BUM not all dead discards included.	<i>No action necessary.</i>
Category B <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>												
Category C <i>MCS - species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>												
Other												

CHINA

2021		2022				2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports, while noting improvement in ICCAT compliance.				Letter on reporting and retroactive vessel listing.				Letter on recurring retroactive vessel listing, request action plan on this issue.	
		Category B Annual Report Statistical data Other reports								
			Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.						
		Category C MCS - species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls	Rec. 20-08	Paper BCD sent late for conversion and with incorrect year.				Rec. 22-08		Late reporting of BFT fishing vessel (i.e. not 15 days in advance).
	Rec. 21-08	Retroactive listing of two BFT-E vessels.								
Other		ROP Trans - PNCs and responses contained in COC_305.						Written responses provided (see COC_312). Possible fraudulent use of documentation. More information needed from EU.		

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.	Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late, no size sheet. Difference between Task 1 and compliance tables for ALB and BUM.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, responses in Shark Check Sheet in particular regarding implementation of Rec. 10-08 (hammerhead shark), request action plan on letter due to recurring issue.
Category B Annual Report			IOMS section entered by Secretariat, some responses may be incomplete.				Annual Report received late and incomplete (IOMS sections missing).		
Statistical data		Rec. 21-01					No ST01 (fleet characteristics) No ST09 (observer data).		
Other reports		Rec. 18-06	No updated shark sheet received.			Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.		
		Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding quarterly reports.						
Category C MCS- species related		Rec. 01-21 and 18-07	Late submissions of the SDP bi-annual reports (BET).						
MCS General		Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	Information on implementation of Rec. 16-14 unclear.		
Port Controls		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.						
Vessel Controls									
Other			Reply to COC Chair letter received late.				COC 312 (Shark Trust).		

CURAÇAO

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.	Rec. 19-05	<p>* Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -22.53 t. Negative balance decreasing: 2020 balance = -30.30 t, 2019 = -40.60 t, 2020 = -30.60 t</p>	<p>Curaçao is fully committed to avoid over fishing of blue marlin. We will develop a payback plan and also send a circular with instructions to the vessels to adhere to this instruction. We monitor all the catches of the vessels via our 24/7 Haliotis Catch Management of CLS our electronic reporting system together with daily logbooks we receive from the vessels. We also have observer digital monitoring on board of the vessels that reports all fishing activities. Curaçao submitted a payback plan for blue marlin of 2.5 tons per year from 2022 on. First year 2.53 t.</p>	<p>Letter on blue marlin overharvest, while noting overharvest decreasing, and to request additional information relevant to historical FAD data requirement.</p>	Rec. 18-05	Overharvest of BUM. 125% penalty has not been applied to overharvest.		<p>Letter on blue marlin overharvest, noting payback intention, and to request information on implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Also note request for training of onboard observers in 2022 letter response.</p>
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report							Some responses in IOMS incomplete / incorrect.	Revised version received.	
Statistical data		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed).				ST01 (fleet characteristics) received late.		
Other reports									
Category C		Rec. 18-09	<p>Five possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme.</p>	<p>The vessels in question, operated by Green Sea, relate to carrier vessels. The activities of the vessels are limited to the transport of fish and do not participate in catching activities. The four cases are currently under investigation in Curaçao, in order to be able to evaluate any possible non-compliance. However, upon a first analysis of their content, we understand they point to an alleged infraction of EU Reg. 1224/2009 (as per point 7 of the inspection reports, which refers to a percentage difference between the "declared and disembarked" values, which we a priori understand refers to internal EU/ Spanish legislation). In your communication you also refer to "one or more possible non-compliances with ICCAT rules by vessels flying the flag of Curaçao", but unfortunately, we are unable to find any reference to ICCAT regulations in the above-mentioned inspection reports. Therefore, we would very much appreciate if you could please clarify which ICCAT rule the Spanish authorities refer to, in order to be able to evaluate any possible non-compliance.</p>	<p>Not related to an ICCAT infringement and hence no action necessary at ICCAT level.</p>				
MCS General						Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed on implementation of Rec. 16-14.		
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other							COG-312 (Shark Trust).		

EGYPT

2021		2022				2023				
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>	
Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Letter on implementation of scientific observer programme, while noting positively its request to Secretariat for technical assistance; no designated SWO-MD ports submitted, but small amount of SWO-MD reported in Task 1.				<i>No action necessary.</i>				<i>No action necessary.</i>	
Category B <i>Annual Report</i>							Some responses in IOMS incomplete / incorrect.	Revised version received 7 November 2023.		
<i>Statistical data</i>										
<i>Other reports</i>										
<i>MCS- species related</i>										
<i>MCS General</i>						Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transshipment	Egypt does not carry out any in-port transshipment		
<i>MCS Species specific</i>										
<i>Port Controls</i>										
<i>Vessel Controls</i>										
Other										

EL SALVADOR

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on no Task 1 data for blue marlin, while noting substantial improvement in El Salvador's compliance over the past 2 years.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Category B Annual Report									
Statistical data		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed).						
		Rec. 18-09		Eleven possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme	As a general rule of procedure, the parties are informed of the findings and the potential infringements, and there is specific indication of the rule that has been allegedly infringed. This is the basis of due process and the essential mechanism that ensures the right to a defence within which framework the investigations must take place. We are concerned that the alleged non-compliances were raised for the first time when the document COC_308 was posted. Before this occasion, the Secretariat, or any other CPC, had not informed us about the potential non-compliances, which would have enabled us to carry out the corresponding investigations and issue an opinion. This is even more so within the context of due process and compliance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 18-09 itself. El Salvador is committed to effective compliance with the provisions adopted within the framework of International Law, in particular, those that have been approved and are in force in ICCAT. In this respect, we will proceed with due rigor when we are informed, with the required precision, about the details of the claim. On account of the above, we hereby inform that the corresponding investigations have been initiated for each case, in accordance with the relevant regulations. Due to the short time that we have had, no significant progress had been made to date, beyond the commencement of the investigations. We also inform that we will submit the corresponding reports to the Secretariat at our earliest convenience. Meanwhile, we request that the comment on the alleged infringements be removed from the Compliance Table, since these are premature, and therefore, inappropriate in the short term.	Not related to an ICCAT infringement and hence no action necessary at ICCAT level.			
Other reports									
Category C MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other							COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

EUROPEAN UNION

2021		2022			2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Res/Rec)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on reporting (including potential issues with marlin and shortfin mako information), while positively noting improvements. Request further updates on BFT-E investigations (Taranfelo Operation), while thanking for updates provided to date both on status of investigation and steps taken to strengthen implementation of requirements in EU.				Letter on reporting (including potential issues with marlin), while positively noting improvements, and to seek additional information regarding farm management in Croatia. Request further updates on BFT-E investigations (Taranfelo Operation), while thanking for substantial updates provided to date both on status of investigation and steps taken to strengthen implementation of requirements in EU.	Rec. 11-11	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.		Letter on reporting, while positively noting improvements, and to note thanks for updates on Taranfelo investigation and request updates at future meetings (white marlin/blue marlin reporting issue to be included via footnote in compliance table COC_304/2023, noting subject to updates based on further analysis).
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B	Annual Report								
Statistical data			Some statistical data received late. Possible miscoding of marlins.	We maintain the policy of raising awareness with all EU Member States about the importance of timely and complete data submission. We followed up with France on the data gaps and inconsistencies highlighted by the Secretariat. However, because of the specific nature of the EU and the complexity of some of the statistical data sets, some of the EU reporting came in with some delay. We will make extra effort to ensure timely data submission in future years. Have taken steps to clarify these issues with the member State in question in order to ensure correct reporting in the future and will report back on investigation and any changes to Task 1 required.					
		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing for some member States.						
Other reports						Rec. 16-05	Report on implementation of SWO-MD closure received late.		
						Rec. 22-16	Report on eBCD derogation received late.		
Category C	MCS-species related			Due to a misunderstanding, the EU has not sent a copy of all the inspection reports with infractions to the respective flag CPC. These reports were sent by ICCAT to the concerned flag CPC when ICCAT received them, but they were sent quite late in relation to the inspection date. This misunderstanding was related to an interpretation that it was not necessary to send copies of the inspection reports to those CPCs that are not part of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). Despite this misunderstanding, and pending confirmation with the inspecting Member State, all detected infringements have been followed up by the Member State, this is because the procedures in this Member State in place requires provisional measures to be taken as soon as the infringement is detected (detention of the vessel, imposing a bond) which makes that the penalty which may arise from these procedures can be ensured. For the future, the EU will ensure that when an infringement is detected on another CPC fishing vessel, the EU will send a copy of the inspection report to the flag CPC concerned, in line with paragraph 35 of Recommendation 18-09.					
MCS General	Port Controls								
Vessel Controls		Rec. 13-14	Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement).	There was an unforeseen delay due to internal procedures within the relevant EU Member State administration. This administration considered that this delay should not come at the expense of the shipowner's interests, which explains the decision to grant consent ex post. We have reminded the EU national administration concerned about the importance of timely approval of such chartering arrangement and notification to the ICCAT Executive Secretary. Hence, the delay in reporting the consent that still reflects the original dates.					
Other		Rec. 21-08	ROP-BFT: PNGs and responses contained in COC 305.	See also Addendum to COC-305 Appendix 3.			ROP-BFT: PNGs and responses contained in COC 305.		All addressed in COC 305.
			JIS reports with possible infringement in COC_303 Appendix 4. Update on Operation Taranfelo and Investigation into Croatian farm management practices to be reviewed.	See Addendum to COC-303 to Appendix 3. Update on Taranfelo given in COC-306-B; the EU will report on the investigations currently under way on the issue of Croatian farming. Have carried out an audit and are currently reviewing the responses made by Croatia.			COC 312 (Shark Trust and EIF) - responses.		

FRANCE (ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON)

2021		2022				2023			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	<i>IGCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	<i>IGCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>
Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	No action necessary.				<i>No action necessary.</i>				<i>No action necessary.</i>
Category B <i>Annual Report</i>									
<i>Statistical data</i>						Rec. 16-14			
<i>Other reports</i>									
Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>									
Other									COC 312 (Shark Trust).
						Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme in place.		

GABON

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res.16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on recurring reporting issues.				No action necessary.				Letter on late or missing report and potential application of prohibition on retention under Rec. 11-15 if missing statistical data not received.
Compliance Tables		Rec.16-16	Compliance tables received late (1 Sept 22).						
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report							Annual report received late.		
Statistical data									
Other reports						Rec.18-06	Shark check sheet received late.		
Category C									
MCS- species related						Rec.21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General									
Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other						COC_312 (Shark Trust).			

THE GAMBIA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on significant reporting issues, scientific observer program, and to inquiry about actions taken with respect to IUU vessels.				Letter on significant recurring reporting issues and no reply to 2021 COC letter, as well as fulfillment of flag State and market State responsibilities concerning vessels and product potentially connected to IUU fishing. Note the possibility of identification next year under ICCAT's trade measure recommendation if substantial improvement is not made, and recommendation that The Gambia seek technical assistance through the Secretariat as				Letter on significant recurring reporting issues, request action plan, encourage seeking technical assistance as needed from Secretariat. Reiterate requests in last year's 2022 COC Chair letter, including to seek further response allegations of IUU fishing in COC_312/2023.
		Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.			Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.		
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B			No Annual Report received.						
Annual Report							No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).		
Statistical data		No statistical data received.					Statistical data received late.	No national fleet, only access agreement, catches not landed in The Gambia. Transhipments do not involve ICCAT species.	
Other reports		Rec. 18-05 and 18-06				Rec. 18-05 and 18-06			
			No check sheets received.				No check sheets received.		
Category C									
ICS- species relate						Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.	No national fleet.	
MCS General						Rec. 16-14	No implementation of observer programme.		
Port Controls						Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transhipment.		
Vessel Controls									
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter. See COC_312.				No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter. See COC-312 (Shark Trust, EU)		

GHANA

2021		2022				2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
<p>Category A</p> <p><i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i></p>	<p>Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer programme, noting positively request for technical assistance re. observer programme.</p>				Letter to request additional information on access agreements.				<p>Letter requesting additional information on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), access agreements, and implementation of ICCAT Recommendations on hammerhead, silky shark and oceanic whitetip. Template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter.</p>	
		<p>Category B <i>Annual Report</i></p>								
		<p><i>Statistical data</i></p>				No ST09 (observer data) received.				
		<p><i>Other reports</i></p>								
		<p>Category C <i>MCS- species related</i></p>								
<p><i>MCS General</i></p>						Rec. 16-14	More information on implementation of scientific observer programme needed.			
<p><i>Port Controls</i></p>										
<p><i>Vessel Controls</i></p>		Rec. 14-07	Access Agreements mentioned in Annual Reports, but no details/CP39 sent.							
<p>Other</p>							COC_312 (Shark Trust).			

GRENADA

2021		2022				2023										
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023							
Category A	Letter on recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, no scientific observer programme, and reminding Grenada of the possibility they will be identified under Rec. 06-13 trade measures recommendation if improvements are not made in this area.	Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received, but overharvest of BUM in 2020 and previous years, as well as catches of SWO-N without quota.		Identification for significant recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, blue marlin, overharvest, and catches of SWO-N without quota.	Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received, but overharvest of BUM in 2020 and previous years, as well as catches of SWO-N without quota.		Maintain identification for significant recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data, blue marlin overharvest, and catches of SWO-N without quota. No response to last year's Chair letter. Request action plan on these matters and inform of potential future application of trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if meaningful actions not demonstrated in near future. Follow up on matters raised in last year's Chair letter.							
Compliance Tables																
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions																
Category B																
Annual Report											No Annual Report received.				No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).	
Statistical data											No statistical data received.				No statistical data received.	
Other reports										Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.	
Category C																
MCS- species related														Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.	
MCS General														Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.	
Port Controls																
Vessel Controls																
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter.			No reply to COC Chair letter; COC_312 (Shark Trust).										

GUATEMALA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of marlin Rec. 19-05.				Letter on implementation of marlin check sheet requirement in Rec. 19-05 and request to follow up on the issues raised in the 2021 COC letter and Guatemala's response letter.		Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET.	CP-13 based on estimates of fishing logbooks.	Letter on late reporting and to request information on implementation of national scientific observer program.
Category B Annual Report Statistical data Other reports		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed).						
						Rec. 22-01 / 23-01	Monthly / quarterly reports received late.		
Category C MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls		Rec. 18-09	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme.	As a general rule of procedure, parties against which a non-compliance is asserted are entitled to know the specifics of the corresponding claim, i.e. an account of the facts under investigation, the evidence and a specific indication of the rule that has been allegedly infringed. This is the basis of due process and the essential mechanism that ensures the right to a defence within which framework the investigations must take place. My delegation notes with concern that the alleged non-compliances were raised for the first time when the document COC_308 was published. Before this occasion, the Secretariat, or any other CPC, had not informed my country of these claims, which would have enabled the corresponding investigations to be carried out and an opinion issued. Furthermore, within the context of due process and compliance with the provisions of the ICCAT Recommendation 18-09 itself, my country is entitled to be informed of the circumstance that must be investigated and the specific Commission rule that it is claimed has been infringed. All of the above is absolutely essential to respond to an allegation and to ensure the right to a defence, and nothing of this has happened in the matter at hand. My country is committed to effective compliance with the provisions adopted within the framework of International Law, in particular, those that have been approved and are in force in ICCAT. In this respect, we will proceed with due rigor when we are informed, with the required precision, about the details of the claim. Meanwhile, we request that the comment on the alleged infringements be removed from the Compliance Table, since these are premature, and therefore, inappropriate.	Not related to an ICCAT infringement and hence no action necessary at ICCAT level.	Rec. 16-14	More information on scientific observer programmes required.		
Other							Response to COC Chair letter received late. COC_312 (Shark Trust).	All sharks must be landed with fins attached unless it can be discarded. Required by domestic legislation therefore 5% limit does not apply.	

GUINEA BISSAU

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for five years in a row; no scientific observer programme; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and possible lack of implementation of billfish and shark recommendations.				Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for six years in a row; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and possible lack of implementation of billfish and shark recommendations. No reply to 2021 COC letter.				Maintain identification under Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures (Rec. 06-13) due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for seven years in a row; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and possible lack of implementation of billfish and shark recommendations. No reply to 2022 COC letter, reiterate issues raised. Request action plan to address reporting and other deficiencies. Encourage seeking capacity building and technical assistance via Secretariat. Inform of potential for application of trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 if insufficient demonstrated progress, in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18).
Compliance Tables		Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.			Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report			No Annual Report received. They requested assistance but do not specify exact nature how Secretariat can help.				No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).		
Statistical data			No statistical data received.				No statistical data.		
Other reports		Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.		
Category C									
MCS- species related						Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
MCS General									
Port Controls		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transhipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.			Rec. 18-09	No information on in-port transhipment.		
Vessel Controls									
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter.				No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter. COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer programme.				Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer programme.				Letter on scientific observer program and to request additional data about access agreements, including whether the foreign vessels fishing in its waters mentioned in its response to last year's Chair letter have formal access agreements in place, and whether catches by these vessels and other required information are being reported in accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements (Rec. 14-07).
<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i>									
<i>Statistical data</i>							No ST01 (fleet characteristics) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
<i>Other reports</i>									
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i>						Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
<i>MCS General</i>		Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme - assistance requested [more details needed on nature of assistance, no formal submission made to date].						
<i>Port Controls</i>									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other							COC. 312 (Shark Trust).		

GUINEA (REP.)

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Maintain identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report received for four years in a row, and no implementation of national scientific observer program, while noting positively its request for technical assistance from Secretariat.								Letter on recurring late or missing reports (request action plan); request information on in-port transshipment and national scientific observer program implementation (Rec. 21-15; Rec. 16-14).
						Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received.		
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i>			Annual Report received late (30 September). IOMS section entered by Secretariat, some responses may be incomplete.		Left identification in recognition of improved reporting. Letter on reporting issues.		Annual Report received late.		
<i>Statistical data</i>		Rec. 16-04	No ST09 received.				No ST09 received.		
		Rec. 21-01	Some historical FAD data available but incomplete for effort.						
<i>Other reports</i>		Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.		
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i>		Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding monthly or quarterly reports.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
						Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022, but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
<i>MCS General</i>		Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 21-15; 16-14	No information on in-port transshipment; no scientific observer programme.		
<i>Port Controls</i>		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other			Reply to COC Chair letter received late.	See COC_309_Addendum 1.			No reply to COC Chair letter; COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

HONDURAS

Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	2022				2023			
		ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of shark and billfish requirements.	Rec. 16-16	Zero catches reported late (15 Sept 2022).		Letter on late reporting.				Letter on recurring reporting issues, request action plan; inquire about national scientific observer program. No response to last year's Chair letter. Reiterate items in last year's Chair letter for response.
							Confirmation of zero catches received late.		
Category B Annual Report Statistical data			Annual report received late (29 September).				Annual Report received late.	New staff on fisheries team.	
							Confirmation of zero catches received late.		
Other reports		Rec. 18-06	Shark Check sheets received late (29 Sept 2022).			Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.		Honduras is a marine protected area, but is currently updating its legislation to take account of bycatch which occurs mainly in the artisanal section.
Category C MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls						Rec. 22-12 Rec. 21-15; 16-14	No information on implementation of turtle measure. No information on in-port transshipment; no scientific observer programme.		
Other							No reply to COC Chair letter; COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

ICELAND

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				Letter on reporting.
						Rec. 11-11	Compliance tables received late.	Apologies for late reporting. A change in the team dealing with ICCAT issues.	
								Annual Report received late.	
Category B Annual Report Statistical data									
							Statistical data received late (2 October).		
Other reports						Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.	Iceland previously submitted information sheets in 2021 on both billfishes and sharks. In the ICCAT website it is stated beside the shark sheet file that the information is required for all CPCs that have not previously provided the check sheet, as we did in 2021. So there was a slight misunderstanding on our behalf that we have now worked on and rectified. We are aware that the shark sheet was changed with additional information last year so we have submitted the sheets again in the new format, and we have already submitted them to the Secretariat, and we apologise for the misunderstanding and late re-submission.	
Category C MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other									
						COC_312 (Shark Trust).			

JAPAN

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				Letter on late notification of chartering information and transmission of VMS data, while noting Japan's response committing to actives to prevent this from occurring in future.				Letter on overharvest of ALB-S and BIM.
Compliance Tables							Difference between Task 1 and Compliance Tables. Overharvest of South albacore (97 t) and blue marlin (43 t).	The difference is caused by different data collection period, i.e. the Compliance Tables are on a fishing year basis (August-July), whereas Task 1 is on a calendar year basis (January-December). Eastern and western bluefin tuna have no gap between the Compliance Table (fishing year basis) and Task 1 (calendar year basis) because fishing operations for bluefin tuna were from September to December. Accordingly, this issue is a matter of methodology and should not be regarded as a non-compliance.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data									
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General		Rec. 13-14		The notification of commencement of the chartering agreement of Fukuseki Maru No.3 was delayed. (j) Fukuseki Maru No.3 conducted fishing in the Namibian EEZ under the charter arrangement with a Namibian company (the details are specified in CP53 form in accordance with Para 13 b)) from 24 February 2021 to 27 June 2021. (ii) The vessel requested Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation, to which the vessel belongs, to transmit the information to the Fisheries Agency so that the Agency can make necessary notification to ICCAT. However, Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation forgot to do it. The vessel started its operation in Namibia with the understanding that such notification had been already made. (iii) Upon finding the case, Japan retrospectively notified the chartering agreement to the Secretariat. Japan confirms in accordance with Para 4 of Rec. 13-14 that the vessel complied with the conservation management measures adopted by ICCAT during the chartering operation as listed in Attachment B as circulated through ICCAT Circular #484/21. This case is almost identical to the case of Matsufuku Maru No.28 which was reported to COC last year. Both of these miscommunications happened early 2021 under the same circumstances. As Japan responded to the case of Matsufuku Maru No.28 last year, in order to ensure that the same mistake will not happen in the future, the Fisheries Agency cautioned Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation and reminded them of necessary procedures concerning chartering arrangements. Therefore, Japan expects that similar late submission would not occur in 2022 and afterwards.					
Port Controls		Rec. 18-09	Late submission of chartering arrangement with Namibia.	Daito Maru No.8 had an inspection at Las Palmas in November 2021, and the inspector found that the vessel had not declared a quantity of BSH on board in Annex II (prior notification for third-country fishing vessels), while such catch was recorded in its logbook. The fisherman confirmed that Daito Maru No.8 had on board 3.8t of BSH, which were not included in Annex II by mistake, since the fisherman misunderstood that it is not necessary to include fish in Annex II if those fish will not be landed or transhipped at the port. In order to ensure that the same mistake will not happen in the future, the Fisheries Agency instructed the fisherman and Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation to take necessary procedures concerning port call.					
Vessel Controls		Rec-21-16; Rec. 13-14	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme.	Some VMS messages have not been transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat from 29 April to 15 June 2022 due to an unknown system failure. When Fisheries Agency of Japan recognized this problem on 12 May, FAJ immediately notified the ICCAT Secretariat. FAJ tried to solve this problem while asking for advice from ICCAT Secretariat, however, it took more time than expected. Therefore, FAJ started manual transmission of VMS message to the ICCAT Secretariat from 20 May. Finally the issue was resolved and automatic transmission was recommenced from 15 June. Japan would like to note that the 2021 eastern bluefin tuna fishery of Japan was closed on 3 December 2021 (ICCAT Circular #0209/2022 dated 14 January 2022), and the 2022 fishing season had not yet started when the problem was occurring. Thus, no Japanese fishing vessel has been conducting eastern BFT fishery while the technical problem was occurring.					
Other			ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in CDC_305.				ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC-305, COC_312 (EJF and Greenpeace) + response.		

KOREA (REP.)

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				Letter on late reporting and VMS transmission issues.				No action necessary.
	Compliance Tables								
	Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B Annual Report									
Statistical data									
Other reports		Rec. 18-13	Annual BCD report received late.	It was inadvertently omitted when submitting Annual Report and related reports. We noticed the omission after receiving Secretariat's email in September 26. We immediately submitted the BCD report.		Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.	We submitted it on October 6th.	
Category C									
MCS-species related									
MCS General		Rec. 21-15	Report on transshipment received late	We apologised for the late submission of transshipment report. It took more time than expected to analyze the data and fill in the format.					
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls		Rec. 21-16	Some VMS messages not sent in accordance with Rec. 21-16, para 3	There has been transmission failures after renewing VMS certificates. Korean Fisheries Monitoring Center has consulted ICCAT Secretariat regarding this issue since October 4. We are now transmitting VMS data everyday via email, until the problem would be solved.					
Other							COC_312 (Shark Trust and EFJ).		

LIBERIA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), blue marlin overharvest, retroactive vessel registration.				Letter on reporting issues, continued blue marlin and SWO overharvest (without quota), no reply to 2021 COC letter, and noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.				Letter on reporting issues, request action plan; continued swordfish overharvest (without quota, but catches reduced); note possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on trade measures in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if significant improvements are not made, while noting some improvements through the submission of the Billfish and Shark Check Sheets. Follow-up on issues not addressed in Liberia's response to last year's Chair letter.
Compliance Tables		Rec. 19-05: 17-03	*Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -117.19 t. SWO-N negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -19.49, 2019= -21.19.			Rec. 21-03 and 18-05	Continued overharvest of northern swordfish, despite reduced catches. Overharvest of BUM remains. No size sheet received with compliance tables. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B Annual Report							Annual report received late.		
Statistical data							No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
Other reports									
		Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding monthly or quarterly reports.						
Category C MCS- species related									
MCS General						Rec. 16-14	Unclear as to whether minimum standards of scientific observer programme are being met, more information required.		
Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter.				COC. 312 (Shark Trust).		

LIBYA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), controlled transfer issues.				Letter on reporting issues.				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of shark measures, and scientific observer program.
							Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables SWO-MD, ALB-MD, BFT-E.		
Category B <i>Annual Report</i>									
<i>Statistical data</i>			Task 1 and Task 2 data received late (13 October 2022).						
<i>Other reports</i>		Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.			Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet received late.		
Category C <i>MCS- species related</i>		Rec. 21-08	One JFO reported late.			Rec. 18-06	No legally binding measures for species specific requirements.		
<i>MCS General</i>						Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.		
<i>Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>									
Other									
			ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC_305.				ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC_305.		

MAURITANIA

2021		2022				2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A	Letter or recurring reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programmes.	Rec. 16-16	Zero catches reported late (1 Sept 2022).		Letter on recurring reporting issues, no reply to 2021 COC letter.				Letter on reporting issues, late reply to 2022 COC letter. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.	
Compliance Tables						Rec. 11-11	Compliance tables received late (30 Oct).			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions										
Category B										
Annual Report										
Statistical data						No ST01 (fleet characteristics), Task 2 data or ST09 (observer data) received.				
Other reports		Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received.							
Category C MCS- species related		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.				Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
MCS General										
Port Controls										
Vessel Controls										
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter.				Reply to COC Chair letter received late (30 Oct); COC_312 (Shark Trust).			

MEXICO

2021		2022				2023			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>
Category A	No action necessary.				<i>No action necessary.</i>				<i>No action necessary.</i>
<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables submitted slightly late (18 August 2022).						
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i>							Some responses in part 3 may need revision (dates do not coincide with Secretariat records).		
<i>Statistical data</i>							Some shark species not clearly defined.		
<i>Other reports</i>									
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i>									
<i>MCS General</i>									
<i>Port Controls</i>									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other							COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

MOROCCO

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables		Rec. 19-05, 16-16	*Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = - 32 t. BUM negative balance decreasing: 2018 = -62, 2019= -52, 2020 = -42 4 consecutive years of zero catches.						
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B Annual Report									
Statistical data									
Other reports									
Category C MCS- species related						Rec. 21-09	Explanation for lack of dead discards of shortfin mako.	Morocco has regularly submitted discard data for shortfin mako caught taken as bycatch by the longline fleet targeting swordfish (form ST-09) for the period 2018-2021. For 2022, due to the prohibition on shortfin mako, fishers have changed fishing areas, fishing further offshore and avoiding coastal areas where shortfin mako are more abundant, as a result of which no bycatch has been recorded under the scientific observer programme. Morocco has also presented the SCRS with a statistical method for estimating total dead and live discards, which is currently being developed. The preliminary results will be presented at the SCRS meeting in 2024. Discard data will also be revised to include any unreported discards, including 2022.	
MCS General Port Controls						Rec. 16-14		Morocco established a national observer programme in 2018 mainly to collect data on bycatches and discards (dead and alive). Data on bycatches and discards are reported to the Secretariat each year for vessels over 15 m, in particular for pelagic sharks taken as bycatch by longliners targeting swordfish. For purse seiners, data from this programme will be reported from 2024 onwards.	
Vessel Controls						Rec. 19-09	Insufficient information on implementation of Rec. 16-14 for large scale PS and LL vessels (over 15 m). Sighting sheets.	For vessels less than 15 m in length, Morocco presented to the SCRS in 2023 the methodology for estimating bycatches and discards of sharks, turtles and other vulnerable species. This approach was adopted by the SCRS and will be implemented in 2024. Responses contained in Appendix 4 to COC_303.	
Other								As regards the Shark Trust request (COC_312/2023), see the elements of the response above provided for the question "explanation for the absence of dead discards of shortfin mako sharks" and "insufficient information on implementation of Rec. 16-14 for large PS and LL (over 15 m)".	
									COC_312 (Shark Trust).

NAMIBIA

2021		2022					2023		
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Maintain identification due to reporting issues, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 5 years in a row.	Rec. 19-05, 16-16	Continued Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -226.98 t. BUM negative balance increasing: 2018 = -145.00 t, 2019= -185.72 t, 2020 = -227.13. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables for S. albacore and bigeye tuna	Namibia is aware and regrets the discrepancy between data in Compliance tables and Task 1 for albacore, bigeye, smoothtail and blue marlin that were procedurally reported to ICCAT. The data available in the ICCAT Compliance tables would show, for the past 10-15 years, that Namibia over fully landed catch quotas of all the species under ICCAT management. Whichever Namibia had reported and increase to any of the quotas for those different species, the response from ICCAT, rightly so, was that quotas are considered for increase on the basis of previous landings. Our inability to land our catch/landings limit for the major species resulted in our large pelagic fisheries subsector to be unable to economically sustain itself. This prompted Namibia to consider increasing her landings capacity to improve her ability to improve albacore landings through increasing the number of albacore fishing boats and vessels. The increase in fishing boats and fishing vessels may have resulted in increased overharvest of albacore landings that are not qualified under ICCAT. In fact, we have noticed major discrepancies over between data submitted to the Compliance tables and the Annual Reports and that submitted to the Task 1 data on the same species and other species as mentioned above. This is indicative of faulty data reporting, which we believe is similar to reporting under Task 1 figures. Ideally, data reported in Task 1 and in compliance tables must be the same. We are currently working on the same species for this issue or remedy as it is our conclusion that the reported discrepancies are due to wrong reporting and not over fishing on the permissible landing limits for Namibia. However, the increased fishing effort resulted in the need for increasing administrative officials (an additional staff were recruited) under reporting landing data to handle the increased data. The aforementioned operational and data capturing facts therefore made us conclude that the reported figures for southern albacore for 2021 for Namibia are not a true reflection of actual landings. An investigation is underway to establish the accuracy of the southern albacore landings data for 2021. We of the opinion that the data presented in the Compliance tables, being 5, 11,243 for southern albacore, 207.22 for bigeye, 5.85 for blue marlin and 252.99 for southern smoothtail is more realistic and is therefore to be accepted as the final landings reported for Namibia. Namibia considers the albacore and smoothtail fishing activities to be of immense cultural importance with respect to employment creation and overall economic contribution. Therefore, it is important for us to comply with the ICCAT management measures applicable to the resource. As a means to mitigate the present catch of albacore, a number of measures have been put in place and include training for data capturing and reconciliation of reported data between the fishery and fishing vessels before Task 1 & 2. Data are submitted to the ICCAT, reduction of fishing vessels as Namibia's quotas; suspension of all foreign fishing vessels in the Namibian EEZ and termination of all affected fishing activities on Namibia's ICCAT fishing possibilities whenever catch limits are reached.	Maintain identification due to reporting issues, discrepancies between Task 1 and compliance table for ALB, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 6 years in a row with negative balance increasing and flagging and validation of catches from IUU-listed vessel.		Overharvest of ALB-S and BUM, although latter reducing. Discrepancies between Task 1 and compliance tables for SWO-S, ALB-S and BET.	Maintain identification due to continued overharvest, reporting issues, discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance Tables. Notify of potential for future imposition of trade-restrictive measures under Res. 06-13 in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if significant improvements not made. Follow up on last year's COC Chair letter to request additional information on any regulations in place to implement the ICCAT marlin measure; the fisheries observer program, at-sea inspectors and port monitoring mentioned in their letter; generally, on the regulatory framework and compliance and enforcement measures by its authorities; and to help clarify data reporting requirements for chartering operations.	
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report							Some parts of the Annual Report received late.	Updated version submitted during meeting.	
Statistical data		Rec. 16-14	No ST09 form submitted.				ST01 (fleet characteristics) received late. Some statistical data received late.		
Other reports		Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.						
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General									
MCS General		Rec. 16-14	No information on scientific observer programme.						
Port Controls		Rec. 13-14	Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement).						
Vessel Controls									
Other				ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC 305; Reply to COC Chair letter received late.			COC 312 (Shark Trust).		

NICARAGUA

2021		2022				2023										
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023							
Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Letter on late reporting (including Annual Report not submitted until during Annual Meeting).	Rec. 16-16	Zero catch reported late (21 Sept 2022).		Letter on reporting, while noting positively improvements from previous year.				Letter on late reporting, while noting positively improvements from previous years, and to request information on in-port transshipment. Template for response to COC Chair not used. Follow up on issues raised in last year's COC Chair letter that were not addressed in response letter.							
										Category B <i>Annual Report</i>	Some responses in				Annual Report	
										<i>Statistical data</i>						
										<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (23 Sept 2022).				
Category C <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.			Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transshipment.									
Other							COC_312 (Shark Trust).									

NIGERIA

Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Letter on reporting issues (including incomplete Annual Report) and implementation of billfish and shark requirements.				A letter on reporting (incomplete Annual Report) and no reply to 2021 COC letter.	Rec. 18-07	Compliance table received late.		Letter on recurring reporting issues (late Annual Report in 2023) and late reply to 2022 COC letter. Request action plan. Reiterate issues raised in last year's COC Chair letter.
			Annual Report incomplete, only summary sent.				No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).	We will report as soon as possible.	
Category B <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>									
Category C <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>						Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.						
Other									No reply to COC Chair letter. COC_312 (Shark Trust).

NORWAY

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022			2023				
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Category B Annual Report Statistical data Other reports									
Category C MCS- species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other									
				ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC_305. Some requests for observer coverage on vessels received late.		The Norwegian fleet had difficulties catching the mackerel quota this year. As the mackerel quota is one of the most important fisheries for the BFT vessels, many of the vessels had to delay the start of the BFT season. This, unfortunately, led to some observer requests being sent late. The Norwegian authorities are now looking into how to avoid a similar situation next year.			

PANAMA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on recurring reporting issues and overharvest of ALB-S.	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late (14 September).	Coordination is being carried out for timely submission of the table.	Letter on reporting.				Letter on late reporting, while noting improvement.
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data			Some statistical data received late.	Coordination is being carried out for timely submission of the templates.					
		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed).			Rec. 21-01 / Z2-01	Tropical tuna fishing plan received late.	Apologies because we had some exceptional administrative problems.	
Other reports		Rec. 19-02	Monthly / quarterly reports of tropical tuna received late (2021 data received 11 October 2022).						
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls		Rec. 18-09	Eight possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme.	The note DCI-204-2022 was sent requesting further information, since Panama has not received notifications of these cases.	Not related to an ICCAT infringement and hence no action necessary at ICCAT level.	Rec. 18-09	Two possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme (See Table 3 of COC_303/2023).		
Vessel Controls									
Other									COC_312 (Shark Trust and Greenpeace) + response.

PHILIPPINES

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022			2023					
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.	
Category B Annual Report Statistical data										
Other reports			Zero catches reported late (15 August).							
Category C MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls										
Other										

RUSSIA

	2021	2022				2023			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>
Category A	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
<i>Compliance Tables</i>									
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i>									
<i>Statistical data</i>									
<i>Other reports</i>									
Category C									
<i>MCS - species related</i>									
<i>MCS General</i>									
<i>Port Controls</i>									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other									

SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on significant and recurring reporting issues, noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.	Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.		Identification for significant and recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report for two years, and to encourage it seeks technical assistance from Secretariat.	Rec. 11-11	No Compliance Tables received. According to Task 1 data received, overharvest of BUM and WHM.		Maintain identification for significant and recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report for three years, no implementation of scientific observer program, while noting request for capacity building assistance. Template not used for response letter and missing information identified in COC Chair letter not sent. Follow up on issues not addressed in response to last year's COC Chair letter.
<i>Compliance Tables</i>									
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i>			No Annual Report received.				No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).		
<i>Statistical data</i>			No Task 1 or other statistical data received				Task 1 data received late. No ST01 (fleet characteristics), Task 2 data or ST09 (observer data) received.		
<i>Other reports</i>		Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet submitted late.			Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.		
		Rec. 19-02	No quarterly catch reports (unclear if applicable; no Task 1 data reported).						
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i>						Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
<i>MCS General</i>						Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
<i>Port Controls</i>		Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.			Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.		
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter.				COC.312 (Shark Trust).		

SENEGAL

2021		2022			2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on reporting issues including historical FAD data, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer programme (Rec. 16-14), discrepancies between reported SWO-N catch and exports, BET overharvest.	Rec. 21-02	*Overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 1312.15, 2021 balance = 599.47, 2020 balance = 1377.77, this overharvest will be deducted from 2022 quota. The adjusted quota for 2022 = 66.62	Identification due to concerns about lack of fulfillment of flag and market State responsibilities to take appropriate actions in response to IUU fishing activity, including possible significant amounts of illegal transshipment and/or overharvest of ICCAT species as reflected by recurring discrepancies between exports and reported catch, validation of exports of such fish, and overharvest of BET. Letter to also address reporting issues including historical FAD data, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Request action plan clearly outlining steps it will take sufficient actions to address these matters, to inform the COC's consideration of whether to lift identification at the 2023 meeting.	A draft recommendation on the repayment plan for the 2020 overrun has been proposed for discussion at the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. Senegal reduced its capacity (number of vessels targeting tropicals) between 2018 and 2023. This has resulted in tuna catches of 55% and 60% of its initial bigeye tuna limits in 2021 and 2022. Implementation of more effective catch monitoring measures (electronic logbook) as part of cooperation with the European Union. For BIM and WHM, the differences in Task 1 and compliance stem from statistical errors that have been corrected and submitted to the Secretariat.	Overharvest of BET, but payback plan proposed in PA1_205. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET, BIM and WHM. Possible overharvest of N. ALB in previous years as indicated by trade documents (see below, COC_312).		A draft recommendation on the repayment plan for the 2020 overrun has been proposed for discussion at the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. Senegal reduced its capacity (number of vessels targeting tropicals) between 2018 and 2023. This has resulted in tuna catches of 55% and 60% of its initial bigeye tuna limits in 2021 and 2022. Implementation of more effective catch monitoring measures (electronic logbook) as part of cooperation with the European Union. For BIM and WHM, the differences in Task 1 and compliance stem from statistical errors that have been corrected and submitted to the Secretariat.	Maintain identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures, noting no submission of action plan as requested in 2022 Chair letter which called for "action plan clearly outlining steps it will take sufficient actions to address these matters, to inform the COC's consideration of whether to lift identification at the 2023 meeting", continuing information on possible significant amounts of illegal transshipment and/or overharvest of ICCAT species (albacore and swordfish) as reflected by recurring discrepancies between exports and reported catch, validation of exports of such fish. Letter to also address reporting and implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Reiterate request for action plan clearly outlining steps it will take sufficient actions to address these matters, to inform the COC's consideration of whether to lift identification at the 2024 meeting. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18). Include footnote in Senegal's compliance tables (COC-304/2023) for swordfish and albacore to note subject to revision due to potential overharvest detected through trade data.
Category B	Annual Report		Some responses in Part 1 (scientific) in IOMS may be incomplete.				Annual Report received late.	Some parts of the report were submitted on time, while others were submitted late due to difficulties in accessing IOMS and submitting annexes (access agreements).	
	Statistical data		Some Task 1 data or confirmation of zero catches missing.				No ST09 received.	There are difficulties in reporting bycatch data for baitboats and purse seiners flying the flag. An online observer reporting platform has been set up and training courses have been organised for observers.	
	Other reports	Rec. 21-01	Some historical FAD data available but incomplete for effort.						
		Rec. 17-02 and 21-02	SWO-N management plan received late.						
Category C	MCS-species related	Rec. 19-02 and 21-01	quarterly reports of tropical tuna			Rec. 18-06	More detail on legally binding domestic measures required.		
	MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No information in Annual Report summary on the scientific observer programme requirement.			Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
	Port Controls	Rec. 18-09	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme.			Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.	Currently setting up an EMS programme and hope to have improved data to report in the future.	
	Vessel Controls	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no						
Other			See COC 312.				Response to Chair Letter; no action plan provided.	Responses to EJP allegations already provided. For Greenpeace, please refer to the information provided last year concerning the vessels LISBDA and MAAMUIS. As regards Sharktrust, Senegal is surprised by the figures it has presented and their source and reliability.	

SIERRA LEONE

2021		2022				2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	
Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear</i>	Letter on significant and recurring reporting and no scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.	Rec. 16-16	Task 1 for 2020 and 2021 received late (12 October).		Letter reporting, while positively noting improvements.	Rec. 11-11	No Compliance tables received.		Letter on continued reporting issues, request action plan; no statistical data, notify of prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15 if not remedied; no reply to COC Chair. Reiterate items in last year's COC Chair letter.	
Category B <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>			Annual Report received late (21 and 23 September).				No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).			
				No Task 1 received.				No statistical data received.		
		Rec. 18-06		Shark check sheet received late.			Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.		
Category C <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>						Rec.22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			
		Rec. 18-09		Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.						
Other							No reply to COC Chair letter. COC_312 (Shark Trust).			

SOUTH AFRICA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				Letter on notification of chartering arrangement and potential import of fish caught by IUU vessel.				Letter on reporting matters, while noting responses to date.
Compliance Tables						Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for ALB-S.	Regrettably, there was an oversight on the part of our administration staff responsible for data submission. We're confident that ICCAT records can verify our consistent compliance with reporting requirements. Suffice to say, the compliance tables were submitted two days after the set deadline.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data							No ST01 (fleet characteristics) received.	Regrettably, there was an oversight on the part of our administration staff responsible for data submission. Suffice to say, the information was submitted.	
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS- species related						Rec. 18-06			South Africa's commitment to shark conservation and management is exemplary, boasting a robust National Plan of Action that's been reviewed internally and externally by an international panel and redone very recently. Our efforts include the prohibition of retaining numerous threatened shark species, the ban on wire trawlers, and the prohibition of shark finning, among other measures. In addition, South Africa has substantially decreased its shark catches from around 1000 t to below 150 t in 5 years for both the IOTC and ICCAT region combined. It's noteworthy that all our shark conservation and management initiatives are not only legally binding but also meticulously adhere to ICCAT shark reporting requirements. We remain steadfast in our dedication to the responsible stewardship of shark populations.
MCS General									
Port Controls			Possible imports of fish caught by IUU vessel.	Based on the documentation received by the South African Fisheries Authorities for the application of the Import Permit, the Import Permit was issued on the basis of the documents received confirming that the fish being imported have been caught, processed and exported in accordance with the Namibian Fisheries Domestic Legislation.					
Vessel Controls		Rec. 13-14	Early termination of chartering arrangement not notified.						
Other								COC_312 (Shark Trust and EU).	

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

2021		2022			2023						
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023		
Category A	Letter on late reporting issues, implementation of requirements for national scientific observer programme (Rec. 16-14).				Letter on reporting issues, continued overharvest of southern swordfish with no quota and negative balance increasing, and continued overharvest of white marlin.				Identification for continued overharvest of southern swordfish with no quota and negative balance increasing. Letter to also note reporting issues; indication of chartered vessels in Annual Report but no information sent at time of chartering in 2022 (arrangements expired in 2021); implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14); inquire about status of WHM as no reported catch, down from significant catch in previous years. No response to Chair letter. Reiterate items in last year's COC Chair letter.		
Compliance Tables		Rec. 17-03, 16-16	<p>*Continued overharvest of southern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -64.54, SWO-S negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -17.84, 2019 = -32.68, 2020 = -32.68</p> <p>*Continued overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 2, 2021 balance = -6.98 t WHM negative balance is irregular: 2018 balance = +4.00 t, 2019 = -2.00 t, 2020 = -8.98 t *Compliance tables received late (14 Sept 2022).</p>			Rec. 21-03 and 17-02-17-03	Continued harvest of southern swordfish without a quota. Proportion of undersize fish in both North and South catches significantly over the tolerance level.				
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions											
Category B Annual Report											
Statistical data										No ST01 (fleet characteristics) or ST09 (observer data) received.	
Other reports		Rec. 18-06		Shark sheet submitted late (29 Sept 2022).				Rec. 18-06		Shark check sheet received late (during meeting).	
								Rec. 13-14		Indication of chartered vessels in Annual Report but no information sent at time of chartering in 2022; arrangements expired in 2021.	
		Rec. 19-02		No quarterly/monthly reports for 2021 received.							
Category C											
MCS- species related								Rec. 21-01		Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.	
MCS General						Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding implementation of Rec. 16-14.				
Port Controls											
Vessel Controls											
Other			ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC_305.						COC 312 (Shark Trust).		

SYRIA

Category (Res 16-17)	2021	2022			2023				
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Letter on reporting issues including regarding implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting request for technical assistance in 2019 COC response letter.				Letter to reiterate issues raised in 2021 COC letter to which there was no reply.				Letter to reiterate issues raised in 2021 and 2022 COC letter to which there was no reply; implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).
Category B Annual Report Statistical data Other reports							No ST09 received.		
Category C MCS - species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other			No reply to COC Chair letter.				No reply to COC Chair letter.		

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	2022			2023				
		ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
<p>Category A</p> <p>Compliance Tables</p> <p>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</p>	<p>Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14), and WHM, while noting positively all of the actions taken or planned that have been notified to ICCAT.</p>	<p>Rec. 19-05 and 16-16</p>	<p>*Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 15, 2021 balance = -4.56 t WHM negative balance is decreasing: 2018 balance = -49.20 t, 2019 = -34.20 t, 2020 = -19.20, 4 consecutive years of 0 catches.</p>	<p>Letter on implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).</p>					<p>Letter on implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) and late reporting. Request continued updates on modernization of fisheries regulatory framework addressed in response letter.</p>
<p>Category B</p> <p>Annual Report</p> <p>Statistical data</p> <p>Other reports</p>						<p>Annual Report received late.</p>	<p>The Fisheries Division staff members with responsibility for preparation and submission of the report are currently engaged in efforts to finalise and enact Trinidad and Tobago's fisheries management legislation, hence the delay in submission.</p>		
						<p>No ST09 received.</p>			
		<p>Rec. 18-06</p>	<p>Shark sheet submitted late (28 September 2022).</p>						
<p>Category C</p> <p>MCS- species related</p>									
<p>MCS General</p>		<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>Observer programme no yet implemented.</p>			<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>Additional information needed regarding progress on implementation of scientific observer programme.</p>		
<p>Port Controls</p> <p>Vessel Controls</p>									
<p>Other</p>			<p>See COC_312.</p>			<p>COC_312 (Shark Trust).</p>			

TUNISIA

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res 16-17)	Action taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	No action necessary.				Letter on documentation for replacing BFT vessel.		Size sheet in Compliance tables submitted late. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance table for BFT-E.		Letter on reporting. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.
Category B Annual Report Statistical data Other reports									
Category C MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls		Rec. 21-08	No supporting justification regarding the replacement of a BFT vessel by another.						
Other			JIS reports with possible infringement in COC 303 Appendix 4. ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC 305.				JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC 303 Appendix 4. ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC_305. COC_312 (Shark Trust).		

TÜRKIYE

	2021	2022			2023				
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.								No action necessary.
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data									
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls		19-02/21-08	Due to a technical issue no VMS messages received on time. The first data were received manually the first data on 6 June 2022. The system finally worked again at the same day as the last day of their fishing season 2022.	All BFT fishing vessels authorized by the Ministry in 2022 have had the legal obligation to be equipped with two functional VMS transponder devices to ensure an uninterrupted VMS signal transmission during the period of authorization. Throughout the 2022 bluefin tuna fishing campaign and their specified period of authorizations, all authorized BFT fishing vessels have regularly transmitted VMS messages to Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) software of the Ministry. However, due to a certification problem between Ministry's VMS Server and ICCAT VMS Server, the VMS messages that were automatically transmitted to the Ministry from the F.V.s could not be transmitted automatically to ICCAT's SW for a certain period of time. As soon as it was recognized, the Secretariat was contacted on the issue at an early date to initiate the required technical works. Due to the certification issue, VMS data sent by other CPCs' fishing vessels could not reach the Ministry's VMS software. The ICCAT Secretariat was notified about the issue on 11/05/2022 and technical support was requested by providing online remote access in order to resolve the issue at short notice. Technical works aimed at understanding and resolving the automatic transmission problem continued in the form of mutual e-mail exchanges with the participation of expert software personnel in the process. As a result of ongoing tests and works, it has been possible to automatically transmit VMS messages to ICCAT servers again on the date 16/06/2022. As of the same date, the Ministry's VMS software have started to receive automatic VMS messages from other CPC vessels through the ICCAT Servers. The accumulated VMS messages/data could have been sent to the Secretariat following the SW technical problems have been solved mutually. All the VMS data that properly reached the VMS software run by the Ministry but could not have been transmitted automatically by the system during the period of technical issue described above have been provided to the Secretariat via e-mails that contain the daily VMS messages in NAF format.					
Other			JIS reports with possible infringement in COC_303_Appendix 4 with response.						
			ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC_305.					ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC_305.	

UNITED KINGDOM

2021		2022				2023			
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Letter on implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting response from UK on challenges and actions planned for certain fisheries.				No action necessary.		Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for ALB-N.		No action necessary.
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data			Some statistical data received late.						
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other									
						COC.312 (EFI) + response.			

UNITED STATES

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022				2023			
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables									
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report						Ref. 12-13 / 18-07	Annual Report summary received late.		
Statistical data									
Other reports									
Category C									
MCS-species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other									

URUGUAY

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022			2023			Actions taken by COC in 2023	
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023		Response / explanation by CPC
Category A	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
<i>Compliance Tables</i>									
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>									
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other									

VENEZUELA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022				2023										
	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023							
Category A	Letter on continued reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements related to turtle bycatch, and national scientific observer programme (Rec. 16-14).	Rec. 19-05; 20-04 and 16-16	<p>*Overharvest of North albacore: 2021 quota = 337.50, 2021 balance = -122.84 t, ALB-N negative balance decreasing: 2018 balance = -294.99, 2019 = -215.91, 2020 = -161.83</p> <p>*Overharvest of white muscle: 2021 quota = 50</p>		Letter on continued reporting overharvest of ALB-N and WHM, no response to 2021 COC letter.		Continued overharvest of ALB-N and WHM. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET.	Difference results from discards being added to nominal landings. Venezuela will propose a payback plan for future years.	Letter on continued reporting issues, overharvest of ALB-N and WHM, late response to COC letter, and implementation of national scientific observer program, while noting plans notified by Venezuela at annual meeting. Request action plan to address these items. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.							
Compliance Tables																
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions																
Category B																
Annual Report											Annual Report received late (18 September). Converted to IOMS by Secretariat, some answers may be incomplete.				Annual Report incomplete, some sections of IOMS missing.	Economic difficulties have prevented full compliance with ICCAT measures. Venezuela attended an IOMS workshop in October and hopes to be in a position to complete the report in a timely manner next year.
Statistical data																
Other reports										Rec. 18-05 and Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (1 Oct 2022). No billfish check sheet received.			Rec. 21-01/22-01	Tropical tuna fishing plan received late.	
														Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.	Venezuela will make more efforts to complete these.
Category C										Rec. 19-02/21-01	No monthly or quarterly reports of tropical tuna species received.	We are working to provide the data to the Secretariat.		Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding implementation of scientific observer programme and data reporting.	Venezuela is currently updating its legislation and hopes that it will be in force from mid-2024 onwards.
MCS- species related																
MCS General																
Port Controls	Rec. 18-09	No list of designated ports and applicability unclear.														
Vessel Controls																
Other						Reply to COC Chair letter received late (6 Nov). COC_312 (Shark-Trust).										

BOLIVIA

Category (Res 16-17)	2021		2022			2023			
	Actions taken in 2021	JCCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response/ explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	JCCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response/ explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	No action necessary.				Letter on late reporting.				Letter on late reporting. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.
Compliance Tables		Rec. 16-16	Zero catches reported late (1 Sept 2022).						
Capacity, size gear, time, and restrictions									
Category B			IDMS completed but text file (Sections 1, 4 or 5) received late (1 November). No fisheries.				Some sections of Annual Report received late.		
Annual Report									
Statistical data			Zero catches reported late.						
Other reports		Rec. 18-06							
			Updated shark check sheet received late.						
Category C									
MCS- species related									
MCS General									
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other							Reply to COC letter received late.		

CHINESE TAIPEI

<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>
Category A	Letter on potential issues with shortfin mako reporting.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
<i>Compliance Tables</i>									
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>									
Category C <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i>									
<i>Port Controls</i>									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other				ROP-Trans- PNCS and responses contained in COC_305. See COC_312.				ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC_305. COC_312 (EJF and Greenpeace).	

COSTA RICA

2021		2022			2023				
Category (Rec. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Category A	Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures due to recurring reporting issues, and significant overharvest of ICCAT species, as well as fishing for ICCAT species while under Rec. 11-15 prohibition of retention of ICCAT species, and implementation of ICCAT requirements related to turtle bycatch, and national scientific observer programme (Rec. 16-14). Note that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status in future. Also reiterate concerns expressed by Chair and COC members about Costa Rica's response to 2020 COC meeting letter reflecting an incorrect interpretation of certain ICCAT requirements as not applying to Costa Rica in its national waters or to vessels under a certain size.								
<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Rec.19-05 and 17-02	<p>*Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -246,64 t. SWO-N negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -149,34, 2019=-172,85, 2020 =-196,03</p> <p>*Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -181,18 t. BUM negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -141,83, 2019=-159,28, 2020 =-167,49</p>	According to the international nomenclature, the fishing vessels operating in the Costa Rican Caribbean are small scale. The fisheries in this area are not developed; given that it is a small-scale fleet, it is evident that there are limitations on fishing. In the near future, there is interest in developing these fisheries. In Costa Rica, the catch of these species is historical. The statistical and compliance data have been submitted to ICCAT, as well as the scientific documents with the historical catch information (SCRS/2022/047 and SCRS/2022/161) for the purpose of transmitting the country's information and transparency of its fishery. In addition, this year, the country submitted to the Commission a North Atlantic swordfish management plan, through form CP41-NSWOPan. To transition to the measures required by ICCAT, effective compliance is proposed through permanent dialogue with the fishers to ensure a reduction in the overage of these species as a mechanism to offset the overharvest that appears in the ICCAT data records and for the purpose of contributing to the international management and conservation of these species. Costa Rica will continue its efforts so that ICCAT recognizes its historical participation rights, since the country has caught these species prior to becoming a Cooperating non-Contracting Party and hopes soon to become a Contracting Party by acceding to the Convention through the 2019 Accession Protocol, but we recognize that as a developing country we have some limitations in terms of staffing, fishery statistics data processing, budgetary limits, lack of instruction on the ICCAT data submission requirements and no onboard observers programme is in place on account of the characteristics of the national vessels. The Costa Rican fisheries in the Atlantic are not developed industrially, as mentioned above, it is a small-scale fleet. There are socioeconomic characteristics that must also be taken into account. It is therefore vital to establish a dialogue with the fishers. Moreover, in the Caribbean, there are two important factors: it is an economically depressed area, as is the case of the rest of the Central American region, and it is high risk due to international drugs trafficking, which is why regulated fishing activities in the Caribbean are part of our commitment, with the objective of preventing illicit or criminal activities that affect us nationally and internationally.		Rec. 21-02 and 19-05	Continued overharvest of SWO-N and blue marlin.		Letter regarding continued overharvest of SWO-N and BUM, reporting, additional information on shortfin mako (Rec. 21-09) and national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) implementation. Request action plan on all these matters. Letter to also request specific regulatory information on how Costa Rica implements the requirement to prohibit silky sharks from entering into international trade as a condition for exercising the developing State exemption in para 4 of Rec. 13-08. Note 125% payback rules for BUM for overharvest two consecutive years. Response letter template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter. Follow up on any outstanding deficiencies addressed in last year's COC Chair letter.
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
Category B									
<i>Annual Report</i>									
<i>Statistical data</i>									
<i>Other reports</i>		Rec.19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species in 2021 but no corresponding quarterly reports.	The fishing activity is carried out by small scale vessels, and consolidation of statistical data with the mechanisms that currently exist for this purpose, mean that with the information available quarterly catch reports cannot be submitted. It should be noted that Costa Rica does not have a fleet of purse seine tuna vessels in the Atlantic Ocean.		Rec. 21-09	information on northern shortfin mako measures received late.		
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i>									
<i>MCS General</i>						Rec. 16-14	Additional information on progress of implementation of scientific observer programme.		
<i>Port Controls</i>									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other									
								COC-312 (Shark Trust) + response	

GUYANA

2021		2022				2023										
Category (Res. 16-17)	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023							
Category A	Maintain identification due to continued significant overharvest of ICCAT species. Letter to also note continued reporting issues and issues with implementation of ICCAT requirements for a national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), and that failure to make improvements could result in future non-renewal of cooperating status, trade restrictive measures, or other actions.	Rec. 19-05 and 17-02	<p>*Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -28.48 t. SWO-N Negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -19.49, 2019= -21.19, 2020 =-25.71</p> <p>*Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -161.26 t. BUM negative balance increasing: 2019= -118.22, 2020 =-147.05</p>		Lift identification in recognition of actions taken with respect to longline vessels to address overharvest. Send letter due to continued overharvest of ICCAT species while noting improvement in reporting.	Rec. 18-05 and 17-02	Despite report of zero catch of billfish there is indication that exports (and hence catches) have taken place in 2022. Overharvest from previous years remains, as does overharvest from previous years of SWO-N.		Letter to inquire about fishing for WHM and management measures in light of reported trade in but no catch reported (and negative balance). Response letter template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter.							
<i>Compliance Tables</i>																
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>																
Category B																
<i>Annual Report</i>																
<i>Statistical data</i>																
<i>Other reports</i>										Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species in 2021 but no corresponding quarterly reports.					
Category C																
<i>MCS- species related</i>																
<i>MCS General</i>																
<i>Port Controls</i>																
<i>Vessel Controls</i>																
Other	COC_312 (EU).															

SURINAME

	Category (Res. 16-17)	2021	2022			2023				
		Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023
Suriname	Category A	No action necessary.				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
	<i>Compliance Tables</i>									
	<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
	Category B									
	<i>Annual Report</i>									
	<i>Statistical data</i>									
	<i>Other reports</i>									
Category C										
<i>MCS- species related</i>										
<i>MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>										
Other										

A concept paper on how to deal with non-CPCs
(submitted by Japan)

1. The Commission is generally concerned about catches of tuna and tuna-like species by non-CPCs. It should be noted, however, that the amount of the catch varies among non-CPCs, and not all the catches of non-CPCs necessarily cause negative impact on the Commission's conservation and management efforts (see **Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**).
2. In this regard, the Secretariat should first compile the catch data of non-CPCs during the last five years based on the data submitted by non-CPCs as well as the FAO statistics and consider what the real concern for the Commission is, i.e., how much catch of which species by which non-CPC.
3. For this purpose, the Commission should establish certain criteria to guide such judgement. One example is to ignore the catch as long as it is less than 0.1% of the TAC. Another point for discussion would be to what extent the Commission should tolerate the increase of catch by non-CPCs when the stock condition is improving, which is likely to naturally increase their catches.
4. For non-CPCs subject to the concern of the Commission, not only sending a letter but also inviting them to consider participating as observers, Cooperating Non-Parties, or Parties, and a visit by the Commission Chair or COC Chair accompanied by the Secretariat should be considered. In the case of a visit, the Commission should have in mind that they would ask if they can receive a certain allocation once they become a CPC. This point should be discussed at each panel concerned beforehand.
5. If the catch of a non-CPC cannot be ignored and cooperation has not been obtained despite repeated requests of the Commission, then the Commission should consider trade measures in accordance with Rec. 06-13, particularly if the catch enters into international trade.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

Catches by species by non-CP in Atlantic Ocean

Unit: t

<i>Country</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Colombia	Bigeye tuna	0	0	0	0	899
Colombia	Yellowfin tuna	24	12,186	10,478	14,598	10,186
Dominica	Bigeye tuna	0	0	0	0	0
Dominica	Swordfish	1	0	0	0	0
Dominica	Yellowfin tuna	209	116	180	120	75
Dominican Republic	Albacore	110	592	627	380	477
Dominican Republic	Atlantic bluefin tuna	9.7	4.5	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	Yellowfin tuna	376	111	217	173	217
Gibraltar	Atlantic bluefin tuna	16.1	14.6	17.3	20	21.6
Israel	Atlantic bluefin tuna	10	10	10	10	10
Israel	Swordfish	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	Swordfish	0	0	0	0	0
Montenegro	Atlantic bluefin tuna	73	95	59	24.2	23
Montenegro	Swordfish	5	2	3	6.5	7
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Bigeye tuna	0.6	0	0	0.6	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Swordfish	0	2	0	1	0.1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Yellowfin tuna	29	13	1	6	0.2
Saint Lucia	Albacore	1	1	0.7	0.3	0.3
Saint Lucia	Atlantic bluefin tuna	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Saint Lucia	Bigeye tuna	25	13	12.9	16.9	3.2
Saint Lucia	Swordfish	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Lucia	Yellowfin tuna	232	199	172	190	156
Totals		1,121	13,359	11,778	15,547	12,075

Source: FAO FishStatJ except for Gibraltar (figures for Gibraltar are those provided by Gibraltar).

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to the Compliance Committee

The Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates and recognizes the work of the ICCAT Compliance Committee, as assessing members' conformance with good obligations agreed by ICCAT is key to the success of its fisheries governance. We hope the COC maximizes the special two-day session before the Commission meeting, and offer the following points for your consideration.

Last year, ICCAT made substantial progress when adopting the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions or "schedule of actions," and we are eager to see countries implement it at this meeting to identify compliance priorities and corresponding actions. The schedule of actions provides a clear process for conducting fair and efficient compliance reviews to focus limited resources on tackling the most serious identified infractions. Members have an opportunity to build on last year's progress by following a process adopted at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to periodically examine compliance review processes with a view for continued improvements. To this end, ICCAT should include a standing agenda item to discuss areas where the Commission could improve its compliance review process, including by implementing items from the expert report "Approaches to Evaluate and Strengthen RFMO Compliance Review Processes and Performance – a Toolkit and Recommendations", available [here](#), which was presented to the COC last year.

One immediate area that could be reviewed is the capacity building program, making sure that it is well resourced, operational, accountable, and being utilized. Capacity has been identified across many RFMOs as a key inhibitor to effective engagement in the compliance review process, especially for developing States. ICCAT should hold a capacity building workshop to strengthen CPCs' efforts to submit data by identifying and addressing any specific capacity needs and building the necessary legal domestic framework to ensure that their fleets are following the Commission's rules.

ICCAT's compliance processes underpins every resolution and recommendation members agree upon. It is therefore important that this committee ensure that these measures are being implemented as intended, to curb IUU fishing, ensure quotas are respected, and improve fisheries data collection for a more informed management process that maintains the long-term sustainability of ICCAT fisheries.

ANNEX 10

Report of the Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), Mr Neil Ansell (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. The ICCAT Executive Secretary also welcomed the participants.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr Carlo Bella (United Kingdom) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair provided an overview of the draft agenda including his intention to allow the introduction of all eight proposals as early as possible in the scheduled sessions.

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

4. Review of the Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and other relevant subsidiary working groups, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair introduced the [Report of the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM WG\)](#) (hybrid/Osaka, Japan, 7-9 June 2023) and promoted attendees to raise any questions or feedback. The Report was subsequently endorsed by the PWG.

5. Consideration, taking into account the findings of point 4, of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:**5.1 Catch Document and Statistical Document Programmes**

“Draft Resolution on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)”

Japan introduced a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)”. It noted that this was in the framework of the CDS workplan endorsed by the Commission in 2022. It was recalled that expansion of the CDS continued to be discussed within the context of combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and increasing transparency throughout supply chains.

The draft resolution had broad support from the PWG, which further noted that it may help developing CPCs to adopt more robust trade reporting and traceability. There was however some concern expressed by several CPCs regarding the number of working groups being established, and an urge to explore options such as combining existing groups. Regarding the potential establishment of new schemes in the future, some CPCs noted the importance of streamlining processes to avoid administrative burden and duplication with existing programmes and ensuring that adequate controls are in place throughout the supply chain. There were also suggestions for the CDS WG to be held in a format which facilitates maximum participation by CPCs and to cooperate with the work of other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) in this domain.

The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)” was re-tabled with some amendments, including the incorporation of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), which addressed the concerns of several CPCs regarding the increasing number of working groups. The revised proposal was endorsed and forwarded to Plenary for its adoption.

Reports of the meetings of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)

The Chair presented a summary of the work of the eBCD TWG throughout 2023 during which there were two meetings ([First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group \(eBCD TWG\)](#), online, 23-24 January 2023 and the [Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group \(eBCD TWG\)](#), hybrid/Osaka, Japan, 5 June 2023). The Chair highlighted that the system in general is reported to be working well and the support required is reducing as more issues are being solved directly by CPCs themselves. It was agreed for the eBCD TWG to continue their work throughout 2024 including the oversight of those items undergoing development. Both reports of the eBCD TWG were adopted by the PWG.

China (P.R.) informed the PWG that it was now importing a lot of bluefin tuna which was creating challenges for them to meet their financial obligations under the eBCD budget and called for the new CDS WG to consider a scheme which would allow for the creation of a fund for contributions from operators.

Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate Bluefin Catch Documents (BCDs) for trades of BFT between Member States of the European Union in 2022 (paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 2216)

The EU presented their Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2022 (paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16) (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**).

In the context of the free market rules within the EU, it emphasized their intention in the future to request a permanent derogation from the current measures which currently causes an unnecessary administrative burden. It also noted that a permanent derogation would create a more level playing field between the EU and other ICCAT CPCs.

Report of the Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG)

The Chair summarised the [Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Document Scheme \(CDS WG\)](#) (hybrid/Osaka, Japan, 6 June 2023), which was subsequently endorsed by the Group.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”

The Chair introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”, which had been approved by the PWG, and requested Japan to present the recent revisions. Japan summarised two revisions, reflecting amendments to add a new section of processing information which Japan explained intended to achieve more consistent monitoring of fish that are processed onboard processing vessels after harvest and trade from farms and traps, for which currently only round weight is recorded in the eBCD system. It was noted that compliance with the processing information should be required only after the necessary changes would be made available in the eBCD system. Following some small revisions a new version was endorsed and referred to the plenary for adoption.

5.2 Observer programmes and Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)

Following a request from the Chair, there were no comments on the Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for transshipment.

The Chair presented the Report of the [First Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group \(WG-EMS\)](#) (online, 15 February 2023) and the [Report of the Second Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group \(WG-EMS\)](#) (online, 7 September 2023) which were endorsed and referred to the plenary for adoption.

Minimum standards and program requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries

The European Union introduced their “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and program requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries”. It underlined that the development of such standards by ICCAT was cited as the main objective of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS) following its establishment in 2022 and several CPCs had collaborated and provided input during a number of WG EMS and drafting sessions over one and half years.

The EU underlined the importance of the link and contribution of the SCRS and that the intended purpose of the minimum standards was to improve both data collection and compliance monitoring for ICCAT longline and purse seine fisheries. It was stressed that the recommendation itself created no obligation for EMS, only minimum standards for those programmes for those CPCs which elected to use EMS in a specific fishery to comply with ICCAT requirements. The possibility to use EMS in ICCAT fisheries would remain with the relevant panels and upon agreement by the Commission.

It was noted that active engagement from developing CPCs should they choose to implement EMS, would strengthen the measure, yet at the same time, developing CPCs may have resource issues in implementing such measures and may benefit from capacity building.

Following detailed discussions on data confidentiality and technical aspects and suggested additional edits from CPCs, the revised proposal was endorsed by the PWG and sent to Plenary for adoption.

Pilot Project on a remote electronic monitoring (REM) system for bluefin tuna processing vessels – Phase 1 Report

The Secretariat introduced the state of play of the Pilot Project established under the [Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures \(Res. 16-17\)](#) during the end of 2022 and throughout 2023 when Phase 1 was carried out by the company Satlink.

The EU underlined the positive outcomes noting that 24/7 monitoring had been achieved on the processing vessels, and that the system allowed for precise and fast counting of individual bluefin tunas with no technical issues reported. It noted that further improvements in system configuration was planned for Phase 2 of the Pilot Project, in particular with the use of a hanging scale attached to the crane for the precise determination of weights.

5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

The ICCAT Secretariat put forward several requests for clarification under this Agenda item in the document Requests for clarification from the Permanent Working Group (PWG). Notwithstanding, in the interests of time, it was agreed that any CPC that did not agree with the interpretation of the ICCAT Secretariat on any issue would inform the Commission as soon as possible intersessionally. In the absence of any feedback from CPCs, the interpretation put forward by the ICCAT Secretariat, would be considered as agreeable to the PWG.

5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

There were no new proposals tabled under this Agenda item. The Chair of the PWG drew the attention of the participants to information on chartering and on access agreements which was contained in the ICCAT Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee.

It was noted that the ICCAT Secretariat had put forward several requests for clarification under this Agenda item. Notwithstanding, in the interests of time, it was agreed that any CPC which did not agree with the interpretation of the ICCAT Secretariat on any issue would inform the Commission as soon as possible. In the absence of feedback from CPCs, the interpretation put forward by the ICCAT Secretariat be considered as agreeable to the PWG.

5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes

The Chair informed the PWG that IMM had agreed on the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a joint international inspection scheme in the Convention area in areas beyond national jurisdiction” for consideration by the PWG. He also requested Canada to further explain the proposal for the creation of a High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) scheme applicable to the ICCAT Convention area in areas beyond national jurisdiction, as provided for under the ICCAT Convention, and as already implemented in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for eastern bluefin and in the Mediterranean for swordfish. Canada noted that having multiple schemes could lead to inconsistencies with their application and that the proposed scheme moves towards a more Convention-based approach. This, in turn, would lead to a more even playing field and serve as an equitable tool to encourage inclusivity within the scheme in particular of developing CPCs.

It was outlined by a number of Parties that the proposal was building on the discussions in 2022 and supported the implementation of inspections in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. They also acknowledged the need to promote inclusivity, the development of joint implementing guidelines and capacity building in particular for developing Contracting Parties.

The EU recalled the Seminar on High Seas Boarding and Inspection Schemes (HSBI) in the ICCAT Context (Vigo, Spain, 13-14 September 2023) hosted by the EU with support from the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and financial assistance from Canada and the United States. The objectives of the Seminar were to share experiences and best practices, increase inclusivity and address CPC concerns about the practicalities of HSBI schemes especially for developing CPCs with limited operational capacity.

Views were subsequently expressed by a number of CPCs that the proposed scheme would encourage engagement between CPCs and tackle IUU fishing while being in accordance with international law.

Concerns were raised by a CPC on the process questioning why the proposal was once again presented to the PWG given there was not a Commission consensus in 2022. The Chair clarified that the proposal had been presented and discussed as an IMM Working Group document where there was an IMM agreement to forward it for the consideration of the PWG. As is normal in the intersessional work of all ICCAT subsidiary bodies, such a process would in no way prejudice the decision of a panel or Commission.

A CPC expressed their view that the proposal would not necessarily work to combat IUU fisheries and went on to note the significant measures it was taking at the national level including on port State measures. In its view the proposed measure was not yet mature enough for consideration by the Commission and required additional discussion in particular on the creation of an equitable ICCAT scheme.

There were also concerns expressed by a number of CPCs over the use of force provisions and requests for clarity on related provisions and procedures that would be implemented in the proposed scheme.

Other CPCs expressed support for the proposal, indicating that while vessel sightings could sometimes be used as a tool against IUU, it was in itself insufficient and often required the ability to board the vessel to detect illegalities. Recognizing that not all CPCs had the same means to deploy patrol vessels or inspectors, they encouraged CPCs to take advantage of the capacity building elements and provisions to become part of the inspection teams.

A number of other CPCs urged all CPCs to try to reach a consensus on the issue noting that the High Seas constituted a vulnerable area, and that action was needed to control IUU fishing outside of national jurisdictions.

The EU introduced its proposal “Draft Resolution by ICCAT for the establishment of a Working Group on the Support to the Implementation of ICCAT Recommendation 23-XX Establishing a Joint International Inspection Scheme”. While several CPCs expressed their support for this it was noted that the proposal was premature and dependent on the consensus on the inspection scheme which was not forthcoming.

An observer fully supported both the draft proposals including the establishment of the HSBI, which in its view was consistent with international law. It went on to note that similar schemes were in place in other tRFMOs and expressed surprise that some members were against such an approach at this time in ICCAT.

The Chair thanked everyone for the valuable discussions and concluded that no consensus could be reached on the two proposals.

A number of CPCs noted their disappointment and indicated they would reflect and continue to engage intersessionally.

5.6 Port inspection schemes and port State measures

On behalf of the IMM WG, the Chair introduced “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” which proposed some minor modifications to the ICCAT Port Inspection measure mainly aimed at clarifying the reporting requirements.

CPCs noted the importance of having a robust port inspection regime for an effective fisheries control system and to prevent IUU fishing. The proposed amendment was intended to require CPCs to report the necessary information to be able to discern whether the minimum inspection benchmark required in the Recommendation is met, as well as to support the future review of the Recommendation as referred to in the current measure.

The revised “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” was endorsed by the PWG and referred to Plenary for adoption.

Following a short update by the ICCAT Secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG) and the presentation of Update of activities for the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG) in 2023, the PWG supported the [Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance \(PIEG\)](#) (online, 30 May 2023) and the ongoing work of the PIEG into 2024.

5.7 Vessel listing requirements

Following on from the discussion in IMM on the issue of vessels catching ICCAT species as bycatch and related control measures and vessel listing requirements, it was noted that the provisions for vessels listing requirements for species taken as bycatch would rest with the respective panels. Notwithstanding, a consistent approach including effective monitoring was encouraged by the PWG. In the interests of time, a CPC noted that further discussions may be followed-up intersessionally by IMM on this issue in 2024.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements

There were no proposals tabled under this point and no issues were raised.

5.9 Flag State responsibilities

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG) presented the [Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards \(LSWG\)](#) (online, 31 May 2023) and the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on core principles on labour standards in ICCAT fisheries”, which had been originally submitted to Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG) in May 2023, but had since been the subject of an intersessional correspondence process.

While there was much support for the proposal, several CPCs requested some edits to the language and noted that some phrases remained in brackets. The Chair of the LSWG expressed her commitment to work with all CPCs which had raised concerns over the language to submit a revised proposal.

Japan noted that given that the draft was a Resolution it could support it, but this did not pre-empt it supporting any legally binding Recommendation in the future.

Following review of the revised proposal, the PWG adopted the measure and agreed to send the Draft Resolution to Plenary for endorsement.

5.10 Other issues

The requests for clarification relating to several issues under the purview of the PWG were noted. Given the lack of time, it was agreed that these would be circulated by correspondence and discussed at the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) (Hybrid/Oporto, Portugal, 12-14 June 2024).

6. Review and establishment of the IUU list

The PWG reviewed the “Draft 2023 IUU List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities” forward by the ICCAT Secretariat on the basis of information received. It was noted that several changes had been made following the cross-listing provisions with other RFMOs.

The PWG agreed to these changes including the change in flag from OMAN to “Unknown” for three vessels (*ISRAR 1*, *ISRAR 2*, and *ISRAR 3*).

The European Union informed the PWG that having reviewed the latest information received from Namibia and the positive cooperation it had received from the Namibian authorities, it was pleased to announce that it no longer opposed the removal of the vessel *HALIFAX* from the IUU list. It went on to note it was now satisfied that there was no link to the previous owners of the vessels and encouraged Namibia to make efforts to continue to meet ICCAT requirements and flag and port State obligations. Namibia thanked the EU and assured the PWG that it had learned from the experience and that it would be making all the efforts to ensure that was no engagement in IUU activities. The PWG agreed to the delisting of the *HALIFAX*.

With regard to the *HALELUYA*, which Colombia had requested to be removed from the IUU list, the United States, which had originally expressed some concerns, informed the PWG that it was now in a position to withdraw its objection. The European Union also indicated that the information provided by Colombia was sufficient for it to withdraw its objection as it was satisfied that the relevant sanctions had been imposed. The PWG agreed to the delisting of the *HALELUYA*.

The European Union submitted information regarding IUU activities by an Angolan vessel the *DERMERSAL 9*, which had fished for ICCAT species while being under prohibition for failure to submit Task 1 data. Angola indicated that this was due to lack of experience on this issue and a related administrative oversight. It further indicated that the vessel had engaged only in small-scale fisheries but nonetheless reiterated the commitment of Angola to fight IUU fisheries.

While several CPCs sympathized with Angola and supported its request for the vessel not to be included in the ICCAT IUU list, the European Union insisted on the gravity of the situation, and no agreement could be reached. The issue was therefore subsequently forwarded to Plenary for resolution.

The Draft 2023 IUU list, as amended, was agreed by the PWG and referred to the Commission for adoption.

The adopted 2023 IUU Vessel List is included in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

Amendments to the Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities (Rec. 21-13)

China (P.R.) submitted a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities”. The proposal sought to prevent CPCs unilaterally determining illegal fishing activities of other CPCs in the ICCAT Convention area and taking actions in relation to alleged fishing companies or vessels on the basis of information which had not been discussed at the ICCAT level including on the determination of the suspected violation. It felt this was not in line with the open and transparent multilateral consultative mechanism advocated by the Commission. After some discussion a revised proposal was submitted and the PWG agreed to refer the proposal to Plenary for endorsement.

A joint statement* was submitted by Oceana, Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

7. Election of Chair

The PWG thanked Mr Ansell for his excellent work to date and re-elected him Chair of the PWG for the biennial period 2024-2025.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

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

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and other relevant subsidiary working groups, and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Consideration, taking into account the findings of point 4, of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 5.1 Catch Document and Statistical Document Programmes
 - 5.2 Observer programmes and Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)
 - 5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
 - 5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
 - 5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes
 - 5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
 - 5.7 Vessel listing requirements
 - 5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
 - 5.9 Flag State responsibilities
 - 5.10 Other issues
6. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
7. Election of Chair
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2022 (paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16)

1. Introduction

As other ICCAT Contracting Parties (CPCs), the European Union (EU) has implemented the eBCD system since 26 May 2016 for the Bluefin tuna (BFT) caught by the purse seine vessels and traps, and since 1 July 2016 for the fish caught by other gears. All operators fully implement the system as from January 2017.

Paragraph 5b of Recommendation 22-16 provides a derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. Para 5d of Recommendation 22-16 offers an alternative approach for providing weight of tagged fish. Both provisions are up for review in 2024, and in the meantime the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

2. Derogation under paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16

The data presented hereunder corresponds to the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. These data were partially extracted through the functionality in the eBCD system. Additional data on verification was received from the Member States administrations.

The scope of this report has been restricted to the trade events for bluefin tuna from seller in EU Member States to avoid duplication, and because the selling Member State is responsible for the validation of the trade in eBCD.

In 2022, the EU Member States recorded 140,634 trade events¹ in the eBCD system involving 39,501 t. Regulation (EU) 640/2010² provides the obligation to register trade events inside of the EU Member States. Consequently, 78% of the trades recorded in the eBCD by the EU are internal trades inside single EU Member States' territories (110,200 trades). The remaining trades include 9,565 exports to other CPCs (7%), and 20,869 trades between EU Member States (15%).

The quantities involved amounted to 12,432 t (31%) for internal trades and 24,455 t (62%) for exports. Trades between EU Member States amounted to 2,644 t, which represents 7% of the total weight traded (**Figure 1**).

Amongst the total trade, 44% (61,551) of the total trades were validated, and 56% (79,083) were exempted of validation, for a quantity of 32,037 t (81%) and 7,464 t (19%) respectively (**Figure 2**). In addition to the intra-Member State trade, the exemptions include both the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation 22-16 and exemption for tagged fish according to para 13c of Recommendation 22-16.

Regarding the trade events exempted from validation³, 14,432 of them concerned trades between EU Member States (derogation under para 5b) (18%), and 8,008 involved tagged fish (6%), with respective quantities of 1,246 (17%) and 3,087 t (8%) (**Figure 4**). The remaining exempted events are related to internal trades (**Figure 3**). Tagged fish concerned both trades between EU Member States and internal trades.

The average quantity by trade (by eBCD) was 94 kg for trades exempted of validation in line with the derogation 5b, and of 386 kg for trades of tagged fish (**Figure 5**).

¹ Include trades between EU Member States, trades of tagged fish and internal trades of non-tagged fish.

² Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*.

³ Tagged fish may concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State; number of trade events equates to one or several tagged fish.

Additional details by EU-Member state are provided in the **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

3. Verifications

In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, as part of the standard procedure for validation, the control authorities perform verifications and crosschecks of all relevant documents including logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. Consistent with the EU legislation, the control authorities perform physical verifications and inspections at landing, in the market inside and at the entry in EU Member States based on risk assessment, and all catches are officially weighed at landing.

At the point of exit and entry from and into EU, verifications include crosschecks of eBCDs with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Imports into the European Union follow customs procedures.

All eBCD subject to validation were crosschecked. Even when validation is not required, the control authorities perform crosschecks with catch declarations and the eBCDs information in conjunction with other Member States concerned, which enables efficient monitoring of operations exempted from validation. In addition, the control authorities verify the validation of catch or tags details and analyse the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD.

Data extraction functionalities, crosschecks, and verifications through the eBCD system itself enable Member States to establish improved risk assessment procedures to specifically target trades events for crosscheck and verification.

4. Conclusion

The number of trades concerned by the derogation in para 5b of Recommendation 18-12 is significant but generally involves small quantities of bluefin tuna as it involves fillet (FL) and other (OT) presentations. Additionally, 78% of the trades recorded by the EU are internal trades within EU Member States, contributing to the traceability of the fish through the chain.

The derogation under para 5b of Recommendation 18-12 removes a significant administrative burden related to validation and contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs and is also consistent with the principle of free market inside of the EU. It is important to note that at this stage no information is available in relation to a possible negative impact of these measures on the traceability of BFT products.

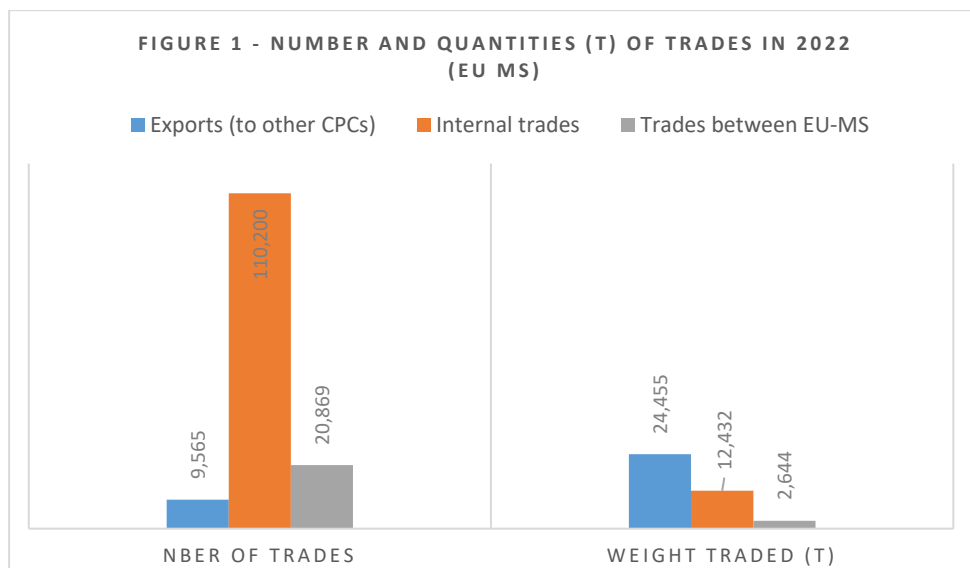


Figure 1. Number and quantities (t) of trades in 2022 (EU MS).

Exports: trades from the EU to other CPCs. Trades between EU-MS: trades between EU Member states. Internal trades: trades inside EU Member States territories.

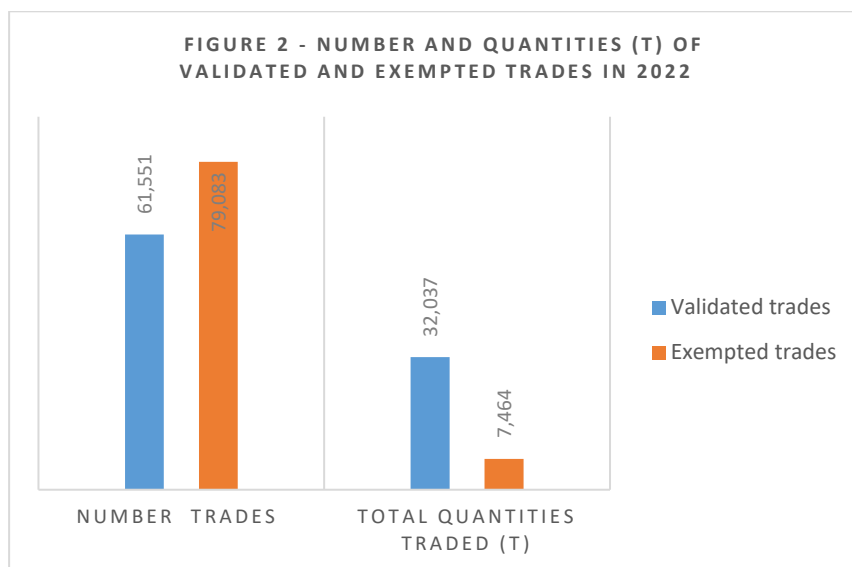


Figure 2. Number and quantities (t) of validated and exempted trades in 2022.

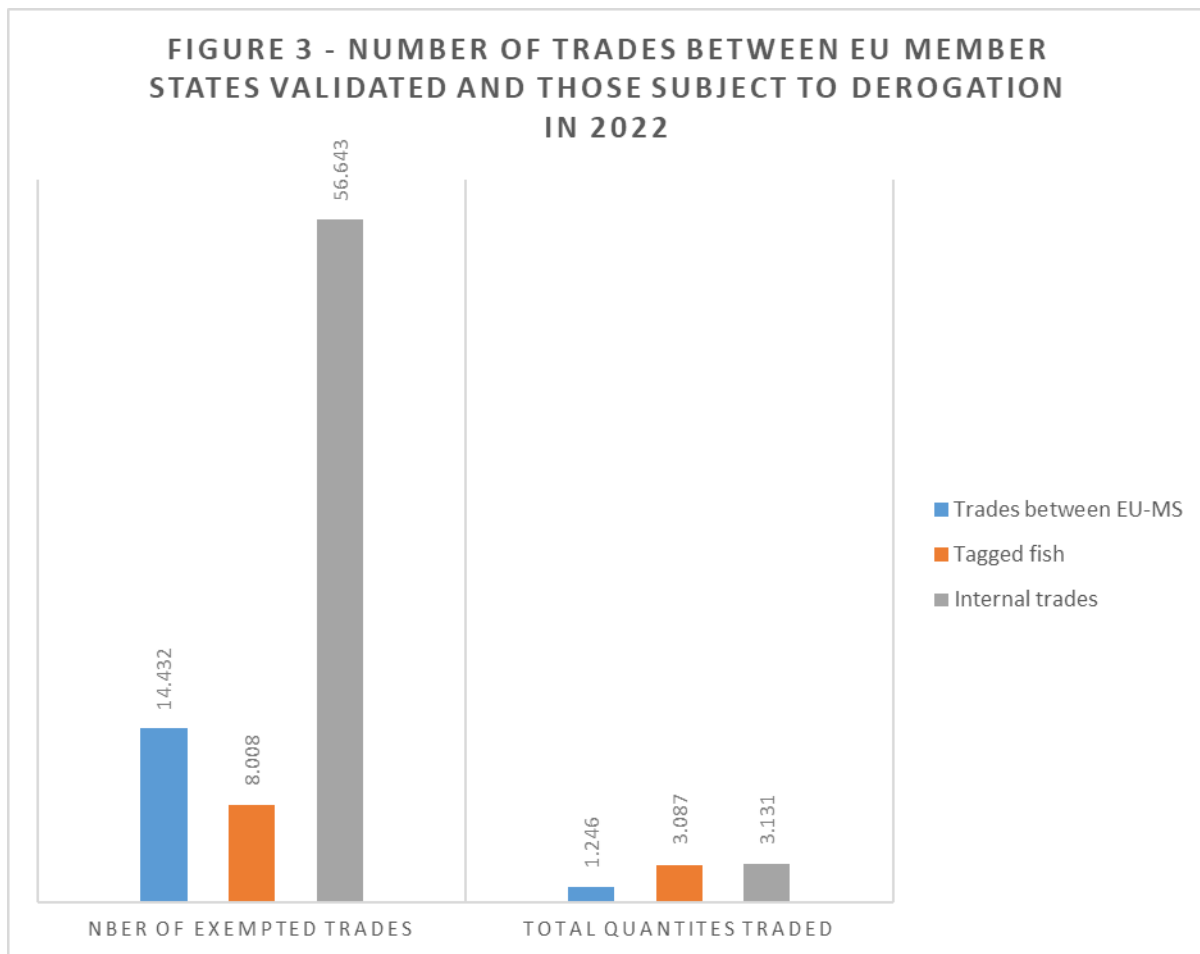


Figure 3. Number of trades between EU Member States validated and those subject to derogation in 2022.

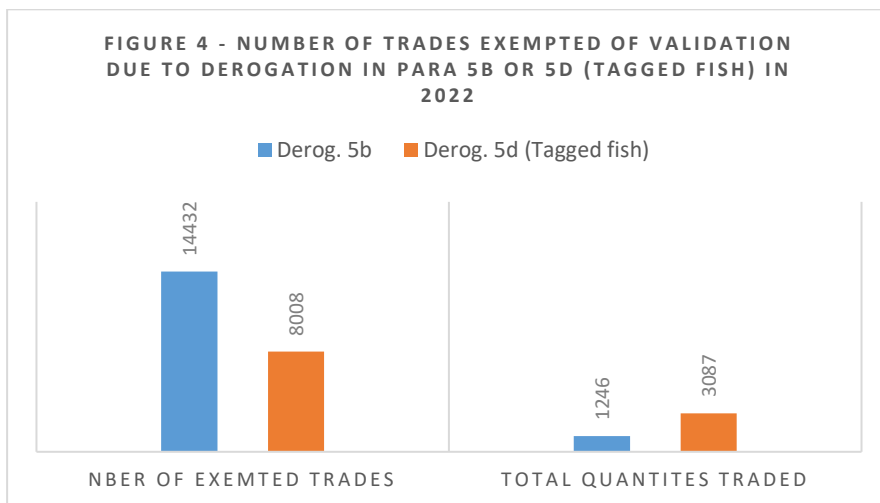


Figure 4. Number of trades exempted of validation due to derogation in para 5b or 5d (tagged fish) in 2022.

Note: trades exempted of validation due to derogation 5b do not include trades with tagged fish. Trades with tagged fish concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State.

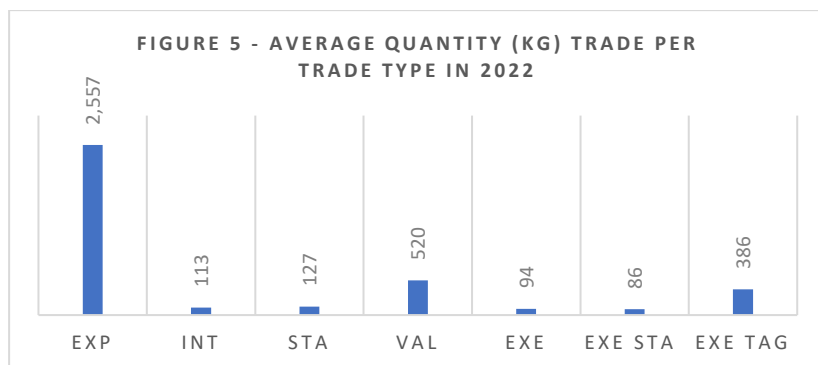


Figure 5. Average quantity (kg) trade per trade type in 2022.

EXP (trades from the EU to other CPCs), STA (trades between EU Member states), INT (internal trades inside EU Member States territories), VAL (trades validated), EXE (trades exempted of validation), EXE STA (trades between EU Member states exempted of validation – derogation 5b), EXE TAG (exempted trades of tagged fish note: see footnote 3).

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Details by EU Member State

(1) Total number and weight of trades:

	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
Trade events	117	60.233	17.306	5.215	2.215	50.674	2.803	2.071
Weight (t)	68	15.965	1.396	427	3.436	3.163	14.205	841

(2) Number of trades and amount of tonnage for which an exemption from validation (EXE) was used:

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXE	Trades	-	7.049	79	877	98	203	1.212	47
	(t)	-	7.564	2	50	3.274	29	13.243	293

(3) Number and amount of tonnage of trades exempted of validation subject to derogation in para 5b (STA) and trades involving tagged fish (TAG):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXE STA	Trades	37	9.121	2.002	3.082	1	188	1	-
	(t)	63	477	383	307	0	15	0	-
EXE TAG	Trades	51	3.301	3.363	1.293				
	(t)	55	1.473	1.141	419	-	-	-	-

(4) Exports from the EU to other CPCs (EXP):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXP	Trades	-	7.049	79	877	98	203	1.212	47
	(t)	-	7.564	2	50	3.274	29	13.243	293

(5) Total volume of trades between EU Member States not including internal trades (STA):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
STA	Trades	37	12.800	2.006	3.082	453	1.395	536	560
	(t)	63	806	384	337	36	507	170	340

(6) Internal trades inside Member States territories (INT):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
INT	Trades	80	40.384	15.221	1.256	1.664	49.076	1.055	1.464
	(t)	4	7.595	1.010	71	126	2.627	792	208

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

IUU Vessel List

For more details and historical data, please consult the [full IUU Vessel List](#).

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20040005	BRAVO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	T8AN3	Unknown		Unknown
20040006	OCEAN DIAMOND	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20040007	MADURA 2	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		(P.T. PROVISIT)
20040008	MADURA 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		(P.T. PROVISIT)
20050001	SOUTHERN STAR 136	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED
20060001	BIGEYE	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	FN 003883	Unknown		Unknown
20060002	MARIA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	FN 003882	Unknown		Unknown
20060003	FREEDOM 7	Cameroon	Longline	JVAW7	7302548		INTERA COMPANY SA (IMO Company No. 5942421)
20060004	MELILLA NO. 103	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060005	MELILLA NO. 101	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060007	LILA NO. 10	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060008	NO 2 CHOYU	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060009	ACROS NO. 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060010	ACROS NO. 2	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20060011	NO. 3 CHOYU	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060012	ORIENTE NO.7	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20080001	DANIAA	Unclassified flag	Longline	3X07QMC	Unknown		ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)
20080004	SHARON 1	Unclassified flag	Purse seine	Unknown	Unknown		MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company
20080005	GALA I	Unclassified flag	Purse seine	Unknown	Unknown		MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company
20090001	XING HAI FENG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	3FHW5	7826233		Ocean Lion Shipping SA
20090002	YU MAAN WON	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20090003	GUNUAR MELYAN 21	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20100004	HOOM XIANG 11	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.
20110003	NEPTUNE	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.
20110011	BHASKARA NO. 10	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20110012	BHASKARA NO.9	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20110013	CAMELOT	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20110014	SAGE	Unclassified flag	Longline	C5J82	7825215		Song Maw Fishery S.A.
20130001	FU LIEN NO 1	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7355662		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia
20130002	YU FONG 168	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	BJ4786	Unknown		Mr. Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)
20130003	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	OTS024 OTS089	Unknown		Unknown
20130004	FULL RICH	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	HMEK3	Unknown		Noel International LTD

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20130005	DRAGON III	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Reino de Mar S.A
20130006	GOIDAU RUEY NO. 1	Unclassified flag	Longline	HO-2508	Unknown		Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A
20130007	JYI LIH 88	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20130008	ORCA	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20130009	REYMAR 6	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20130010	TA FU 1	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	9259070		Unknown
20130011	TCHING YE NO. 6	Unclassified flag	Longline	V3GN	Unknown		Bluefin S.A.
20130012	WEN TENG NO. 688	Unclassified flag	Longline	V3TK4	8994295		Unknown
20130013	SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18	Indonesia	Longline	YGGY	Unknown		Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger
20150001	ANEKA 228	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150002	ANEKA 228; KM.	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150003	CHI TONG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150004	FU HSIANG FA 18	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150005	FU HSIANG FA NO 01	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150006	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150007	FU HSIANG FA NO. 06	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150008	FU HSIANG FA NO. 08	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150009	FU HSIANG FA NO. 09	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20150010	FU HSIANG FA NO. 11	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150011	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150012	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150013	FU HSIANG FA NO. 20	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150014	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150015	FU HSIANG FA NO. 23	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150016	FU HSIANG FA NO. 26	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150017	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150018	HOOM XIANG 101	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150019	HOOM XIANG 103	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150020	HOOM XIANG 105	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150021	KIM SENG DENG 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150022	KUANG HSING 127	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150023	KUANG HSING 196	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150024	ASIAN WARRIOR	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	J8B5336	7322897		High Mountain Overseas S.A
20150025	MAAN YIH HSING	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150026	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150027	SAMUDERA PERKASA 12	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20150028	SHUEN SIANG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150029	SIN SHUN FA 6	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150030	SIN SHUN FA 67	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150031	SIN SHUN FA 8	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150032	SIN SHUN FA 9	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150033	PESCACISNE 1 PESCACISNE 2	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	9LU2119	9319856		Eastern Holdings
20150034	SRI FU FA 168	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150035	SRI FU FA 18	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150036	SRI FU FA 188	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150037	SRI FU FA 189	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150038	SRI FU FA 286	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150039	SRI FU FA 67	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150040	SRI FU FA 888	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150041	TIAN LUNG NO. 12	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150042	ABUNDANT 12	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 202	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi/Mendez Francisco Delos Reyes
20150043	ABUNDANT 9	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 222	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi /Pan Chao Maon
20150044	ABUNDANT 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 201	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi Huang Wen Hsin
20150045	YI HONG 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20150046	ABUNDANT 1	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 226	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi /Hatto Daroi
20150047	ATLANTIC WIND	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5IM813	9042001		High Mountain Overseas S.A
20160001	NEW BAI I NO. 168	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	YGMY	Unknown		Shin Pao K ONG Winniw Tsengi
20170013	ABUNDANT 6	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 221	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi / Huang Wen Hsin
20170014	SHENG JI QUN 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 311	Unknown		Chang Lin
20170015	SHUN LAI	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 514	Unknown		Lee Cheng Chung
20170016	YUTUNA 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 212	Unknown		Yen Shih Hsiung
20170017	YUTUNA NO. 1	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 302	Unknown		Tseng Ming Tsai
20180002	MARWAN 1	Somalia	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20180003	PROGRESO	Cameroon	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20180004	SEA VIEW	Cameroon	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	8692342		Unknown
20180005	SEA WIND	Cameroon	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	8692354		Unknown
20190001	CHOTCHAINAVEE 35	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		GREEN LAUREL INTERNATIONAL SARL
20190002	COBIJA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPB3000	7330399		Unknown
20190003	AMORINN	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5VAN9	7036345		Unknown
20190004	ANTONY	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	PQMG	7236634		Atlanti Pez
20190005	BAROON	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5IM376	9037537		Vero Shipping Corporation
20190006	CHALLENGE	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	H05381	6622642		Advantage Company S.A. (Mar de Neptuno S. A.)
20190007	GOOD HOPE	Nigeria	Unclassified (unknown)	5NMU	7020126		Port Plus Ltd

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20190008	JINZHANG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	PQBT	6607666	49	Belfast Global S.A.
20190009	HEAVY SEA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	3ENF8	7322926		Barroso Fish S.A.
20190010	KOOSHA 4	Iran	Unclassified (unknown)	9BQK	7905443		Pars Paya Seyd Industrial Fish
20190011	LIMPOPO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7388267		Alos Company Ghana Ltd
20190012	NORTHERN WARRIOR	Angola	Unclassified (unknown)	PJSA	8808903		Orkiz Agro-Pecuaría, Pescas, Transportes E Comercio Geral, Limitada
20190013	PERLON	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5NTV21	5062479		Americagalaica S.A.
20190014	SEA URCHIN	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7424891		Farway Shipping
20190015	STS-50	Togo	Unclassified (unknown)	5VDR2	8514772		Marine Fisheries Corp. Co. Ltd
20200001	ALBORAN II	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7306570		Unknown
20200003	GORILERO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	6719419		Unknown
20200004	IANNIS I	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	HO3374	7332218		Unknown
20200005	LABIKO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7325746		Unknown
20200006	MURTOSA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7385174		Unknown
20200008	OKAPI MARTA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7816472		Unknown
20200009	TRINITY	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7321374		Unknown
20200010	OCEAN STAR N° 2	Unclassified flag	Longline	YJRU6	8665193		Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD
20210001	IMULA 0730 KLT	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	4SF4482	Unknown		Unknown
20210002	IMULA 0846 KLT	Sri Lanka	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

ICCATID	VesselName	FlagIUU	Gear	IRCS	IMONo	LOAm	OwnerName
20210003	IMUL-A-1028-TLE	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20210004	IND-TN-15- MM8297	India	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20210005	NIKA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	HP6686	8808654		Jiho Shiping Ltd.
20210006	ISRAR 1	Unclassified flag	Longline	A4BB5	8004076		Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179
20210007	ISRAR 2	Unclassified flag	Longline	A4BA3	8568694		Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179
20210008	ISRAR 3	Unclassified flag	Longline	A4BA5	8568682		Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179
20210009	ABISHAK PUTHA 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	4SFXXXX	Unknown		Unknown
20210010	EL SHADDAI	South Africa	Unclassified (unknown)	ZR6358	8025082		Braxton Security Services CC
20220001	AVEMARIYA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220002	LITTLESHA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220003	MANGALA	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		PMMN CHATHURANGA
20220004	NOVA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220005	YONA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220006	LUCAS	Gambia	Unclassified (unknown)	C5J128	9038402	52,99	"Unknown" or "HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL"
20220008	KIKI	Gambia	Unclassified (unknown)	6WMP	7929176	43	Unkown
20230001	AKASH	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	19,4	WILLIAM S/O MANUVELPILLAI
20230002	ANNAI VELAMKANNI	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,2	D. WILSON
20230003	ARPUTHA MATHA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	20	SALBIN S/O CLEETUS
20230004	BENEDICTA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	20,8	PAUL SURGEN J
20230005	EASRON	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	17,28	MR JELASTIN
20230006	EL SHADAI	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	19,42	REJIKUMAR S/O SILUVAIYAN

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20230007	EMMANUEL	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	19,2	SASIKUMAR
20230008	GIFT OF GOD	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	18	ANTHONY ROBERT T
20230009	SHARJI AMMA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	18,1	LISTON S/O STEPHEN
20230010	STAR OF THE SEA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	18,75	SHIBU S/O SILUVAIYAN
20230011	YAHOVA NICY	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unkown	18,5	NITHIN S/O SESADIMAI,
20230012	HE LI 1 HAO (Sinar Abadi 69)	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Uunkown (HP7651)	8524492		GINSIL HOLDING SINGAPORE Pte

Introduction

For this year, the List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities has been extracted from the ICCAT IUU databases, and which contains two complementary structures: 1) the current database and 2) the historical database, as shown on the ICCAT webpage (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).

Explanatory Notes to the 2023 IUU List

Within the framework of implementation of paragraph 11 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities (Rec. 21-13)*

Intersessional incorporation of IUU vessel lists of other RFMOs

As provided for in [Rec. 21-13](#), the nine RFMOs and their IUU vessel lists are as follows:

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc-iuu-vessel-list>
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC): <https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/IUU.aspx>
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) : <https://www.iotc.org/iotc-iuu-list>
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR): <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/contracting-party-iuu-vessel-list>
<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists>
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) <https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/iuu-vessel-lists>
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/iuu-vessel-list>
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) <https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/IUU> (n= 7 IUU vessels; last update in October 2018)
- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC): <https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/alist> and <https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/blist>
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) <http://www.seafo.org/Management/IUU>

NB: Photographs of some of the IUU vessels listed can be found on the websites of these nine RFMOs.

**Summary of cross-referenced 2023 IUU vessel lists
and updates/modifications made**

<i>Nine RFMOs</i>	<i>Incorporation in the ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from the IUU List</i>	<i>Changes made to the ICCAT IUU List from other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs (in databases)</i>	<i>No change or minor modifications</i>	<i>Total actions</i>
Total	12	0	17	123	152

The draft 2023 ICCAT IUU List of vessels contains **152** active vessels.

Information on the 2023 ICCAT IUU List of vessels

A. Regarding IUU vessels incorporated by ICCAT through cross-referencing with the IUU lists of other RFMOs (paragraph 11 of Rec. 21-13):

1. The WCPFC communicated on 5 March 2023 (ICCAT Entrada # E23-02364), an update of its IUU vessels, of which there are only three. The necessary modifications were made in the ICCAT database as shown on the ICCAT web page (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).
2. Twelve IUU vessels have been included by cross-listing in the ICCAT IUU List of vessels based on the IOTC communication received by the Secretariat on 25 May 2023 (E23-05643). The ICCAT IUU serial numbers assigned to these twelve vessels are from 20230001 to 20230012, as also shown on the ICCAT web page (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).
3. Further to requests from the European Union of 11 April and 8 May 2023 (E23-03660, E23-03674 and E23-04842), regarding information already published in the final ICCAT IUU List of vessels, corrections were made to the chronological order of the previous names of some IUU vessels and their respective previous flags that had been included by cross-listing from the CCAMLR list, namely: the vessels *ASIAN WARRIOR* and *ATLANTIC WIND* (ICCAT IUU serial numbers: 20150024 and 20150047, respectively); the name *DRACO I* flagged to Cambodia was also included in the historical data for the IUU vessel *ATLANTIC WIND*. These corrections, as well as the addition in question, are shown on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).
4. The EU requested the Secretariat (correspondence E23-13015 of 13 October 2023) to carry out an exhaustive review of the historical data of the 18 vessels included in the CCAMLR IUU List, already incorporated in the past in the ICCAT IUU List.

Out of a total of 120 lines of data in the historical part of these 18 vessels, ninety-seven (97) lines were reviewed to ensure full compliance with the list of CCAMLR data, last reviewed/updated by this RFMO on 4 September 2023 (see <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists>).

B. Issues related to the final ICCAT IUU list were raised during 2023, concerning vessels already on the IUU list, in particular requests for delisting (Rec. 21-13)

1. On 28 June 2023 (E23-07701), Namibia, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Rec. 21-13, submitted a request for the removal of the IUU vessel *HALIFAX* / IMO 8529533, with the ICCAT serial number 20200011, from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels. This request followed the decision taken by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Commission that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the delisting of this IUU vessel from the ICCAT IUU List of vessels, and the PWG Chair encouraged Namibia to work with other Parties bilaterally to address the concerns raised. This request is further to the ICCAT Circulars on this issue, namely #6314, #6364 and #8860, sent on 19/08/2022, 23/08/2022 and 28/10/2022, respectively, and the concerns raised by the Compliance Committee, as indicated in the document "Questions and answers on CPCs compliance matters" (COC_306B/2022) of 18/11/2022.

Namibia's request was circulated by ICCAT Circular No. 07401 of 13 July 2023, to which the European Union objected, as communicated to CPCs by ICCAT Circular No. 09521 of 5 September 2023.

2. On 14 July 2023 (E23-08548), the Republic of Colombia, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Rec. 21-13, submitted a request for removal of the IUU vessel *HALELUYA* / IMO 4000354, with the ICCAT serial number 20200012, from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels. This request followed the decision of the PWG at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Commission that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the de-listing of this IUU vessel from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels. The Republic of Colombia was therefore invited to reformulate its request on the basis of new arguments and to submit its request before 15 July 2023, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 13 of Rec. 21-13.

This request by the Republic of Colombia was circulated by ICCAT Circular No. 07729 of 21 July 2023, to which the United States of America and the European Union objected, as communicated to CPCs by ICCAT Circular No. 08948 of 21 August 2023 and No. 09055 of 23 August 2023, respectively.

Having received no communications, following ICCAT Circular No. 10365 (Draft IUU list for 2023) and exchanges between the Republic of Colombia, on the one hand, and the European Union and the United States, on the other, the Secretariat sent a reminder to the Republic of Colombia on 30 October 2023 regarding the responses to the issues requested by these two CPCs in their objections (ICCAT Salida No. S23-11744). The expected responses, supported by any new additional information, would include those relating to the provisions of paragraph 6 a), b) and c) of Rec. 21-13 and those specific to the evidence demonstrating that the vessel *HALELUYA* did not carry out fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area after November 2020 (the date of its inclusion on the IUU list), including the VMS trajectories of this vessel from November 2020 to July 2023.

3. On 5 September 2023 (E23-11011), Chinese Taipei communicated, in response to the request of a CPC (see COC_306B/2022), and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Rec. 21-13, the results of its latest investigations as regards these two IUU vessels, namely *HALIFAX* (ex *MARIO 11*) and *HALELUYA*, as well as the vessel *SAGE*/IMO 7825215 (ICCAT IUU SN: 20110014). This communication is included in this document as an **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.
4. On 5 May 2023 (E23-04517), the Sultanate of Oman informed the Secretariat as regards three Certificates of de-listing from its National Register of Vessels of the vessels *ISRAR 1*, *ISRAR 2* and *ISRAR 3* (ICCAT SN: 20210006, 20210007 and 20210008, respectively), without however formally submitting its request before 15 July 2023, for their removal from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 13 of Rec. 21-13. At the request of the EU (E23-13015 of 13 October 2023), these three Certificates of de-listing have been attached to these Explanatory Notes as **Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10** and is being submitted here for review by the PWG.

In its letter, the Sultanate of Oman appears to refer to its declarations to the IOTC, communicating the following:

- “Immediately after the last meeting (19th Session of the Compliance Committee) held last year, at which it was decided to include the vessels on the IUU list, the company was officially informed not to renew the licences of the three vessels and the number plates were removed from the vessel decks. In addition, all the licences of the crew members of the vessels were withdrawn.
- In addition, an official letter was sent to the Ministry of Transport of the Sultanate of Oman to cancel the vessels and issue a certificate of cancellation (which was issued in July 2022).”
- Following this communication, the Secretariat’s understanding would be to change the current flag from “Oman” to “Unknown”, which has been done in the ICCAT IUU vessel database and is shown on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>). These changes will be submitted to the PWG for review during its deliberations in November 2023.

5. On 1 November 2023 (E23-13652), the Sultanate of Oman communicated to the Secretariat the letter it had sent to the IOTC, dated 8 September 2022, in which it provides answers to the issues raised by the European Union within the IOTC, again supported by the Certificates of de-listing from its National Register of the three fishing vessels: *ISRAR 1*, *ISRAR 2* and *ISRAR 3* (IUU ICCAT numbers 20210006, 20210007 and 20210008, respectively), apparently in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Rec. 21-13. These new documents, as submitted by the Sultanate of Oman, are available on the [ICCAT meeting document website](#).

C. Information on alleged IUU activities, submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Rec. 21-13

1. On 1 September 2023 (E23-10852), the European Union communicated, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rec. 21-13, the request for the inclusion in the draft ICCAT IUU Vessels List of the vessel *DEMERSAL 9* / IMO. 9576533 / IRCS. D3P5376, currently flagged to Angola with ICCAT SN. AT000AGO00002 but in the "Inactive"- operational status. The EU's reporting form for IUU activity as communicated by the EU and transmitted by ICCAT Circular E23-10365, is included in this document as **Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10** and is being submitted here for review by the PWG.
2. Further to ICCAT Circular S23-10365, Angola submitted its responses to the allegations (**Addendum 4 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**) of the European Union on 19 October 2023 (E23-13285), in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Rec. 21-13 and is being submitted here for review by the PWG.

D. Other changes made intersessionally

1. At the request of the EU, on 13 October 2023 (E23-13015), historical information from the IUU vessel "KIKI/ICCAT IUU SN. 20220008" has also been added to the ICCAT IUU database, including its previous Name, previous IRCS, previous Flag, previous Owner/Operator and address; this information is now displayed on the ICCAT webpage (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

**Additional Information on IUU Vessels
Submitted by Chinese Taipei
5 September 2023**
(Ref. ICCAT Entrada nº E23-11011 of 05/09/2023)

In response to one CPC's request made in COC_306B/2022, and in accordance with paragraph 5 of Rec. 21-13, Chinese Taipei would like to provide updates and additional information on three IUU vessels.

F/V HALELUYA

The Appealing Committee dismissed the appeal lodged by the concerned national.

F/V SAGE

The investigation is concluded. It is confirmed that this vessel was insured by YU CHEN OCEANIC CO. LTD since 2019, a company registered in Chinese Taipei and owned by a Singaporean. Since YU CHEN OCEANIC CO. LTD is a legal person of Chinese Taipei, the Fisheries Agency (TFA) therefore imposed a fine of NTD 8 million (approximately USD 250 thousand) in total on the company in accordance with the Act to Govern Investment in the Operation of Foreign Flag Fishing Vessels. However, it should be noted that the beneficial owner (natural person) of the company/vessel is not a Chinese Taipei's national.

F/V HALIFAX (previous MARIO 11)

Noticing in PWG_405_ADD_1/2022 that the payment towards the acquisition of this vessel was made to banks in Chinese Taipei, the TFA, on the margins of 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting, requested Namibia's assistance in providing the bank accounts details. The TFA confirms the receipt of such information as provided by Namibia in July 2023. This case is now under investigation, and Chinese Taipei will update ICCAT on the result thereof once it is concluded.

Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

Vessels De-listing Certificates: *ISRAR 1*, *ISRAR 2* and *ISRAR 3*

ICCAT IUU vessel "ISRAR 1 / IMO 8004076 / ICCAT IUU NS. 20210006"

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications
& Information Technology
Directorate General of Maritime Affairs

سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية

CANCELLATION CERTIFICATE شهادة شطب
Vessel Particulars

Call Sign		A4BB5		IMO Number		8004076	
Type		التوع		Vessel's Name		اسم السفينة	
Fishing Vessel				ISRAR 1			
Previous Registry		التسجيل السابق		Registry		التسجيل الحالي	
اسم الميناء	التاريخ	الرقم	اسم الميناء	التاريخ	الرقم		
Port Name	Date	Number	Port Name	Date	Number		
-		-	ميناء السلطان قابوس	25/10/2020	P.S.Q V 1263		
Tonnage (طن)		الحمولة (طن)		Dimensions(METER) الأبعاد(متر)			
الحمولة الصافية(طن)	الحمولة الكلية(طن)	العمق(م)	العرض(م)	الطول(م)			
Net Tonnage (Ton)	Gross Tonnage (Ton)	Depth(m)	Breadth(m)	Length(m)			
160	536	3.60	8.60	44.80			
Hull Construction		البناء		مكان البناء		بيانات المحركات	
Material		تاريخ البناء		Place of Construction			
Steel		1997		INDONESIA			
Engines Details		القوة(حصان)		الصنع		بيانات المحركات	
نوع الرافعات	الطراز	Power(HP)	Manufacture	الرقم	العدد	النوع	
Propulsion	Model			S.Number	Number	Type	
Diesel	-	1100PS	INDONESIA		ONE	HANSHIN	
Captain's Name		SUN HONGXIN		اسم القبطان			
Cause of Cancellation				أسباب الإلغاء			
Owner's details		بيانات المالك					
Telephone رقم الهاتف	Address العنوان	Share الحصة	Name of Owner الاسم				
99339595	MUSCAT	100	ALMURAN INTERNATIONAL LLC				

تشهد المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية اعتباراً من تاريخ 17/07/2022
بوزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في سلطنة عمان بان الوحدة المذكورة أعلاه قد تم شطبها من السجلات

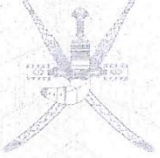



Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) certify that the
above vessel is cancelled from the registrations starting from 17/07/2022

صدرت هذه الشهادة بناء على طلب من المالك لتقديمها إلى من يهمه الأمر

This certificate is issued upon request from the owner to be submitted to who it may concern

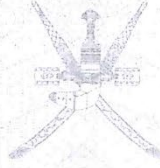
Director General Of Maritime Affairs Director of Maritime Transport

ICCAT IUU vessel "ISRAR 2 / IMO 8568694 / ICCAT IUU NS. 20210007"

<p>Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Transport, Communications & Information Technology Directorate General of Maritime Affairs</p>				<p>سلطنة عُمان وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية</p>	
<p>CANCELLATION CERTIFICATE شهادة شطب Vessel Particulars</p>					
Call Sign		A4BA3		IMO Number	
				8568694	
Type		النوع		Vessel's Name	
Fishing Vessel				اسم السفينة	
				ISRAR 2	
Previous Registry		التسجيل السابق		Registry	
اسم الميناء		التاريخ		اسم الميناء	
Port Name		Date		Port Name	
-		-		PSQ ميناء السلطان قابوس	
				25/10/2020	
				P.S.Q V 1265	
Tonnage (طن) الحمولة			Dimenstions(METER) الأبعاد(متر)		
الحمولة الصافية(طن)		الحمولة الكلية(طن)		العمق(م)	
Net Tonnage (Ton)		Gross Tonnage (Ton)		Depth(m)	
42		87		2.00	
				العرض(م)	
				Breadth(m)	
				5.40	
				الطول(م)	
				Length(m)	
				23.80	
Hull Construction				البدن	
مادة البناء		تاريخ البناء		مكان البناء	
Material		Date of Construction		Place of Construction	
Fiberglass		2002		TAIWAN	
Engines Details				بيانات المحركات	
نوع الرافعات		الطراز		الرقم	
Propulsion		Model		S.Number	
Diesel		ديزل		عدد	
		القوة(حصان)		Number	
		Power(HP)		ONE	
		760		النوع	
		TAIWAN		Type	
				YANMAR	
Captain's Name		DENG SHANGZHONG		اسم القبطان	
Cause of Cancellation				أسباب الإلغاء	
Owner's details				بيانات المالك	
Telephone رقم الهاتف		Address العنوان		Share الحصة	
99339595		مسقط		100	
				Name of Owner الاسم	
				ALMURAN INTERNATIONAL LLC	
<p>تشهد المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية اعتباراً من تاريخ 26/07/2022، بوزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في سلطنة عمان بأن الوحدة المذكورة أعلاه قد تم شطبها من السجلات Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) certify that the above vessel is cancelled from the registrations starting from 26/07/2022 صدرت هذه الشهادة بناء على طلب من المالك لتقديمها إلى من يهمه الأمر This certificate is issued upon request from the owner to be submitted to who it may concern</p>					
					
<p>Director General Of Maritime Affairs</p>		<p>Director of Maritime Transport</p>		<p>Director of Maritime Transport</p>	

ICCAT IUU vessel "ISRAR 3 / IMO 8568682 / ICCAT IUU NS. 20210008"

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications
& Information Technology
Directorate General of Maritime Affairs



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية

شهادة شطب
CANCELLATION CERTIFICATE
Vessel Particulars

Call Sign	A4BA5		IMO Number	8568682		
Type	النوع		Vessel's Name	اسم السفينة		
Fishing Vessel			ISRAR 3			
Previous Registry	التسجيل السابق		Registry	التسجيل الحالي		
اسم الميناء Port Name	التاريخ Date	الرقم Number	اسم الميناء Port Name	التاريخ Date	الرقم Number	
-		-	ميناء السلطان قابوس PSQ	25/10/2020	P.S.Q V 1264	

Tonnage (طن) الحمولة

الأبعاد (متر) (METER) Dimenstions

الحمولة الصافية (طن) Net Tonnage (Ton)	الحمولة الكلية (طن) Gross Tonnage (Ton)	العمق (م) Depth(m)	العرض (م) Breadth(m)	الطول (م) Length(m)
42	87	2.00	5.40	23.80

Hull Construction

البدن

مادة البناء Material	تاريخ البناء Date of Construction	مكان البناء Place of Construction
Fiberglass	2002	TAIWAN

Engines Details

بيانات المحركات

نوع الرافعات Propulsion	الطراز Model	القوة (حصان) Power(HP)	الصنع Manufacture	الرقم S.Number	العدد Number	النوع Type
ديزل Diesel	-	760	TAIWAN		ONE	YANMAR

Captain's Name	LI CHANGWEN	اسم القبطان
Cause of Cancellation	*	أسباب الإلغاء

Owner's details

بيانات المالك

رقم الهاتف Telephone	العنوان Address	الحصة Share	الاسم Name of Owner
99339595	MUSCAT	100	ALMURAN INTERNATIONAL LLC

تشهد المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية اعتباراً من تاريخ 26/07/2022،

بوزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في سلطنة عمان بأن الوحدة المذكورة أعلاه قد تم شطبها من السجلات

Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) certify that the above vessel is cancelled from the registrations starting from 26/07/2022

صدرت هذه الشهادة بناء على طلب من المالك لتقديمها إلى من يهمه الأمر

This certificate is issued upon request from the owner to be submitted to who it may concern




Director General Of Maritime Affairs

Director of Maritime Transport

Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

EU's reporting form for IUU activity
1 September 2023
 (Ref. ICCAT Entrada nº E23-10852 of 01/09/2023)

 Ref. Ares(2023)5947449 - 01/09/2023

ICCAT reporting form for IUU

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Recommendation 21-13, attached are the details of the alleged IUU activity and available vessel information.

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	Current name: DEMERSAL 9 Previous name: N/A
B	Flag and previous flags	Current flag: Angola Previous flag: N/A
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	Owner: FADEPA according to information retrieved on the ICCAT website
D	Owner's place of registration	Luanda, Angola
E	Operator and previous operators	Operator: ORGANICZACOES ALCO according to information retrieved on the ICCAT website
F	Call sign and previous call signs	D3P5376
G	IMO number	9576533
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	MMSI: 603100154 ICCAT Serial Number: AT000AGO00002
I	Length overall	33, 6 meters according to information retrieved on the ICCAT website
J	Photographs	Should be available from the current Flag State

K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	N/A
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	Years 2022 and 2023
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	ICCAT Convention Area
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	<p>From March 2022 to January 2023: Harvested tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area while Angola was under a general prohibition to retain ICCAT species on board.</p> <p>Overshot Angola's quotas of Southern Swordfish allocated for the year 2022.</p> <p>From May 2023: Harvested tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area and is not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area.</p>
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	The EU is not aware of any measures taken by Angola. At the date of this communication, the vessel was still operating in the ICCAT Convention area.
P	Outcome of any actions taken	N/A
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, modus operandi, etc.)	N/A

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

<i>Rec. 21-13 para. 1</i>	<i>Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:</i>	<i>Indicate and provide details</i>
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention	X
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship with, or participate in other joint operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/ or infringes on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels	
i	Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	X

Summary of the activities

1) *Activities from March 2022 to January 2023*

Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 11-15, Angola was under a prohibition to retain any ICCAT species from 1 January 2022 to 7 March 2023.

According to information gathered by the EU, from March 2022 to 5 January 2023, the Angolan-flagged vessel *DEMERSAL 9* caught in the ICCAT Convention area and subsequently exported to the EU swordfish, yellowfin tuna, marlin, shortfin mako and blue shark.

Vessel *DEMERSAL 9* exported to the EU a total quantity of 134.6 tons of swordfish⁴. According to the EU catch certificates⁵ and ICCAT statistical documents (SD) validated by the competent authorities of Angola, the fishing area of the vessel was FAO 47, and therefore the catches are Southern SWO (S-SWO). However, the vessel *DEMERSAL 9* was not in the list of vessels authorised to fish for S-SWO (in contravention with Recommendation 17-03). In addition, in 2022 the annual quota of S-SWO allocated to Angola pursuant to Recommendation 21-03 was 100 tons. The vessel has consequently overshoot Angola's annual quota of S-SWO, and this overshoot was endorsed by the Angolan authorities who validated the ICCAT SDs associated to all these consignments.

2) *Activities from May 2023*

Since 4th May 2023, the vessel *DEMERSAL 9* is actively operating in the ICCAT Convention area, despite not being on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels, in contravention with Recommendation 21-14. The EU has informed the ICCAT Secretariat of this situation (vessels tracks have been shared with the ICCAT Secretariat on 17 May, and further exchanges took place in June). Angola has also been informed by the Secretariat; however, the EU notes that to date⁶, no remedial action has been taken and the vessel is still not included in the ICCAT record of authorised vessels.

⁴ Live weight equivalent calculated on the basis of the dressed weight mentioned in the ICCAT Swordfish statistical documents validated by Angola.

⁵ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

⁶ 31 August 2023.

Addendum 4 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

ICCAT – ENTRADA
2023-10-19
E23-13285

From: Victor Chilamba <victorpescas15@gmail.com>
Sent: 19 October 2023; 09:39
To: info <info@iccat.int>; Carlos Mayor <carlos.mayor@iccat.int>; Camille Manel <camille.manel@iccat.int>
Subject: Submission of additional information following EU allegations concerning the Angolan flagged FV Demersal 9

Dear ICCAT Secretariat,

Following the EU Allegations about the Angolan-flagged FV DEMERSAL 9, we address the following:

The Angolan Fishing Authority, as a Contracting Part (CP) of ICCAT has obligations to comply with the commission's regulations and recommendations.

Following the suspension of Angola by ICCAT from harvesting ICCAT species, early in February-March, 2023, that resulted in denied access of the fish caught by the Angolan flagged vessel, that was supposed to be exported to Spain, but unfortunately it was confiscated at Port of Leixoes in Portugal, causing serious financial implications to the vessel owner;

Angola took the necessary action, immediately requested assistance from the ICCAT statistics department through the secretariat: we got instructions to complete previous years (2020, 2021, 2022) task 1 on nominal catch data and fleet characteristics.

Upon submission of the requested information, early in March, we got the notification that liberated the suspension of Angola from catching ICCAT species and further recommendations based on the guidelines for submitting data and information requested by the commission, that we also appreciated the effort and availability of the stuff;

Under Task 1, completed in February/March we were requested and instructed to complete the following data sheet:

- On the nominal catch data sheet, we provided data of small tropical tuna species caught by artisanal fishers using hand line methods;
- Small tuna and like species caught as bycatch in purse seine and trawl fishing operation and lastly
- Tuna and tuna like species caught by the Angolan longliner
- On the second data sheet, we provided information about vessel characteristics and registration data of demersal 9 FV.

After submitting this set of information (supported by ICCAT Circular of March 13) and of course further recommendations as far as reporting is concerned, we assumed everything was in place in order to get the vessel back to the fishery. The suspension and consequently the situation we went through in February-March was an alarming and unpleasant situation to our fisheries management as far as ICCAT species are concerned. For that matter, we would not take any risk in terms of non-compliance.

From that date, we have been trying to put extra effort to improve the situation, this is why we requested the secretariat for 2-3 working sessions, and the last one happened in September this year. We understand extra efforts have to be made.

But it has not been that easy:

- remember we live in a developing country and a very complex fisheries management system (species diversity, fleet diversity and human dimension);
- our management systems are not that strong in terms of qualified human resources;
- we are very few and do almost everything: days on the field, remote areas with no internet access, for data collection, surveys and community awareness rising. We directors have to do it when it comes to management, unlike developed countries fisheries management systems have a specialized working group for small pelagic, specialized working group for demersal fin fish, specialized group for crustaceans, for tuna etc.

This brings us to the issue of lack of efficient communication and the (other) new situation of *Demersal 9* vessel fish import rejection at Port of Leixoes in Portugal, after the EU report of 1 September claiming IUU.

Following our email conversations, with ICCAT secretariat and the Portuguese Fisheries Authority, we were informed that the main causes for this fish import rejection is based on the vessel registration under ICCAT and species name and probably quantities are not according to the catch certificate.

1. For the vessel registry, last month the secretariat resent an email stating that the has not been follow ups of the vessel registry following its deactivation. As stated before, after filling the vessel characteristic data sheet, providing relevant data of the referred vessel (having this registry paper in our file), we were sure the registration issue was sorted.
2. After all we went through from February, Angola would not take that risk to allow the vessel to fish; if we knew the next steps we would definitely do the follow up and registry accordingly. It was not a matter of negligence at all, we did not see the follow up emails at all. That could have been responded to as instructed.
3. We once again bring the issue of communication. The secretariat proved that follow up emails were sent, but for some reason (might be associated with internet access or any other beyond our control) we did not access; this is why we bring the 3rd point on improving communication.
4. If over the year we took time to request technical assistance from the secretariat, we assure that the vessel registry would be priority. For that matter, we appeal to the common sense of the secretariat to please consider this information.
5. The issue of the species name that may have been declared incorrectly, we will let the Portuguese authority do their job as far as species identification/DNA is concerned, following the meeting we had with the General Director of DGRM on October 18 in Lisbon.
6. We would like to guarantee that after March 2023, the vessel was operating under the control of the Ministry of Fisheries with the observations measures applied.

As a CP, we reiterate our commitment to continue working closely with the commission so that we get on track as far as data reporting is concerned. Following our email last week, sent by Mrs Patricia, we come all the way from Luanda, Angola, by guidance of the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Mrs Carmen dos Santos, to address issues on

1. Have a clear understanding of the guidelines for submitting data and information requested by ICCAT, so that, at our level, data collection and analysis is done properly and reports are submitted in the right format at the right time;
2. Addressing the issue of the only Angolan-flagged fishing vessel, named DEMERSAL 9, licensed to fish under ICCAT regulations;
3. Setting up an effective communication system and providing us with capacity building whenever possible.

We would like to remind you of the message delivered by our Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister, when the Commission met in Vale do Lobo, Algarve, Portugal in November last year. She emphasized the fact that over the past 5 years, from 2019, there were many changes in the fisheries management board, displacing senior staff; to some extent, we lost track of some management issues including reporting of tuna and tuna like species according to ICCAT recommendations.

Best regards,
Victor Chilamba

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Report for Biennial Period, 2016-2017, Part I,	2017. (Vols. 1-4).
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For more information and a complete list of ICCAT publications, please see www.iccat.int

It is suggested that this report be cited in either of the following manners: ICCAT, 2024. Report for Biennial Period, 2022-23, Part II, Vol. 1,pp.; or (Author), (Title of paper). In ICCAT, 2024, Report for Biennial Period, 2022-23, Part II, Vol. 1, (pages).