

Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2
(hybrid, Madrid and online, 7-10 March 2023)

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan). The Chair expressed his sympathy for the people of Türkiye and Syria after the devastating earthquake in this region. Panel 2 held a 30 second silence. Many other CPCs expressed their sympathy and condolences in their opening statements.

2. Nomination of Rapporteur

Ms. Scarlett Milner-Stopps (UK) was appointed as the rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda

Several CPCs intervened to check all papers would be included under relevant items. Although the European Union (EU) initially asked for a change in the order of agenda items, this was later reversed. The agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1**).

Appendix 2 includes a list of delegates from each participating CPC as well as observers.

4. Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for 2023 presented by CPCs

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

Agenda items 4 and 5 were discussed together by Panel 2. The Chair asked that the presentation of fishing plans by CPCs focus primarily on the differences between last year's plan and this year's.

The endorsed plans are included in **Appendix 3**.

Albania

Albania introduced their fishing plan which is based on a quota of 264 t. No carryover was requested. All bluefin tuna quota is used for farming in bluefin tuna farms. Last year, Albania started a pilot phase of using electronic monitoring in 3 vessels, which they are hoping to implement in all fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 m in length. Albania highlighted that they have an input capacity of 700 t. Considering the size of the farm and the number of cages, the farm competent authority will cover 100% of the number of cages in its random control, above the ICCAT requirement of at least 10%. Albania summarised that this fishing plan broadly resembles last year's.

There was no comments or questions on Albania's fishing plan. Albania's fishing plan was endorsed.

Algeria

Algeria introduced their fishing plan, which is based on a quota of 2023 t of bluefin tuna for 2023. No carryover was requested. This quota will be split between Algerian purse seiners with a range of 22-40 m and will be used for raising and farming. Algeria summarised that otherwise there were no other changes from last year's fishing plan.

The EU asked for clarification on the length of Algerian purse seiners, and Algeria confirmed that the range is 22-40 m and that a 22 m vessel is included in the plan submitted. The USA suggested a revision to section 1 to fit with the format of the revised template, by adding in subheadings 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d. The USA also highlighted that Algeria had not included the competent authorities and points of contact for monitoring and enforcement in section 4a. The Chair clarified that the Secretariat had reminded all CPCs to ensure they were using the newest template and asked Algeria to resubmit.

The revised fishing plan was presented to the Panel. After an administrative error was corrected in the translated version, Algeria's revised fishing plan was endorsed.

China (Rep.)

China summarised that their 2023 fishing plan is almost the same as their previous plan. China has 2 longline vessels for bluefin tuna which fish from September until the end of the year, or whenever the quota is exhausted. This quota is divided evenly by the 2 vessels, with 0.5 t for bycatch. China requested to carryover 5.1 t of their annual quota. China's vessels intend to conduct transshipment activities in Senegal, Cabo Verde, and Spain. In response to the EU's question on the possibility of bycatch by other fishing vessels, China clarified that they only have longline vessels and the vessels other than the two bluefin tuna fishing vessels mainly fish in the tropical fishing ground, far away from the bluefin tuna fishing ground, so there has been no bycatch in recent years. China also highlighted that longline fishing activity is relatively easy to control by adjusting hooks and lines. China's ratio between quota amount and bycatch is 0.43%, which is a common figure among tropical longline CPCs.

The Chair of Panel 2 asked that China specify their actual catch in the 2022 fishing season, then carry over 5% of their 102 t quota from 2022. The Secretariat asked that China submit their responses to the EU's questions in writing. The USA highlighted that China had also left out the control competent authority contact details and asked that they amend section 1 of the fishing plan.

China incorporated these changes into a revised fishing plan. This plan showed that the actual total catch in 2022 was nearly 73 t, meaning an underharvest of almost 30 t. China's revised plan was endorsed.

Egypt

Egypt introduced their 2023 fishing plan, which is based on a quota of 513 t. Egypt had set aside 1% for bycatch, meaning their adjusted quota is 507.87 t. All Egyptian vessels are purse seiners, and a VMS system is fitted on all vessels, which transmit on an hourly basis. The authorised list of vessels will be sent to ICCAT before the start of the fishing season. Egypt had highlighted the competent authority in their plan. The fishing season will run from 26 May – 1 July 2023. In the event of non-compliance, a vessel will be prohibited from fishing for bluefin tuna the following year and if there is repeated non-compliance, the vessel will be banned. No carryover was requested. For 2023, Egyptian vessels will have full inspection coverage by agency inspectors, including for transfer, caging, and other activities. Egypt will conduct research to know about tuna bycatch in the Mediterranean coast and make management decisions on bycatch.

Following Japan's comment, Egypt had resubmitted their fishing plan with the latest format. Egypt responded to comments from the EU, stating that the longline vessel consultation would be finished before the start of the season, likely within 1 month, at which point they would resubmit the full list of vessels.

The Chair clarified that Egypt were not requesting any carryover. The EU welcomed the data collection programme and asked about the timeline for sharing this with the SCRS. Egypt stated that the study will be conducted within the next 5 months and the result should be in Egypt's annual report. The USA asked for the subheadings in section 1 to be included and for an incorrect reference to [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 \(Rec. 21-08\)](#) to be amended 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 \(Rec. 22-08\)](#). These changes were incorporated in the revised version of Egypt's fishing plan. Egypt's fishing plan was endorsed.

European Union

The EU introduced their fishing plan, which is very similar to last year's. The EU has increased fishing capacity in line with increased EU fishing opportunities in [Recommendation 22-08](#), with a quota of 21,503 t. In 2021, the EU's underharvest was 247.93 t, which is less than the maximum 5% allowed. The EU requested to carry over this amount, with exact quantities communicated later. The EU authorised an additional 279 vessels compared to 2022, one of which is a purse seine vessel whilst the other 278 are artisanal, handline, and small longline vessels. EU vessels have a season of between 1 and 4 months. The EU highlighted that each member State has responsibility for monitoring its fleet. The EU reserved 150 t for recreational fishing and 620 t for bycatch. Bycatch in previous years was 450-480 t. EU purse seiners have 100% regional observer coverage.

Catch, tag and release activity will continue in 2023 from mid-June until mid-November. 18 bluefin tuna farms are active in 2023 and the EU will conduct a minimum of 306 days of control and inspection activities at sea and 47 inspection flights.

The Chair and Japan highlighted some incorrect figures in the capacity table on page 2 and the bycatch table on page 6. The USA asked that the EU include the same bycatch footnote as the previous year's plan. These changes were incorporated into a revised version, along with a change to a farming facility to show that the farm La Favorita is active.

There was some confusion over whether the figures of the quota carryover should align to the figures included in the COC tables (COC 304 Annex 1 - Over/Under harvest) approved in the preceding year, notably with the adjusted catch limits for each year taking into account the CPCs' past catch levels. The Chair clarified that, in accordance with paragraph 6 of [Recommendation 22-08](#), CPCs can request a transfer of quota from *the previous year* to the following year, and in this case the following year is 2023 so the transfer is from 2022, not 2021. The Chair also confirmed that the 2023 meeting of the Compliance Committee will validate the figures from 2022, not 2021. If the Compliance Committee change the tentative figure from 2022 then an adjustment will be needed. The Chair of Panel 2 confirmed that the figures from the previous year's Compliance Committee meeting cannot be used to calculate a carryover.

The Chair highlighted that the carryover is different for different ICCAT species, for example, both tropical tunas and swordfish have a 2-year lag (i.e. figures from 2021 would be used for 2023) but for bluefin tuna it should be the previous year. Other CPCs confirmed that their interpretation agreed with that of the Chair of Panel 2.

The EU submitted a further revised version of their fishing plan. This revised plan was endorsed.

Iceland

Iceland introduced their fishing plan, which is based on a quota of 224 t. No carryover was requested. Icelandic fishing is conducted by longline vessels in the North Atlantic, with no farming or purse seiners. All catches are for landing purposes. Iceland expects up to 3 vessels to participate, in a season from 1 August until the end of the year. Vessels fish north of the 42nd degree, in line with the relevant recommendation. All monitoring and control, and transmission and reporting, is in line with Icelandic regulations.

The Chair pointed out that the Secretariat should be informed about the individual quota given to each longliner at least 15 days before the start of the fishing season and that Iceland include a line to confirm this in their report. Iceland explained that there could be up to 3 vessels fishing, but this depends on applications for permits. Once this is decided, the individual quota for each vessel will be amended. Iceland revised the appropriate paragraphs to reflect this.

The USA asked that Iceland use the new template and add in a footnote in the capacity table explaining the calculation for the quota amount. Norway asked that Iceland add in competent authorities and contact points in section 4a.

Following a comment by the EU regarding Icelandic bycatch levels, in the revised version Iceland increased their bycatch allowance to around 5% of their total quota. This new bycatch level would accommodate the potential that 2023 is a year with high bycatch levels.

All suggested changes were incorporated into the fishing plan. Iceland's fishing plan was endorsed.

Japan

Japan summarised that the plan is almost the same as the previous year's, except for the quota amount. Japan requested to transfer their unused quota from 2022, which was 4.05% at 170.98 t. Their overall quota is therefore 3216.98 t, with 14 t for dead discards and a bycatch quota of 1 t. Japan had included 40 vessels provisionally but will revise and resubmit the plan to the Secretariat when the number is confirmed. Japan will dispatch observers to longline distant vessels and ensure 20% observer coverage across their vessels subject to the COVID-19 situation. Several vessels are also installing EMS on a trial basis.

Following the suggestion of the USA, Japan included contact points in a revised version. Japan's revised fishing plan was endorsed.

Korea (Rep.)

Korea (Rep.) introduced their fishing plan, which is based on a quota of 278.724 t. Korea's initial quota is 221 t, plus a 50 t transfer from Chinese Taipei following paragraph 1b of [Recommendation 22-08](#). Korea (Rep.) requested to carryover 7.724 t, which is less than 5% of their total quota. Korea (Rep.) only uses longline for bluefin tuna and there will be no more than 4 longline vessels. The fishing season runs from 1 September – 30 November and their observer coverage is more than 20%. Korea (Rep.) summarised that there were no other changes from last year's fishing plan.

Responding to comments from Japan and the EU around bycatch, Korea (Rep.) stated that they have no other catching vessels fishing in the temperate zone so there is virtually zero possibility of bycatch of bluefin tuna, and therefore their bycatch allowance is 0.5 t.

The Chair highlighted an error in the capacity table figures. The USA highlighted that Korea (Rep.) had not included competent authorities in section 4a.

Korea (Rep.) submitted a revised version, and this fishing plan was endorsed.

Libya

Libya summarised that the only difference from the previous year's plan was the addition of Decree #35/2023, which adopted ICCAT [Recommendation 22-08](#). Libya also increased their quota in line with [Rec. 22-08](#).

Japan asked for clarification regarding a statement in Libya's plan that Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) with vessels of other CPCs are envisaged for 2023, highlighting that JFOs between purse seine vessels from different CPCs are prohibited, with some exception ([Rec. 22-08](#), para 73). Libya amended the plan accordingly to clarify that JFOs with vessels of other CPCs are possible for 2023 with CPCs that have less than five authorized purse seines in accordance with [Rec. 22-08](#), para 73.

The USA highlighted that the competent authorities in section 4a were missing. Libya added this information, and the revised fishing plan was endorsed.

Morocco

Morocco introduced their fishing plan, which is very similar to the previous year's. Morocco requested a carryover of 3 t, which is 0.09% of their overall quota from 2022. Morocco's 2023 quota is 3703 t. Morocco indicated the destinations of the catches: catches from traps are sent for fattening at authorised bluefin tuna farms, purse seine catches are exported or sent to farms, and artisanal catches are exported.

In response to comments from the EU on the number of vessels, Morocco clarified that they have 4 purse seiners, 3 of which will be operating in Joint Fisheries Operations (JFOs). 1 purse seiner has a JFO with Malta from 26 May – 1 July, another has a JFO with Türkiye from 15 May – 30 July, and another has a JFO with Tunisia from 15 May – 1 July. The fourth purse seiners will operate in Moroccan waters from 1 – 15 June. There were no changes to Morocco's farming capacity from the previous year. Morocco also clarified that regional observers are involved with farming as per [Rec. 22-08](#).

Morocco highlighted that in 2023, they plan to finish their growth study research on fattened bluefin tuna, based on the results from stereoscopic cameras, size sampling on caging, and at the end of the farming and fattening season. Phase 2 of the pilot study, started in 2022, will continue and is looking at size and growth measures using automated means such as artificial intelligence, to establish the accuracy of manual vs automated systems. This is financed through the ICCAT/JCAP project.

Tunisia clarified that the Tunisian fishing season starts on the 26 May rather than 15 May, and Morocco confirmed it would follow the same fishing season for this purse seiner which will operate a JFO with Tunisia. The USA queried the bycatch description in Morocco's plan, and Morocco explained that 500 t is

reserved for bycatch from small vessels, plus 24 t for discards of bluefin tuna. The Chair asked that this was specified in section 1d part 4 and in the capacity table, and that Morocco show how they calculated the figures. The EU asked that the fishing season dates be added into the revised version.

Morocco revised its plan based on these changes. The revised fishing plan was endorsed.

Norway

Norway introduced their fishing plan, which they had revised based on comments by the EU and Japan and to which they had added two reports for further information about the short-term live storage project. Norway's fishing plan is based on a quota of 368 t for 2023, as Norway utilised 124 t of their 315 t from 2022, and requested to carryover 15 t from the 2022 quota for 2023. The adjusted quota is 383 t.

Norway allocated 300 t for purse seiners, 40 t for small-scale coastal vessels, 8 t for recreational, 2 t for catch and release, 15 t for bycatch, and 18 t for research, to be used by 1 vessel for the scientific pilot study of short-term live storage of bluefin tuna. Norway clarified in relation to Japan's comment that all activity carried out with the pilot study will have 100% observer coverage. In relation to the EU's comment, Norway clarified that short-term live storage is different from farming as the caged fish are not fed. However, they are looking to add it into the eBCD system in case this bluefin tuna is commercialised.

Norway highlighted that they were the only CPC to estimate catch rates following an SCRS request. The EU suggested that the SCRS further develop these figures to be applicable to Norway and Iceland in their EEZs.

The Chair asked that the short-term live storage be specified in the destination and catch and that the wording of the transshipment paragraph be revised to clarify that no transfer can be made at sea. Norway also added the competent authorities to the revised version of the plan. Norway's revised fishing plan was endorsed.

Syria

Syria was unable to attend the meeting online. The Chair asked that Syria clarify that they were requesting their fishing season to start from 15 May rather than 26 May. The EU asked for clarification on whether the farmed bluefin tuna would be exported. The USA asked that competent authorities were included.

Syria incorporated some but not all changes in the revised plan. Syria could not be contacted for further revisions so it was agreed the fishing plan would be adopted via correspondence. After the meeting, Syria submitted its revised plan and it was endorsed by Panel 2.

Tunisia

Tunisia introduced their fishing plan, which is based on a quota for 2023 of 3000 t. Tunisia requested a carryover of 20 t, to reflect their underharvest of 20 t in 2022. The adjusted quota is 3020 t. 99% of Tunisia's quota is distributed to purse seiners, with 1% for bycatch, in line with previous years. There were no changes to the authorisation, inspection, or monitoring from previous years. No Tunisian farm is planning any carryovers from 2022.

Responding to a comment from Japan, Tunisia added in details of the competent authorities. Responding to comments by the EU, whereby the EU requested a clarification about the 45% increase in the purse seiner vessels number, whereas ICCAT [Rec. 22-08](#), para 16, sets 20% maximum increase of purse seiners as compared to the 2018 vessel number, and drew Tunisia's attention to the 10% benchmark which is something that should be achieved only in relation to the number of cages and not to the quantities caged, Tunisia explained that as a developing CPC, they could grow their fishing capacity to make full use of the quota, and that they would clarify in the revised version that the 10% random controls was based on the number of cages in each farm.

An administrative error regarding Tunisia's figures for under- and over-capacity was clarified. Responding to the USA, Tunisia explained that the transposition of the observer rules into domestic law was in the pipeline.

Tunisia presented their revised fishing plan. The EU asked that in future, Tunisia ensure the relevant legal provisions are followed in increasing the number of vessels. The EU also invited Panel 2 to keep track of the number of vessels and application of the ICCAT regulations in future. A further administrative error on the numbering of the plan was corrected. Tunisia's fishing plan was endorsed.

Türkiye

Türkiye thanked the other delegations for their sincere condolences, thoughts, and prayers. Türkiye introduced their fishing plan, which is broadly similar to the previous year's. Türkiye's plan is based on a 2600 t catch limit, allocated amongst a maximum of 30 purse seiners and 55 other bluefin tuna vessels. 2550 t is for farming purposes, with 10 t for bycatch and 13 t for artisanal, sport, and recreational fishing. Türkiye's fishing season for the eastern Mediterranean is 15 May – 1 July, and 26 May – 1 July for the high seas. Following a comment by the Chair, Türkiye clarified that their request for carryover is 48.3 t.

The Chair of Panel 2 requested that Türkiye specify the actual catch amount and underage amounts in 2022 and adjust the capacity table following the updated carryover request. The USA asked that Türkiye include the calculation for carryover and underharvest in a footnote. These changes are included in the revised fishing plan. Türkiye's plan was endorsed.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) clarified their intention to carryover 5% (2.42 t) of their unused 2022 quota, meaning an adjusted quota of 65.42 t. The UK's 2023 fishing plan is largely the same as the previous year's plan, with one new key addition. The UK has a continued limited bycatch allowance and will continue with its successful 'catch and release tagging' project.

The new element for 2023 is a small trial commercial fishery. Up to 10 vessels under 15 m length will participate in the trial fishery, using rods and reels with lures to ensure a high degree of selectivity, minimise the bycatch risk and ensure a high degree of survivability for any undersize tuna. The UK allocated 15 t for bycatch, 10 t for catch and release tagging, 1 t for any further scientific studies, and 39 t for the commercial trial.

In response to questions by the EU, the UK clarified that they have a stringent process of inspections to ensure tuna caught in excess of their quota will not enter the market, including the requirement that all bluefin tuna is reported prior to landing, some at-sea inspections, and the inspection of all bluefin tuna landings in port. Any catches in excess of quota will be confiscated upon landing. Although the UK had considered a derogation from the landing obligation, the landing obligation enables the collection of data to understand the presence of the species in UK waters.

Responding to the EU's question about the scientific use of landed tunas, the UK explained that they are mainly focused on data collection, with two tiers of sampling covering both those which do not require scientific expertise (such as the size and condition of fish) and scientific sampling (such as tissue sampling and otolith aging). The UK does not have detailed survivability data on gears except rod and reel used in the CHART programme, however, they have limited their bycatch allowance to gear types where bycaught fish are less likely to survive, such as demersal trawls and seine nets.

The Chair asked that the UK specify the possible maximum mortality from the CHART programme based on the previous mortality figure and subtract that from the total quota. The UK mentioned that the previous mortality was 1.1 t and the same is expected for 2023, so the possible maximum mortality was set at 10 t. The UK clarified that any dead bluefin tuna sent for sampling will be counted against the quota. The USA asked that the UK add the competent authorities. The UK submitted a revised fishing plan with these changes, reducing the bycatch allowance from 15 t to 14 t so that the overall figure is not over-capacity. The UK highlighted that 14 t will be sufficient as bycatch in 2022 was only 2.2 t. The revised fishing plan was endorsed.

Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei introduced their fishing plan, which is the same as the previous year's. Chinese Taipei prohibits vessels from catching eastern bluefin tuna on a voluntary basis. Chinese Taipei mentioned the 50 t transfer to Korea (Rep.) and the Chair clarified this had already been endorsed by Panel 2. After a short discussion on Chinese Taipei's under-capacity figure, the fishing plan was endorsed.

Namibia's bluefin quota

The Chair highlighted that Namibia had not submitted a fishing plan and the Secretariat clarified that they had sent a reminder but had not received a response. The Chair summarised that unfortunately without a fishing plan, Namibia cannot conduct any fishing for bluefin tuna in 2023 in accordance with paragraph 11 of [Rec. 22-08](#). Panel 2 agreed with this decision. The Chair later informed the meeting that he had already sent a letter to inform Namibia of this outcome.

Cabo Verde's Nortuna Project

The Chair introduced Cabo Verde's short letter, which describes Cabo Verde's Nortuna Project. This is a private project, funded with capital from Norway and Cabo Verde, where imported eggs from Malta and Spain will undergo a land-based incubation process before being transported to sea and caged for a growth and fattening process. The Chair raised concern that Panel 2 does not have a system for managing the harvest of artificially hatched fries so Panel 2 will need to ensure this type of farming is not used for circumventing ICCAT regulations. Egypt has also been planning to implement closed cycle aquaculture for bluefin tuna.

Egypt summarised that they are still constructing infrastructure but hope that the farm will be operational from the beginning of 2024. Morocco stated they had been approached by a Norwegian company for a similar project and wanted more scientific data to better understand it but were still considering it.

Cabo Verde introduced their Nortuna programme, which they had announced to ICCAT in 2018. Cabo Verde explained that the initial results of the plan are intended for export, and the products will hit the market in 2024-2025. They will use a different seal for the product to differentiate it from wild tuna and ensure the necessary traceability is in place. The project will receive eggs from Spain in June and then start the process of hatching. The larvae will be fed for 60 days before being transferred to cages at sea. The plan is for the tuna to reach 15-20 kg in weight over 12-18 months. Cabo Verde stated their intention to join Panel 2 in the future and would provide farming plans once joined. The project will be based in Cabo Verde and the intention is to put Cabo Verde on the map in this area to bring jobs, improve the economy, and show Cabo Verde is capable of this form of international cooperation and advancement.

The Chair of Panel 2 noted that Cabo Verde is already a member of Panel 2.

The USA asked whether the eggs for these projects will be taken from wild fish. Egypt stated that they think it will be artificially produced eggs. Cabo Verde stated they thought the eggs are artificially produced and would check with the producers, but all eggs come from accredited sources in Malta and Spain. Morocco stated they thought wild eggs were used in these projects.

The USA asked whether CPCs implementing these projects are looking into using genetic or physical markings on this fish to make tracking aquacultured bluefin tuna easier, including if they escape from the pen where they may mix with wild fish. She noted that this is a common occurrence in production of salmon that can have negative consequences. Cabo Verde stated they would speak to the company to clarify this point.

The EU asked what will happen with the fish when mature and ready to enter the market, particularly whether it would be eBCD applicable. The Chair agreed that all bluefin tuna in markets will need to be covered by eBCD even if from artificial fries unless the Commission establishes an exemption.

The USA raised several questions about this project and the requirements of eBCD. She noted, for instance, the potential need to track the trade of eggs, which is currently excluded from the BCD program. She also noted the need to use eBCD to track the trade of larger animals to discriminate between those bluefin tuna produced in closed cycle aquaculture operations from bluefin tuna taken from the wild, including for farming purposes. The USA highlighted that 15-20 kg is below the current minimum size for bluefin tuna and noted that the ICCAT would need to consider if the current minimum sizes for wild fish also apply to aquacultured fish. Cabo Verde confirmed that the plan is for the fish to ultimately reach 30-35 kg, with 25-30 kg as the acceptable initial weight, but they could look to increase this to avoid a conflict with ICCAT's bluefin tuna minimum size.

The EU suggested that this topic be discussed at the Panel 2 sessions during the Commission annual meeting after further information is provided. The Chair of Panel 2 agreed and stated that this discussion should include how to avoid possible loopholes in the current bluefin tuna management structure and what changes may be needed to the BCD program to ensure it can cover this type of new product and no loopholes exist. The Chair of Panel 2 advised CPCs implementing these projects to be wary that they may have an additional burden to meet Panel 2's requirements.

The EU asked the SCRS Chair whether the SCRS has looked at this type of activity in the past. The SCRS Chair stated he would need to check with the bluefin tuna rapporteurs but was not aware of it being reviewed at SCRS level.

The Chair of PA2 summarised that as [Rec. 22-08](#) is aimed at conserving wild bluefin tuna, if the Nortuna project does not use any wild bluefin tuna, it would be outside the scope of the recommendation. However, there needs to be a clear way of distinguishing wild bluefin tuna from artificial bluefin tuna. If fish are exported to other countries, Cabo Verde will need to implement eBCD unless there is a specific derogation, which could happen if the fish can be clearly distinguished. Otherwise, Cabo Verde should submit a farming plan, which was expected a year or two ago. The Chair of Panel 2 asked that Cabo Verde provide more detail for Panel 2 prior to the annual meeting. Further, if they want the aquaculture product to be exempt from management and catch and trade tracking requirements, they will need to make a proposal for consideration at the annual meeting.

Japan suggested that the IMM Working Group in June consider the BCD program issues and other potential control measures, so that an agreement can be reached at the annual meeting given when these aquaculture products may reach markets. The Chair and Cabo Verde agreed with this suggestion. The USA highlighted that eBCD developments take time so it should be started sooner rather than later.

6. Discussion on the allocation key for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The Chair of Panel 2 presented his paper "Discussion Paper on Allocation for EBFT", which he intended to generate food for thought. This included reviewing the history of allocation for Eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, highlighting the special treatment received by several CPCs, and clarifying that [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 \(Rec. 14-04\)](#) is the only allocation key which is still in force. However, the Chair highlighted several reasons why [Rec. 14-04](#) might no longer be applicable, including the special treatment of several CPCs and the fact that two CPCs have no allocation key in this measure.

The Chair stated that Panel 2 could create new allocation keys using the current nominal share from the 2022 annual meeting, but most CPCs were unhappy with their share, or start from scratch, which would take a very long time – the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) has been considering the allocation formula for 11 years. Panel 2 could use ad-hoc negotiation to decide shares in a flexible way, but this would take a lot of time whenever the TAC is changed and would be even more cumbersome than establishing new keys. The Chair of Panel 2 mentioned the importance of the [Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities \(Res. 15-13\)](#).

The Chair of Panel 2 suggested three viable options for proceeding:

1. Establish new allocation keys for any future TAC change.

2. Split any new TAC into 2 parts, with the first part allocated along the current shares or keys from [Rec. 14-04](#) and the second part going only to small quota holders, changing the percentage as needed.
3. Split any new TAC into 2 parts, with the first part allocated along the current shares or keys from [Rec. 14-04](#) with necessary adjustments and the second part allocated on the basis of ad-hoc negotiations.

Japan stated they could support either Option 2 or Option 3 of the Chair's paper and supported a gradual transition to a new quota key by repeating the process of changing catch quotas when TAC increases, and reducing them on a pro rata basis when TAC decreases.

The EU stated that they believed, after the annual meeting, that an allocation discussion would not be needed for the next 3 years. The EU considers [Rec. 14-04](#) to be the only legal text on allocation keys and raised concern that some of the allocation factors from [Res. 15-13](#) have already been incorporated into [Rec. 14-04](#) and subsequent recommendations. The Chair responded that [Rec. 14-04](#) contains the only authorised allocation keys but these cannot be applied directly because of the reasons explained. The Chair of Panel 2 also expressed his hesitation to apply a formula to allocation criteria given that it had not worked in ICCAT in the past. The Chair of Panel 2 reiterated that the allocation discussion was necessary because some CPCs had put reservations on adopting [Rec. 22-08](#) given the allocations contained within it.

Norway welcomed the allocation discussion as an opportunity for ICCAT to move towards transparent allocation decisions and emphasised the importance of fair allocations.

The UK highlighted that they only agreed to [Rec. 22-08](#) on the condition that further discussions on allocation would take place. The UK saw the adoption of a Management Procedure (MP) as a pivotal moment for ICCAT in managing this stock. The significant increase in TAC presented an opportunity for changing allocation and increasing the equity for small quota holders and expressed disappointment that this did not happen. The UK paper "Response from UK on the discussion paper on allocation for EBFT" sets out the UK position on the process for allocation and paper "Bluefin tuna in the waters of the United Kingdom and the case for an allocation increase" sets out the case for an increased UK allocation, particularly based on the abundance of bluefin tuna in UK waters and the UK's tagging work. Distribution of the stock and changes in this distribution should be a fundamental principle in allocation discussions, as abundance in waters reflects the need for a larger quota. The UK position is that changes can and should be made during the current management cycle to use the additional 4,500 t wisely and in a more equitable way, whilst also conducting a more thorough evaluation of allocations for the longer term.

The EU expressed concern that the current share represents a decrease in the EU allocation by both applying the 2022 shares and the BFT allocation key in [Rec. 14-04](#); the EU only saw a 10% increase of its 2023 quota, despite the fact that the TAC has been increased by 13%, and most of the CPCs that are coastal States have seen at a minimum an increase of their allocation to the level of the TAC increase (13%), and up to a 55% increase in some cases. The EU had agreed to go down from their allocation key of 59% when the stock was in a bad situation. As EU fishers went through austerity while the stock was recovering, the EU expects that these fishers will gain more back now that the stock is in a better position.

Albania stated that the needs of new CPCs should be considered, for example, Israel, Montenegro and Lebanon have informally expressed their intentions to join ICCAT. Albania highlighted that [Rec. 14-04](#) has been adjusted over time and is no longer applicable given how significantly the situation has changed. Albania could only agree to a discussion on allocation keys which used the shares established in [Rec. 22-08](#) as the initial basis. These shares should then be subject to ad-hoc negotiations.

Morocco expressed surprise that allocations were being discussed following the 2022 annual meeting. Morocco described the decrease they took when the stock was in a poor position and that they only finally returned to 18 trap boats in 2022. They have very small-scale subsistence and artisanal fishers who are in a crisis situation. Morocco considers the 2022 quota distribution to be for 3 years and that if this is revised without Morocco getting an increase in quota then this is not a fair or equitable allocation. The Chair clarified that at the 2022 annual meeting, it was agreed that Panel 2 would spend a whole day on allocation issues and that in the 2022 annual meeting some CPCs had proposed to establish allocation keys to avoid lengthy discussions on negotiations every time the TAC changes. The Chair's paper was intended to start discussion rather than being a proposal. The Chair highlighted that all CPCs decreased their quota when the TAC decreased in the past and this has been compensated over the years.

Egypt supported the establishment of new allocation keys, starting with the current shares. A discussion on allocation keys should consider all small quota holders and use the criteria from [Res. 15-13](#) as a fundamental basis. Egypt wants to increase their fishing capacity to increase economic development, benefit coastal communities, and conduct further research on tuna bycatch.

Algeria highlighted that [Rec. 14-04](#) states that Algeria should have 5% of the quota, and while waiting for this increase, they lost fishing opportunities. Algeria wants Panel 2 to consider CPC rankings before TAC reduction, not only allocation figures, for example, Algeria was third regionally in terms of quota and they are now fifth. The Chair of Panel 2 clarified that ICCAT has already fulfilled the promise of raising Algeria's quota to 5% and this will not be applied again in the future.

The EU raised concern about adding bluefin tuna allocation to ICCAT's busy schedule of discussions and stated they could not agree to opening up the allocation key, although they were open to discussing what an allocation key might look like in the future such as at the end of the current TAC cycle. The EU summarised the key points of their proposal, which starts from [Rec. 14-04](#) and includes factors from [Res. 15-13](#). They raised concern that quota is often allocated to CPCs without the capacity to fish it.

The UK emphasised that the change in TAC following the adoption of the MP gave a 4,570 t increase which could and should have been used for the needs of small quota holders without other CPCs losing out. The UK highlighted that most CPCs are in favour of opening up the allocation key.

Korea (Rep.) presented their paper "Response from Korea on the discussion paper on allocation for EBFT", explaining the flow chart to facilitate discussions by determining what Panel 2 can agree on and taking each step, in turn. Korea (Rep.) believes a new allocation key for eastern bluefin tuna is necessary, as there was not enough time to discuss allocations at the 2022 annual meeting. Korea (Rep.) stated that Panel 2 should adjust the baseline and that they could not support the current share, highlighting that Distant Water Fishing Nations did not get proper consideration in the allocations. The EU used Korea's table to highlight that the average TAC increase for all CPCs was 13% while the EU only increased by 10%.

The EU asked whether scientific studies from the last 10 years support the UK's claims of abundance. The UK pointed out their glossary of papers and that they have undertaken tagging programmes since 2017, prior to which they did not have any quota.

The EU and the Chair of PA2 asked about the process for submitting papers to the SCRS for review. The SCRS Chair clarified that outside of the usual data submissions, the process is that new data are presented in the form of an SCRS document.

A UK scientist responded to the comments by the EU with a presentation on the abundance of bluefin tuna in UK waters. All the recent studies in the Northeast Atlantic have shown bluefin tuna have returned to the area from 2012-2014 onwards. The key study for UK waters is by Horton *et al.* (2021).

The evidence presented by the UK included information from scientific surveys, bycatch of bluefin tuna from the Irish albacore fishery, and various ecotour operators, all of which show a sudden appearance of bluefin tuna around UK waters from 2014 onwards. The sudden resurgence and increasing presence of bluefin tuna from 2014 is also shown by PELTIC, the pelagic ecosystems survey which is undertaken every autumn off the Southwest of the UK by Cefas. Since 2021, the UK has been running the CHART programme ("Catch and Release Tagging") which tagged 704 bluefin tuna in the first year, with a catch rate of about 1.74 fish per trip. Over 1,000 bluefin tuna were caught through this programme in 2022. Ages of these fish were between 3 and 20, showing it is not a transient occurrence. The UK has also been running the Thunnus UK programme since 2018, which uses electronic tags (as per the ICCAT GBYP) to map the migrations of individual bluefin tuna in detail. The data show a wide dispersal of bluefin tuna, and for the bluefin tuna where tags remained for a full year (n=17), most (n=15) returned to UK waters or close by (n=2 returned to Irish waters). Danish and Swedish tagging work has similarly shown these bluefin tuna using UK waters, with a feeding area developing in the North Sea.

Japan stated they could support reopening the allocation key during the current TAC cycle. A newly established allocation key would then be applied for the next TAC cycle from 2026.

Morocco stated that the discussion should not be opened within the current TAC cycle from 2023-2025. They questioned whether the proper precautions have been taken if quota is allocated to different parts of the sector than previously and that the Panel should establish which gear and vessel types are allowed before reopening the discussion. The Chair of Panel 2 highlighted that questions around gear type may not be relevant to allocation keys.

Türkiye introduced their proposal “Response from Türkiye on the discussion paper on allocation for EBFT”, highlighting that they had a high level of historical catches and reduced this drastically for management efforts. They want to follow the criteria originally followed in 1998, using catches from 1993-1994, which have been the most decisive criteria in the current allocation scheme. Türkiye wants to use the shares from [Rec. 22-08](#) and keep them until the end of the current TAC cycle, because Türkiye’s share is comparable to their actual catches in 1993-1994. Türkiye raised concern that other CPCs viewed subsequent agreements after [Rec. 14-04](#) as having less legal value. The Chair of Panel 2 highlighted that Türkiye lodged an objection to the formula in [Rec. 14-04](#) so Türkiye was not bound by this, even though other CPCs were.

Egypt reiterated the need for transparency and fairness for countries in the same region. Egypt wants to ensure stability of the quota and that all CPCs follow the same rules, rather than ad hoc negotiations.

In the following discussion, some CPCs reiterated that they did not think the allocation key should be reopened, whilst others re-emphasised that they only agreed to [Rec. 22-08](#) on the basis of further discussions on allocation.

Tunisia expressed the view that even though the allocation key from [Rec. 14-04](#) is rolled over, that does not mean the legal value is similarly rolled over. Tunisia highlighted that as Panel 2 is discussing allocation keys in terms of percentages that should be applied to whatever TAC is ultimately decided, the Panel does not need to wait until the end of the current TAC cycle to have a view. Tunisia wanted to discuss the principles and decide the allocation keys rather than absolute numbers.

Norway reminded the Panel that they had made a formal objection to the recommendations which were the basis of [Rec. 14-04](#), due to a lack of transparency and the principle that a lack of compliance led to a lack of quota. In 2014, Norway argued that small States should not have to take on the responsibility for the wrongs of the past. Norway’s view was that using [Rec. 14-04](#) does not take Algeria’s situation, spatial changes in the distribution of the stock, or new CPCs into account, whereas [Rec. 22-08](#) is the result of more transparent negotiations.

The Chair of Panel 2 stated his view that since it will be very difficult to reach consensus on allocation, it is better to start these discussions earlier than at the start of the next TAC cycle. Several CPCs agreed with this.

Tunisia suggested that CPCs could define their own needs for allocation of the TAC. These views would be based on hypothetical future TACs and raw figures and the Chair of PA2 could then run an analysis on the overall picture of CPC desires. Türkiye suggested that CPCs who have indicated their needs could discuss together, noting that Türkiye could not do this in person at the moment due to the tragedy. The EU raised concerns that it is not possible to predict what the stock will look like at the end of this TAC cycle and that the TAC could go down significantly. Algeria stated that their focus is on rankings as compared to other countries in the same region.

The Chair of Panel 2 reminded the Panel that any CPCs can submit a paper asking for a debate or proposing something, so consensus on continuing the discussion is not needed. The EU confirmed they do not necessarily want to reopen the allocation key but are open to a discussion on allocation. The Chair of PA2 suggested that further discussion could happen at the 2023 or 2024 annual meeting, but if this is the case then it should be a more organised discussion based on proposals by CPCs.

The Chair of Panel 2 summarised that there is consensus to continue discussion of allocation issues in preparation for a potential recommendation to replace [Rec. 22-08 in 2024 or 2025](#), but no consensus exists to establish new allocation keys at this point. As a way forward, Chair of Panel 2 encouraged CPCs to submit concrete proposals with proposed figures on how to allocate the TAC, which could include hypothetical allocations based on different TAC levels. The Chair of PA2 noted that allocation could be discussed at the 2023 annual meeting, though Panel 2 also has other issues to consider, and Panel 2 could tentatively agree to the possibility of coming back to the issue at the 2024 intersessional meeting on the basis of individual

proposals. The UK reemphasised that they only agreed to [Rec. 22-08](#) on the basis of further allocation discussions. The UK continues to consider that the additional 4,500 t from the TAC increase is not fully and permanently allocated, and there should be scope to consider this to cater to requests from smaller CPCs for more quota.

7. Consideration of issues of interpretation of Rec. 22-08, and possible drafting amendments as required

Reports on sealing of cages in 2022

The EU, Morocco, and Türkiye explained their implementation of the sealing requirements. The EU indicated that regarding transport cages, during the 2022 fishing campaign, there has only been one case where sealing was necessary. The cage was sealed following the protocol of Annex 14 and using the ICCAT seals provided by the regional observer. Moreover, regarding farming cages, EU Member States use their own seals and follow their own protocols. Türkiye implemented the measure but had no cases which required a seal for a transfer cage in the 2022 fishing season. Morocco established their own seals for the regional control authorities, and these were used to seal the farming cages, since the sealing was not carried out during the caging operations using ICCAT seals provided by the ICCAT regional observers. The ICCAT Secretariat responded that ICCAT sent out the seals but they did not reach all involved parties on time. They asked that CPCs request them from the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible this year.

After some discussion, the ICCAT Secretariat confirmed that it sends the seals to the consortium, who handles distribution on behalf of ICCAT. CPCs should use the official seals wherever possible but if these have not been received, then regional observers can use their own seals. The ICCAT Secretariat also sent one example seal to all CPCs so CPCs can ensure they use the same type and format if they need to produce their own.

The Chair of PA2 highlighted the need to revise Annex 14 of [Rec. 22-08](#) because in 2022, Panel 2 agreed that ICCAT seals would only be used for regional observers and national observers would issue their own seals, but Annex 14 refers to their use by both regional and national observers. The EU suggested this could be done at the next meeting of the IMM and took responsibility for drafting this. This was uploaded as “Draft on amendment to Annex 14 of Rec. 22-08”.

Morocco and Tunisia raised concern that the EU’s proposal did not match what was agreed previously, which was that national authorities could produce their own seals for their own use without regional observers, in particular for sealing farming cages at the end of intra-farm transfer operations. The ICCAT Secretariat confirmed that ICCAT seals are only given to regional observers, not to national observers. The EU confirmed they were working on additional text to resolve this and proposed forwarding it to the IMM for further consideration. The Chair of PA2 confirmed this issue would be referred to the IMM for discussion.

Discussion paper on BFT farming capacity

The EU presented their paper to trigger brainstorming about these issues in Panel 2. Some measures have not been changed since the adoption of the 2007 ICCAT recovery plan, notably around the input of wild caught bluefin tuna and the capacity limits of bluefin tuna farming. To resolve this issue, the EU suggested setting new ceilings commensurate with new fishing levels, with the opportunity for new farms to participate. The EU could turn the discussion into a proposal for consideration at the next Panel 2 meeting.

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) expressed concern about increasing the farming intake of bluefin tuna, as fattening bluefin tuna has a significant impact on the marine environment. WWF supported other models of consumption over farming, as catching fresh live tuna is more sustainable.

Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR) stated that limiting farming capacities in non-extractive facilities does not make sense as it does not have a scientific or technical basis as a conservation measure for bluefin tuna. ICCAT already has several measures in place such as the need for catch documents for bluefin tuna heading into farms. APCCR considers the restrictions on the non-extracting industry and capacity limits on farms to be outside the mandate of ICCAT.

Japan cautioned that once farming capacity is expanded, it will be very difficult to reduce this capacity in the future, even if TACs go down. As the TAC for bluefin tuna is projected to increase until the mid-2030s and then decrease, if ICCAT expands the farming capacity to the maximum limit, it will face over-farming capacity in future years.

Morocco suggested that the farming capacity limit should be linked to the fishing capacity of the CPCs in question and their ability to comply with ICCAT management and conservation measures. The Chair stated that there is no direct linkage between fishing and farming capacity, but the total farming capacity of CPCs could be considered in fishing plans.

The EU thanked Panel 2 members for their comments and noted that while there was no opposition of principle, there were, on the other hand, comments expressed by Panel 2 members that would need to be taken on board. The EU concluded by indicating that they would consider submitting a proposal for further consideration.

The USA suggested the inclusion of a definition of input capacity for farms as this has not been clearly defined previously in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna recommendations. The Chair of PA2 explained that the total input capacity – excluding Libya's farming capacity as this is not being utilised this season – is 38,846 t. If Libya's 1800 t is added, the overall total capacity would be 40,646 t, which is very close to the current TAC of 40,570 t. This means Panel 2 does not have any room for expanding the input capacity of bluefin tuna farms, although he noted that there could be room for this if the TAC increases.

Questions for clarification from ROP-BFT consortium – Rec. 22-08

The Chair of PA2 summarised that most questions were resolved by CPCs prior to the intersessional meeting.

A summary of responses is attached as **Appendix 4**.

Minimum size – Rec. 22-08 para 33

The USA explained that after speaking to the EU bilaterally, both CPCs had realised they had the same understanding of the provision, namely that a fish does not have to satisfy both conditions at the same time to be considered undersized. If either provision applies, then the fish is considered undersized.

After some discussion, the Chair of PA2 confirmed the question under discussion is what was previously decided on this matter, rather than what the interpretation should be. Panel 2 discussed revising the text but decided this was not necessary. The EU asked that the report state Panel 2's interpretation. The Chair of PA2 confirmed Panel 2's interpretation is that if the fish is either below 30 kg or below 115cm, it is deemed undersized but both conditions do not have to be satisfied at the same time.

Minimum size tolerances – Rec. 22-08 para 36

The USA, the EU, and Türkiye agreed that as paragraph 36 states "on board a vessel", it would not apply to farming activities.

Morocco asked whether this would also apply to traps where the fish caught is harvested immediately and then transported to an auxiliary vessel. The Chair of PA2 stated that as the percentage is calculated in relation to the total catches of bluefin tuna retained on board the vessel, if the bluefin tuna caught in traps are immediately harvested and transferred to another vessel, then the second paragraph would apply as it is on board. This percentage could easily be calculated by looking at the number of fish on board the processing vessel.

The EU and Morocco discussed this matter bilaterally. The EU suggested that the confusion came from the reference in paragraph 2 to vessels but not to traps. The Chair suggested deleting "on board a vessel" to make this clearer. This solution was agreed by Panel 2.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme – Rec. 22-08 para 104

The USA highlighted that although Panel 2 agreed that all lists could be provided, they had raised the question of whether this should become an obligation, as the consortium needs these lists to be able to implement their responsibilities. The EU considered that this was not necessary as it is in the interests of CPCs to provide this information. The ICCAT Secretariat agreed with the EU that it is in the interests of CPCs to send these lists, and if a CPC did not inform the consortium, their farms would be treated as separate units and would not be able to share observers.

Sealing operations – Rec. 22-08 para 129 annex 14

The USA and the EU had spoken on this issue bilaterally and determined that they had the same view on this requirement.

Panel 2 agreed that if there is a competent authority official on board then they would have the responsibility. If the competent authority official is not there, then a regional observer would take this role. If both the competent authority official and the regional observer are on board, then the competent authority official has the overall responsibility but the regional observer can observe as it would be useful for verifications later down the line.

Fish that die during caging – Rec. 22-08 para 167 annex 11 Rec. 18-13

The USA confirmed that there is general agreement on how to deal with this issue in the interim, as described in “Question for clarification from ROP-BFT consortium – Rec. 22-08”. This is pending further discussion in the eBCD TWG.

ICCAT Transfer Declaration – Rec. 22-08 para 132 Annex 4

The Chair summarised that Panel 2 agreed three farms can be added to section 1. The USA asked farming CPCs whether this approach was sufficient or whether the form needs to be revisited, noting that the CPCs who had responded to the consortium’s question did not seem to have much experience with this issue. The United States indicated that, if other CPCs have had experiences that indicate amendment to the ITD form was needed, the Panel could discuss the issue further in the future.

Purse seine releases – Rec. 22-08 Annex 10

The USA had noted in “Question for clarification from ROP-BFT consortium – Rec. 22-08” that they were not sure whether there is a difference between the release authorisation number and the release order reference, as there are not clear definitions of each term. Although this issue is not urgent, the USA suggested that [Rec. 22-08](#) could be amended to provide definitions in future.

Morocco raised concern about a scenario where at the end of the season, a trap has used up its quota and therefore the fish in the trap are voluntarily released. This scenario is not referenced in Annex 10 and is problematic because paragraph 7 states that an ICCAT regional observer must validate the data in the release report but observers are no longer present on the traps at the end of the season. The EU stated that all releases should be observed, regardless of the time in the season. Morocco agreed with this principle, but they considered that this type of release should be excluded as it is not required under Recommendation 22-08 to be supervised by the regional observer and is not covered by Annex 10 of that recommendation. The Chair of PA2 advised Morocco to submit proposed text on this basis.

Morocco submitted a “Draft on Release Protocol for bluefin tuna to be included in Annex 10 of Rec. 22-08” which states that there is no obligation for an observer to stay and be present until the final release at the end of the season. Morocco clarified that, in this circumstance, the bluefin tuna are released because the quota has been used up and that this final release marks the end of the fishing activity. The USA and the EU asked for additional time to consider this proposed change. The EU was keen to find a solution to the matter raised by Morocco but it was also concerned that the proposal could have wider implications beyond the specific case of Morocco and asked that the text be forwarded to the IMM for consideration. Panel 2 agreed to forward the proposal to the IMM for consideration at its June 2023 meeting.

8. Draft protocol for Atlantic bluefin tuna Exceptional Circumstances

The SCRS Chair presented the “Decision guide for developing Atlantic bluefin tuna Exceptional Circumstances”. The SCRS Chair clarified that Exceptional Circumstances (ECs) are when either there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE, or when it is not possible to implement the adopted Management Procedure (MP).

The SCRS recommended that the bluefin tuna EC protocol closely mirror that previously adopted for northern albacore, using the three key principles from [Rec. 21-04](#) as signals of potential EC. He noted, however, that the bluefin MP differs in that it is based on an empirical approach and covers two stocks. The SCRS recommended that, as with northern albacore, the EC protocol for bluefin tuna be designed to trigger further evaluation by the SCRS to determine if the MP should be suspended, rather than resulting in the immediate suspension of the MP.

The fundamental indicator of the bluefin tuna EC is empirical and based on the 10 indices in the MP. The SCRS will monitor whether new data fall outside the range of predictions made within a prediction envelope. The SCRS is currently considering a 95% prediction envelope, meaning index values outside of the 2.5th – 97.5th percentile range could be seen as exceptional, but the SCRS would evaluate the severity depending on the number of values outside of this. If ECs are triggered, the SCRS will come up with alternative management options that could include, among other things, maintaining the status quo TAC or reducing the TAC in light of stock decline.

In response to a question by Morocco, the SCRS Chair clarified that shifting effort between gear types can have an effect on selectivity, such as the size or ages of fish caught. However, this should not necessarily mean ECs exist or that the MP is not appropriate. The SCRS Chair explained that SCRS evaluations are only planned if the data coming in show substantial deviations from previous assumptions – deviations which may impact on the performance of the MP. EC could also be ecosystem or climatic factors, but these would need to be more extreme or impactful than the regime shifts modelled in the MSE Operating Models (OMs).

The Chair of PA2 mentioned that the bluefin tuna MSE uses twice as many indices as the northern albacore MSE and asked whether this would mean ECs are more likely to be triggered. The SCRS Chair clarified there is a greater likelihood some data may fall outside of the envelope, but this does not mean something is necessarily wrong. The situation would need to be evaluated by the SCRS.

The EU asked whether all indices have the same weight and the SCRS Chair responded they are weighted in terms of uncertainties around them, meaning the less certain indices have less weight in the aggregate index. The SCRS Chair also reiterated the need for integrated ECs between both stocks, because of stock mixing and because the application of the MP generates TACs for both areas.

The EU asked whether an asymmetric approach to the percentile envelope is possible, as the risk to the stock is greater if deviations are on the low end. The SCRS Chair confirmed this is true and an asymmetric approach could be evaluated if Panel 2 request this. Dr Butterworth, an external expert on MSE, highlighted that the stronger the criteria, the more likely that a false positive is triggered on the EC.

Norway asked whether the SCRS is considering applying special attention to the fishery independent indices. The SCRS Chair explained that this was discussed during the development of MSE, but as the fishery independent indices tend to be more variable, it was decided against because giving greater weight to these indices did not demonstrate a greater performance of the MP.

The SCRS Chair also clarified that indices are evaluated by the SCRS on an annual basis and that the SCRS uses the most recent available data to evaluate the occurrence of ECs, though there is a 1- or 2-year lag. Dr Butterworth highlighted that, although under normal circumstances the review of the MP will take place in 2028, if reconditioning of the OMs is required then this could start 2 years earlier. The EU requested that, if possible, the SCRS provide a more concrete timeline on the workplan for review of the MSE for the next Panel 2 meeting.

The SCRS Chair presented the planned timeframe for developing an EC protocol. The BFT technical subgroup on MSE met on 1-3 February 2023 and drafted broad objectives and themes for the bluefin tuna EC protocol. The second step of the process was the discussion at this Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2,

followed by the BFT Technical Sub-group on MSE incorporating any Panel 2 feedback into a draft document. In the fourth step, the September SCRS Species Group meeting will discuss the EC protocol, finalising it in the SCRS Plenary. Panel 2 will then draft the EC protocol, ready to adopt at the 2023 ICCAT annual meeting.

The UK asked whether Panel 2 can feed in additional comments after this meeting. The SCRS Chair highlighted that feedback at this Interseasonal Meeting of Panel 2 is most helpful, given it is difficult for the SCRS to incorporate concerns later in the process.

There was considerable discussion on this point, with several CPCs raising concern about the limited number of proposed touchpoints between the SCRS and Panel 2 on this process and the potential impact on the Panel's ability to adopt the EC Protocol at the 2023 annual meeting. However, Panel 2 agreed that they would like to avoid an intersessional meeting on the bluefin tuna EC, given the busy SCRS calendar.

After further discussion, Panel 2 agreed the following workplan:

1. Any additional comments on the bluefin tuna EC should be provided to the SCRS, through the Secretariat, by the end of March.
2. The SCRS will work on those comments and the feedback received during this meeting and will provide interim advice to Panel 2 by the end of June.
3. The Chair of PA2 will then produce a draft EC Protocol text as soon as possible, before Panel members take their respective summer holidays. Dr Butterworth suggested that this draft document should show what the remaining decision points for Panel 2 are.
4. Panel 2 will have the opportunity to provide further input on the Chair's draft protocol.
5. The Chair of PA2 will produce a second version for the SCRS to consider at the September Species Group meeting.
6. The SCRS will produce their final scientific advice at the September session.
7. The Chair of PA2 will revise the draft protocol as needed based on SCRS advice and submit it for consideration with a view to its adoption at the 2023 annual meeting.

The USA asked that any comments provided by CPCs are gathered up and posted by the Secretariat so that all Panel 2 members can see what has been submitted and how the input has been handled.

9. Other matters

Request from the UK to address an issue arising as a consequence of leaving the European Union

The UK presented its paper, which explains that there has been a reduction in fishing opportunities for northern albacore available to the UK as an unintended result of the UK leaving the European Union.

Prior to the UK leaving the EU, Metropolitan UK was represented at ICCAT by the EU and the UK Overseas Territories (OTs) were a separate CPC entirely. Metropolitan UK fished against the EU's albacore quota and the UK OTs, as a separate CPC, fished under the limit for CPCs who were not featured in the quota table (as set out in Recs. 16-06 and 21-04). The EU and the UK agreed the share the UK would have upon leaving the EU under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

However, the UK is now a single CPC, representing Metropolitan UK *and* the UK OTs. This means that the EU exit share is the only quota available to both Metropolitan UK and the UK OTs given the way the UK share of the resource was reflected in Rec. 21-04. As the UK (MT and OTs) is now a single CPC, the UK OTs can no longer fish up to the previous agreement from Recs. 16-06 and 21-04 and have lost fishing opportunities as a result. To resolve this, the UK suggested that the UK OTs should be able to fish up to the previous limit and that new text explaining this is added into the new Recommendation, to allow the UK OTs to benefit from this from 2024. The UK confirmed they would set this amount aside for the exclusive use of the UK OTs. As the UK OTs were always able to fish up to this limit previously, like other CPCs not in the quota table, this would not increase the overall fishing mortality.

The EU expressed surprise that they had not been consulted on this paper previously when this involves the EU. The EU also raised concern about how to resolve this without treating Metropolitan UK and the UK OTs as two different CPCs. The EU asked whether this differential treatment would apply to other provisions, such as budgetary and financial contributions, and whether the UK's solution could create further problems. The UK responded that this is a novel and complex issue which seems to be unique for northern albacore and to which they are keen to find a transparent and practical solution. The UK clarified that their intention is not for the UK OTs to be both in and outside the table and that they are open to any solution which would not create future problems. The UK stated they would be happy to discuss the issue bilaterally with the EU.

The USA stated that they could see how this issue had slipped through the cracks, but the intention had not been to disadvantage small island developing States or territories. They noted that Panel 4 faced a similar situation in 2019 with respect to the marlin recommendation ([Rec. 19-05](#)) when a developed CPC sought flexibility in the rules to allow additional harvesting possibilities for the marlin fisheries of its small island territories. In that case, a provision was included in the recommendation derogating from release requirements to accommodate the needs of those territories. The USA suggested the precedent from [Rec. 19-05](#) might provide inspiration to find a solution in this case.

The EU confirmed they were happy to engage with the UK, the USA and others, but clarified that this was not a bilateral issue, and the EU would not necessarily have the solution for this. The EU suggested that the marlin measure may not offer a solution as it applied to all CPCs with small islands.

The Chair of PA2 encouraged Panel 2 members to discuss this issue informally, highlighting that the TAC for northern albacore will be calculated using the MP this year. The new TAC is likely to be either higher or lower than the current one and this may affect discussion on this issue as it would be easier for Panel 2 to consider this issue when the TAC increases.

The report of growth rate analysis and possible suggestion towards the update of growth table

Japan presented their paper on growth rate analysis. The paper has two purposes: to observe growth rate against the SCRS benchmarks and to conduct a comparative evaluation between the 2022 growth table and the previous 2009 growth table. The analysis used farming data from the 2019 caging season to the 2022 caging season and observed the average weight at harvest compared to the expected weight at harvest for each cage.

Japan presented Figure 1, which shows the harvest rate for the 2022 caging season as of the end of January 2023, and Figure 2, which compared the 2022 actual harvest weight observed in eBCD with the 3 expected harvested weights. In Figure 2, the data represented in orange are consistently bigger than those represented in blue, suggesting that the SCRS table overestimates the growth rate data. This conclusion is consistent with Japan's analysis of the 2019, 2020, and 2021 caging seasons, as attached in Annex 2. Japan considers that the 2022 SCRS growth rate table does not reflect the growth rate information, possibly due to a lack of data, and asked that the SCRS update the 2022 growth rate table in accordance with paragraph 25 of [Rec. 22-08](#). Japan will continue to use the 95th percentile as the benchmark for growth rate monitoring for the time being but considers the previous benchmark (2009 SCRS table*1.1, represented in yellow) to be more accurate.

Japan mentioned that the ICCAT Secretariat has established a similar table and asked that the ICCAT Secretariat version be reviewed by the SCRS. Japan summarised the challenges for the growth rate analyses, particularly noting traceability issues when bluefin tuna are carried over between different cages, which could contradict paragraph 198 of [Rec. 22-08](#).

The EU supported the way forward suggested in Japan's paper and asked if the SCRS could suggest a specific format for submission of data. Morocco suggested that it is premature to assume the SCRS table is inaccurate based on a lack of data, especially as the SCRS analysis is based on thousands of specimens harvested through the GBYP programme and regional observer programmes.

The SCRS Chair agreed with Japan that the appropriate forum for discussion of this issue is at a meeting of the SCRS and asked that Japan prepare an SCRS document and present it to the SCRS for review. This will help to determine the merit of reviewing the SCRS process and potentially including other data. The SCRS Chair considered it premature to reach a broad conclusion on the basis of this document, prior to review by the SCRS. The SCRS Chair advised that the next SCRS meeting where this issue could be considered is in September but that it and already has a full schedule. Nevertheless, at least a workplan for undertaking this effort could be developed.

The Chair of PA2 asked whether there would be additional data from the SCRS for reviewing the 2022 SCRS table, or whether this would be dependent on input from CPCs. The SCRS Chair confirmed that he would consult with the bluefin tuna rapporteurs and experts to advise on the situation, ideally in advance of the September meeting.

10. Adoption of report and closure

The Chair of PA2 confirmed that the draft report would be circulated after the meeting and adopted via correspondence.

The Chair of PA2 thanked Panel 2 members and observers for their attendance, the ICCAT Secretariat for organising the meeting, and the rapporteur and interpreters for facilitating the discussion. The EU thanked the Chair of PA2 for his efficient organisation on behalf of Panel 2 members. The Chair closed the meeting.

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Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for 2023 presented by CPCs
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4
6. Discussion on the allocation key for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna
7. Consideration of issues of interpretation of Rec. 22-08, and possible drafting amendments as required
8. Draft protocol for Atlantic bluefin tuna Exceptional Circumstances
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of report and closure

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**Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, farming,
inspection and capacity management plans endorsed by Panel 2**

Albania

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

CPC Albania hereby presents its fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT, Albania's quota for 2023 is established at 264 t.

The Albania's quota of bluefin tuna fishing is allocated to purse seiner vessels (263 t) and incidental by-catch (1 t).

Two purse seiner vessels (41 meters and 28 meters) are authorized to fish the Albanian bluefin tuna quota and these vessels are provided with Bluefin Tuna Fishing Authorization. These will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

The method used to allocate and manage the quotas is based on Minister Order No. 385 dated 08/09/2022, "For the implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 21-08)" and the national regulation, especially, Law No. 64/2012 "On fisheries", amended, article 69, Paragraph 1/point b and c, Paragraph 3 and 5.

In the Albanian fishing fleet register, there are no baitboats, longliners, handliners or traps. The fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners is not developed and no permissions are issued. Albania reports annually the fishing gear groups and fleet segments (DCRF - GFCM and DG MARE).

The permissions issued to small scale vessels clearly indicate the distance from the coast (1 – 2 NM) and fishing gears to be used, gill nets and trammel nets with respective length and mesh size (1000 m and 48 mm).

During the year 2022 there were no bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries by the Albanian fishing fleet.

1 b) Carry over

CPC Albania did not request any amount of carry over by underharvest during 2022 and all amount of BFT in the farm was harvested and exported to Japan.

1 c) Destination of catch

Farming

All the amount of the fish catch by the Albanian purse seiners vessels (100%) will be destined for farming in the Albanian BFT farm.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p>The Electronic logbook is still under development. During this year, the Masters of authorized vessels are obliged to use a bound fishing logbook for their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04/21-08</p> <p>The masters of towing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of Annex 2.</p> <p>The Master of catching vessel shall transmit every day to the Albanian authorities, during the whole period in which he is authorized to fish bluefin tuna, the daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size, referred to in paragraph 33.</p> <p>Fish that are discarded dead shall be counted against the Albania quota.</p> <p>Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports including operations where the catch was zero.</p> <p>The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Albanian authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p> <p>On the basis of the information, the Ministry will transmit a bi-weekly catch report to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	<p>Annex 4 of DCM Nr. 407 dt. 08/05/2013 <i>“Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy”</i>, implementation of the EU Regulation 1224/2009 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 <i>“Establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy”</i>.</p> <p>Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 <i>“For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)”</i></p> <p>The designated ports (Article 40 of Regulation No. 1 of 7 March 2014 on the implementation of Law No. 64 of 31 May 2012 <i>“On Fishery”</i> amended.</p>	During 2022, Albania started implementation of the ERS in a pilot phase in the three vessels in close collaboration with GFCM. Based on the results of pilot project, we will prepare ToR for the necessary equipment for all the Albanian fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12m.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		Albania has designated ports where landing/transshipment operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. The list of ports was transmitted to ICCAT and its part of this annual fishing plan. Albania shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when its entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized.		CP24 attached
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the Mediterranean Sea during the period from 26 May to 1 July 2023.</p> <p>If the fishing operations are prevented due to weather conditions, the Albanian authorities may decide that the fishing seasons be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.</p> <p>The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.</p>	<p>Fishing authorization</p> <p>Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 “For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)”</p>	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>It is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm.</p> <p>Albania does not catch bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes (para 34, point c).</p> <p>If any bluefin tuna below the minimum size are</p>	<p>Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 “For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)”</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		caught and retained or discarded dead, they will be confiscated and will be counted against Albania's quota.		
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted although Albania allocates 1 (one) t as a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna, considering that its purse seiner fleet of small pelagic exercise activity in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>If the specific quota for by-catch is exhausted all by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of Albania and reported to ICCAT.</p> <p>All by-catches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea.</p> <p>Albania shall report information on such quantities (landed dead or released live) on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 "For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)"	<p>Albania notified the ICCAT Secretariat on January 8, 2020 (para 57, Rec. 19-04) regarding the 252 kg of BFT caught in September 2019, out of the authorization period by one of small pelagic purse seiner vessel in Adriatic Sea and deducted this amount from the Albanian quota in Fishing Plan 2020.</p> <p>Instead of 170000 kg, in the Fishing Plan 2020 Albania had a reduced quota 169748 kg, due to 252 kg caught as bycatch out of the authorization period.</p> <p>During the year 2020, 2021 and 2022 there were no bycatches of BFT caught in other fisheries by the Albanian fishing fleet.</p>
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No quota is allocated for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries and this fishing activity is not permitted.	Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 "For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)".	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	<p>The landing and transshipment operations of bluefin tuna shall be allowed only at the designated port of Shengjin and Saranda.</p> <p>Prior to entry into port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the Albanian authorities at least 72 h before the estimated time</p>	Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 "For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)".	CP24 attached.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.		
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	VMS implemented in catching & towing vessels and the polling rate is at least once every hour. Transmission of positions of catching, & towing vessels starts 5 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until 5 days after the end of the authorisation. The transmission of VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat by each authorized vessel must not be interrupted when the vessel is in port, for control purposes or bad weather.	Law Nr. 64/2012, "On Fisheries", amended, Article 72: The vessel monitoring system <i>1. Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install on their board the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.</i> Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Albanian authorities will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents, on board of all towing vessels i.e., 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 19-04/21-08. The Albanian observers were trained by EU experts in the frame of EU-IPA project "Support to fishery sector in Albania"	Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 "For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)"	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	The Albanian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all	Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 "For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08)"	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities, throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities and during release of bluefin tuna from farming cages in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 19-04/21-08.		
10	Domestic legislation	Albania fully implemented the <i>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</i> (Rec. 21-08)	Minister Order Nr. 385 dt. 08/09/2022 “For the implementation of the <i>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</i> (Rec. 21-08)”	http://qbz.gov.al/eli/urdher/2022/09/08/385
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>			

1 e) Designated Ports

Attached the list of designated ports for landing and transshipment in CP24 form.

- Shengjin
- Sarandë
- Durrës
- Vlorë

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

Albania's quota for 2023 will be 264 t. As Albania allocates 1 t for by-catches, the total quota available for the purse seiners will be 263 t (**Table 2** attached).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

The farming management plan 2022 for Albania is detailed below.

<i>Country</i>	<i>FFB</i>	<i>Active/ Inactive</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>	<i>Input Capacity(t)</i>	<i>FFB Coordinates</i>
ALBANIA	ROZAFA	Active	1,200	700	39°57'59.57"N 19°52'0.19"E 39°58'16.25"N 19°52'49.27"E 39°56'20.97"N 19°53'47.91"E 39°56'02.59"N 19°52'59.32"E

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

In accordance with the domestic legislation in force, (Order, No. 5, dated 28.01.2019) issued by the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, a Task Force will be installed at the Shengjini and Saranda fishing port, during the fishing and harvesting season, to carry out duties based on ICCAT Recommendation 21-08, Albanian legislation and Minister Order Nr. 385 dates 08/09/2022.

The ALB control competent authority or the Task Force is composed by:

- Aleksander Luli, Fisheries Inspector
- Ilirjan Cepe, Fisheries Inspector
- Lefter Kocillari Fisheries Inspector
- Marco Kule, specialist in Department of Fisheries

Requests for entry and use of Albanian ports by foreign-flagged vessels will be granted, if appropriate, by the relevant port and maritime authorities. In case of authorisation for port entry and use, in-port inspections will be carried out by fishery Inspectors of the relevant authority.

The Fishery Inspector should prioritize implementation as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The Master of the Authorized Fishing Vessel should notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the estimated time of arrival into the port, estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

Fishery Inspectors takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and obtain from the master the landing declaration which reflects the above data already specified (through weighing) and not in a random way.

The Master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The Albanian authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

- The Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by the authorized fishing vessel, the data communicated, the landing declarations in the fishing port, as well as other details that are seen as reasonable. The Fishery Inspector shall communicate these data to the Fishery Directorate within 48 hours of the landing of the fish products by the authorized fishing vessel.
- Ensure that the Master of fishing vessel fills correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.
- Not allow the bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the snout to the bifurcation of the tail). The Inspector makes measurements of each tuna caught, just landed and verifies implementation of the foregoing obligation to weigh/minimum size of fish caught.

- Check the functionality of the VMS system of the vessel, with a non-stop signal, which is not interrupted even when in port.
- Send to the Fishery Authorities at the Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.
- Observe, identify and monitor any quantity of bluefin tuna caught by the fishing vessel (outside of authorized fishing season).

In addition, control measures are provided for in Rec. 21-08 (paras 95 and 96) for regional and national observers programmes which ensure coverage of:

- 100% of purse seiners authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna,
- 100% of authorised towing vessels,
- 100% of bluefin tuna transfer operations from purse seiners to towing cages and from caging on farms,
- 100% of harvesting operations.

All monitoring, control and surveillance operations will be ensured in accordance with Rec. 21-08.

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations

Fishery inspectors of the Task Force, nominated in this case as Farm competent authority shall:

1. Coordinate the collection and verification of information on national caging activities, for the control of farm activities and for reporting to Albanian competent authorities.
2. Shall ensure that farm operators maintain at all times an accurate schematic plan of their farms, indicating the unique number of all cages and their individual position on the farm.
3. Shall assign a unique and identifiable number to each cage associated to farms, including those cages used to transport the fish to the farm.
4. Issue a caging authorization for each caging operation.
5. Shall ensure that towing vessel concerned is maintained at a distance of minimum 1 nautical mile from farm until they are physically present.
6. Shall ensure that farm cages containing bluefin tuna are sealed at all times.
7. Shall ensure that each bluefin tuna caging operation in the farm is recorded by the farm operator using both conventional and stereoscopic cameras.
8. Shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observer has immediate access to all stereoscopic and conventional camera video footage.
9. Shall determine the number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation provided by the farm operator, following the procedures set out in point 1 of Annex 9.
10. Shall submit the procedures and results related to the stereoscopic camera programme to the SCRS by 31 October annually.
11. Shall issue a caging report for each single caging operation.
12. Shall issue the harvesting operation authorization.
13. Shall inspect all harvesting operations of bluefin tuna destined for processing vessels.

Random control operations using conventional cameras will be carried out in the farm by Fishery Inspectorate between the end of caging and the first caging of the following year.

Considering the size of the farm and the number of cages, farm competent authority will cover 100% of the number of cages in its random control.

Modern technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

In accordance with Para 119 -123 of Rec. 21-08, the transfers from cages to farm shall be monitored by video cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to Albanian competent authorities.

Covering 100% of all caging operations with stereoscopic cameras shall be used to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged. Farm operator shall communicate the results of this program to competent authorities and to the Regional Observer.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

N/A

5. Others

N/A.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>							<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7		1	1	1	1	1	1			70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78				1	1	1	1					49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68															
Purse seine total fleet																
Longliner over 40m	25															
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68															
Longliner less than 24m	5															
Total longline fleet																
Baitboat	19.8															
Handline	5															
Trawler	10															
Trap	130															
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A															
Other (please specify)	5															
Total fleet/fishing capacity													120.48	120.48	120.48	120.48
Quota											100	156	169,748	170	170	264
Percentage allocated to by-catch												0,6%	0,58%	0,58%	0,56%	0,38%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)²												155	168,748	169	177,5	263
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																
Under/ overcapacity											-29,3	-84,3	-46.268	-48.52	-57,02	- 142,52

² "Adjusted quota" = Quota - Allowance for discards and/or bycatch (264 - 1 = 263 t).

Algeria

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 14-15)

1a) Overview

Algeria presents its eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan below.

Algeria's fishing plan for 2023 is based on the relevant provisions of the ICCAT recommendations, in particular Recommendation 22-08 and of the national regulation and legislation, in particular those of the Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, amended and supplemented, of the Executive Decree No. 03-481 establishing the methods and conditions for fishing operations and the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022, establishing the conditions and methods of bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

The new regulatory mechanism, implemented in 2022, strengthens monitoring and control methods as well as sanctions for any potential non-compliances observed.

In effect, the regulatory mechanism referred to above strengthens the control and surveillance arrangements of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign - upstream and downstream - especially through extension of the prerogatives and scope of action of national controllers onboard tuna purse seine vessels as well as on land, in particular:

- carrying out the departure inspection of tuna vessels before the start of the campaign to verify fishing methods;
- carrying out controls at landing ports in addition to the control by the national coast guard service;
- controlling the tuna vessels on landing;
- daily control of the logbook;
- controlling operation of the positioning beacon (VMS);
- monitoring bluefin fishing and transfer operations;
- controlling compliance of information recorded in the logbook;
- controlling bluefin tuna transfer documents following each transfer;
- analysing transfer videos and preparing reports and related documents;
- controlling the content of storage spaces and cold-storage rooms;
- preparing reports on non-compliances and infringements observed.

The objective of these new tasks assigned to fisheries administration controllers is to strengthen monitoring and control of fishing and transfer operations and to ensure compliance with the national regulation and the relevant ICCAT requirements.

Bluefin tuna fishing activities in 2023 will be carried out in accordance with the conditions and methods for fishing live bluefin tuna in accordance with the regulatory mechanism and ICCAT monitoring and control conditions and requirements.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of 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 bluefin tuna quota allocated to Algeria in 2023 is 2,023 t.

For 2023, Algeria will implement its fishing plan to catch 2018 t, which will be distributed among the tuna purse seine vessel owners that have been selected in accordance with the fishing and maritime security regulatory conditions to participate in the 2023 bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to participate in the campaign are established in accordance with a national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation for the 2023 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Algeria will allocate fishing quotas only to the tuna purse seine vessels with a length overall between 22 and 40 m. The list of live bluefin tuna catching vessels authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 52 of Recommendation 22-08, i.e. 12 May 2023.

With regard to bycatch, vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current Algerian regulation and that do not target bluefin tuna, will not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Specimens taken as bycatch, alive or dead, will be discarded and recorded in logbooks.

Bluefin tuna catches caught as bycatch and released dead, shall be deducted from the reserved bycatch quota. If there is an excess of catches of this reserved quota, these quantities will be deducted from the national quota.

In this context, it should be noted that the entire Algerian fishery is traditional and during the period of passage of bluefin tuna in Algeria. Generally, the weather is consistently bad during this period, which reduces the trips and fishing activity.

Regarding the bluefin tuna fishery opening period, and in accordance with paragraph 28 of Recommendation 22-08, Algeria authorises fishing for bluefin tuna by purse seine vessels for the 2023 campaign, from 26 May to 1 July 2023.

1 b) Carry over

Algeria has not requested carryover of underharvest.

1 c) Destination of catch

Catches by purse seine vessels are destined for farming.

1 d)

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. 22-08 as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	Purse seiners participating in the fishing season must record catches (including null catches) in the logbook. The logbook is bound and maintained onboard the vessel in accordance with domestic regulations the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation. Weekly catches of bluefin tuna are communicated to the fishing administration in accordance with paragraphs 76-77 of Rec. 22-08.	Articles 32-34-36 and Annex 8 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		Likewise, the dead fish retained or discarded will be deducted from the quota and recorded in the logbook; the national onboard controller oversees implementation of these measures.		
2	Fisheries openings (para 28-32)	<p>Bluefin tuna fishing is open for purse seine tuna vessels: 26 May 1 July.</p> <p>Fishing will be conducted in international areas of the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>Article 62 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.</p> <p>However, in accordance with paragraph 29 of Rec. 22-08, Algeria may possibly extend the fishing period of its affected vessels, by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p> <p>Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all</p>	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
			vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.	
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	115 cm - 30 kg. However, bycatch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm in relation to total catch may be authorised. Dead fish will be declared and deducted from Algeria's quota and live fish will be released.	Executive Decree No. 20-266 of 20 September 2020 which amends and supplements. Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources. Article 66 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	With regard to bycatch, all vessels that do not hold a specific permit for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the Algerian regulation in place, are not authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Any discard of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 5 t allocated to bycatch or from Algeria's quota. Discards will be recorded in logbooks and counted against Algeria's quota. In addition, catches are controlled at port accesses by members of the National Coast Guard Service and at landing sites by fishing inspectors.		

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
5	Recreational and sport fisheries (para 38-46)	There are no recreational and sport fisheries targeting bluefin tuna in Algeria. No quota is allocated to recreational and sport fisheries.	Article 16 of Executive Decree No. 03-481, dated 13 December 2003 establishing the conditions for fishing which stipulate that only bluefin tuna vessels carrying a fishing license are authorised to catch bluefin tuna.	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Transshipment is prohibited.	Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented.	
7.	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	Legislative and regulatory obligation	Article 20 bis of Law No. 15-08, which amends and supplements the Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, and Article 14-15 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag. Hourly VMS messages are transmitted by the tuna purse seine vessels, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recs. 22-08 and 18-10.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Boarding of one controller / national observers onboard each of the bluefin tuna purse seine vessels actively targeting bluefin tuna	Article 17 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		throughout the fishing season. There is a 100% coverage for purse seine vessels.	fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	Regulatory requirement: Purse seine tuna vessel owners are required to take onboard ICCAT regional observers.	Article 25 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
10	Domestic legislation	Yes. ICCAT recommendations are transposed to national legislation.	Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented. Executive Decree No. 03-481 of 13 December 2003 establishing the conditions for fishing. Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>	Use of video camera for transfer surveillance: Transfer operations from the fishing net to the transport cage will be recorded by video camera, as required by paragraph 119 and Annex 8 of ICCAT Rec. 22-08.	Article 48 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	

List of ports:

- Alger
- Annaba
- Beni saf
- Bouzedjar
- Béjaia
- Cherchell
- Oran
- Ténés

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 16-21)

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 35 tuna purse seine vessels, is adapted to the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e. 2018 t. Therefore, Algeria will not exceed its bluefin tuna fishing capacity.

The number of bluefin catching vessels will be enacted in accordance with the criteria established by the national regulations enforced.

Individual quotas are attributed in accordance with the national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

The list of vessels that should participate in the 2023 fishing campaign will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 52 of Recommendation 22-08.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), if appropriate

Algeria is not operating any bluefin tuna farming facilities in 2023.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 12c)

The at-sea control and inspection authority is the national coast guard service which also performs the role of fisheries policing. At fishing ports, monitoring, control and inspection of implementation of ICCAT measures is carried out by fisheries inspectors.

The competent authority responsible for implementation of Algeria's monitoring, control and inspection plan is the Ministry of Fisheries and Fisheries Products – Directorate of Control of Fisheries Activities and Aquaculture and Market Regulation – which carries out coordination with the national coast guard service.

The Contact Points for coordination of monitoring, control and inspection are:

- Director of Control of Fisheries Activities and Aquaculture and Market Regulation (abdou.hentour@gmail.com).
- Deputy Director of Control of Fisheries Activities and Aquaculture (habticheamirouche@hotmail.fr)

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2023 campaign, in accordance with national legislation and the domestic regulation and the relevant provisions of ICCAT recommendations. This programme consists in carrying out in-port inspections on tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2023 fishing campaign, before and after the campaign, and observing and controlling tuna purse seiners at sea throughout the campaign period.

One controller / observer of the Fisheries Administration is embarked onboard each of the tuna purse seine vessels throughout the fishing season (articles 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 of the Order of 24 February 2022). The controllers / observers are responsible for monitoring fishing, transfer operations and verifying information and data on the fishing campaign. They will ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller / observer is required to produce campaign reports at the end of the campaign and daily reports are transmitted to the campaign monitoring unit (article 24 of the Order of 24 February 2022).

The objective of the new tasks assigned to the controller observers of the fisheries administration is to strengthen monitoring and control of fishing and transfer operations and to ensure compliance with the national regulation and relevant ICCAT requirements in this regard. The controller observers (official inspectors) on board tuna purse seine vessels and on the ground are responsible, in accordance with article 18 of the Order of 24 February 2022, in particular:

- carrying out the departure inspection of tuna vessels before the start of the campaign to verify fishing methods;
- carrying out controls at landing ports in addition to the control by the national coast guard service;
- controlling the tuna vessels on landing;
- daily control of the logbook;
- controlling operation of the positioning beacon (VMS);
- monitoring bluefin fishing and transfer operations;
- controlling compliance of information recorded in the logbook;
- controlling bluefin tuna transfer documents following each transfer;
- analysing transfer videos and preparing reports and related documents;
- controlling the content of storage spaces and cold-storage rooms;
- preparing reports on non-compliances and infringements observed.

The controllers / observers will remain in constant contact with the fisheries administration and communicate all information on fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, in accordance with articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Order of 24 February 2022, for the purposes of monitoring, the tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a VMS beacon which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and must start 5 days before the authorisation period and will continue 5 days after the fishing campaign. The polling rate will be every hour in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT Recommendation. A central unit is responsible for monitoring tuna purse seine vessels by VMS.

With regard to landing ports, tuna vessels flying the national flag are authorised to land bluefin tuna caught during the fishing campaign in the authorised ports only, i.e.: Port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Bejaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran, port of Ténès, port of Bouzedjar and the port of Beni Saf. An inspection of products to be landed by tuna purse seine vessels that have participated in the bluefin tuna fishing season, and all the onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant State institutions (Fisheries and Coast Guard). It is prohibited for foreign vessels to land bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at the annual meeting held in Dubrovnik, regarding the IMO number of fishing vessels on the ICCAT record, IMO number is a regulatory requirement of tuna vessels that will participate in the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (paras 228-231)

Algeria does not have an international inspection vessel for 2023, and will implement alternative measures, in accordance with paragraph 231 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, to ensure monitoring and control, i.e.

(i) Control and inspection prior to the bluefin tuna fishing season

All tuna purse seiners are subject to inspections for the purpose of controlling fishing equipment, the relevant documents, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

(ii) Control and monitoring during the fishing season

Permanent inspectors of the fisheries administration, are embarked onboard each tuna purse seiner, throughout the authorised bluefin tuna fishing period. Therefore, 100% coverage of tuna purse seiners is ensured, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

These national inspectors, duly qualified to ensure application and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, have been strengthened by broadening of their prerogatives and missions, in terms of monitoring and control, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag (refer to page 1 of this fishing plan).

(iii) Coordination of monitoring and control

A unit responsible for monitoring and control, has been established by a Ministerial Decision. This unit carries out coordination with controller observers embarked onboard all the tuna purse seiners and constantly receives relevant information from the controller observers onboard all the purse seiners, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

(iv) Use of VMS

Two bodies monitor the use of VMS data: the National Coast Guard Service and the ministerial unit referred to in point (iii). If failures are registered by the VMS onboard the vessels, the controller observers will transmit the positions regularly, in addition to the masters.

(v) Control and inspection on return of tuna purse seiners to ports of landing

On return, all tuna purse seiners undergo an inspection in the designated ports by two control bodies i.e. the National Coast Guard Service and the fisheries inspectors. In addition, landing of bluefin tuna is only authorised in the ports designated for this purpose, in accordance with the Ministerial Decision of 19 April 2010, as amended and supplemented.

(vi) Cross-checking of monitoring and control data and enquiries

The information transmitted by the national controller observers, the monitoring unit, VMS are used to monitor and control fishing operations during the fishing season.

In addition to this, and on the return of the tuna vessels, all the reports submitted by the masters and the controller observers, as well as the documents are used, for the purpose of cross-checking the data and potentially improving the control for future fishing seasons.

(vii) Strengthening of legislation and regulations promoting compliance with ICCAT requirements

The provisions contained in Law 15-08 amending and supplementing Law 01-11, which regulates fishing in Algeria, through strengthening of sanctions and penalties, aim to ensure compliance by tuna purse seiners, with strict implementation of the relevant ICCAT provisions.

Moreover, articles 54, 55, and 56 of the Order of 24 February 2022 set out penalties in case of infringements of the provisions of the ICCAT management measures, which have been duly observed.

It should be noted that during the fishing campaign of the previous year, no non-compliance or infringement of the relevant ICCAT provisions was reported or observed by the national controller observers, ICCAT regional observers, or through at-sea or in-port international inspection, as a result of implementation of the alternative measures referred to above.

5. Others

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	8	12	20	24	27	30	34	398.24	597.36	995.60	1194.72	1344.06	1493.4	1692.52
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	33.68	67.36	67.36	67.36	33.68	33.68	33.68
Purse seine total fleet		8	14	22	26	28	31	35	398.24	664.72	1062.96	1262.08	1377.74	1527.08	1726.2
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5.68	5.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Total longline fleet		2	1	0	0	0	0	0	10.68	5.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
Traps	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores. Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		10	15	22	26	28	31	35	408.92	664.72	1062.96	1262.08	1377.74	1527.08	1726.2
Quota									1460.04	1260.0	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	1655.00	2023
Percentage allocated for bycatch		0%	0%	0.54%	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%	0.24%	0	0	9	5	5	5	5
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									1460.04	1300.0	1437.00	1650.00	1650.00	1650.0	2018
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity									-1051.12	-629.60	-365.04	-382.92	-267.26	-117.92	-291.8

China (P.R.)**Fishing Plan Year: 2023****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)****1 a) Overview**

According to Recommendation 21-08/22-08, China was allocated 112 metric tons BFT in 2023 fishing season. China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels to conduct BFT fishing activities seasonally in the eastern Atlantic the same as the past several years.

The Fisheries Law and the Regulation on Management of Distant Water fisheries are the main national legislation to manage Chinese distant water fishing vessels to conduct fishing activities on the high seas. In addition, Fisheries authority of China also issued the Regulation on VMS Management and Regulation on the Implementation Guidance on the Management of National Observer Program in Distant Water Fisheries which respectively specify the stipulation of VMS and observer on China's distant water fishing vessels. Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs updated the ministerial-level document, namely Notification on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs which entered into force from March of 2022, include the main requirement contained in the ICCAT Recommendation 21-08/22-08, such as the minimum size, observer coverage, VMS requirement, logbook requirement, fishing season and designated transshipment/landing port requirement and so on.

1 b) Carry over

The quota of China in 2022 is 102 t while the total actual catch of China in 2022 is nearly 72 t. There is almost 30 t underharvest.

China would like to carry over of underharvest from 2022. The carryover amount is 5.1 metric tons ($102 \text{ t} \times 5\% = 5.1 \text{ t}$).

1 c) Destination of catch

The fish will be landed.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	We distribute to every Chinese fishing vessel operating on the high seas the standardized logbook (both paper and electronic) and ask the master to fill it in timely and accurately, the BFT must be landed or transhipped at the designated port. The fishing vessel owner must report daily/weekly/monthly catch. We will issue the warning notice when the quota approaches 80% and 90%	1.Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Adopted by Tuna RFMOs For example, Section 2, Logbook: Each tuna fishing vessel must file in the logbook and record truly all the catches including marine mammals. The	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		respectively of the total. When the quota be exhausted, we will ask the fishing vessels to stop operation and leave the fishing ground immediately, then we report the closure to Secretariat at once.	bluefin tuna company must report its catches to the China Overseas Fisheries Association daily/weekly/monthly.	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Usually, our vessels will start to fish at the end of September on eastern Atlantic until the quotas were exhausted. But usually before the end of the year given the very few limited quotas.	1.Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and management Measures adopted by Tuna RFMOs. For example, Section 4: Fishing area and gear limitation and prohibition: the fishing seasons and fishing area in the Atlantic Ocean shall be from 1 August to 31 January next year, in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Through the observer program and logbook as well as the daily/weekly/monthly catch report we could monitor the Minimum size, any catch under the minimum size must be released and recorded. We set the minimum size limit which is corresponding to Rec. 21-08/22-08, prohibit to catch, retain, tranship, land and sell BFT less than 30kg or 115cm, the maximum of 5% tolerance is authorized. Discarded catch is also counted against our quotas.	1.Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna RFMOs. For example, Section 5: Vessels targeting BFT in the Atlantic Ocean must follow the minimum size requirement.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Bycatch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels. Any vessels other than BFT fishing vessels are prohibited to catch, retain and tranship BFT. Any BFT caught by other vessels are not issued eBCD. All the bycatch must be discarded. These discarded BFT will be counted against China's BFT quota and these data will be reported to ICCAT. China did not have bycatch in the recent years. However, we still allocate 0.5 t for such kind of discard bycatch.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management, which stipulated that tuna fishing vessel is obliged to receive national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs. For example, Section 3: Fishing quota: tuna fishing vessel is not allowed to catch if no quota is allocated.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessel shall only tranship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Transshipment at sea is not allowed for BFT fishing vessel.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs. For example: Section 7: transshipment: tuna Longline fishing vessels targeting Atlantic BFT is only allowed to conduct transshipment and/or landing at the designated port in accordance with relevant ICCAT requirement.	Note, only transshipment in port is permitted.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	The VMS could be reported to the Secretariat directly and we will also poll the vessel position from our VMS platform. From our platform we could daily monitor and poll 24 positions, once per hour, which is higher than ICCAT requirement.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on Management of VMS, which stipulates vessels must report their position once every hour. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Usually, we will implement 50% observer coverage which is higher than 20% for longliners stipulated in the Rec. 21-08/22-08.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation Guidance on the Management of National Observer, which stipulates that tuna fishing vessels are obliged to receive national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs.	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	
10	Domestic legislation	China has transposed Recommendations to domestic law and relevant legislation.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management.	Please indicate whether the Recommendations have been transposed to domestic law and cite the relevant legislation.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
			3. Regulation on Management of VMS 4. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Adopted by Tuna RFMOs	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Each BFT will have a tag with a unique number.	Based on Fisheries Law of China, Chinese fishery competent authority has notified relevant company of such ICCAT requirement on BFT.	

1 e) Designated ports

Only in the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends to use the port of Dakar in Senegal, Mindelo in Cabo Verde and Las Palmas in Spain. The vessels are required to follow the regulation set by the port CPC.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

Please see the attachment.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

Not applicable as China has no BFT farming.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

The control competent authority is Bureau of Fisheries from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The list of contact points is as follows:

SUN Haiwen Director bofdwf@126.com
FANG Lianyong Officer fanglianyong@cofa.net.cn

China will dispatch two fishing vessels to catch BFT and they are longliners. Both vessels will be allocated 58.3 metric tons, each vessel holding one half of the 116.6 t (initial quota 112 t + carry-over 5.1 t – allocated discard 0.5 t = 116.6 t).

It is relatively simple to monitor and respect the quotas since only two fishing vessels share the limited quotas and they belong to one company, we could manage the quotas through the following ways:

Observer program: We usually implement 50% observer coverage for BFT fishing vessels which is much higher than the requirement in Rec. 21-08/22-08. The observer must be familiar with the BFT recommendation and will daily record the accurate weight and number of BFT, including the weight for round fish and GG weight.

Catch report: We have daily\weekly\monthly BFT catch reports and we could cross-check the catch. The fishing vessel owner will be notified when 80% and 90% of the catch is reached, and the BFT fishing vessel must cease to fish immediately and leave the fishing ground when the quota is exhausted.

Logbook: the fishing vessel master must strictly and accurately fill in the logbook (both paper and electronic version), including any other bycatch and incidental catch.

Landing\transshipment: only the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends to use port of Dakar in Senegal, Mindelo in Cabo Verde and Las Palmas in Spain. The vessels are required to follow the regulation set by the port CPC.

VMS requirement: we could monitor these vessels through our VMS platform and their positions could be polled whenever we need.

Catch documentation: using the catch documentation system to check the quotas.

BFT bycatch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT. Our BFT fishing area is delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, and no fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea which means no by-catch and small-scale BFT. However, we reserved 0.5 t for discarded catch just in case.

Training program: each year we hold a training program for the fishing vessel owners and vessel masters, interpret the relevant recommendations and the main requirement, meanwhile, the Rec. 21-08/22-08 was translated into Chinese and distribute to them for their better understanding and learning.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Not applicable as China has only two BFT fishing vessels.

5. Others

Not applicable as China has no such research projects.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7														
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78														
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68														
Purse seine total fleet															
Longliner over 40m	25	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	50
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68														
Longliner less than 24m	5														
Total longline fleet		4	2	2	2	2	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	50
Baitboat	19.8														
Handline	5														
Trawler	10														
Trap	130														
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A														
Other (please specify)	5														
Total fleet/fishing capacity		4	2	2	2	2	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	50
Quota								63.55	79	90	102	102	102	102	112
Percentage allocated to by-catch											0.98% (1t)	0.98% (1t)	0.98% (1t)	0.446% (0.5t)	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)											101	101	101	101	116.6 (112-0.5+5.1)
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)															
Under/ overcapacity								36.4	-29	-40	-51	-51	-51	-51	-66.6

Egypt**Fishing Plan Year: 2023****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)****1a) Overview**

According to the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT during the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission which was held hybrid in Vale do Lobo, Portugal from 13-21 November 2022, the allocated quota for Egypt for the 2023 fishing season is 513 t. In accordance with para 37 (Rec. 21-08/22-08), the adjusted quota will be 507.87 t on the basis of 1% bycatch allocation. The Egyptian fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea are purse seiners (P.S.). All Egyptian vessels targeting BFT are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis. Egypt is currently studying the feasibility of registering longline vessels for fishing bluefin tuna. The list of authorised catching vessels for bluefin tuna will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat before the beginning of the fishing activity.

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) is the competent authority in Egypt which entitled to enforce fishing law (Law 146/2021). LFRPDA will license P.S. to catch BFT for the 2023 fishing season which starts on 26 May 2023 and ends on 1 July 2023, in accordance with ICCAT (Rec. 21-08/ 22-08).

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

1 b) Carry over

Egypt has no carry over of underharvest from 2022.

1 c) Destination of catch

Destination of catch goes to caging.

1d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The master of the catching vessels records all information in the bound logbooks including the dead fish (retained or discarded) that will be counted against the quota. According to the requirements set in (Rec. 21-08/22-08), to be submitted to LFRPDA for verification using available inspection reports, regional and national observers' reports, in addition to recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (8)	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>The authorized period for fishing bluefin is from 26 May 2023 – 1 July 2023. In accordance with paragraph 28 of Recommendation 21-08, Egypt may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing season may be extended up to 10 days based on operators' request, due to bad weather conditions.</p> <p>Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by LFRPDA once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.</p> <p>No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.</p>	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (3)	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by the relevant ICCAT Recommendations (21-08/ 22-08) shall be strictly implemented.</p> <p>National observer / inspector on board shall ensure the full commitment of the minimum size in accordance with the relevant ICCAT Rec. 21-08 during the season.</p> <p>Regulations prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm.</p> <p>Incidental catch of max. 5% of BFT weighting (8 to 30 kg) or fork length 75 to 115 cm may be authorized.</p> <p>All live undersized BFT must be released into the sea and dead BFT should be reported and deducted from the quota.</p>	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (4)	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Egypt allocated a specific quota for BFT bycatch, 1% of the total allowable quota yearly, on the basis that there was not any bycatch recorded in 2022. 1% of total allowable quota (5.13 t) will be set aside for by catch.</p> <p>All bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip. Those quantities as bycatches shall be calculated in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).</p> <p>Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are monitored by our national inspectors in landing ports to count any bycatches of BFT (if any) in order to ensure implementation of ICCAT (Rec. 21-08/ 22-08).</p> <p>All our inspectors in landing ports have been instructed to monitor and report any bycatch of BFT throughout the year.</p> <p>Egypt does not have any discards for bluefin tuna, as most of the purse seiners in Egypt are less than 24 m vessels working in our near shore so there is no chance to catch bluefin tuna (BFT); only the authorized vessels targeting the BFT are allowed to work in deep water to catch BFT. Moreover, Egypt in collaboration with FAO (EastMed-project) conducted a study to assess the discards in the Mediterranean, the study showed that the percentage of discards for purse seiners is less than 2% and there was no record for BFT in the report.</p> <p>Egypt shall submit its bycatch report by the end of the year declaring all BFT bycatches (if any) which must be deducted from the specified bycatch quota of the year.</p>	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (5)	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		The amount of bycatch discarded whether alive or dead in status should be reported to LFRPDA immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. All quantities of BFT bycatch shall be landed only at the designated ports.		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No coastal recreational, sport fisheries are allowed.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (6)	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (12)	Note, only transshipment in port is permitted.
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	All authorized BFT vessels fishing actively in the 2023 fishing season, shall be equipped with a fulltime operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) on board, as required by LFRPDA, to be transmitted every 1 hour as minimum requirement.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (16)	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	One of national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and ensuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and LFRPDA resolutions. The permanent observer in port is assigned to follow up the landed catches (if any) and reviewing the on board observers reports.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (14)	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	All BFT vessels, fishing actively in 2023 fishing season have to be covered (100%) by two observers (one national observer and one ICCAT ROP Observer).		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>	Egypt is not involved in the tagging programme.		

1e) Designated ports

The designated ports for BFT landing reported in CP24 form are Alexandria port platform, Abo-Qir fishing port platform, El-Meadia fishing port platform and Elsharky Port Alexandria platform.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

The LFRPDA will allocate to each P.S. an individual quota and it will ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota according to Recommendations (21-08/ 22-08).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

No farming activities will take place in 2023.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) is the control competent authority which ensures that the monitoring, control and inspection plan comply with the provisions of Rec. 21-08.

The contact points nominated from LFRPDA as responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are Dr Doaa Hammam (International Cooperation Administration, gafrd_eg@hotmail.com) and Eng. Abdelrazek Mohamed (Fisheries Administration, abdelrazek.mohamed004@gmail.com).

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2023 bluefin tuna fishing season by LFRPDA's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e., fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any. The national observer covers all fishing activities throughout the entire fishing period.

All catching vessels are crosschecked as they maintain and submit daily information from bound logbooks by electronic or any other effective means to LFRPDA and in case of landing, all landed catches are weighed and are inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort by national inspectors.

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to be transmitted every 1 hour as minimum requirement. LFRPDA submit weekly reports including information such as date, time, location (latitude, longitude), weight and number of BFT caught in the area covered by the plan, including releases and discards of dead fish.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Egypt has not been involved in an international inspection plan up till now.

5. Others

Research on collecting data of tuna bycatch from the Egyptian Mediterranean coast is going to be conducted as bycatch is a major issue for the fishing industry, and it is important to understand the impact of bycatch on tuna populations in order to ensure sustainable fishing practices. This data collection will provide valuable information that can be used to inform management decisions and improve the sustainability of tuna fisheries in the region.

The proposed data collection will involve collecting information on tuna bycatch from commercial fishing operations along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast. Data will be collected through interviews with fishermen, observation of fishing activities, and analysis of catch records. The data collected will include species composition, size distribution, catch location, and other relevant information. In addition, samples of fish caught in each area will be taken for further analysis whenever possible.

The data collected will provide valuable insights into the impact of bycatch on tuna populations in the region. This information can then be used to inform management decisions and ensure that sustainable fishing practices are being implemented. The results can also be used to educate fishermen about the importance of reducing bycatch and help them develop better fishing practices that minimize its impact on tuna populations.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>					<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>				
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7												
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	49.78	49.78	49.78	149.34	99.56
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		0	2	2	1	3	2	0	83.46	83.46	49.78	149.34	99.56
Longliner over 40m	25												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68												
Longliner less than 24m	5												
Total longline fleet													
Baitboat	19.8												
Handline	5												
Trawler	10												
Trap	130												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A												
Other (please specify)	5												
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	2	2	1	3	2	0	83.46	83.46	49.78	149.34	99.56
Quota		0	266	330	330	330	513	0	266	330	330	330	513
Percentage allocated to by-catch			1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)				326.7	326.7	326.7	507.87	0	263.34	326.7	326.7	326.7 ³	507.87 ⁴
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity									-182.54	-243.24	-276.92	-177.36	-408.31

³ 3.3 ton is set aside for bycatch.

⁴ 5.13 ton is set aside for bycatch.

European Union (EU)

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

Introduction

The European Union hereby provides its Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management plans and its Farming Management plan for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) for 2023.

The eight EU Member States actively fishing Bluefin tuna are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors. However, significant catches are also made by longline vessels and more artisanal sectors, such as the bait-boats, handlines and pelagic trawlers, in both the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The eight EU Member States also cooperate to implement a BFT Joint Deployment Plan of inspections, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 on 6 April 2009 transposing into EU Law ICCAT Recommendation 08-05 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 amending ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan, which took place under ICCAT Recommendation 13-07. Regulation (EU) 544/2014 transposed these additional measures into EU law. Finally, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 replaced by Recommendation 17-07. Regulation (EU) 2019/833⁵ partially transposes Recommendation 18-02 replaced by Recommendation 19-04. The EU is working in the full transposition of the Recommendation 22-08. In the meantime, and pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, international agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the Union and on its Member States. In these circumstances, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, and in particular Recommendation 22-08 and, in particular, when the rules thereby implemented result in more stringent measures than the ones implemented via Regulation (EU) 2016/1627. Furthermore, the EU has decided to implement Recommendation 22-08 as of 1 of January 2023 in EU. The European Commission informed the ICCAT Secretariat about this implementation.

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 14-15)

1 a) Overview

In 2023, the EU will implement the provisions of Recommendation 22-08 as of 1 January 2023.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided for under Recommendation 22-08, the quota for the EU in 2023 will be 21,503 t. The EU has drawn up the annual Fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 meters and their associated individual quotas. All purse seine vessels over 24 meters are allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SCRS catch rates as adopted by the ICCAT Commission for estimating fleet capacity.

The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other vessels' and will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2023 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of the Rec. 22-08.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/833).

The EU has allocated quotas ⁶ to the following sectors:

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>	<i>2023</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Fleet (No. vessels)</i>	<i>Quota allocated (t)</i>
Purse seiner over 40m	31	6,849.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	35	4,653.8
Purse seiners less than 24m	4	192.9
Total Purse Seine fleet	70	11,696.3
Longliner over 40m	0	0.0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	4	50.6
Longliner less than 24m	183	1,743.6
Total longline fleet	187	1,794.2
Baitboat	74	1,447.7
Handline	123	493.1
Trawler	57	444.0
Trap	12	2,481.5
Small scale ⁷	1,104	1,923.3
Other	125	452.0
Total fleet/fishing allocation	1,752	20,732.1
Quota		21,503.0
Recreational		150.3
By-catch reserve		620.6
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		20,882.4

The EU hereby submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all Bluefin tuna fisheries and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the Bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation concerning the management of EBFT fisheries, including Recommendations 22-08, 06-07, 18-13, 18-12 and 18-10.

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. 22-08 as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

1 b) Carry over

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08, the EU has the intention to request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2022 quota to 2023.

In 2022, the underharvest for the EU was of 5,662.6 t, which is more than the maximum allowed 5% provided in Rec. 22-08. Therefore, the EU could carry over 283.13 t to 2023, 5% of the EU quota for 2022. The decision to make effective this transfer as well as the exact quantities will be communicated at a later stage.

⁶ The EU fishing plan shows the number and length category of vessels that will be authorized by EU in 2023 and the quota allocated to them.

⁷ A sectorial quota has been allocated to the small-scale coastal vessels in accordance with para 17 of Recommendation 21-08.

1 c) Destination of catch

The EU catches will be destined to landing and farming according to the following (*preliminary estimated*) percentages:

- Farming: 59%
- Landing: 41%

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	Purse seine vessels, vessels over 24 meters and traps shall send daily reports to their flag Member State administration. Weekly reports for all vessels are sent by Member States to the European Commission, which transmits them to the ICCAT Secretariat. In 2022, all vessels authorized to fish for BFT independently of the length shall record their catches in a logbook.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 ⁸ Section 2 Article 25 "Recording Requirements". "Catches", Article 26 "Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators", Article 27 "Weekly and monthly catch reports sent by the Member States", Article 28 "Information on quota exhaustion" Article 29 "Yearly reporting of catches by the Member States".	All catch reports are recorded at EU level, and cross-checked with authorizations, individual quotas, national quotas and JFO quotas (when relevant). In accordance with Art. 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 ⁹ all EU fishing vessels above 10 m have to be equipped with a bound logbook with chronologically numbered pages. For fishing vessels over 12m, an electronic logbook is required. In accordance with Art. 109 of the above-mentioned Regulation. Member States must cross-check and validate the information reported by the operators in the following documents and data sources: fishing logbook, landing declaration, transshipment declaration, prior notification; take-over declarations, transport documents and sales notes; fishing licences and fishing authorisations; vessel monitoring system data; inspection reports. Additional requirements set up by ICCAT are

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/833.

⁹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				covered by Art. 25 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No. 2016/1627.
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>The fishing seasons applicable to the EU fleets in all Member States concerned are in line with the seasons established by ICCAT Rec. 21-08. Art 11 and Art 12 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 transpose them into EU law.</p> <p>According to Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as the BFT quota is exhausted.</p> <p>In addition, under Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Member States shall inform the Commission when the BFT quota allocated to a gear group referred to in Article 11 or Article 12 of this Regulation or to a JFO or to a purse seiner is deemed to be exhausted.</p> <p>A special reporting and alert system are in place to verify at EU level the quota used in each Member State for each fleet.</p> <p>Compliance with this measure is mainly verified by the Fishing Monitoring Centres (FMC) of the Member States which all operate 24/7. These FMCs have delimited authorised zones and periods, and automatic alarms are triggered in case of vessels in an unauthorised zone or period.</p> <p>In addition, the EU deploys a significant number of patrol vessels and air assets each year during the BFT fishing season. There are protocols for the managing of sighting reports.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", section 1 "Fishing seasons",</p> <p>Article 11 "Longliners, purse seiners, pelagic trawlers, traps and sport and recreational fisheries"</p> <p>Article 12 "Baitboats and trolling boats"</p>	<p>According to provisions in Recommendation 21-08, fishing seasons will be as follows:</p> <p>Fishing season for purse seine vessels will be from 26 May to 1 July.</p> <p>By derogation, the fishing season for purse seiner will be extended until 15 July in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>Within the EUs Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the verification of the respect of the fishing seasons.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 29 of Recommendation 21-08, EU may extend its fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of 10 days in case of wind speeds reaching 5 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs, evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessel members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>According to Art. 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, incidental catches of a maximum 5 % of Bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length between 75 and 115 cm are allowed for all catching vessels and traps fishing actively for Bluefin tuna. These catches are subject to logbook entry, designated port and prior arrival notification requirements, and shall be deducted from the quota.</p> <p>Art. 15 of Regulation EU No 1380/2013¹⁰ establishes a general landing obligation across the EU. Where a derogation to this Regulation is granted in accordance with Article 15.2 and in line with international obligations, this is provided for by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98¹¹.</p> <p>This measure is enforced through inspections at sea, inspections at landing and controls during transportation and at markets.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 14 "Minimum conservation reference size" Article 15 "Incidental catches" and Annex I of the same Regulation "specific conditions applicable to the fisheries referred to in Article 14(2).	<p>For the implementation of the derogation to the Minimum size set up by Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109¹² of 27 January 2022 and Annex VI, sets fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations for BFT by fixing yearly the number of vessels per Member State concerned, including the maximum number of vessels allowed to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as in the Adriatic for farming purposes.</p> <p>Compliance with capacity limitation provisions is monitored in the context of the JDP (Joint Deployment plan) (see 3.2.2.).</p> <p>A tolerance of a maximum of 7% weight for specimens with a minimum size of 6.4 or 66 cm caught for farming purposes by PS operating in the Adriatic Sea.</p>
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	In accordance with ICCAT measures, the EU deducts all dead fish caught as by-catch from its quota. As every year, for Member States without a quota, the EU reserves part of its quota in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109 of 27 January 2022.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 16 "By-catch".	A by-catch quota for accidental catches by EU Member States without a BFT quota is provided in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109 of 27 January 2022.

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy.

¹¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 of 18 November 2014 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, amended by Commission delegated Regulations (EU) 2016/171, (EU) 2017/1352, (EU) 2018/191 and (EU) 2019/2020.

¹² Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109 of 27 January 2022 fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>A quota of 620.6 t allocated to by-catch has been included in the EU fishing plan provided to ICCAT.</p> <p>In 2021 and 2022, the level of by-catches from the EU vessels amounted to 454 t and 406 t respectively, far below the quota allocated in 2023. Additionally, the EU Member States also do transfer of quotas to cover the by-catches, should there be a need to.</p> <p>Compliance with this measure is verified mainly through inspections at sea and inspections at landing.</p>		<p>Catching vessels not fishing actively bluefin tuna shall not retain on board bluefin tuna exceeding 20 % of the total catch by weight or number of specimens, compared to tuna and tuna-like species. For small-scale coastal vessels, the amount of by-catch may be calculated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Any by-catch in excess of the 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip shall be released alive whenever possible.</p> <p>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 regulates under which circumstances BFT may be released or discarded within the EU Regulation (EU) 404/2011¹³ provides that discards shall be recorded in the logbook.</p> <p>All by-catches discarded or retained on-board are counted against the quota.</p>
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Recreational and sport fisheries are managed in different ways across the EU from a total ban of these activities to a catch and release or a maximum catch per vessel and day. In any case, dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries are counted against the quota. In this regard, a quota has been allocated for sport and recreational fisheries in the 2023 fishing plan.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter IV "Sport and Recreational Fisheries", Article 19 "Sport and Recreational Fisheries"	Under Art. 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 each EU Member State is obliged to record catch data, including weight and length of each BFT caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate the data for the preceding year to the European Commission by 30 June of each year. The EU Commission forwards

¹³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		Furthermore, in the context of its Joint Deployment Plan, the EU conducts a series of inspections targeting sport and recreational activities, based on minimum benchmarks established based on a risk assessment procedure. Finally, in addition to these common activities, each Member States also conducts programs of inspections, targeting sport and recreational fisheries. The MS programs are assessed through dedicated verification missions (on spot visits) and audits.		that information to the SCRS. According to Article 4(8) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98, the limit of one fish per vessel per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	<p>Transshipments at sea are prohibited.</p> <p>Land inspections in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan also cover transshipments.</p> <p>There are sparse if any BFT transshipments in EU ports. In case of a transshipment in Port, full inspection coverage is mandatory in case of transshipment and there is continuous monitoring of authorised transshipment places.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 3" Landings and transshipments", Article 32 "Transshipment"	Art. 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 prohibits all transshipments at sea in the Convention area. Fishing vessels can only tranship BFT catches in designated ports.
7	VMS (paras 218-224/219-225)	<p>All vessels are continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will immediately be followed up with the Member State concerned.</p> <p>The software associated with VMS in the different Member States can set alarms and generating automatic warnings to monitor various aspects of interest. The VMS is monitored by the Fishing Monitoring Centres (FMC) of each of the Member States which are operational 24/7.</p>	<p>According to EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Article 9 "Vessel Monitoring system", all EU vessels over 12 meters are equipped with a VMS. By Article 49 Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 this obligation was extended to all BFT tug and towing vessels irrespective of their length.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations by their</p>	<p>EU also follows the additional provisions set up ICCAT Recommendation 18-10.</p> <p>VMS messages from the fishing vessels flying their flag are forwarded to the European Commission at least once every one hour for purse seine vessels and once every two hours for other vessels.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, all towing vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna shall, irrespective of their length, install and</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>EFCA also has its own system for monitoring vessel activity called IMS and its own FMC. The EFCA IMS is an operational fisheries control coordination tool using the integrated maritime data environment (Imdate) developed by the European Maritime Security Agency (EMSA). This tool provides a real-time maritime awareness operational picture fusing and correlating VMS, terrestrial automatic identification systems (AIS), satellite AIS, and long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) position reports together with visual sightings. The service provides a tool for behaviour analysis, risk assessment and classification of possible non-compliance targets to fisheries monitoring centres in Member States and drives the fisheries monitoring activity assessment and follow-up performed by the EFCA.</p> <p>Finally, the team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite VMS, monitors in real time the VMS submissions. To this end, a special IT system is in place.</p>	vessels and, as appropriate, their nationals.	<p>operate a VMS, in accordance with Rec. 18-10, and transmit messages at least once every hour.</p> <p>A specific IT system is in place to ensure the implementation of this obligation at EU level.</p>
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Masters of any fishing vessel holding a European licence for E-BFT pelagic trawler, long liner, baitboat and traps as well as masters of towing vessels receive national observers according to measures set up by Regulation (EU) 2016/1627.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 50 "National observer programme"	<p>Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 "National observer programme" establishes the minimum levels of national observer coverage and describes the tasks to be performed by national observers. The minimum national observer coverages in vessels other than purse seiners are established in accordance with para 95 of Rec. 21-08.</p> <p>EU Member States also ensure a representative temporal and spatial</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				presence of national observers on their vessels and traps to ensure that the European Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries. The implementation of these provisions is ensured through the Data Collection Framework.
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	The EU ensures 100% coverage of all purse seine vessels and for all caging and harvesting activities. As in previous years, replies to all the cases highlighted by ROs will be duly provided to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 51 "ICCAT Regional Observer Programme".	
10	Domestic legislation	<p>The EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 replaced by Recommendation 17-07.</p> <p>Regulation (EU) 2019/833¹⁴ partially transposes Recommendation 18-02 replaced by Recommendation 19-04.</p> <p>The EU is working in the full transposition of the Recommendation 22-08 and on completing the transposition of Recommendation 19-04. In the meantime, and pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, international</p>		

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/833).

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the Union and on its Member States. In these circumstances, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, and with Recommendation 22-08.		
11	Tagging programme	In accordance with ICCAT provisions, the use of tags is authorised only upon request and when the accumulated catch amounts are within Member States' quotas or catch limits for each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps. A summary of any tagging programs implemented by MS is sent to ICCAT.	Art. 5 of (EU) Reg. 640/2010.	EU also follows the additional provisions set up at ICCAT level by para 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 20-08.
	Tagging programme (para 44)	<p>Up to 175¹⁵ port/recreational vessels will conduct catch-and-release activities in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes. The activity is expected to run from 1 July to mid-November¹⁵ in the areas around Ireland, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Sound (map in Annex 1).</p> <p>The objective of the project will be to study the horizontal and vertical distribution and stock composition of the Bluefin tuna, to define periods of residency and philopatry, and to understand overlap between fishing activity and tuna spatial distribution as well as behaviour of tuna over periods of months, its migration patterns, population ecology, genetic specificities and its role in the ecosystem as a predator.</p>		<p>Sport or recreational vessels intending to conduct catch-and-release activities from 1 July to mid-November, in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes shall be authorised. Fitting and operation of a simple VMS system will be a requirement of the authorisation.</p> <p>National Control Authorities would monitor the activities of these vessels both at sea and at landing to ensure compliance with National and EU Regulations.</p> <p>Tagging will be operated by staff of Marine Institutes or by recreational fishing vessel operators. The method to collect data is to tag a</p>

¹⁵ The number and period is subject to revision according to the level of funding and weather conditions.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		Researchers will report about their activities in accordance the provisions applicable for this in ICCAT. The data collection will be consistent with the ICCAT GBYP research programme and will be communicated to and discussed with ICCAT as necessary.		<p>number of bluefin tunas with different types of tags: pop-up satellite tags, acoustic tags, accelerometer tags, camera tags and ICCAT's ordinary tags (Floy tags). The tags are designed to collect a series of complementary data. Operators concerned will be trained in tagging.</p> <p>Any person authorised to target bluefin tuna in a catch-tag-release fishery shall not retain on board, tranship, transfer, tow, land, transport, store or sell bluefin tuna.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna caught alive shall not be removed from the sea but, if so, shall be carefully handled and returned alive to the waters from which it was taken.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that dies during capture must be recorded and discarded by returning immediately to the sea. The master of the vessel concerned shall immediately report to the flag authorities any discards of bluefin tuna in that trip.</p>
12	Intra-farm transfers, inter-farm transfers and random controls in farms (para 195-217)	Traceability in farms is ensured in EU farms, including by way of sealing, with official seals provided by the authorities, of all cages containing BFT. Unsealing is possible in the presence of the farm competent authority. Transfers undertaken by the farm operators between farm cages of the same farm ("intra-farm transfer") shall follow all the requirements of transfers as laid down in paragraph 195-198 of ICCAT Recommendation 21-08 and		These elements are addressed in Joint Deployment Plan, in particular in Annex V of those Plans, which include harmonised procedures for all the EU.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>hence require the necessary completion in the eBCD system. The presence of control authorities and the video recording of the transfer is mandatory for such transfers.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 207 of ICCAT Rec. 21-08, random controls shall take place in farms between the time of completion of the caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other empty farm cage(s) in order that the number of bluefin tuna can be counted by way of control video record(s).</p> <p>The number of controls shall be decided by the farm Member State authorities on the basis of their risk assessment.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the number of controls per year shall cover not less than either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of the total number of cages in each farm under each farm MS jurisdiction, always involving at least one control/cage and, rounded up where needed, or, <p>If required, following the outcome of the risk analysis, the percentages referred to above can be increased as necessary.</p> <p>Transfers require the necessary completion in the eBCD system.</p> <p>Differences in number of BFT as a result of the random controls shall be duly investigated following the procedures in Recommendation 21-08 and in the EU joint deployment plan</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		(JDP) and recorded in the eBCD system. In the event that differences in number of BFT are found to be in excess, the farm MS farm control authorities shall order a release order for the corresponding amount(s).		
13	Carry over estimations in farms (para 199)	<p>In accordance with the measures laid down in para 199-206 of ICCAT Rec. 21-08, the following procedures shall be followed for the implementation of carry-over assessments:</p> <p>Prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner and trap fishing seasons, all fish remaining in cages shall be transferred to other empty farm cages in order that they can be counted and estimates of weight be taken by way of stereoscopic cameras.</p> <p>The live bluefin tuna carried over is placed in separate cages in the farm, on the basis of the catch year and JFO/same CPC trap of origin.</p> <p>Differences between the number of BFT individuals resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest is duly investigated and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm authority orders the release of the corresponding number of fish.</p> <p>The EU transmits to the ICCAT Secretariat the annual carry-over declaration in accordance with para 206 Rec. 21-08.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/ 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
14	Sectorial quota (para 15a)	<p>A total sectorial quota is allocated to a group of small-scale vessels with special fishing authorisations, valid for a defined season going from one to four months. Quota allocated considers the extensions of the fishing period(s).</p> <p>The fleets and gear types under the small-scale category are very heterogeneous in the EU. Each EU Member State is responsible for the monitoring of its fleet, including quota uptake, according to the EU legislation control regulation¹⁶ in place and the national legislation.</p> <p>The quota uptake for these sectorial allocations is monitored following the national legislation.</p>		

1 e) Designated ports

Form CP24 have been submitted to ICCAT Secretariat pertaining EU Member States the list of ports authorised in eleven EU Member States, including MS which do not have BFT targeted fisheries, to allow for landing of BFT by-catch (see **Annex 2**).

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

The EU Capacity management plan is included below.

Pursuant to the quota increase of 10% as compared to last year, some capacity adjustments have to be implemented for 2023.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

The farming management plan for EU is detailed below.

Hereby, the EU reserves its right to submit, if appropriate, revised farming management plans to the Secretariat by 1 June 2023, in accordance to paragraph 20 of Recommendation 22-08 by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

¹⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

	<i>Wild input (t) 2023</i>	<i>Capacity (t) 2023</i>
Spain	7,738.39	11,852.0
Italy	2,064.0	10,220.0
Greece	785.0	2,100.0
Cyprus	756.6	1,034.1
Croatia	2,947.0	7,880.0
Malta	10,486.0	14,679.00
Portugal	350,0	500.0
Total EU	25,126.99	48,265.10

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>		<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
Tuna Graso	ATEU1ESP00001	N 37°45,95' W 00°39,49'		2707.73	3560
Atunes de Mazarrón ¹⁷	ATEU1ESP00002	A:37°47'36.47"N 00°40'55.56"W B:37°47'36.55"N 01°22'45.30"W C:37°30'15.90"N 01°23'03.02"W D:37°30'24.94"N 01°23'19.63"W			53
Caladeros del Mediterraneo	ATEU1ESP00003	A:37°34'30.40"N 00°49'95.30"W B:37°34'06.60"N 00°50'11.40"W C:67°34'25.80"N 00°50'56.20"W D:37°34'49.60"N 00°50'40.10"W		2198.73	3100
Ensenada de Barbate	ATEU1ESP00004	36°09'13" N 5°55'45" W		0	400
Balfegó Tuna, S.L.	ATEU1ESP00005	A:40° 51,5'N 00° 51,0' E B:40° 51,95'N 00° 51,17'E C:40° 51,57'N 00° 51,5'E D:40° 51,9'N 00° 51,61'E		2831.93	3550
Piscifactorias de Levante ¹⁷	ATEU1ESP00006	A:37°47'36.47"N 00°40'55.06"W B:37°47'35.98"N 00°40'30.55"W C:37°47'19.77"N 00°40'31.06"W D:37°47'20.26"N 00°40'55.57"W			800
Proyecto de Engorde de Atún Rojo en Estructuras Flotantes Desmontables ¹⁷	ATEU1ESP00008	A:37°34'25"N 00°52'32"W B:37°34'25"N 00°52'12"W C:37°34'13"N 00°52'32"W D:37°34'13"N 00°52'12"W			53
Tuna Graso ¹⁷	ATEU1ESP00011	37°34'06,341"N; 0°52'39,300"W 37°33'59,998"N; 0°53'12,358"W 37°33'44,272"N; 0°53'12,802"W 37°33'43,683"N; 0°52'39,943"W			230
Nature Pesca S.L. ¹⁷	ATEU1ESP00013	A: 37° 13,79°N 0001° 44,803 W B: 37° 13,1°N 001W C: 37° 13,6°N 001° 44,5W D: 37° 13,2°N 001 45,2 W			53
Mediterraneo ¹⁷	ATEU1ESP00014	A: 37° 49',6 N 000° 40',7 W C: 37° 49',6 N 000° 40',4W B: 37° 49',0 N 000° 40',5 W D: 37° 49',0 N 000° 41',0 W"			53
Jadran Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00008	y 5540056,00 5540410,00 5539883,45 5540237,52	x 4854937,00 4854333,00 4854835,87 4854231,75	700.2	1872
Pelagos Net Farma D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00011	y 5521777,07 5522396,80 5522324,84 5521705,39	x 4865868,10 4865705,51 4865434,70 4865597,28	604.3	1616

¹⁷ Farms currently inactive but subject to be active in the future.

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>		<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
Sardina D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00006	y 5620531 5620851,14 5620663,29 5620343,141	x 4795026,75 4794700 4794518,74 4794846,83	647.6	1732
Kali Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00012	y 5514248,71 5514346,2201 5514401,68 5514499,2376 5515214,66 5514694,4002 5515061,69 5514541,3353 5517392,279 5517553,927 5517303,667 5517142,018 5517801,279 5517962,927 5517712,667 5517551,018 5493440,00 5493498,70 5494068,42 5494006,73 5494273,27 5494331,97 5494898,70 5494840,00 5509116 5509264 5508712 5508860	x 4877864,54 4877750,5522 4877993,40 4877879,4528 4877043,84 4877651,5991 4876914,98 4877522,6578 4868049,255 4867931,485 4867587,981 4867705,751 4867662,255 4867544,485 4867200,981 4867318,751 4892040,00 4892120,96 4891710,08 4891629,12 4891535,88 4891516,84 4891105,96 4891025,00 4875654 4875520 4875211 4875076	700.2	1872
MFF	ATEU1MLT00004	35.8785 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6430 (E)		1957.561	2741
Ta Mattew	ATEU1MLT00007	35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E)		600	840
Fish & Fish	ATEUMLT00003	35.8640 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8495 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6430 (E)		2557.561	3580
Mare Blu	ATEUMLT00008	35.8930 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E)		2557.531	3580
MML	ATEUMLT00002	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)		1233.317	1726

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>	<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
AJD	ATEUMLT00001	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1580	2212
Tuniraise	ATEU1PRT00002	N 37° 01.006' W 07° 42.615' N 37° 00.975' W 07° 42.607' N 37° 01.048' W 07° 42.500' N 37° 01.024' W 07° 42.485'	250	357
Barril	ATEU1PRT00003	Latitude N 37°02'21.4"; Longitude W 07°39'51.4"	100	143
Kitiana Fisheries Ltd. ¹⁷	ATEU1CYP00002	South coast of Cyprus (Vasiliko) Coordinates: 33° 14' 95" E; 34° 41' 09" N.	252,2	344,7
Oceanis Aquaculture Ltd ¹⁷	ATEU1CYP00003	South coast of Cyprus (Vasiliko) Coordinates: 33° 16' 03" E; 34° 40' 79" N.	252,2	344,7
Kimagro Fishfarming Ltd ¹⁷	ATEU1CYP00001	South coast of Cyprus (Limassol) Coordinates: 33° 02' 40" E 34° 38' 49" N	252,2	344,7
Bluefin Tuna Hellas S.A. ¹⁷	ATEU1GRC00001	Echinades Islands, Prefecture of Kefallonia – Ithaki Islands	635	1000
Poseidon Tuna Hellas S.A. ¹⁷	ATEU1GRC00002	Messaras Gulf Prefecture of Herakleion	150	1100
Pescazzurra S.R.L. ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00005	MILAZZO (ME)	0	0
Soc. Cooperativa Pescatori Cala Bianca	ATEU1ITA00006	PUNTO 1: LAT: 39°57,903' N LONG: 15°21,295' E PUNTO 2: LAT: 39°57,903' N LONG: 15°21,045' E PUNTO 3: LAT: 39°58,000' N LONG: 15°21,295' E PUNTO 4: LAT: 39°58,000' N LONG: 15°21,045' E	600	850
Soc. Ittica Trappeto A.R.L. ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00007	TRAPPETO (PA)	0	0
La Favorita Snc.	ATEU1ITA00015	PUNTO 1: LAT: 40°47'10.2209" N LONG: 14°19'57.2993" E PUNTO 2: LAT: 40°47'14.7861" N LONG: 14°20'03.9480" E PUNTO 3: LAT: 40°47'19.8395" N LONG: 14°19'57.9417" E PUNTO 4: LAT: 40°47'15.2744" N LONG: 14°19'51.2930" E	1300	2200
Ittica Offshore Del Tirreno S.P.A. ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00016	POZZUOILI (NA)	0	0

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>	<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
De. Mo. Pesca di Pasquale della Monica & C. S.A.S. ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00017	CETARA (SA)	0	0
Soc. Coop. Pescatori San Francesco di Paola ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00019	VIBO VALENTIA (VV)	0	0
Orizon Maritimas Italia SARL ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00020	SALINE DI MONTEBELLO JONICO (RC)	0	0
Tonnare Sulcitane S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00021	PUNTO 1: LAT: 39°16'45,90" N LONG: 008°20'48,00" E PUNTO 2: LAT: 39°16'51,62" N LONG: 008°20'52,35" E PUNTO 3: LAT: 39°16'55,20" N LONG: 008°20'44,40" E PUNTO 4: LAT: 39°16'49,60" N LONG: 008°20'39,90" E	110	155
DG PESCA 1 ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00022	ROMA (RM)	0	1500
DG PESCA 2 ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00023	ROMA (RM)	0	1500
DG PESCA 3 ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00024	ROMA (RM)	0	1500
DG PESCA 4 ¹⁷	ATEU1ITA00025	ROMA (RM)	54	2515

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under 4.2 below.

4.1.1 Evaluation of the implementation by the Member States of the fisheries rules in force

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy, one of the tasks of the European Commission is to ensure that Member States comply with the legal obligations set out in EU framework, including those stemming from ICCAT rules.

The Commission carries out this monitoring mainly by means of three tools: verifications, autonomous inspections and audits. A specific unit in the Directorate of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) carries out these checks on a regular basis. This supervision by the European Commission of the control activity exercised by the member states, which is provided for in the Title X, Regulation 1224/2009,

“Evaluation and Control by the Commission”, is an additional layer that helps to ensure effective control. In this regard, if the European Commission considers that irregularities have occurred in the implementation of the rules, it follows up on the shortcomings found using different tools such as administrative inquiries, EU pilots or actions plans. If the deficiencies are not corrected by the member state authorities, the European Commission may open infringement proceedings against the member state.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2023 fishing campaign, the European Commission inspectors will be very active in 2023.

4.1.2 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

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

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

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231)

The ICCAT Scheme of joint international inspection as laid down by paras 228-231 and Annex 7 of Rec. 21-08/22-08 will be fully implemented by the EU and coordinated by EFCA. EFCA will also coordinate any agreed voluntary exchange of inspection personnel with other CPCs in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 19-17.

4.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)¹⁸ to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna management and swordfish recovery plans. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fishery.

4.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes a strategy for control of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, as well as Mediterranean swordfish and albacore. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land, traps and farms.

EFCA also coordinates the implementation of the joint international scheme of inspection (JIS) for bluefin tuna and swordfish as provided for under ICCAT conservation and management measures. Joint campaigns are planned, implemented and evaluated each year under the framework of the Mediterranean JDP in close cooperation with the European Commission, the Member State concerned and the EFCA.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2023 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. EFCA also has three of its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessels as well as an aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2023 JDP will be the eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to purse seiners, towing vessels, longliners and farming activities. In 2023, the EU will conduct a minimum of 306 days of control and inspection activities at sea and 47 flights of air surveillance, which reflects the number of days committed for specific campaigns under the JDP.

¹⁸ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the IMS (Integrated Maritime System) service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data.

Finally, the EFCA also implements operational cooperation with other ICCAT Contracting Parties using the vehicle of the JDP, such as the exchange of inspectors and training activities, as well as training workshops to ensure a common interpretation and the full implementation of inspection and control measures provided for by the ICCAT.

4.2.3 Member States annual Inspection plans

Under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2022 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control Action programme for bluefin tuna. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategies that Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation 21-08. In line with Recommendation 21-08, the EU authorities will control 100% of caging operations, harvesting to processing vessels, intra-farm transfers and carry-over as well as to establish a level of random controls (with a minimum of 10% of the number of cages in each farm) based on risk assessment to ensure proper reporting and traceability of bluefin tuna in farms.

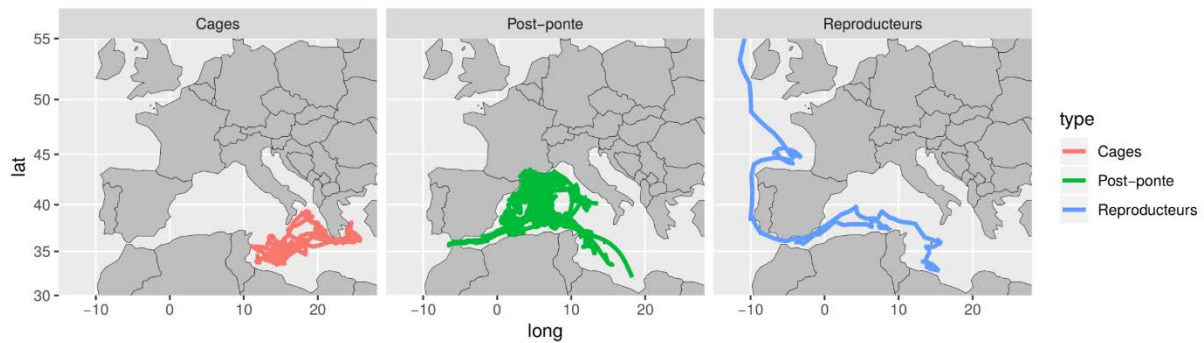
5. Others

Two main research activities are carried out by Ifremer on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

The first activity is the aerial survey in the Gulf of Lions. This activity has been initiated in 2000 and provides a key fisheries-independent abundance index for young Bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. This is the only index of this kind and it is therefore very valuable to ICCAT for management purpose. The index has been used for the 2017 assessment of the eastern stock. Current work focus on improving the observation through the development of a system for image acquisition and analysis and integrating the impacts of environmental effects on the vertical and horizontal movements of tuna and on the abundance index. The survey could also be used for marine mammals. Papers are presented every year at the SCRS.

The second activity, not independent from the first one, focuses on observing migrations of bluefin tuna in relation to its physiology. This is done through the development of a new electronic tag, embarking a sensor aiming at capturing fish growth and indirectly reproduction (POPSTAR project funded by Ifremer). The project aims also at tagging bluefin tuna caught by purse seiners. The Purse seiner fishery has been representing more than 50% of the Eastern BFT catch in the past 10 years, yet hardly any tagging has been

done on this segment. A successful tagging operation was carried out from a purse-seiner in June 2018 and 2019, showing contrasting migration patterns to those obtained from fish tagged in the Northwest Mediterranean. These operations through different projects (POPSTAR, FISHNCHIP and PROMPT) are meant to be a key contribution to applied research and ICCAT, as it will help to document and understand migrations and how they are affected by the environment (e.g., for the MSE). Deployment campaigns for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled because of the pandemics, if the situation allows it, it is planned to be resumed in 2022.



Another project (PROMPT) is pursuing work on BFT migrations through tagging and experimental work. The tagging planned in the project aims at pursuing the work initiated by the POPSTAR and FishNchip projects described above and understand the effects of the physical environment on migrations. The experimental work will serve to estimate energetic requirement of BFT along its migrations.

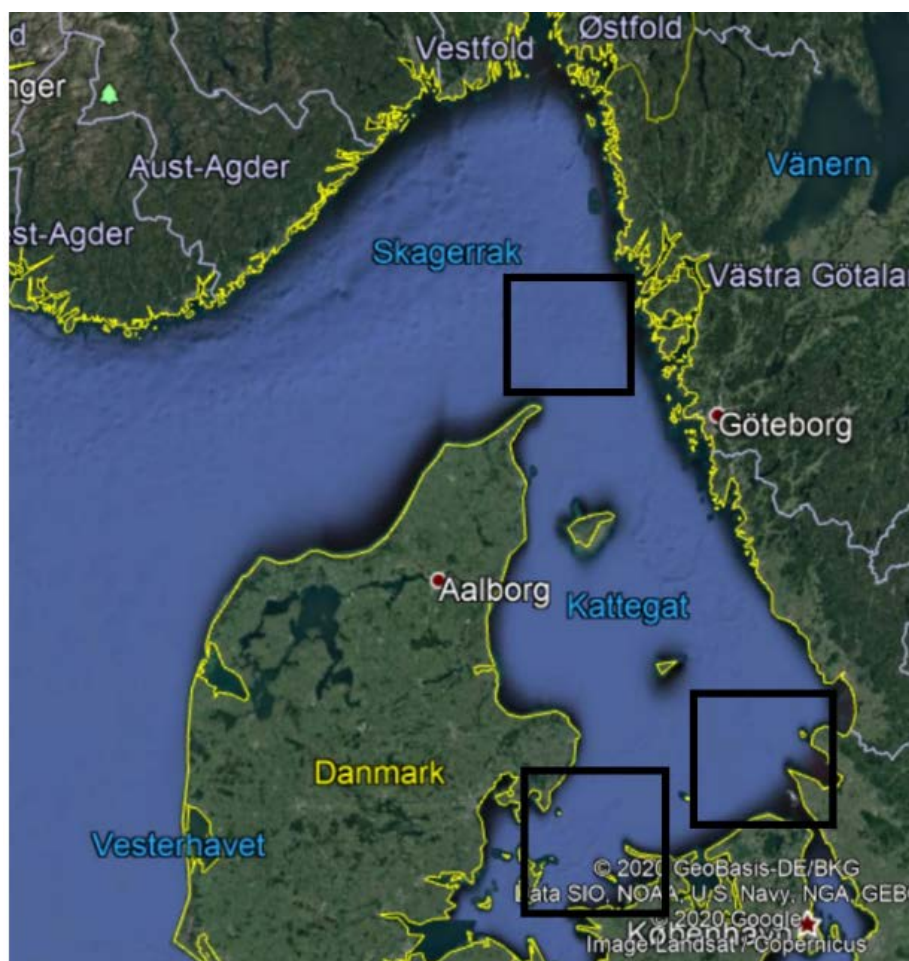
A close working relationship has been set up between Ifremer, French purse seiners, scientists from a Maltese company (AquaBioTech Ltd, which has also been heavily involved in bluefin tuna research) and a Maltese fattening farm. This has created a unique and fruitful set-up to develop research and experiments on bluefin tuna.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	-	Ref year	<i>Fishing Fleet</i>					Ref year	<i>Fishing Capacity</i>				
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	38	43	28	30	31	31	2685	3040	1980	2121	2192	2192
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	91	18	34	34	33	35	4530	896	1693	1693	1643	1742
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	112	4	5	5	5	4	3772	135	168	168	168	135
Purse seine total fleet		241	65	67	69	69	70	10987	4071	3841	3982	4003	4069
Longliner over 40m	25		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	7	12	1	1	4	4	40	68	6	6	23	23
Longliner less than 24m	5	329	164	85	108	192	183	1645	820	425	540	960	778
Total longline fleet		336	176	86	109	196	187	1685	888	431	546	983	800
Baitboat	19.8	68	106	56	59	74	74	1343	2099	1109	1168	1465	1462
Handline	5	101	46	52	60	60	61	505	230	260	300	300	300
Trawler	10	160	57	49	57	57	57	1600	570	490	570	570	570
Trap	130	15	14	13	13	13	13	1950	1820	1690	1690	1690	1690
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A		870	936	1025	1041	1340		4350	4680	5125	5205	5221
Other (please specify)	5	253	52	61	74	74	361	1265	260	305	370	370	570
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1174	1386	1320	1466	1584	2163	19335	14288	12805	13751	14586	14681
Quota								17044	17536	19460	19411,60	19411,60	21503
Percentage allocated to by-catch												3.26%	2.89%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)								16211	17536	18657	18651	18642	20882 ¹⁹
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)												136	150
Under/ overcapacity								3124	-3248	-5852	-4900	-4057	-6201

¹⁹ Potential carryover from 2022 is yet under evaluation, hence at this stage the adjusted quota is 20,882 t, i.e., 21,503 t (quota) minus 620.6 t (bycatch).

Map of designated areas in Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Sound for the bluefin tuna tagging project in 2023



List of designated Ports

PortName	MS
AYIA NAPA FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
LARNACA	EU-CYP
LARNACA FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
LATSI FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
LIMASSOL NEW PORT	EU-CYP
LIMASSOI OLD PORT	EU-CYP
PAFOS FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
PARALIMNI FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
ZYGI FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
Bønnerup	EU-DNK
Gilleleje	EU-DNK
Grenå	EU-DNK
Hanstholm	EU-DNK
Hirtshals	EU-DNK
Hvide Sande	EU-DNK
Skagen	EU-DNK
Thyborøn	EU-DNK
A CORUÑA	EU-ESP
ADRA	EU-ESP
AGAETE	EU-ESP
AGUILAS	EU-ESP
ALCUDIA	EU-ESP
ALGECIRAS	EU-ESP
ALICANTE	EU-ESP
ALMERIA	EU-ESP
ALTEA	EU-ESP
AMETLLA DE MAR	EU-ESP
AMPOLLA	EU-ESP
ANDRATX	EU-ESP
ARENYS DE MAR	EU-ESP
ARGUINEGUIN	EU-ESP
ARRECIFE DE LANZAROTE	EU-ESP
AVILES	EU-ESP
AZOHIA	EU-ESP
BADALONA	EU-ESP
BARBATE	EU-ESP
BARCELONA	EU-ESP
BENICARLO	EU-ESP
BERMEO	EU-ESP
BILBAO	EU-ESP
BLANES	EU-ESP
BURELA	EU-ESP
BURRIANA	EU-ESP
CADIZ	EU-ESP
CALA BONA	EU-ESP
CALA RATJADA	EU-ESP
CALETA DE VELEZ	EU-ESP
CALPE	EU-ESP
CAMBRILS	EU-ESP
CARAMIÑAL	EU-ESP
CARBONERAS	EU-ESP
CARTAGENA	EU-ESP
CASAS DE ALCANAR	EU-ESP
CASTELLON	EU-ESP
CELEIRO	EU-ESP
CIUDADELA	EU-ESP
COLINDRES	EU-ESP
COLONIA SAN JORGE	EU-ESP
CONIL	EU-ESP
CORRALEJO	EU-ESP

CULLERA	EU-ESP
DENIA	EU-ESP
ESTEPONA	EU-ESP
FORMENTERA (CALA SAVINA)	EU-ESP
FORNELLS	EU-ESP
GANDIA	EU-ESP
GARRUCHA	EU-ESP
GIJON	EU-ESP
GRAN TARAJAL	EU-ESP
GUETARIA	EU-ESP
HONDARRIBIA	EU-ESP
HUELVA	EU-ESP
IBIZA	EU-ESP
JAVEA	EU-ESP
LA ESCALA	EU-ESP
LA RESTINGA	EU-ESP
LAREDO	EU-ESP
LAS PALMAS - PUERTO DE LA LUZ	EU-ESP
LLANSA	EU-ESP
LOS CRISTIANOS	EU-ESP
MAHON	EU-ESP
MALAGA	EU-ESP
MARIN	EU-ESP
MAZARRON	EU-ESP
MOGAN	EU-ESP
MORRO JABLE	EU-ESP
MOTRIL	EU-ESP
ONDARROA	EU-ESP
ORZOLA	EU-ESP
PALAMOS	EU-ESP
PALMA DE MALLORCA	EU-ESP
PASAJES	EU-ESP
PEÑISCOLA	EU-ESP
PLAYA DE SANTIAGO (GOMERA)	EU-ESP
PLAYA SAN JUAN - GUIA ISORA	EU-ESP
POLLENSA	EU-ESP
PORT DE LA SELVA	EU-ESP
PORTO COLOM	EU-ESP
PUERTO DEL ROSARIO	EU-ESP
ROQUETAS DE MAR	EU-ESP
ROSAS	EU-ESP
S'ESTANYOL DE MIGJORN	EU-ESP
SAN ANTONI DE PORTMANY	EU-ESP
SAN CARLOS DE LA RAPITA	EU-ESP
SAN FELIU DE GUIXOLS	EU-ESP
SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR	EU-ESP
SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA	EU-ESP
SANTA CRUZ DE LA PALMA	EU-ESP
SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE	EU-ESP
SANTA EUGENIA DE RIVEIRA	EU-ESP
SANTA POLA	EU-ESP
SANTANDER	EU-ESP
SANTAÑI	EU-ESP
SANTOÑA	EU-ESP
SOLLER	EU-ESP
TALIARTE - MELENARA	EU-ESP
TARIFA	EU-ESP
TARRAGONA	EU-ESP
TAZACORTE	EU-ESP
TORREDEMBARRA	EU-ESP
TORREVIEJA	EU-ESP
VALENCIA	EU-ESP
VALLE GRAN REY	EU-ESP
VIGO	EU-ESP
VILANOVA I LA GELTRU	EU-ESP
VILLAGARCIA DE AROSA	EU-ESP

VILLAJAYOSA	EU-ESP
VINAROZ	EU-ESP
Agde	EU-FRA
Ajaccio	EU-FRA
Arcachon	EU-FRA
Bastia	EU-FRA
Bayonne	EU-FRA
Bonifacio	EU-FRA
Boulogne sur Mer	EU-FRA
Cagnes sur mer	EU-FRA
Calvi	EU-FRA
Cannes	EU-FRA
Carnon	EU-FRA
Carry-le-Rouet	EU-FRA
Centuri	EU-FRA
Cherbourg	EU-FRA
Cogolin	EU-FRA
Concarneau	EU-FRA
Douarnenez	EU-FRA
Frontignan plage	EU-FRA
Galéria	EU-FRA
Granville	EU-FRA
Grau-du-Roi	EU-FRA
Gruissan	EU-FRA
Hyères	EU-FRA
L'Île-Rousse	EU-FRA
La Ciotat	EU-FRA
La Cotinière	EU-FRA
La Rochelle	EU-FRA
La Turballe	EU-FRA
le Barcarès	EU-FRA
Le Conquet	EU-FRA
Le Guilvinec	EU-FRA
Le Lavandou	EU-FRA
Les Sables d'Olonne	EU-FRA
Les Saintes-Maries	
-de-la-mer	EU-FRA
Lorient	EU-FRA
Marseille	EU-FRA
Martigues	EU-FRA
Menton	EU-FRA
Palavas-les-flots	EU-FRA
Port de Bouc	EU-FRA
Port Saint Louis du Rhône	EU-FRA
Port-la-Nouvelle	EU-FRA
Porto-Vecchio	EU-FRA
Port-Vendres	EU-FRA
Propriano	EU-FRA
Quiberon	EU-FRA
Roscoff	EU-FRA
Royan	EU-FRA
Sagone	EU-FRA
Saint Gilles Croix de Vie	EU-FRA
Saint Jean Cap Ferrat	EU-FRA
Saint Malo	EU-FRA
Saint-Cyprien	EU-FRA
Saint-Florent	EU-FRA
Saint-Jean-de-Luz	EU-FRA
Saint-quay-portrieux	EU-FRA
Saint-Raphaël	EU-FRA
Sanary	EU-FRA
Santa Maria Poggio	EU-FRA
Sari-Solenzara	EU-FRA
Sète	EU-FRA
Théoule sur mer	EU-FRA
Toulon	EU-FRA

Vallauris Golfe-Juan	EU-FRA
Achilleio	EU-GRC
Adamantas	EU-GRC
Agia Anna	EU-GRC
Agia Galini	EU-GRC
Agia Kyriaki Trikeriou	EU-GRC
Agia Marina	EU-GRC
Agia Sotira	EU-GRC
Agioi Apostoloi Petrion	EU-GRC
Agioi kampos	EU-GRC
Agios Efstratios	EU-GRC
Agios Georgios Lichadas	EU-GRC
Agios Ioannis o Theologos	EU-GRC
Agios Ioannis Piliou	EU-GRC
Agios Kirykos	EU-GRC
Agios Konstantinos	EU-GRC
Agios Nikolaos	EU-GRC
Agios Nikolaos	EU-GRC
Agios Nikolaos Volimon	EU-GRC
Agios Stefanos Avlioton	EU-GRC
Aidipsos	EU-GRC
Aigiali	EU-GRC
Aigina	EU-GRC
Aigio	EU-GRC
Alexandroupoli	EU-GRC
Aliveri	EU-GRC
Alykes	EU-GRC
Alykes	EU-GRC
Alypa Palaiokastritsas	EU-GRC
Amaliapoli	EU-GRC
Amfilochia	EU-GRC
Ammoudia	EU-GRC
Ammouliani	EU-GRC
Andros	EU-GRC
Antikyra	EU-GRC
Argostoli	EU-GRC
Arillas Perdikas	EU-GRC
Arkitsa	EU-GRC
Astakos	EU-GRC
Astypalaia	EU-GRC
Atalanti	EU-GRC
Atherinolakkos	EU-GRC
Athinios	EU-GRC
Batsi	EU-GRC
Chalastra	EU-GRC
Chalkida	EU-GRC
Chania	EU-GRC
Chersonisos	EU-GRC
Chios	EU-GRC
Chora Sfakion	EU-GRC
Diapori (Kontias)	EU-GRC
Donousa	EU-GRC
Elefsina	EU-GRC
Eleftheron	EU-GRC
Epidavros	EU-GRC
Erateini	EU-GRC
Ereikousa	EU-GRC
Eretria	EU-GRC
Ermioni	EU-GRC
Ermoupoli	EU-GRC
Evdilos	EU-GRC
Fanari	EU-GRC
Fiskardo	EU-GRC
Folegandros	EU-GRC
Fournoi	EU-GRC
Fry	EU-GRC

Gaios	EU-GRC
Galaxeidi	EU-GRC
Gavrio	EU-GRC
Georgioupoli	EU-GRC
Glossa	EU-GRC
Glyfa	EU-GRC
Gritsa	EU-GRC
Gytheio	EU-GRC
Ierapetra	EU-GRC
Ierissos	EU-GRC
Igoumenitsa	EU-GRC
Ilia	EU-GRC
Imerolia Kassiopis	EU-GRC
Imeros	EU-GRC
Ios	EU-GRC
Irakleia	EU-GRC
Irakleio	EU-GRC
Iteas	EU-GRC
Kalamaria	EU-GRC
Kalamata	EU-GRC
Kalantos	EU-GRC
Kallirachi	EU-GRC
Kaloi Limenes	EU-GRC
Kalymnos	EU-GRC
Kamares	EU-GRC
Kamariotissa	EU-GRC
Kapsali	EU-GRC
Kardamaina	EU-GRC
Kardamyla	EU-GRC
Karlovasi	EU-GRC
Karpathos	EU-GRC
Karyani	EU-GRC
Karystos	EU-GRC
Katakolo	EU-GRC
Katapola	EU-GRC
Kavala	EU-GRC
Kefalos	EU-GRC
Keramidi	EU-GRC
Keramoti	EU-GRC
Keratsini	EU-GRC
Kerkyra	EU-GRC
Kiato	EU-GRC
Kimolos	EU-GRC
Kissamos	EU-GRC
Kitros	EU-GRC
Koilada	EU-GRC
Kokkinos Pyrgos	EU-GRC
Kolymvari	EU-GRC
Korinthos	EU-GRC
Korissia	EU-GRC
Koroni	EU-GRC
Kos	EU-GRC
Kotsinas	EU-GRC
Koufonisi	EU-GRC
Kouremenos	EU-GRC
Kyllini	EU-GRC
Kymi	EU-GRC
Kyparissia	EU-GRC
Lardou	EU-GRC
Lavrio	EU-GRC
Lefkada	EU-GRC
Lefkimmi	EU-GRC
Leonidio	EU-GRC
Limenaria	EU-GRC
Limni Evvoias	EU-GRC
Lithi	EU-GRC

Livadi	EU-GRC
Lixouri	EU-GRC
Lygia Lefkadas	EU-GRC
Lygia Prevezas	EU-GRC
Maistros	EU-GRC
Makri	EU-GRC
Mantoudi	EU-GRC
Marmari	EU-GRC
Maroneia	EU-GRC
Mastichari	EU-GRC
Mathraki	EU-GRC
Mavra Litharia	EU-GRC
Mavrolimni	EU-GRC
Megisti	EU-GRC
Merichas	EU-GRC
Mesolongi	EU-GRC
Mesta	EU-GRC
Methana	EU-GRC
Monemvasia	EU-GRC
Moudros	EU-GRC
Moutsouna	EU-GRC
Mykonos	EU-GRC
Myrina	EU-GRC
Mytikas	EU-GRC
Mytilini	EU-GRC
Nafpaktos	EU-GRC
Naousa	EU-GRC
Naxos	EU-GRC
Nea Fokaia	EU-GRC
Nea Kallikrateia	EU-GRC
Nea Michaniona	EU-GRC
Nea Moudania	EU-GRC
Nea Peramos	EU-GRC
Nea Potidaia	EU-GRC
Nea Roda	EU-GRC
Nea Skioni	EU-GRC
Nea Styra	EU-GRC
Neapoli	EU-GRC
Neos Marmaras	EU-GRC
Olympiada	EU-GRC
Oreoi	EU-GRC
Ormos Marathokampou	EU-GRC
Ormos Panagias	EU-GRC
Oropos	EU-GRC
Othonoi	EU-GRC
Ouranoupoli	EU-GRC
Pachi Megaron	EU-GRC
Palaia Fokaia	EU-GRC
Palaiochora	EU-GRC
Palairos	EU-GRC
Paralia Astrous	EU-GRC
Paralia Katerinis	EU-GRC
Parga	EU-GRC
Paroikia	EU-GRC
Partheni	EU-GRC
Patitiri	EU-GRC
Patmos	EU-GRC
Patra	EU-GRC
Pefki	EU-GRC
Perama	EU-GRC
Perama Geras	EU-GRC
Perigiali	EU-GRC
Petra	EU-GRC
Petriti Korission	EU-GRC
Pigadi Pteleou	EU-GRC
Piso Livadi	EU-GRC

Plaka	EU-GRC
Platamonas	EU-GRC
Platania	EU-GRC
Plataria	EU-GRC
Platygiati	EU-GRC
Platys Gialos	EU-GRC
Plimmyri	EU-GRC
Plomari	EU-GRC
Politika	EU-GRC
Poros	EU-GRC
Poros Kefalonias	EU-GRC
Porto Koufo	EU-GRC
Porto Lagos	EU-GRC
Porto Rafti	EU-GRC
Portocheli	EU-GRC
Pounta	EU-GRC
Preveza	EU-GRC
Psaropouli Vasilikon	EU-GRC
Pylos	EU-GRC
Pyrgoi Peramatos	EU-GRC
Pythagoreio	EU-GRC
Raches	EU-GRC
Rafina	EU-GRC
Rethymno	EU-GRC
Rodias Linoperamaton	EU-GRC
Rodos (Provlita Kolona)	EU-GRC
Sagiada	EU-GRC
Salamina	EU-GRC
Sami	EU-GRC
Samos (Vathy)	EU-GRC
Sarti	EU-GRC
Schoinousa	EU-GRC
Sigri	EU-GRC
Sikinos	EU-GRC
Siteia	EU-GRC
Skala Kallonis	EU-GRC
Skala Kameirou	EU-GRC
Skala Polichnitou	EU-GRC
Skala Sykamineas	EU-GRC
Skiathos	EU-GRC
Skyros	EU-GRC
Souda	EU-GRC
Stavros	EU-GRC
Stomio	EU-GRC
Stylida	EU-GRC
Symi	EU-GRC
Syvota	EU-GRC
Thasos	EU-GRC
Tinos	EU-GRC
Tolo	EU-GRC
Trypiti	EU-GRC
Varkiza	EU-GRC
Vasiliki	EU-GRC
Vathy Ithakis	EU-GRC
Vlychada	EU-GRC
Vlycho	EU-GRC
Volakas	EU-GRC
Volos	EU-GRC
Vonitsa	EU-GRC
Xylokastro	EU-GRC
Zakynthos	EU-GRC
Banjole-ribarska luka	EU-HRV
Biograd-glavni mul	EU-HRV
Bol	EU-HRV
Brač-uvala Maslinova	EU-HRV
Brižine-ribarska luka	EU-HRV

Brna	EU-HRV
Bunarina	EU-HRV
Cavtat	EU-HRV
Cres	EU-HRV
Crikvenica-Pazdehova	EU-HRV
Dubrovnik-Gruž	EU-HRV
Fažana	EU-HRV
Fortica	EU-HRV
Funtana	EU-HRV
Gat Čadavica	EU-HRV
Hvar	EU-HRV
Hvar-Vira	EU-HRV
Ilovik	EU-HRV
Jablanac	EU-HRV
Jelsa	EU-HRV
Jezera	EU-HRV
Kali-Batalaža	EU-HRV
Kali-Vela Lamjana	EU-HRV
Karigador	EU-HRV
Kaštel Gomilica	EU-HRV
Kaštel Kambelovac	EU-HRV
Kaštel Stari	EU-HRV
Kaštel Sućurac	EU-HRV
Klenovica	EU-HRV
Komiža	EU-HRV
Kraljevica	EU-HRV
Krila Jesenice	EU-HRV
Krk	EU-HRV
Krnica	EU-HRV
Kukljica-ribarski gat	EU-HRV
Ližnjan-Kuje	EU-HRV
Lovište	EU-HRV
Lumbarda	EU-HRV
Makarska	EU-HRV
Mali Lošinj	EU-HRV
Malinska	EU-HRV
Mandre	EU-HRV
Martinska	EU-HRV
Medulin	EU-HRV
Milna	EU-HRV
Molat-Lučina	EU-HRV
Molunat	EU-HRV
Mošćenička Draga	EU-HRV
Murter	EU-HRV
Novalja	EU-HRV
Novigrad	EU-HRV
Novigrad-Prporcela	EU-HRV
Obala Uljanik	EU-HRV
Omiš	EU-HRV
Omišalj	EU-HRV
Orebić	EU-HRV
Osor	EU-HRV
Ploče	EU-HRV
Plomin	EU-HRV
Podgora	EU-HRV
Podvrške	EU-HRV
Porat	EU-HRV
Poreč	EU-HRV
Prapratno	EU-HRV
Primošten	EU-HRV
Prvić-Šepurine	EU-HRV
Pučića	EU-HRV
Pula-korijen gata Rijeka	EU-HRV
Punat	EU-HRV
Rab	EU-HRV
Rabac	EU-HRV

Rijeka-dio putničke luke	EU-HRV
Rijeka-Luka Rijeka	EU-HRV
Rogoznica	EU-HRV
Rovinj-Valdibora	EU-HRV
Sali-Mardešić	EU-HRV
Santa Marina	EU-HRV
Savudrija	EU-HRV
Seget Donji	EU-HRV
Senj	EU-HRV
Šibenik-gat Sv. Petra	EU-HRV
Silba-porat	EU-HRV
Šimuni	EU-HRV
Slano	EU-HRV
Split-sjeverna luka	EU-HRV
Stari Grad	EU-HRV
Stobreč	EU-HRV
Sućuraj	EU-HRV
Sukošan	EU-HRV
Sumartin	EU-HRV
Supetar	EU-HRV
Sustjepan	EU-HRV
Sveta Fуска	EU-HRV
Sveti Martin	EU-HRV
Tkon	EU-HRV
Tribunj	EU-HRV
Trogir-trajektna rampa	EU-HRV
Trpanj	EU-HRV
Trstenik	EU-HRV
Turanj	EU-HRV
Ubli-operativna obala	EU-HRV
Umag	EU-HRV
Uvala Peleš	EU-HRV
Uvala Voz	EU-HRV
Vela Luka	EU-HRV
Viganj	EU-HRV
Vinišće	EU-HRV
Vir	EU-HRV
Vis	EU-HRV
Vodice	EU-HRV
Vrsar	EU-HRV
Zadar-Gaženica	EU-HRV
Zadar-kod mosta	EU-HRV
Zaostrog	EU-HRV
Žunac	EU-HRV
An Daingean, Co. Kerry	EU-IRL
Baltimore, Co. Cork	EU-IRL
Castletownbere, Co. Cork	EU-IRL
Clogherhead, Co. Louth	EU-IRL
Dunmore East, Co. Waterford	EU-IRL
Howth, Co. Dublin	EU-IRL
Killybegs, Co. Donegal	EU-IRL
Ros a Mhil, Co. Galway	EU-IRL
Union Hall, Co. Cork	EU-IRL
ACCIAROLI	EU-ITA
AGROPOLI	EU-ITA
ALASSIO	EU-ITA
ALGHERO	EU-ITA
AMALFI	EU-ITA
AMANTEA	EU-ITA
ANCONA	EU-ITA
ANDORRA	EU-ITA
ANZIO	EU-ITA
ARBATAX	EU-ITA
ARENZANO	EU-ITA
ARMA DI TAGGIA	EU-ITA
AUGUSTA	EU-ITA

BAGNARA CALABRA	EU-ITA
BARI	EU-ITA
BISCEGLIE	EU-ITA
BORDIGHERA	EU-ITA
BOSA	EU-ITA
BRINDISI	EU-ITA
CAGLIARI	EU-ITA
CALA GONONE	EU-ITA
CALASETTA	EU-ITA
CAMOGLI	EU-ITA
CAPRAIA ISOLA	EU-ITA
CARIATI	EU-ITA
CARLOFORTE	EU-ITA
CASTELLAMMARE DEL GOLFO	EU-ITA
CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA	EU-ITA
CASTELSARDO	EU-ITA
CASTIGLIONE DELLA PESCAIA	EU-ITA
CATANIA	EU-ITA
CATANZARO MARINA	EU-ITA
CECINA	EU-ITA
CESENATICO	EU-ITA
CETRARO	EU-ITA
CHIOGGIA	EU-ITA
CIRO' MARINA	EU-ITA
CIVITANOVA MARCHE	EU-ITA
CIVITAVECCHIA	EU-ITA
CORIGLIANO CALABRO	EU-ITA
CROTONE	EU-ITA
FANO	EU-ITA
FAVIGNANA	EU-ITA
FINALE LIGURE	EU-ITA
FIUMICINO	EU-ITA
FORIO	EU-ITA
FORMIA	EU-ITA
GAETA	EU-ITA
GALLIPOLI	EU-ITA
GELA	EU-ITA
GENOVA	EU-ITA
GIOIA TAURO	EU-ITA
GIRDINI NAXOS	EU-ITA
GIULIANOVA	EU-ITA
GOLFO ARANCI	EU-ITA
GRADO	EU-ITA
IMPERIA	EU-ITA
ISCHIA	EU-ITA
ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE	EU-ITA
LA CALETTA DI SINISCOLA	EU-ITA
LA MADDALENA	EU-ITA
LA SPEZIA	EU-ITA
LAMPEDUSA	EU-ITA
LE CASTELLA	EU-ITA
LICATA	EU-ITA
LIPARI	EU-ITA
LIVORNO	EU-ITA
LOANO	EU-ITA
MANFREDONIA	EU-ITA
MARCIANA MARINA	EU-ITA
MARETTIMO	EU-ITA
MARINA DI CAMEROTA	EU-ITA
MARINA DI CAMPO	EU-ITA
MARINA DI CARRARA	EU-ITA
MARINA DI RAGUSA	EU-ITA
MARSALA	EU-ITA
MAZARA DEL VALLO	EU-ITA
MESSINA	EU-ITA
MILAZZO	EU-ITA

MOLA DI BARI	EU-ITA
MOLFETTA	EU-ITA
MONDELLO	EU-ITA
MONOPOLI	EU-ITA
MONTEROSSO	EU-ITA
NAPOLI	EU-ITA
OLBIA	EU-ITA
ORISTANO	EU-ITA
ORTONA	EU-ITA
OTRANTO	EU-ITA
PALERMO	EU-ITA
PALINURO	EU-ITA
PANTELLERIA	EU-ITA
PESARO	EU-ITA
PESCARA	EU-ITA
PILA DI PORTO TOLLE	EU-ITA
PIOMBINO	EU-ITA
PISA	EU-ITA
PONZA	EU-ITA
PORTICELLO	EU-ITA
PORTO AZZURRO	EU-ITA
PORTO CESAREO	EU-ITA
PORTO CORALLO	EU-ITA
PORTO DI MARATEA	EU-ITA
PORTO EMPEDOCLE	EU-ITA
PORTO GARIBALDI	EU-ITA
PORTO S. GIORGIO	EU-ITA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO	EU-ITA
PORTO TORRES	EU-ITA
PORTOFERRAIO	EU-ITA
PORTOFINO	EU-ITA
PORTOPALO DI CAPO PASSERO	EU-ITA
PORTOROSA FURNARI	EU-ITA
PORTOSCUSO	EU-ITA
POZZALLO	EU-ITA
POZZUOLI	EU-ITA
PROCIDA	EU-ITA
RAVENNA	EU-ITA
REGGIO CALABRIA	EU-ITA
RIMINI	EU-ITA
RIO MARINA	EU-ITA
RIPOSTO	EU-ITA
ROCCELLA JONICA	EU-ITA
S. BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO	EU-ITA
S. VITO LO CAPO	EU-ITA
SALERNO	EU-ITA
SAN FELICE CIRCEO	EU-ITA
SANREMO	EU-ITA
SANT' AGATA DI MILITELLO	EU-ITA
SANT' ANTIOCO	EU-ITA
SANTA FOCA DI MELENDUGNO	EU-ITA
SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE	EU-ITA
SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA	EU-ITA
SANTA MARIA LA SCALA	EU-ITA
SANTA MARINA SALINA	EU-ITA
SANTA TERESA DI GALLURA	EU-ITA
SAPRI	EU-ITA
SAVONA	EU-ITA
SCHIAVONEA	EU-ITA
SCIACCA	EU-ITA
SCILLA	EU-ITA
SCOGLITTI	EU-ITA
SESTRI LEVANTE	EU-ITA
SEVELLETRI	EU-ITA
SIRACUSA	EU-ITA
SOVERATO	EU-ITA

TARANTO	EU-ITA
TERMINI IMERESE	EU-ITA
TERMOLI	EU-ITA
TERRACINA	EU-ITA
TERRASINI	EU-ITA
TORRE ANNUNZIATA	EU-ITA
TORRE DEL GRECO	EU-ITA
TRANI	EU-ITA
TRAPANI	EU-ITA
TRICASE	EU-ITA
TRIESTE	EU-ITA
TROPEA	EU-ITA
VARAZZE	EU-ITA
VASTO	EU-ITA
VIAREGGIO	EU-ITA
VIBO VALENTIA MARINA	EU-ITA
VIESTE	EU-ITA
VILLA SAN GIOVANNI	EU-ITA
VILLASIMIUS	EU-ITA
Gnejna	EU-MLT
Marfa/Cirkewwa	EU-MLT
Marsalforn (Gozo)	EU-MLT
Marsascala	EU-MLT
Marsaxlokk	EU-MLT
Mgarr (Gozo)	EU-MLT
Msida	EU-MLT
St. Julians	EU-MLT
St.Paul's Bay	EU-MLT
Valletta	EU-MLT
Wied iz-Zurrieq	EU-MLT
Xlendi (Gozo)	EU-MLT
Canical	EU-PRT
Funchal	EU-PRT
Horta (Faial)	EU-PRT
Lajes (Flores)	EU-PRT
Madalena (Pico)	EU-PRT
Olhao	EU-PRT
Peniche	EU-PRT
Ponta Delgada (Sao Miguel)	EU-PRT
Porto da Casa (Corvo)	EU-PRT
Praia (Graciosa)	EU-PRT
Praia da Vitoria (Terceira)	EU-PRT
Rabo de Peixe	EU-PRT
Sesimbra	EU-PRT
Velas (Sao Jorge)	EU-PRT
Viana do Castelo	EU-PRT
Vila do Porto (Santa Maria)	EU-PRT
Vila Franca do Campo (S. Miguel)	EU-PRT
Barsebäckshamn	EU-SWE
Bläsinge	EU-SWE
Bondhamn	EU-SWE
Byxelkrok	EU-SWE
Ellös	EU-SWE
Engesberg	EU-SWE
Göteborg	EU-SWE
Grankullavik	EU-SWE
Karlskrona, Handelshamnen	EU-SWE
Karlskrona, Saltö	EU-SWE
Kungshamn	EU-SWE
Limhamn	EU-SWE
Lomma	EU-SWE
Lysekil	EU-SWE
Mellanfjärden	EU-SWE
Mollösund	EU-SWE
Närshamn	EU-SWE
Nogersund	EU-SWE

Norrsundet	EU-SWE
Oxelösund	EU-SWE
Ronehamn	EU-SWE
Rönnäng	EU-SWE
Simrishamn	EU-SWE
Skagshamn	EU-SWE
Skeppsmalen	EU-SWE
Spikarna, Alnön	EU-SWE
Strömstad	EU-SWE
Sturkö-Ekenabben	EU-SWE
Sturkö-Sanda	EU-SWE
Träslövsläge	EU-SWE
Trelleborg	EU-SWE
Västervik	EU-SWE
Ystad	EU-SWE

Iceland

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

The eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota of Iceland for the year 2023 is 224 tonnes, with 12 tonnes reserved for incidental bycatches. Up to three Icelandic longline vessels will be authorized to conduct directed fisheries for BFT in 2023. The longline season starts on August 1 and ends when the quota has been exhausted or at latest December 31. Eventual bycatches of BFT by other Icelandic fishing vessels will be reported to ICCAT.

Up to three longline vessels will be authorised to conduct directed fisheries for BFT in 2023. Each vessel will be allocated an individual quota, within the limits of the Icelandic quota, that may be adjusted according to the number of authorised fishing vessels. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 Iceland will submit relevant information concerning the vessels authorised to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season, as any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan. The 12 tonnes reserved for incidental bycatches by other Icelandic fishing vessels, will be adjusted to cover all catches if needed. Bycatches of BFT by Icelandic fishing vessels in 2022 were 245 kilos.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis. All fishing vessels are required to have electronic logbooks and landings are monitored and recorded in the database of the Directorate of Fisheries.

All Icelandic fishing vessels are required to register all catches and bycatches in electronic logbooks.

The Icelandic fisheries management system is based on ITQs and all fishing vessels need a general fishing permit and sufficient quota for the expected catch before leaving port for any fishing.

Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs, electronic logbooks and mandatory weighing of all catches at landing. The Directorate keeps records of all allocated quota and all landings, quota uptake by each vessel is updated after landing in an online landing registration of the Directorate which is publicly available at www.island.is/fiskistofa.

Discards of commercial species are not allowed. Undersized BFT is to be released alive or landed and registered if dead when taken on-board. No catches of individual fishes below 30 kg have been recorded by Icelandic vessels, neither directed catches or bycatches. The BFT quota of Iceland will be adjusted if needed between bycatches and longline catch. This will be managed by the Directorate like all other commercial catches in Iceland. All adjustments will be reported to ICCAT. Bycatch tonnes have generally been set around 5% of the quota, currently set as 12 tonnes out of 224. That is in line with Icelandic rules on handling of bycatches. That percentage has been high in relation to actual reporting, but a change by one or two incidental catches can be a considerable change in kilos. Nevertheless, the 5% is a certain buffer for years that could produce higher numbers and could accommodate changes in catch patterns of other stocks. As stated before, there can be adjustments.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board the BFT longliners for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessels need written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MFRI.

The longline fishing season will start on 1 August and end on 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N. The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of

Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quotas are fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is exhausted, or the vessels notify an end to fishing operations in 2023. In the case of no applications by Icelandic vessels for quota within a reasonable deadline before the start of the fishing season, Icelandic authorities will consider the option of transferring a portion of the quota to another CPC, subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred.

In 2015 the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates in 2023 electronically.

1 b) Carry over

No carry over is requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

Destination of catch will be for landing only.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	All Icelandic fishing vessel have Electronic Logbooks, all landing recorded in online database of the Directorate. All catches are to be recorded in logbook. Dead discards of commercial species not allowed. All catches counted against quota	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2023	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Longline fishing season 1. August and closing when the quota is fished or 31 of December	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2023	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Undersized fish to be released alive, discards banned if dead to be landed and recorded	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2023	
4	By-catch (para 37, including %)	Discard of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial and non-commercial species must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Act concerning the Treatment of Commercial Marine Stocks	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		logbooks, this also applies to all bycatches of BFT by Icelandic vessels. (see table with bycatches)		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No recreational or sport fisheries for eastern Atlantic BFT will be allowed in 2023	Regulation on BFT fisheries 2023	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	No transshipment is allowed	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2023	
7	VMS (paras 218-224)	All Icelandic fishing vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on hourly basis	Icelandic Fisheries Act	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	There are no observers in Iceland, only inspectors that are full time employees of the Directorate of Fisheries Inspectors shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operation. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2023	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	N/A only long line fishing by up to three vessels		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>			

1. e) Designated ports

The list of authorized ports for 2023 is attached.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

See attached below.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

No farming – not applicable.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

BFT long line vessels need written permission from the Directorate of Fisheries as the competent authority to leave port for bluefin tuna fishing without an inspector onboard from the Directorate. Required coverage is at least 20% of the fishing operations in days. Inspectors from the Directorate are present at all landings of BFT.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis.

All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in electronic logbooks, this also applies to all bycatches of BFT by Icelandic vessels.

The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT.

List of contact points:

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b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Iceland only authorizes up to three longline vessels in the NE-Atlantic and is therefore not required to be part of an ICCAT International inspection plan. Not applicable.

5. Others

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reserved quota for bycatches	2,97	3,36	2,57	5,71	7,48	4	7	10	10	10	12
Actual bycatches	3,8	7,366	10,46	2,747	0,42	0	0	0,839	0,541	0,245	

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	-	<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7														
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78														
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68														
Purse seine total fleet															
Longliner over 40m	25			2	0	0	2	3			50	0	0	50	75
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68														
Longliner less than 24m	5														
Total longline fleet				2	0	0	2	3							
Baitboat	19.8														
Handline	5														
Trawler	10								10						
Trap	130														
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A														
Other (please specify)	5														
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1		2	0	0	2	3	10		50	0	0	50	75
Quota									51.53		147	180	225	225	224
Percentage allocated to by-catch												5.6%	4.4%	4.4%	5.4%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)												170	215	215	212
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)												0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity									-41.53		-97	-170	-215	-165	-137

List of designated ports (paras 80-84)

- Reykjavik
- Hafnarfjordur
- Hofn i Hornafirdi
- Vestmannaeyjar
- Grindavik
- Thorlakshofn
- Sandgerdi
- Keflavik
- Akranes
- Olafsvik
- Grundarfjordur
- Stykkisholmur

Japan**Fishing Plan Year: 2023****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 12-13)****1 a) Overview**

Japan's initial quota for the 2023 fishing season (from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024) is 3,114 t. In accordance with paragraph 6 of Recommendation 22-08, Japan requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2022 quota to 2023. The catch of E-BFT in 2022 was 2,797.67 t, which includes 3.77t of dead discards. Thus, 2,915.65 t (2022 catch quota) minus 2,797.67 t equals 117.98 t (4.05%), which is transferred to the 2023 quota. In addition, the reserved quota for dead discard (14 t) as well as bycatch quota for another fishery (1 t) are set aside. To conclude, the adjusted quota for 2023 in Capacity Table is 3,216.98 t accordingly ($3,114+117.98-15=3,216.98$).

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic are large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has introduced the Ministerial Ordinance to establish a legally binding management system including individual quotas. The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) is an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, which enforces the Fisheries Law and the Ministerial Ordinance on Japanese fishermen.

The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of the next day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catches, type of product, individual BFT weights, tag numbers, and number of live releases and dead discards including those under the minimum size. The FAJ monitors the catch of individual vessels and sees if the total catch is within each vessel's quota.

Regarding by-catch, all Japanese catching vessels targeting fish other than BFT operate around the equator or further south: the possibility of by-catch of BFT is negligible. In fact, there was no by-catch reported in 2022. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t for bycatch for other fisheries for 2023 as a minimum figure.

Landings at overseas ports are prohibited by the Ministerial Ordinance. The Ministerial Ordinance only allows BFT fishermen to land at ten domestic ports designated by the Ordinance. At the ten ports, 100% of landings of BFT by both fishing vessels and carrier vessels will be inspected by FAJ official inspectors who will check the total weight and tags, count the number of BFT and compare the information collected with the data previously reported, including daily reports.

All fishing vessels operate in almost the same period from the end of September to early December every year without entering ports during this period. Therefore, the observers are on board the designated BFT vessels during their entire fishing trips for BFT. This means that temporal representation is secured. In addition, as the fishing ground of bluefin tuna is located in a very limited area off the coast of Iceland, there should be little concern about the spatial representation. For the 2023 fishing year, subject to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, FAJ will make sure 20 % observer coverage of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas. In addition to the 20% observer coverage, several fishing vessels plan to install electronic monitoring system on a trial basis although to what extent this can be effective is not clear.

1 b) Carry over

See above.

1 c) Destination of catch

All BFT caught by Japanese vessels will be landed.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The Minister requires fishing operators to communicate to the FAJ daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location, the weight and number of BFT caught in eastern Atlantic Ocean (including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size) by the end of the next day. In addition, the Minister also requires the operators to maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operation.	Fisheries Law, Article 26. Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 14 and 26.	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from fishing for BFT in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July and in other areas during the period from 1 June to 31 December.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 23.	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from catching for BFT weighing less than 30kg. The fishing vessel shall stop operating and move from the fishing area when the number of BFTs which weigh 8-30 kg gets larger than 5% of the total number of BFTs caught on the day. The weight of dead discards of BFTs below	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 23.	

		minimum weight is counted against Japan's quota.		
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	The Minister prohibits the vessels without BFT quota from catching, transshipping or landing BFT. All Japanese catching vessels targeting other than BFT operate around the equator or further south, thus the possibility of by-catch of BFT is negligible. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t (i.e., less than 0.03%) for bycatch for other fisheries as a minimum figure.	Fisheries Law, Article 19 and 25.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No recreational or sport fishing vessels in the ICCAT area.	N/A	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered on the ICCAT website with prior authorization.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 59.	
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	The Minister will require fishing vessels to be equipped with a VMS able to automatically transmit a message and to transmit the data every two hours to the FAJ. The FAJ transmits the VMS data from the vessels fishing for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 25.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Subject to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the FAJ will ensure 20 % observer coverage of fishing effort of its LSTLVs, which are allowed to fish BFT.	N/A	

		In addition to the 20% observer coverage, several vessels plan to install electronic monitoring system (EMS) on a trial basis.		
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT are not purse seiner and Japan has no registered farming facilities for BFT.	N/A	
10	Domestic legislation	The Recommendations have been transposed to Japanese domestic law. See <i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	Fisheries Law Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>			

1 e) Designated ports

The list of domestic ports for landing:

1	Tokyo
2	Kawasaki
3	Yokohama
4	Yokosuka
5	Misaki
6	Shimizu
7	Oigawa
8	Yaizu
9	Kesennuma
10	Kushikino

The list of third-party ports for transshipment:

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Port</i>
1	Cabo Verde	Mindelo
2	Iceland	Reykjavík
3	Morocco	Tanger Ville
4	Panama	Cristóbal
5		Balboa
6	South Africa	Cape Town
7	EU-Spain	Las Palmas

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV individual quota, which is more than the recommended catch amount (i.e., 25 t per one LSTLV over 40 m) estimated by SCRS (see Capacity Table). Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 22-08, ensures that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

N/A

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)***(i) Characteristic of Japanese E-BFT Fishery*

The Northeast Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Iceland is the only E-BFT fishing ground for the Japanese fleet. In recent years, the fishing season has usually started at the end of September and lasted until early December. The E-BFT fishing area is remote from fishing areas of bigeye tuna, which is another primary target fish for the Japanese fleet and caught around the equator. This means that LSTLVs targeting E-BFT are distinguishable from LSTLVs targeting other fish such as bigeye, by their position.

(ii) Monitoring the E-BFT fishery in accordance with Rec. 22-08 and other ICCAT measures

The FAJ constantly monitors LSTLVs' positions in the entire Atlantic Ocean through the VMS. The agency issues special licences to LSTLVs fishing actively for E-BFT and allocates quotas to those vessels. The FAJ ensures through the VMS that the LSTLVs without a license and quota do not operate in the E-BFT fishing ground. Also, the FAJ requires licensed vessels to transmit daily catch reports to the FAJ during the BFT fishing season. The FAJ closely monitors the accumulated catches to make sure that licensed vessels comply with their quotas.

The FAJ distributes official tags only to LSTLVs having E-BFT quotas. The Ministerial Ordinance requires Japanese fishermen to attach the tag to every BFT caught by them. Landings of any E-BFT without the tag are a violation of the Ministerial Ordinance.

Reporting requirements regarding transshipment are also established by the Ministerial Ordinance. LSTLVs shall acquire authorization from the FAJ before transshipment at ports. The FAJ also receives transshipment declaration in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation. The FAJ examines such information and checks the consistency with the accumulated catch amount. Such information will be verified through landing inspections by the FAJ inspectors when the BFT is landed in Japan.

(iii) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ (1) - Very low capacity of Japanese LSTLVs

Moreover, the FAJ will limit the number of catching vessels fishing for BFT well below the limit articulated by the Recommendation 22-08. This diminishes the economic incentive of the fishermen to violate regulations since the allocated quota will be enough for each catching vessel to make a profit through BFT fishing. The Capacity Table shows that Japan's E-BFT fleet has been very low (40 vessels in 2022), compared to the limit calculated in accordance with the Rec. 21-08 and its predecessors (3,216.98 t (quota)/25 t (per one LSTLVs over 40 m) = 128.68 vessels).

(iv) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ (2) - 100% landing inspection by FAJ officials

The Ministerial Ordinance prohibits landing of BFT at any foreign port. All of the BFT caught by Japanese fishermen including those brought by carrier vessels must be landed in the 10 designated ports in Japan. Those ports are the final destination of BFT caught by Japanese fishermen; this scheme enables the FAJ to conduct direct landing inspections against the landed E-BFT. In fact, the FAJ has been

implementing 100% landing inspections against the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs since 2009. A range of information collected through the MCS measures mentioned above (e.g., weight and number of E-BFT, attachment of plastic tags) are utilized at the landing inspections.

(v) Cooperation with port State and importing State

Many of the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs are also subject to port inspection by coastal CPCs. When the LSTLVs exhaust their catch quotas, they usually make transshipments of E-BFT at other CPCs' ports, which may be subjected to inspections by the port State, in accordance with Recommendation 18-09. It is rare that a catching vessel carrying the E-BFT goes back to Japan after the end of the BFT fishing season because, in most cases, Japanese LSTLVs change their target fish to bigeye tuna (moving South) and continue their operation in the ICCAT area.

(vi) Risk analysis for illegal BFT fishing

In a hypothetical case that a Japanese LSTLV successfully poaches E-BFT despite the MCS measures described above, the vessel has to sell the fish somewhere in the world. The importing State, especially if an ICCAT member, shall require an eBCD to import the E-BFT. However, the FAJ will never validate an electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document (eBCD) for the export of fish to market States.

In another hypothetical case, if a Japanese LSVTL successfully poaches E-BFT and attempts to bring the fish to Japan, as it is prohibited to land illegally caught E-BFT, it can easily be identified by the landing inspections of the FAJ or business operators in Japan because an official tag is not attached to the fish and the fish is not accompanied by an eBCD. Furthermore, business operators are prohibited from buying such illegal fish by the Ministerial Ordinance.

(vii) Contact points

<i>Name</i>	<i>Professional Address</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Hiroyuki MORITA	International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan	hiroyuki_morita970@maff.go.jp
Jumpei KUMAMOTO	International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan	jumpei_kumamoto270@maff.go.jp

(viii) Conclusion

To conclude, Japan fully implements MCS measures and capacity control as required by the relevant Recommendation of ICCAT. In addition, Japan adopts some additional and very effective MCS measures, including 100% landing inspection. Moreover, compliance of Japanese LSTLVs is further ensured through the assistance of and cooperation with port States and possible market States. Those combined measures are expected to eliminate any possibility of IUU fishing of E-BFT by Japanese vessels. Given the effectiveness of the combined measures, the FAJ is not going to dispatch its inspection vessel for BFT fishing.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Japan will not be part of an ICCAT International Inspection plan, due to its alternative measures described in the previous sub-paragraph.

5. Others

N/A

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<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	-	<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7														
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78														
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68														
Purse seine total fleet															
Longliner over 40m	25	49	36	38	40	40	40	40	1,225	900	950	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68														
Longliner less than 24m	5														
Total longline fleet		49	36	38	40	40	40	40	1,225	900	950	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Baitboat	19.8														
Handline	5														
Trawler	10														
Trap	130														
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A														
Other (please specify)	5														
Total fleet/fishing capacity		49	36	38	40*¹	40 *²	40 *³	40*⁴	1,225	900	950	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Quota									2,430.5	2,279	2,544	2,544	2,819	2,819	3,114
Percentage allocated to bycatch										less than 0.04% (1 t)	less than 0.04% (1 t)	less than 0.04% (1 t)	less than 0.03% (1 t)	less than 0.03% (1 t)	less than 0.03% (1 t) ⁷
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									2,529	2,279	2,529	2,824.47	2,861.64	2,900.65 * ⁵	3216.98* ⁶
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)															
Under/ overcapacity									-1,205.5	-1379	-1579	-1,824.47	-1,861.64	-1900.65	-2,216.98

*1 One of the 40 vessels cancelled its operation for EBFT in the 2020 fishing season.

*2 One of the 40 vessels cancelled its operation for EBFT in the 2021 fishing season.

*3 Two of the 40 vessels cancelled its operation for EBFT in the 2022 fishing season.

*4 The figures are provisional. Once the number of vessels is confirmed, these figures will be revised and be communicated to the Secretariat.

*5 2,819.00 t (2022 initial quota) +96.65 t (2021 carry over (Para 7 of Rec. 21-08))-15t(*7) =2,900.65. t

*6 3,114.00 t (2023 initial quota) +117.98 t (2022 carry over (Para 4 of Rec. 22-08))-15t(*7) =3,216.98 t

*7 Japan sets aside 14 t for dead discards by the BFT fishery and allocates 1 t for bycatch by the other fishery.

Korea**Fishing Plan Year: 2023****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)****1a) Overview**

Korea's bluefin tuna quota for 2023 will be 278.224 t subject to the endorsement by Panel 2.

* 221 t of initial quota + 50 t of quota transfer from Chinese Taipei + 7.724 t of unused quota carried forward from 2022 – 0.5 t for possible bycatch.

Longline is the only gear type that Korea uses for its bluefin tuna fishery. Open fishing season for the longline gear group will be from 1 September to 30 November 2023.

As Korean bluefin tuna longline vessels operate in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N and no other Korean tuna fishing vessels operate around or in the ICCAT temperate zones, there is virtually zero possibility that any bycatch may occur. Nevertheless, Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for bycatch. Therefore, 278.224 t out of 278.724 t will be allocated to the longline gear group. The amount of any bycatch will be deducted from Korea's quota and the data will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat. Korea has not experienced any bycatch of bluefin tuna so far.

Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall be tracked by and report to the Secretariat as well as the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) every two hours. BFT fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with prior authorization. MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for the 2023 fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.

Korea's bluefin tuna quota will be allocated to two to four longline vessels of certain fishing companies which have historical records of bluefin tuna fishing. MOF will decide the individual quota for each vessel in consultation with those companies. The details of quota allocation will be submitted to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activities in accordance with para 52 of Rec. 22-08. Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch) to MOF by the end of the next day following their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight, number and weight of discarded/released fish (discards will be counted against the quota), etc. Any over-catch beyond the vessel's individual quota will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's overseas fisheries.

1 b) Carry over

Korea would like to request the carry over of its unused 2022 quota 7.724 t to 2023 in accordance with para 6 of Rec. 22-08 (para 7 of Rec. 21-08).

* 2022 adjusted quota (260 t) – 2022 final catch (252.276 t) = unused quota (7.724 t).

1 c) Destination of catch

- Farming: No
- Landing: Yes

1d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The masters of authorized longline fishing vessels will keep a bound logbook as well as an electronic logbook of their operation and record all necessary information. Bi-weekly catch reports will be submitted. All dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	No more than four Korean longline vessels will catch BFT from 1 September 2023 to 30 November 2023 in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Korean BFT catching vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna weighting less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. Fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against Korea's BFT quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Bycatch, including dead discards, will be deducted from Korea's quota. Korea will set aside 0.5 t (0.18%=0.5t/278.724t [adjusted quota]) of quota for this purpose. There was no by catch in 2022.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Not applicable. Korea does not have any recreational or sports fisheries.		
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	At-sea transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited. Transshipment of bluefin tuna shall take place in the designated ports only. In the 2023 season, Korean vessels are expected to use the	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		port of Cape Town, Dakar, Mindelo or Shimizu and designated domestic ports.		
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall be tracked by and report to the Secretariat as well as the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) every two hours.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 15	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for the 2023 fishing season.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 21	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Not applicable (Korea does not operate purse seine vessels for BFT and is not a farming CPC.)		
10	Domestic legislation	Article 13 of Korea's Distant Water Fisheries Development Act stipulates that: Each operator of a distant water fisheries business and a person engaged in distant water fisheries shall conscientiously conduct fishing operations within the permitted scope of operations and shall comply with resolutions made by international fisheries organizations for the conservation and management of resources and international standards regarding fisheries in the high seas.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>	Since 2017, Korea has been conducting a tagging program with archival tags (Mini-PAT) by scientific observers as part of GBYP.		

1e) Designated ports

Third party ports for transshipment and landing (paras 80-84):

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Port</i>
1	South Africa	Cape Town
2	Senegal	Dakar
3	Cabo Verde	Mindelo
4	Japan	Shimizu

List of domestic ports

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| – Boryeong | – Mokpo |
| – Busan | – Okgye |
| – Daesan | – Okpo |
| – Donghae·Mukho | – Pohang |
| – Gohyeon | – Pyeongtaek·Dangjin |
| – Gunsan | – Samcheok |
| – Gwangyang | – Samcheonpo |
| – Gyeongin | – Seogwipo |
| – Hadong | – Seoul |
| – Hosan | – Sokcho |
| – Incheon | – Taean |
| – Janghang | – Tongyeong |
| – Jangseungpo | – Ulsan |
| – Jeju | – Wando |
| – Jinhae | – Yeosu |
| – Masan | |

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

Korea will operate no more than 4 longline vessels in 2023 although the maximum number of longline vessels (over 40m) it may operate is 10 according to the best catch rate defined by the SCRS and the corresponding capacity. Please refer to the detailed information in the last page of this paper.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)**

Masters of Korean longline vessels must provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the necessary information required by para 85. Also, after each trip, they must submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to the FMC of Korea. Korean fishing vessels are required to report their catch to the FMC of Korea on a daily basis and transshipment/landing activities must be reported, too, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act. The FMC of Korea analyzes all relevant information including VMS records and the MOF investigates any suspicious events identified by the FMC. Any infringements or non-compliances will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's overseas fisheries. At least 20% of bluefin tuna landings will be inspected at Korean ports.

The following control competent authorities are responsible for the implementation of the monitoring, control and inspection plan:

- Focal: International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
 - Ms. Soobin Shim / sbin8shim@korea.kr / (+82) 44-200-5333
 - Mr. Taehoon Won / th1608@korea.kr / (+82) 44-200-5334
- Monitoring: Fisheries Monitoring Center of Korea
 - FMC team / fmc2014@korea.kr / (+82) 51-410-1405
- Port inspection: Quarantine and Inspection Division, National Fishery Products Quality Management Service
 - Ms. Minkyung Kim / kyung91206@korea.kr / (+82) 51- 400-5741

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Korea does not have any plans to have an inspection vessel in the ICCAT Convention area in 2023 for the purpose of Joint International Inspection but Korean fishing vessels will fully cooperate with the boarding and inspection activities.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7														
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78														
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68														
Purse seine total fleet															
Longliner over 40m	25		3	3	4	4	4	4 ²⁰		75	75	100	100	100	100
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68														
Longliner less than 24m	5														
Total longline fleet			3	3	4	4	4	4		75	75	100	100	100	100
Baitboat	19.8														
Handline	5														
Trawler	10														
Trap	130														
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A														
Other (please specify)	5														
Total fleet/fishing capacity			3	3	4	4	4	4		75	75	100	100	100	100
Quota			160	184	200	200	200	221		160	184	200	200	200	221
Percentage allocated to by-catch			2.6% (4.2 t)	0.21% (0.5 t)	0.2% (0.5 t)	0.2% (0.5 t)	0.2% (0.5 t)	0.18% (0.5 t)							
Adjusted quota (if applicable)			205.8	233.5	251.07	253.8	259.5	278.224 ²¹		205.8	233.5	251.07	253.8	259.5	278.224
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)															
Under/ overcapacity										-130.8	-158.5	-151.07	-153.8	-159.5	-178.224

²⁰ Korea will operate no more than four longline vessels for E-BFT fishery in 2023.

²¹ Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for possible bycatch. Therefore, 278.724 t out of 278.724 t will be allocated to the longline gear group.

Libya

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

Libya is hereby submitting its Fishing, Farming, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna 2023.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT (Rec. 22-08), the level of the 2023 quota for Libya was set at 2,548 tones.

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

In preparation for the 2023 bluefin tuna fishing season, Libya adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology indicated by ICCAT Recommendations. Based on this methodology, Libya has adopted a Fishing Plan which will allocate an individual quota to 15 purse-seiners vessels to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2023 in the Mediterranean.

All Libyan fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna in 2023 shall be tuna purse-seiners.

The Libyan Administration (Ministry of Marine Wealth) will issue fishing authorizations for these vessels for 2023 and will be reported to ICCAT in due course.

The management of fishing activity will be governed in accordance with the provisions of the ICCAT *Recommendation establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08), Law #14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya and Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #32/2022, amended by Decree #35/2023 (issued by the Government of National Unity) adopting Rec. 22-08 and amending Decree No. 205/2013, to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Rec. 22-08 has allocated a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 2,548 t to Libya for 2023 (Rec. 22-08, para. 4) for the current year (2023) in accordance with MP, 2,530 t shall be distributed to the 15 (fifteen) purse-seiners over 24m that shall be authorized to fish for BFT in 2023 and 18 t are to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse-seiner fleets. The level of 18 t was established based on past records of bycatch for the last few years, which was much lower than the reserved figure (18 t).

The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadline (Rec. 22-08), and any changes to these vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately, Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) between the authorized fishing vessels shall be allowed, Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) with vessels of other CPCs are possible for 2023 with CPC that have less than five authorized purse seine in accordance with (para. 73, Rec. 22-08).

1 b) Carry over

No carryover of under harvest from 2022 is being requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

Fish will be destined for farming in accordance with the submitted version of ICCAT forms applicable.

1d)

Table 1. Summarizes the actions taken to implement the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	Masters of vessels active in the BFT fisher shall maintain a bound logbook and observe procedures as set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 22-08. In accordance with Para 74 of Rec. 22-08 weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.	Art. 15/ Decree #35/2023	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Purse-seiners are only authorized to catch EBFT in eastern Atlantic and Med. Sea in period (26 May - 1 July) - By derogation purse-seiners fishing in FAO zones 37.3.1 and 37.3.2 shall be authorized to fish in the period 15 May – 1 July. This shall be applicable to a maximum of three vessels selling their catches to farms of CPCs in the abovementioned zones. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 22-08, Libya may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more	Art.12/ Decree #35/2023	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven. Notification of close of season will be sent to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with of Rec. 22-08.		
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or less than 115cm fork length is prohibited as per para 33 of Rec. 22-08. Any incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg and shall be counted on Libyan quota.	Art. 31/32 Decree#35/2023	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Libyan fishing vessels should, where possible release bluefin tuna caught as bycatch. Otherwise, the amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately. All by-catch including dead fish will be deducted from the quota of Libya when it occurs.	Art. 37/ Decree #35/2023	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No recreational and sport fisheries are allowed.	Art. 7 & 8/ Decree #35/2023	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Transshipment at sea is prohibited. BFT Fishing vessels shall only land BFT catches in ports designated by the Fishery Authority (Al-khoms, Tripoli, Misurata and Tobruk). All vessels entering any of these ports for landing shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities). All landings of BFT shall be inspected by Port and Fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report.	Art. 32/ Decree#35/2023	
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	All fishing vessels active in BFT fishing shall be equipped with a full active VMS; the transmission of data shall start 15 days before their period of authorization and continue 15 days after the authorization period. The fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission on basis of at least every hour (1) and any interruption of transmission will be acted upon immediately to investigate and solve the problem; if said problem is not resolved within 24 hrs the vessel will be recalled to port.	Art 8, 34/ Decree #35/2023 (Transmission start 15 days before Authorization and continue 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	VMS canterers shall regularly transmit the data to ICCAT and authority
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	National observers shall cover 100% of the activity of towing and auxiliary vessels (BFT - Other Vessels	Art.14/15 Decree #35/2023	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		if any). No national observers on board of catching vessels. For research purposes local researchers may be appointed on board some of the catching vessels.		
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Regional observers shall be placed on board all catching vessels authorized to fish BFT in season 2023 on a full deployment (100%) basis.	Art.14/ Decree #35/2023	
10	Domestic legislation	Law 14/1989, the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya and Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #32/2022, amended by Decree #35/2023 (issued by the Government of National Unity) adopting Rec. 22-08 and amending Decree No. 205/2013, to establish a Multi- Annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>			

1e) Designated ports

The list of designated ports contained in CP24 is the following: Tripoli, Alkhoums, Musratah and Topruk.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

In accordance with SCRS recommendations CPC-Libya has endeavoured to keep its fishing capacity at a low level. CPC-Libya shall, in terms of Para 21 of Rec. 22-08, adjust its fishing capacity in a manner commensurate with the 'best catch rates' indicated by SCRS and the allocated quota to the particular fishing gear (**Table 2**).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

In terms of para 22-26 of Rec. 21-08 Libya has communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat three farms with a total capacity of 1,800 t; no activity however will take place in 2023 due to security situation.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

Ministry of Marine Wealth (MOMW) is the control competent authority which ensures that the monitoring, control and inspection plan complies with the provisions of Rec. 22-08.

The contact points from MOMW as responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are:

- Hasan Fouzi Gafri (Head of Fishing Ports Administration) gafrihasan@gmail.com
- Mohamed Noor Rabeie (Head of Vessels Registration Department) Elrabeie.Mohamed@gmail.com

In accordance with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act. #14/1989, Decree #32/2022, amended by #35/2023 and the Coast Guard and Port Security Act. #229/2005 as modified in 2019.

Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant port authorities, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- i) estimated time of arrival;
- ii) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- iii) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

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

Fishing Inspectors from the Fishing Authority/Coast Guard shall be trained to this effect.

Given that the larger part of the quota is caught by the purse seine fleet on the high seas and transferred into cages of farms situated in the areas of competence of other CPCs only a minimal percentage can be inspected on arrival/landing in Libyan ports which will not allow for a reliable risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. However, CPC-Libya will seek cooperation with the farming CPCs receiving fish caught by Libyan catching vessels to obtain further statistics in this regard.

In case of landing in ports of other CPCs masters of Libyan catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to CPC-Libya. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and shall certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

In the case of landings in Libya by catching vessels of other CPCs. CPC-Libya shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

a.1) Measures to compliance with quotas

The Fishery Authority will set up a Control Unit on a 24 x 7 basis during the fishing season.

Operators and masters of the authorized fishing vessels shall adhere to paras 63, 65 and 66 and Section A of Annex 2 of Rec. 22-08 as also paras 86-93 (including Annex 4 and Annex 8) where transfers of live fish are concerned.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) and their respective allocation keys will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the stipulated time frame.

Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with ROPs on board fishing vessels.

All vessels or JFOs whose quota is exhausted shall be ordered back to port immediately.

All fishing vessels catching BFT shall adhere to the eBCD system.

Catching vessels shall be authorized to transfer their catches only to farming units in CPCs that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

a.2) Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #33/2019, amended by Decree #35/2023 from Ministry of Marine Wealth adopting Rec. 22-08 and amending Decree No. 205/2013 to establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

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

Imposing sanction

Any non-compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree #32/2022/Art. 20 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of individual quota). This decree is in force in this year which will give more effective measures.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Libya has no plan for participate in the international inspection program due to lack of potentials necessary for such program.

5. Others

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<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	31	15	15	15	15	15	15	1543	747	697	747	747	747	747
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		33	15	15	15	15	15	15	1648	747	697	747	747	747	747
Longliner over 40m	25	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A														
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		38	15	15	15	15	15	15	1773	747	697	747	747	747	747
Quota									947	1846	2060	2255	2255	2255	2548
Percentage allocated to bycatch									0	0	0	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)	Note: 18t reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse seine fleets.								1092	1797	2044	2235	2235	2235	2530
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)									0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity									681	-1050	-1347	-1488	-1488	-1488	-1783

Morocco**Year of fishing plan: 2023****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 14-15)****1 a) Overview**

In accordance with the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT, held in Vale do Lobo (Portugal), from 14-21 November 2022, and under paragraph 5 of Rec. 21-08, Morocco's quota is fixed at 3,700 t, which will be distributed among the different operational segments: traps, purse seine tuna vessels targeting bluefin tuna, small coastal vessels and artisanal boats that take bluefin tuna as bycatch. The quota of each segment is established according to the catch history and the number of fishing vessels in the segment.

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 10 to 13 of Rec. 22-08, as amended and supplemented, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 18 traps
- 4 tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m, and
- Small coastal vessels and artisanal boats with a fishing license for bycatch during its migration period, and their catches will be counted, as in the past, against the quota allocated to their segment. The fishing gears used by these small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are longline and line. The catches of these vessels are reported in the logbook as well as in the eBCD system.

The total adjusted bluefin tuna fishing quota for the 2023 fishing season is distributed as follows:

- Traps: 2588 t
- Tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m: 591 t
- Bluefin tuna bycatch reserved by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats (longline and handline (HL and LL)): 500 t, calculated based on historical bycatch statistics. It should be noted that bycatch in 2022 was 421.42 t).
- A reserve is set aside for the case of potential dead discards of bluefin tuna: 24 t.

It should be noted that the gears used to catch bluefin tuna in Morocco have specific fishing periods.

Among the five bluefin tuna farming facilities authorised, three will be operational in 2023 in accordance with specific conditions and methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of the regulatory provisions in force. These three farming facilities are linked to authorised traps and vessels.

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual management plan for the bluefin tuna fishery, which has been updated to take into account the new provisions of the eastern bluefin tuna management plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

1 b) Carry over

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08, Morocco requests a transfer of a volume of 3 t (0.09% of the quota) of its unused quota in 2022 to 2023. Therefore, the national adjusted quota will be 3,703 t.

1 c) Destination of catch

Trap catches will be destined to authorised bluefin tuna fattening farms. Catches taken by tuna purse seines will be destined either for export or fattening farms. Catches by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats shall be destined for export.

1 d)

Morocco undertakes to implement all provisions of Rec. 22-08 during the 2023 fishing campaign which will start in April for the traps segment, while overseeing compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 74-88)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuna purse seine vessels have a bound logbook. - Catches of small coastal vessels and artisanal boats with a fishing license are recorded in the logbook and in the eBCD system. - Trap catches are included in fishing logbooks as well as in the eBCD system. - Dead fish (retained or discarded) will be deducted from the quota. - Implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme/eBCD. - Transmission of bi-weekly bluefin tuna catches. - Dates of closure of the bluefin tuna fishery are reported to the ICCAT Secretariat. 	Ministerial Decision on the conditions of exploitation of bluefin tuna for the 2023 season.
2	Fishery openings (para 28-32)	<p>Bluefin tuna fishing by traps is authorised from 1 April to 31 July.</p> <p>As regards the purse seine fishery, Morocco has 4 purse seiners, 3 of which will operate within the framework of joint fishing operations (JFO), as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 purse seiner will engage in a JFO in Malta from 26 May to 1 July - 1 purse seiner will engage in a JFO in Türkiye (eastern Mediterranean) from 15 May to 1 July - 1 purse seiner will engage in a JFO in Tunisia (eastern Mediterranean) from 26 May to 1 July 	Ministerial Decision on bluefin tuna of February 2022.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 purse seiner will fish in Moroccan waters from 1 May to 15 June - The eastern Mediterranean fishery within the context of joint fishing from 15 May to 1 July; and/or - Fishing in the fishing areas of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea limited to waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Morocco from 1 May to 15 June. 	
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	<p>It is prohibited to catch, retain onboard, tranship, transfer, land, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm. A 5% maximum bycatch is authorised for bluefin tunas weighing between 8 and 30 kg or 75 cm to 115 cm.</p> <p>All bluefin tuna that is smaller than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco.</p>	<p>Order of the Ministry of Fishing and Merchant Marine No. 1154-88 of 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) which fixes the minimum trade size of individuals caught in Moroccan maritime waters as amended and supplemented by Order No. 4132-19 dated 26 December 2019.</p> <p>This order is also applicable to the high seas in the ICCAT Convention area.</p>
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Vessels that take bluefin tuna as bycatch are authorised to retain, at any time, bluefin tuna representing less than 20% of the total annual catch in weight or number of specimens.</p> <p>A quota of 500 t allocated for bycatch taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats, using longline and handline is calculated on an annual basis, and is counted and deducted from the national quota allocated by ICCAT.</p> <p>In 2022, the level of bycatch amounted to 421.42 t.</p> <p>A reserve of 24 t is set aside for potential dead discards of bluefin tuna.</p> <p>A total of 524 t (14.15%) of the adjusted quota (3703 t) is set aside for bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna.</p>	<p>Ministerial Decision on the conditions of exploitation of bluefin tuna for the 2023 season.</p>

5	Recreational and sport fisheries (para 38-46)	Currently sport and recreational fishing is not authorised.	
6	Transshipment (para 89-94)	<p>Prohibition on at-sea transshipment.</p> <p>Transshipment is authorised only at the ports designated to this effect, in accordance with all the provisions of ICCAT Recommendations.</p> <p>In-port transshipment operations of bluefin tuna are subject to inspection.</p>	<p>Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 concerned with the promulgation of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing the dahir concerned with Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p> <p>Decree No. 455.17.2 of 26 April 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing published in the Official Bulletin dated 17 May.</p> <p>Decree No. 2.17.456 of 15 March 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Decree No. 1-73-255 dated 23 November 1973 forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p>
7	VMS (para 218-224 / 219-225)	<p>Obligation to have onboard a functional positioning and tracking device.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data of fishing vessels of 15 m or more registered in the ICCAT record start at least 5 days before the authorised period and continue 5 days after this period, unless the vessel is deregistered from the list of authorised vessels.</p> <p>The transmission of this VMS data is guaranteed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every hour for purse seiners and tow vessels; - Every two hours for other vessels. 	<p>Decree No. 2.18.104 dated 2 rabbi II 1440 (10 December 2018) amending and supplementing Decree No. 2-09-674 of 30 rabbi I 1431 (17 March 2010) establishing the conditions and methods for installation and use onboard of fishing vessels of a positioning and tracking system which continues to use satellite communications to transmit data.</p> <p>Decree No. 574-19 of 29 joumada II 1440 (7 March 2019) on the fishing vessel positioning and ongoing tracking device.</p>
8	CPC observers programme (para 95-100)	<p>Mandatory presence of observers during the following operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facility; - Harvest of bluefin tuna; - Intra-farm transfers (from a floating cage to another); - Sealing and unsealing of cages. 	

9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	Presence of onboard observers: - Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facilities: 100%. - Caging and harvesting in farms: 100%. - Tuna purse seiners: 100%.	
10	Domestic legislation	Ministerial Decision on the conditions of exploitation of bluefin tuna for the 2023 season.	

1 e) Designated ports

List of designated port for landing and transhipment of bluefin tuna for the 2023 season: Agadir, Casablanca, Dakhla, Kenitra, Laayoune, Larache and Tanger Ville.

List of ports designated only for landing bluefin tuna for the 2023 season: Al Hoceima, Asilah, Boujdour, Eljadida, Essaouira, Jebha, Jorf Lasfar, Ksar Sghir, Mdiq, Mohammedia, Nador, Safi, Sidi Ifni, Tarfaya, Ras kebdana and TanTan.

List of ports designated only for transhipment of bluefin tuna for the 2023 season: Tanger-Med.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 16-21)

The number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity are reported in the attached table.

This fishing capacity management plan may be revised and communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one working day before the activity corresponding to that modification is carried out, in accordance with the provisions of para 13 of Rec. 22-08.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 12; 22-26), as applicable

Morocco hereby reserves the right to submit, if applicable, revised farming management plans to the Secretariat by 1 June 2023, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

In addition, it should be signaled that no carryover of caged live bluefin tuna is authorised.

Morocco's farming capacity management plan for 2023 is as follows:

- Farming facilities authorized to be operational: 3 farms;
- These three farms are associated to traps and authorised vessels (as indicated in the first page).

Farm name	Nº FFB ICCAT	Geographic coordinates	Wild input (t) *	Capacity (t)*
BLUE FARM	AT001MAR00002	Point A: Lat: 35°18'17,00"N Long: 006°11'19,00"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'17,00"N Long: 006°11'19,00"W Point C: Lat: 35°19'17,00"N Long: 006°10'47,20"W Point D: Lat: 35°18'17,00"N Long: 006°10'47,20"W	1 260	3000
LA LEVANTADA	AT001MAR00003	Point A: Lat: 35°18'10,00"N Long: 006°10'31,00"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'10,00"N Long: 006°10'31,00"W Point C: Lat: 35°19'10,00"N Long: 006°10'01,50"W Point D: Lat: 35°18'10,00"N Long: 006°10'01,50"W	940	1500
PESBAK FISH	AT001MAR00004	Point A: Lat: 35°19'23"N Long: 06°10'35"W Point B: Lat: 35°20'27" N Long: 06°10'30"W Point C: Lat: 35°20'24" N Long: 06°09'28"W Point D: Lat: 35°19'21" N Long: 06°09'33"W	979	1500
TOTAL			3179	6000

*Approximate and provisional estimation.

- Total amount per farm carried over from previous year: 0

Surveillance and control of bluefin tuna caging operations

- Surveillance and control of caging operations in farming facilities are supported, in particular, by the presence of regional and national observers and video recording by using conventional cameras and stereoscopic cameras, in accordance with the conditions established in Recommendation 22-08.

Random controls in farming facilities

- Random control of at least 10% of number of cages on each farm after the conclusion of caging operations. These controls are carried out on the internal traceability system implemented by the fattening farm and also by transfer operation followed by a control camera for verification of the number of bluefin tuna transferred;

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12c)

Competent control authority of Morocco, attached to the Department of Maritime Fisheries, responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan	
Directorate of Control of Maritime Fisheries Activities	
List of contacts	
Surname and first name	E-mail address
CHAFAI ELALAOUI NADIR	CHAFAI.ELALAOUI@mpm.gov.ma
BOUAAMRI MOUNIR	bouaamri@mpm.gov.ma
KECHA YOUSSEF	youssef.kecha@mpm.gov.ma

Fishery monitoring, control and observation will be carried out in accordance with the national regulation and ICCAT Recommendations in force through the use of the control and surveillance methodology for bluefin tuna fishery activities in 2023.

This methodology is part of the framework for implementation of national maritime fishery control activities. It includes measures for compliance with ICCAT provisions on control and inspection, in particular, those of Rec. 22-08 amending Rec. 21-08. This methodology therefore includes measures related to the following actions:

Prior notification of landings

- Maintain records for monitoring prior notifications to port entry transmitted by all catch, transformation and support vessels that carry onboard catches equivalent or superior to three fishes or a ton;

Monitoring and control of landings

- Systematic monitoring and control of landings of the coastal and artisanal fleet which must be effectively weighed before first sale. Compliance with the catch documentation system, which is implemented nationally, is also mandatory. This national documentation system enables control through direct systematic cross-checking between the catch declaration on landing and data from first sale, and is an additional tool for verifying validation of documents of the eBCD process;

Monitoring and control of harvesting operations in traps and farming facilities

- Monitoring and control of harvesting operations in traps and farming facilities, in particular in the presence of regional and/or national observers in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 22-08;

Monitoring and control of live bluefin tuna transfer and caging operations

- Monitoring and control of bluefin tuna transfer operations are supported in particular by the presence of regional and/or national observers and video recording using conventional cameras and stereoscopic cameras in accordance with the conditions established in Rec. 22-08;

VMS

- VMS surveillance of relevant fishing vessels carried out by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with online real time availability of position data for the regional maritime fisheries administration (Maritime Fisheries Delegations);

Bluefin tuna catch documentation

- Establishment of a procedure to report and record information regarding catch, transfer and caging, in particular, through implementation of the catch documentation programme (eBCD);

Port inspection

- Compliance with provisions on port inspection measures for foreign vessels, and fulfilment of international commitments by the Kingdom of Morocco with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

At-sea surveillance

- At-sea surveillance is also performed by other authorities to which powers have been conferred by the national regulation.

Measures for sealing cages

- Morocco will implement the measures for sealing bluefin tuna cages in accordance with Recommendation 22-08.

b) Joint scheme of international inspection (plan 228-231 / 229-232)

The Kingdom of Morocco has four vessels that could operate outside the national EEZ. There will not be an inspection vessel.

It should be noted that these four vessels will embark ICCAT regional observers, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT recommendations.

5. Others

Regarding research and in accordance with paragraph 27 of Rec. 21-08, and paragraph 166 of Rec. 22-08, Morocco intends to update for 2023 its study on growth rate of fattened bluefin tuna, based on measures of stereoscopic cameras and size sampling both at caging and at the end of the fattening season.

Moreover, it is foreseen that Morocco will continue the second phase of the pilot study that was started in 2022 and is based on automated size measurements and fish weights using artificial intelligence, with the objective of assessing the accuracy of the automatic system compared to the manual method recommended by ICCAT. This study will be carried out by capitalising on the expertise of one or two private campaigns specialised in this area, and with the financial support of the ICCAT/JCAP project. This project will be coordinated jointly by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and ICCAT/JCAP project.

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<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)</i>	<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref Year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type		2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	70.7	141.4	141.4	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet		4	2	2	4	4	4	4	220.1	141.4	141.4	282.8	282.8	282.8	282.8
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	15	15	17	18	18	18	18	1950	1950	2210	2340	2340	2340	2340
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Bycatch by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	80*	309	359*	420*	454.91*	444.65*	524*
Total fleet / fishing capacity		19	17	19	22	22	22	22	2250.1	2400	2710	3042.8	3077.71	3067.45	3146.8
Quota		2729	2578	2948	3284	3284	3284	3284	2729	2578	2948	3284	3284	3284	3700
Percentage allocated to bycatch									3	11.99	12.18	12.04	13.71	13.44	14.15
Adjusted quota (if necessary)		2729	2578	2948	3488.62	3318.91	3308.65	3308.65	2729	2578	2948	3488.62	3318.91	3308.65	3703**
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity									-478.9	-178	-238	-445.82	-241.2	-241.2	-556.2

* This amount corresponds to bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats operating off the Moroccan coasts (3500 km) (as indicated on page 1) (500 t) and 24 t is set aside for potential dead discards of bluefin tuna, i.e., a total of 524 t (14.15%) of the adjusted quota is set aside for bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna. The latter amount will be deducted from the national quota. It should be noted that there are specific fishing periods for the fishing gears used to fish for bluefin tuna in Morocco.

** Adjusted quota = 3703 (initial quota (3700 t) + carryover of underharvest (3 t)).

Norway

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

According to Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 4, Norway is allocated a quota of 368 t in 2023. Regarding Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 6, Norway requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its unutilized 2022 quota to 2023. A total of 124 t of the Norwegian catch quota (315 t including 15 t transferred from 2020) was utilized in 2022, and 15 t (5% of 300 t) may, according to paragraph 6, be transferred to 2023.

If the request is endorsed, the adjusted quota for 2023 will be 383 t. The allocation of the Norwegian quota in this fishing plan is calculated on the basis of a quota of 383 t, i.e., the Norwegian quota in 2023 including a transfer of 15 t from 2022.

Norway has set aside a group quota of 300 t for purse seiners, a group quota of 40 t for small-scale coastal vessels and a group quota of 8 t for the recreational fishery. Furthermore 2 t will be set aside for the purpose of catch and release. Norway will also allocate a quota of 15 t for bycatch, and 18 t for research activities. The 18 t for research activities will be allocated to a research vessel.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the national Regulations on Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna in 2023, which will enter into force when the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Norway intends to authorise eight purse seiners to fish for bluefin tuna in 2023. This is the same number of purse seiners which was included in the Norwegian fishing plan in 2022. There is still some uncertainty regarding which purse seiners will choose to participate in the bluefin tuna fishery in 2023. Of the eight vessels on the list of authorized vessels, two vessels have an overall length exceeding 40 m. The purse seiners will be given *maximum* quotas. The exact maximum quotas may be adjusted throughout the fishing season, but at no time will the total Norwegian quota be exceeded.

Norway has not yet chosen the vessels that will have access to participate in the small-scale-coastal fishery, but the number of vessels will, as in 2022, be limited. In 2022, 11 small scale vessels were chosen to participate in this fishery. This number might increase slightly in 2023.

Norway will also authorise a number of vessels/teams for a tag and release fishery, and for a recreational fishery, however, it has not yet been decided how many vessels/teams that will be allowed to participate in this fishery. In 2022 Norway authorized 48 teams for recreational fishery, of which 29 teams received authorization for tag and release fishery. We expect the number to be somewhat similar. Further details are specified in Section 2 below.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 52, Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorised to conduct this fishery to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan will be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 15.

The purse seine and small-scale coastal vessels for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken. The vessels participating in the recreational fishery and in the tag and release fishery are required to communicate the same information as the purse seiners and small-scale coastal vessel, as well as to stay in close contact with the Institute of Marine Research. The tag and release fishery will only take place if the masters of the vessels can document that they are able to tag the bluefin tuna with spaghetti marks, and that they have received the necessary licences to do so.

From 1 April 2023, all Norwegian catching vessels with an overall length exceeding 10 meters are required to send position reports (VMS) and daily catch reports to FMC. Catching vessels with an overall length under 10 meters, which do not have an electronic logbook on board, are required to send information on catch from a phone application developed for coastal fisheries. The catch report shall be sent at least two hours before landing. All catching vessels are required to submit a landing or sales note at the time of landing.

15 t of the Norwegian quota are set aside for unintentional bycatch of bluefin tuna. This is the same quantity as in 2022. Bycatch of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of bycatch. The highest level of bycatch of bluefin tuna registered in the Norwegian economic zone in the past few years is 8.4 t in 2015. In comparison, the level of bycatch in 2020 was 2 t, 8 t in 2021 and 5 t in 2022. Therefore, 15 t set aside for bycatch should be more than sufficient to cover bycatch in 2023.

If a vessel has not been allocated a quota, or if the allocated quota has been exhausted, the master of the vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of bycatch of live bluefin tuna. If such bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota.

All bycatch of bluefin tuna shall immediately be reported to the Norwegian FMC. The FMC will alert inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries who will initiate appropriate follow-up action.

The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard has access to the electronic logbooks in real time.

Further information regarding the monitoring and control of the Norwegian quota is included in the table below.

1 b) Carry over

Norway requests a transfer of 15 t from 2022 to 2023.

1 c) Destination of catch

All bluefin tuna caught by Norwegian vessels will be landed, except for those used for the pilot study on short-term live storage.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	74. The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to keep an electronic logbook. 75. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian towing, auxiliary or processing vessels participating in the BFT fishery.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 15(17) and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>76. The Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken.</p> <p>The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including fish under the minimum size, shall be landed and deducted from the vessel quota.</p> <p>The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>77. The purse seiners will be required to communicate the daily reports on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including when the catch is zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Norwegian FMC by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 15(17) and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements)</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on Coastal fisheries phone application.</p> <p>Regulations on landing of catch.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>78. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian traps fishing for bluefin tuna.</p> <p>79. Catching vessels other than purse seiners will be required to transmit to the Norwegian FMC by the latest Tuesday at noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.</p> <p>From 1 April 2023, all Norwegian catching vessels with an overall length exceeding 10 meters are required to send position reports (VMS) and daily catch reports to the FMC. Catching vessels with an overall length under 10 meters, which do not have an electronic logbook on board, are required to send information on catch from a phone application developed for coastal fisheries. The catch report shall be sent at least two hours before landing. All catching vessels are required to submit a landing or sales note at the time of landing.</p>		
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>28. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 15 November, in accordance with Rec. 22-08 paragraph 28.</p> <p>29. If weather conditions prevent purse seine fishing operations during the authorised fishing period, Norway may, in</p>	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 3.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>accordance with Rec. 22-08 paragraph 29, extend the fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days. Weather conditions which may lead to an extension of the fishing period shall correspond to wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p> <p>31. Norway intends to establish a fishing season for small-scale coastal vessels in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 13 May to 31 December 2023.</p> <p>The fishing season for the recreational fishery will be from 13 May to 31 December 2023.</p>		
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>33. The Norwegian vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will only be authorised to fish in Norwegian waters. No bluefin tuna at such low individual size has been registered in Norwegian fisheries. Nevertheless, a minimum size of 30 kilos or 115 cm applies.</p> <p>For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorised according to Rec. 22-08 paragraph 36.</p>	Regulation on harvesting § 47 and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 2.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>34. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian baitboats or trolling boats authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and no Norwegian vessels are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea or the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>35. Not applicable. Reference is made to paragraph 34 above.</p>		
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>37. Norway has allocated a quota of 15 tonnes for bycatch of bluefin tuna in other fisheries in 2023.</p> <p>The level of bycatch in 2020 was 2 t, 8 t in 2021 and 5 t in 2022.</p> <p>Bycatch of bluefin tuna in Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of bycatch.</p> <p>All bycatches of dead bluefin tuna shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota and reported on an annual basis to ICCAT.</p> <p>If no quota has been allocated to the fishing vessel concerned, or if the quota has already been exhausted, the catching vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of live bluefin tuna. If the bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be</p>	Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 §§ 2 and 7.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>landed and the appropriate follow-up action shall be taken in accordance with domestic law.</p> <p>For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.</p>		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	<p>38. In 2022, Norway issued fishing authorisations to 48 teams participating in a recreational fishery. 29 of these teams were also authorised to participate in a tag- and release fishery. We expect the number of vessels in 2023 to be somewhat similar.</p> <p>39. The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by recreational and tag and release fishery, shall be landed. The Norwegian Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna contains measures which prohibit recreational and tag and release vessels to land more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day.</p> <p>40. Norway has prohibited the marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and tag and release fishery.</p> <p>41. Data, including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during recreational and tag and</p>	<p>Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 5.</p> <p>Regulation on harvesting § 47, Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 13.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 13.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>release fishery, will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat for the preceding year by 31 July each year.</p> <p>42. Dead catches from recreational and tag and release fishery will be counted against the Norwegian quota. 8 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover dead catches from a recreational fishery, and 2 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover any bluefin tuna which might die during the tag and release fishery.</p> <p>43. Norway will take measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive in recreational fisheries if no quota has been allocated to the vessel or if the quota has been exhausted.</p> <p>44. Norway will open up for a tag and release fishery. Norway will follow the requirements in Rec 22-08 paragraph 44.</p> <p>Only vessels with a license issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery. The vessels must also be authorised by the competent authorities to perform the tagging process. The license to participate in the tag and release fishery, and the authorisation to perform the tagging</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 13.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 2.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 2.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>process, will be withdrawn if the vessel does not comply with the terms of the license/authorisation.</p> <p>All vessels participating in the tag and release fishery will be closely monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries.</p> <p>Norway will in 2023 submit a report on the scientific activities conducted in 2022. The report will be submitted at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting in 2023.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities will be reported and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>45. Norway will, upon request from ICCAT, make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorisation.</p> <p>46. The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 46.</p>		
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Not applicable. All transshipment of bluefin tuna at sea is prohibited.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 16.	Note, only transshipment in port is permitted.
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	The purse seine and small-scale coastal vessels over 10 m authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every ten minutes to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 15.</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of VMS signals will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>VMS will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, every two hours for longline vessels, and every hour for purse seine vessels.</p> <p>From 1 April 2023, all Norwegian catching vessels with an overall length exceeding 10 meters are required to send position reports (VMS) and daily catch reports to the FMC. Catching vessels with an overall length under 10 meters, which do not have an electronic logbook on board, are required to send information on catch from a phone application developed for coastal fisheries. The catch report shall be sent at least two hours before landing. All catching vessels are required to submit a landing or sales note at the time of landing.</p> <p>Norway does not use towing vessels. Should it be necessary to use towing vessels during the research on short-term live storage of bluefin tuna, the towing vessel(s) will be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with Rec. 18-10 and transmit messages at least once every hour.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>The VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 5 days before the vessel's period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after its period of authorisation.</p>		
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	<p>95. In 2023, Norway will not have any active pelagic trawlers, longline vessels or baitboats over 15 meters.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will have an observer coverage of the authorised purse seine vessels of at least 5% measured in number of trips as required in para 4 a) in Recommendation 16-14.</p> <p>Well in advance of the start of the fishing season, the small-scale coastal vessels and the purse seine vessels will be required to submit a plan including information regarding the scheduled start-up date, area and period for the bluefin tuna fishery. Based on this plan, the Norwegian Surveillance Services and the Institute of Marine Research will organize their observer coverage ensuring representative temporal and spatial coverage to collect adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, in line with Rec. 22-08 and Rec. 16-14.</p>	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 14	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>All the Norwegian vessels will be required to keep close contact with the Norwegian Surveillance Services when fishing for bluefin tuna to ensure that the requirements relating to observer coverage are fulfilled.</p> <p>The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every ten minutes as well as daily reports from the electronic logbooks to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The Surveillance Services have access to this information in real time.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will provide the Norwegian Surveillance Services with relevant training and inform them of which sampling methods that must be used to collect biological data in accordance with Rec. 22-08.</p>		
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	<p>The purse seine vessels will be required to have 100% observer coverage under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP).</p> <p>The vessels will be closely monitored by the FMC, and the Directorate of Fisheries will carry out landing inspections. The Institute of Marine Research will, if the situation allows it, have scientists on board several of the vessels.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 16.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023 § 13.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		Norway will conduct a tag and release fishery in accordance with Rec. 22-08 paragraph 44.		
10	Domestic legislation	<p>The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the Regulations on Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna in 2023, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan has been approved by ICCAT.</p> <p>In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.</p> <p>The requirements regarding catch reporting and VMS is already in place in the regulations on an Electronic Reporting System.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2023</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>	<p>Norway will open up for a tag and release fishery. Norway will follow the requirements in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 44.</p> <p>Only vessels with a license issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery. The vessels must also be authorised by the competent authorities to perform the tagging process. The license to participate in the tag and release fishery, and</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>the authorisation to perform the tagging process, will be withdrawn if the vessel does not comply with the terms of the license/authorisation.</p> <p>All vessels participating in the tag and release fishery will be closely monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries. Norway will in 2023 submit a report on the scientific activities conducted in 2022. The report will be submitted at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting in 2023.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities will be reported and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>Norway will, upon request from ICCAT, make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorisation.</p> <p>The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 46.</p>		

1 e) Designated ports

A list of designated ports for landing and transhipment through form CP24 are attached to the fishing plan.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

According to Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 4, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2023 is 368 t. In addition to this Norway requests a transfer of 15 t from the 2022 quota, which will increase the Norwegian quota for 2023 to 383 t. In light of the increase of the Norwegian quota, the fishery in 2023 is planned to take place with eight purse seiners and 30 small-scale coastal vessels.

The best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 are based on catches from the Mediterranean Sea. These catch rates do not reflect the catch rates in the feeding areas in Norwegian waters. When bluefin tunas are feeding in Norwegian waters, they are much less aggregated than when they are spawning in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to this, the weather along the Norwegian coast in September and October often prevents the fishermen from going out to fish for bluefin tuna. As requested by the Chair of Panel 2 at the annual Commission meeting in 2019, Norway provided a paper to the SCRS in 2020 on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone. Norway also presented this paper in the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2020. For further detail see [SCRS/2020/017](#).

In accordance with Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 18 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 15, 16 and 17 does not apply to Norway.

As the vessels have not been selected, information on their length is not yet available. Each purse seine vessel will be allocated an individual vessel quota of 30 t within the group quota of 300 t, regardless of the size of the vessel. In addition, the purse seiners will be given *maximum* quotas. The exact maximum quotas may be adjusted throughout the fishing season, but at no time will the total Norwegian quota be exceeded.

The small-scale coastal vessels will be allocated a specific sectorial quota of 40 t. 15 t of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental bycatches in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna, 18 t will be set aside for research, 2 t will be set aside for tag and release fishery, and 8 t will be set aside for the recreational fishery. Only vessels licenced for a tag and release fishery will be allowed to participate in the recreational fishery.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

Not applicable. Norway does not have any bluefin tuna farms.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries, and is committed to taking the measures necessary to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08. The purse seine vessels will be required to have 100% observer coverage under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP). Small-scale coastal vessels will be monitored closely. The vessels will be closely monitored by the FMC, and the Directorate of Fisheries will carry out landing inspections. The Institute of Marine Research will, if the situation allows it, have scientists on board several of the vessels.

All Norwegian vessels having catches of bluefin tuna, including as bycatch, are required to inform the Norwegian FMC. Furthermore, a minimum of 5% of the landings of bluefin tuna by the vessels targeting this species will be inspected by inspectors from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries. These inspections will be carried out as full inspections, i.e. the inspectors will monitor the entire landing. This includes monitoring the entire weighing of the fish, cross-checking this against the prior notice of port entry, the VMS, the electronic logbook as well as the landing and sales notes. Furthermore, the inspectors shall ensure that there is no fish left on board once the landing is completed and the landing or sales notes are signed.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna is limited to the Norwegian fisheries jurisdiction, and the requirement of an inspection vessel in paragraph 231 does not apply.

Furthermore, the vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna and the vessels with incidental bycatch of dead bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 47, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any type of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 21-19 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and Recommendation 20-08 amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system, as well as other relevant recommendations.

Norway has issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system since 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2023 in accordance with the recommendations mentioned above.

CPC competent authority: The Ministry of Industry and Fisheries and The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries.

List of contact points:

- Kari Selbekk, Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Industry and Fisheries (kari.selbekk@nfd.dep.no);
- Rune Baug Mjørland, Senior Adviser at the Directorate of Fisheries (rune.mjorland@fiskeridir.no);
- Guro Kristoffersen Lysnes, Adviser at the Directorate of Fisheries (gulys@fiskeridir.no).

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Not applicable. Norway does not participate in any international inspections in accordance with paragraphs 229-232 of Rec. 22-08 and Annex 7.

5. Others

Eighteen tonnes of bluefin tuna are in 2023 allocated to a scientific pilot study aimed at possible future short-term live storage of bluefin tuna in cages in Norway, as well as at maintaining the high quality of the fish during and after purse seine catch operations. The quota will be designated to one single research vessel, and only one storage cage will be utilized. All activity carried out in relation to the pilot study will enjoy full control coverage, as both inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries and personnel from the Institute of Marine Research will be on board the vessel at all times.

According to Rec. 22-08 para 208-215 the requirement of random controls embodied in Appendix 1 para 16 Res. 22-07, confirms that at least 10 percent of the number of cages utilized shall be subject to random controls. We interpret that with one storage cage one random control is sufficient during the caging period. We can ensure that if the pilot project in 2023 is successful in capturing bluefin tuna, the cage will be under close supervision from the Directorate of Fisheries and possibly also from the Norwegian food safety authority, naturally the requirement of random control will be accommodated.

Norway will ensure that the project is conducted in line with Res. 22-07. The one single research vessel will have 100% observer coverage from the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme. This observer will be able to monitor transfers from the purse seine to the transport cage. The catch of bluefin tuna, as well as the transfer and storage operations, will be closely monitored, and dead or dying bluefin tuna will be removed from the purse seine/transfer/storage cage, taken to land and deducted from the vessel quota. In addition to a ROP observer being present for all the phases of the operation, the CPC will inform ICCAT on the results of the short-term live storage in the annual report.

Another objective of the pilot study is exploring whether it is possible to use cameras during the various transfer operations, the most decisive factor being how the weather conditions in Norwegian waters affect the use of cameras. We will get back to the use of cameras during transfer operations as soon as we have explored this issue more throughout our research project.

The pilot study is still in an early phase. We want to emphasize that it is still uncertain whether we will be able to catch bluefin, cage it and make sure it survives under conditions that are satisfactory when it comes to fish welfare. The main focus this year will be on catching and transferring the bluefin to the transport cage and hopefully to a storage cage. If we are successful to this extent, and the bluefin tuna is ready to be harvested in 2023 we will incorporate the catch in the eBCD system, and use the caging section in the system to issue and validate an electronic catch certificate.

But we intend to reach out to some CPCs and try to draw on their experience. How the fish shall be commercialized will also be a subject in the pilot. It is important to Norway to comply with relevant rules and show transparency on this matter, and we want to underscore and confirm that Norway will not allow commercial trade of bluefin tuna without an eBCD, thus following the regulation in Rec. 18-13.

Attached you will find two in-depth reports describing the initial trials regarding live storage of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in Norway. The future trials will build upon the knowledge that has come out of the experiments that are thoroughly described in the reports. In 2024, we will continue to report on the implementation and results of trials conducted in 2023.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		Ref year	<i>Fishing fleet</i>					Ref year	<i>Fishing Capacity</i>				
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t) ²²	2008	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7		1	1	1		2		70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	141.4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78		3	7	7	8	6		149.34	348.46	348.46	348.46	298.68
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68												
Purse seine total fleet			4	8	8	8	8		220.04	419.16	419.16	419.16	440.08
Longliner over 40m	25												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68												
Longliner less than 24m	5		4	3	3				20	15	15		
Total longline fleet			4	3	3				20	15	15		
Baitboat	19.8												
Handline	5												
Trawler	10												
Trap	130												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A					25	30					18	40
Other (please specify)	5												
Total fleet/fishing capacity			8	11	11	8	38		240.04	434.16	434.16	437.16	480.08
Quota			239	300	300	300	368		239	300	300	300	368
Percentage allocated to by-catch			4.6%	8.3%	5.0%	5.0%	4,1%		4.6 %	8.3%	5.0%	5.0%	4.1%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)			212	300.95	282	282	350		212	300.95	282	282	350 ²³
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)			1	6	10	10	10		1	6	10	10	10
Under/ overcapacity									29.04	139.21	162.16	165.16	140.08

²² The figures for purse seine capacity correspond to the calculations made by the SCRS for the Mediterranean Sea. Norway provided a paper to the SCRS in 2020 ([SCRS/2020/017](#)) on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone. The paper demonstrates that the catch rates in the Norwegian EEZ are a lot lower than the catch rates in the Mediterranean Sea. The paper was also presented at the Panel 2 meeting in 2020.

²³ 15 t are set aside for bycatch, and 18 t are set aside for research in 2023. 15 t are transferred from the 2022 quota.

List of ports contained in CP24

ANDENES	SANDØY
ATLØY	SELJE
AUSTEVOLL	SENJAHOPEN
BODØ	SIREVÅG
BORG	SKUDENESHAVN
BREIVIKA	SKUTVIK
BREMANGER	SMØLA
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OSLO	
RAUDEBERG	
RYPEFJORD	

Sustainable catch and live-storage of bluefin tuna in Norway



Trials onboard «Sjarmør», Autumn 2022

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Summary

Despite the increasing presence of bluefin tuna in Norwegian waters and the initial interest shown by the industry to harvest BFT, low profitability in the fishery has led to that the quota assigned to the Norwegian fleet has not been fully harvested the last years. This low profitability is attributed to poor catch efficiency, lack of procedures and infrastructure to guarantee standards of quality, and poor marketing. Live-storage of BFT is regarded as a potential solution, at least partially, to mitigate the low profitability in the fishery.

In 2020 Norwegian authorities and the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) started a project to develop live-storage of Atlantic BFT. The aim of the project is to implement live-storage of BFT in Norway and develop the different procedures necessary from catch and monitoring of fish to transfer and storage in coastal cages. The project has four main focus areas: BFT identification, harvest, catch control, and fish welfare and quality. This is the third report of a series that sums up the developments and the results from the sea trials in 2022.

The sea trials were carried out at the end of September along the west coast of Norway between Bergen and Stad. The weather during the cruise was in general bad, which limited the effective sea trial period to three days. Despite the high number of observations of BFT during the trial period, the fish moved very fast, with no clear pattern, and in large aggregations, which made it very difficult to catch. Thus, the difficulties to catch the fish combined with the short trial period lead to no catches of tuna, which substantially limited the work that initially was to be carried out. However, some of the equipment tests carried out and the experience gained during the trial period are of interest for future work.

The operation of the sonar used for early identification of fish provided a clear view of the gear and would most likely also be able to identify BFT, which was satisfactory. The operation of the small mesh netting tested in the seine to avoid entangling fish and the installation of the stereo camera applied for catch control during the transfer process were also satisfactory from the operational point of view. Also, the surface ROV constructed with catch control and fish welfare monitoring purposes during the capture process showed also to work as planned, although we could not determine to what extent one would be able to identify BFT in the seine. As the catches in the trial period were absent, there were no tuna samples to evaluate fish welfare and quality at the level planned in the trials.

The present trials brought up some of the challenges in the BFT purse seine fishery that limit catches in the fishery and consequently the development for live-storage. Low profitability in the fishery together with the overlap with the mackerel fishery has lowered the participation of the fleet. This, added to the lack of infrastructure for fish delivery as well as the strict regulations and associated costs to enforce the right to fish, have contributed further to the low participation in the commercial fishery, which limit the possibility for R & D activities in the fishery.

Sammendrag

Til tross for den økende forekomsten av makrellstørje i norske farvann og den opprinnelige interessen fra næringen for å høste størje, har lav lønnsomhet i fiskeriet ført til at den norske kvoten ikke er fullt høstet de siste årene. Denne lave lønnsomheten tilskrives dårlig fangsteffektivitet, mangel på prosedyrer og infrastruktur som garanterer god kvalitet og dårlig markedsføring. Levendelagring av makrellstørje anses som en mulig løsning for å øke lønnsomheten i fiskeriet.

Norske myndigheter og Havforskningsinstituttet (HI) startet i 2020 et prosjekt for å utvikle levendelagring av makrellstørje. Målet med prosjektet er å innføre levendelagring av størje i Norge og utvikle de nødvendige prosedyrene fra fangst og overvåking av fisk til overføring og lagring i merder. Prosjektet har fire fokusområder: identifisering av størje, fangst, fangstkontroll, og fiskevelferd og kvalitet. Dette er den tredje rapporten i en serie som oppsummerer utviklingen og resultatene fra toktet i 2022.

Toktet ble gjennomført i slutten av september langs vestkysten av Norge mellom Bergen og Stad. Været under toktet var generelt dårlig, noe som begrenset den effektive forsøksperioden til tre dager. Det ble gjort hyppige observasjoner av størje i forsøksperioden, men fisken beveget seg veldig raskt, uten tydelig mønster og i store aggregasjoner, noe som gjorde fangsting svært vanskelig. Dette i kombinasjon med den korte forsøksperioden førte således til at det ikke ble fanget størje, noe som vesentlig begrenset arbeidet som i utgangspunktet skulle utføres. Noen av de utførte utstyrstestene og erfaringene i prøveperioden er imidlertid av interesse for videre arbeid.

Høyfrekvent sonaren brukt til tidlig identifisering av fisk ga en klar oversikt over redskapet og ville mest sannsynlig også kunne identifisere størje, noe som var positivt. Operasjonen av det småmaska panelet som ble testet i nota for å unngå hekting av fisk og installasjonen av stereokameraet brukt for fangstkontroll under overføringsprosessen var også driftsmessig tilfredsstillende. Overflate-ROven konstruert for fangstkontroll og fiskevelferdsovervåking under fangstprosessen viste også å fungere som planlagt, selv om vi ikke kunne fastslå i hvilken grad man ville være i stand til å identifisere størje i nota. Ettersom fangstene i prøveperioden uteble, var det ingen fiskeprøver for å evaluere fiskevelferd og kvalitet slik som planlagt i forsøkene.

Disse forsøkene viste noen av utfordringene i ringnotfisket etter størje som fører til begrensning i fangstene og dermed utviklingen for levende lagring. Lav lønnsomhet i fiskeriet samt overlapp med makrellfisket har redusert deltakelsen til flåten. Dette, i tillegg til mangelen på infrastruktur for levering av fisk samt de strenge reguleringene og kostnadene for å håndheve retten til å fiske, har bidratt ytterligere til lav deltakelse i det kommersielle fisket, noe som begrenser muligheten for FoU-aktiviteter i fiskeriet.

Background

Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) (BFT) is the largest tuna species and is highly sought because it can reach high commercial market value (Collette et al., 2011). The Northeast Atlantic stock spawns in the Mediterranean during late spring and migrates to the Norwegian coast to feed on pelagic species (e.g. mackerel [*Scomber scombrus*]) during summer and fall. Norway had one of the world's largest BFT fishing fleets in the 1950s and -60s, with around 470 vessels that caught 15,000 tons in its peak year (Tangen, 1999). From the end of the 1960s and during the 1970s, the stock dramatically decreased due to overfishing (Cort & Abaunza, 2015). The stock collapsed in the mid-80s and Norway ceased fishing as observations of BFT became rare in Norwegian waters. However, a recovery plan initiated in 2006 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) led to the recovery of the stock. Since 2012, tuna observations have become more frequent along the Norwegian coast (Nøttestad et al., 2020) and in 2014, the fishery was reopened with a small quota of 31 tons which has gradually increased to 315 tons in 2022.

Despite the increasing availability of the resource and the interest of the industry to harvest BFT, low profitability in the fishery has led to that the quota assigned to the Norwegian fleet has not been fully harvested the last years. This low profitability has been mainly attributed to poor catch efficiency, lack of procedures and infrastructure to guarantee standards of quality, and that Norwegian BFT is a new product in the international market with no established sales channels.

In order to mitigate the issues related to fish quality and market supply of Norwegian tuna, it is considered necessary to develop ways to properly store tuna for variable periods of time, which would help preserve its quality and provide sellers with flexibility as to when to supply the market. In 2020 Norwegian authorities and the Institute of Marine Research in Norway (IMR) started a project to develop live-storage of Atlantic BFT (Sistiaga et al., 2021). The aim of this project is to implement live-storage of BFT in Norway and develop the different procedures necessary from catch and monitoring of fish to transfer and storage in coastal cages. The project has four main focus areas:

- Fish identification
- Fish capture
- Catch control
- Welfare and quality

One of the challenges in the Norwegian BFT fishery is the identification of species and numbers of fish in the pre-capture, during capture and post-capture phases of the fishery. The pre-capture and capture phases are especially important to avoid large catches (> 30 fish) and determining whether there is any catch in the seine at an early stage is key for increasing the success rate of storing BFT alive. The fleet used medium frequency (i.e., 75 kHz) omni sonars for detection and evaluation of the number of fish before shooting the net. However, the accuracy of the number of fish will vary depending on fish behavior and the possibility to monitor the fish for enough time before the start of the catch process. Previous experiences in the fishery have resulted in large catches, making the handling of the fish extremely complicated and preventing the realization of an efficient transfer to live-storage cages. Thus, additional information is required to better evaluate the number of fish in the catch at an early stage.

Early identification of BFT during the capture process is important because it also helps determining whether the protocol for live-storage of fish needs to be activated, i.e. deploying of the transport cage and joining of the seine and the cage by a transfer channel. One of the main problems during the capture process is that fish gets entangled in the large meshes of the seine. When fish gets entangled, the retrieval of the seine needs to be repeatedly stopped to disentangle the fish. The size of the fish requires the use of a crane to remove it from the seine net. Stopping the retrieving process of the net leads to higher entangling risk for the fish in the seine, which further complicates and delays the process. This has serious consequences for the welfare and quality of the fish as well as for the HSE conditions for the crew. A potential solution to this problem is the installation of a small-mesh netting panel in the part of the seine that is most exposed for entangling.

Good fish welfare is necessary during the capture process to ensure ethical handling of animals, high fish quality and survival of the fish stored in the cages, and it can be defined as: “capture and handling methods that minimize the physical damage to, and allostatic load on, any retained fish until after they are either slaughtered or released, and thus promote the likelihood for post-release survival and/or good product quality” (Breen et al, 2020a). Thus, by better understanding how and when during the capture process stressful/poor-welfare situations for the catch occur, it is possible to be able to improve the quality of the retained catch, which is one of the issues that is pendant for Norwegian BFT.

Monitoring the fish in the different phases of the capture process is necessary to evaluate welfare. In addition, cameras and acoustic monitoring devices are necessary to always control the numbers and whereabouts of the fish. This is especially relevant when the fish is transferred to the transport cage, which requires counting and measuring of every individual transferred.

The present report describes the status of the work conducted in the development of Live- storage of BFT in Norway in 2022. Specifically, the goals of the trials were to:

- Test a high frequency sonar for identification and counting of BFT individuals during pre-catch, catch and post-catch phases.
- Test a small-mesh panel to avoid entangling fish during the retrieval of the seine.
- Test a stereo camera equipment to count and monitor fish during transfer.

- Test a surface ROV for early identification of fish during capture and monitoring of fish welfare.
- Evaluate fish welfare and quality during/after catch and live-storage of fish.

Methods and Results

The sea trials were carried out between the 26 September – 4 October 2022. They were supposed to happen earlier in September but due to the problems of the fleet with the mackerel fishery, the cruise could not be carried out before. The Norwegian fleet fishing mackerel is not allowed to fish in British waters, and the vessel we had rented, like lost purse seiners fishing BFT, has a substantial mackerel quota they needed to harvest at the same time as the BFT fishery. Thus, the vessel had to pull off from our agreement and we had to find a new vessel, which caused a substantial delay. The vessel employed for the trials was “MV Sjøarmør II” (1993), which is 35.30 m long, 9 m wide and has a gross tonnage of 582 tons. The trials were conducted along the west coast of Norway between Bergen and Stad (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1. The area in red shows the area covered during the fishing trials.

The cruise in general was impacted by bad weather, which limited the initial trial period of 10 days to 3 effective fishing days. The weather need to calm to fish BFT and specially to transfer BFT to a transport cage, and except for the first two days, the conditions were not good with winds of ca. 10 m/s and 3-4 m waves. During the period, BFT was abundant with high frequency of observations. Especially in the area between the island of Fedje and all the way north to Ålesund, the reports of observations from other vessels were very good.

Despite BFT being very abundant, the fish moved very fast and with no clear pattern, which made it very difficult to follow on the sonar. When fish was first observed on the surface, we tried to approach them, but the fish soon disappeared and appeared again many hundred meters away or simply disappeared. In these conditions, shooting the net was challenging and although we carried out several attempts, we were not successful capturing BFT. This was also the experience of the other commercial vessel fishing in the area, who reported up to 5-6 casts a day without catching any tuna.

Not being able to catch any BFT in the trial period limited substantially the work that initially was to be carried out. However, some of the equipment tests carried out and the experience gained during the trial period are of interest for future work.

– *Fish identification using acoustic methods*

Multibeam high frequency sonars, like the Kongsberg M3 sonar (500 kHz), have a resolution high enough to discriminate single fish up to a range of 100 m. During a survey conducted onboard “MS Ytterstad” in 2021 (Peña et al., 2022), this sonar was successfully used to track free swimming BFT aggregations at a speed up to 4 knots. The transducer is relatively small (< 5 kg) and can be operated from a small boat.



Fig. 2: Pole for mounting M3 sonar. Whole pole with structure to attachment to the skiff and system to allow rest out of water when sailing and deployed when acoustic sampling (top panels). M3 transducer attached to the end of the pole in a platform with an hydraulic arm to allow tilting sonar head (bottom left). Detail of the attachment of the pole system to the skiff side (bottom right).

The M3 sonar was mounted in a pole on the side of one of the skiff available onboard Sjarmør. The aluminum pole was constructed for this purpose and attached to the port side of the small boat (**Fig. 2**). The pole had a hydraulic piston that allowed the change in the tilt of the sonar transducer. The sonar was operated using a car battery and a converter from 24 to 220 volts. A dedicated PC was running the M3 sonar software connected via ethernet cable.

The aim of these trials was to quantify the number of fish captured during and right after the purse seining operation. Due to the waves experienced in the trial period, the skiff with the arrangement to use the M3 could only be deployed in two settings. The target in both cases were small and highly mobile BFT aggregations, detected and monitored briefly with the sonar. In each setting, after the pursing of the seine was completed, the skiff was lowered from the vessel and approached the distal end of the net, away from the fishing vessel. Continuous registrations from the multibeam sonar were made adjusting the position of the skiff in order to cover the whole water volume inside the net. The transducer tilt was adjusted, but due to the close range between the small boat and the net, no significant difference in the acoustic sampling was observed. Data was stored locally and processed later in the same sonar software.

The operation of the M3 sonar onboard the skiff was satisfactory. Despite the high noise level and vibration caused by the outboard engine, it did not affect the sonar performance most of the time. In few occasions, the vibration level became too high and the sonar transducer lost communication with the PC. Due to the waves, the sea conditions were not ideal for the operation of the equipment. Nonetheless, the sonar head could be kept under water at all times.

The absence of catches in the trials limited the results. However, acoustic data from the M3 provided a clear view of the seine walls from the sides and from the bottom (**Fig. 3**). The water column inside the seine also was clearly observed, which is encouraging for future trials and indicates that the presence of tuna would have most likely been detected by the sonar.

A more silent and comfortable skiff will be recommended for future experiments. Few modifications can make the pole easier to maneuver, especially during the deployment. Sonar operation and data quality were satisfactory.

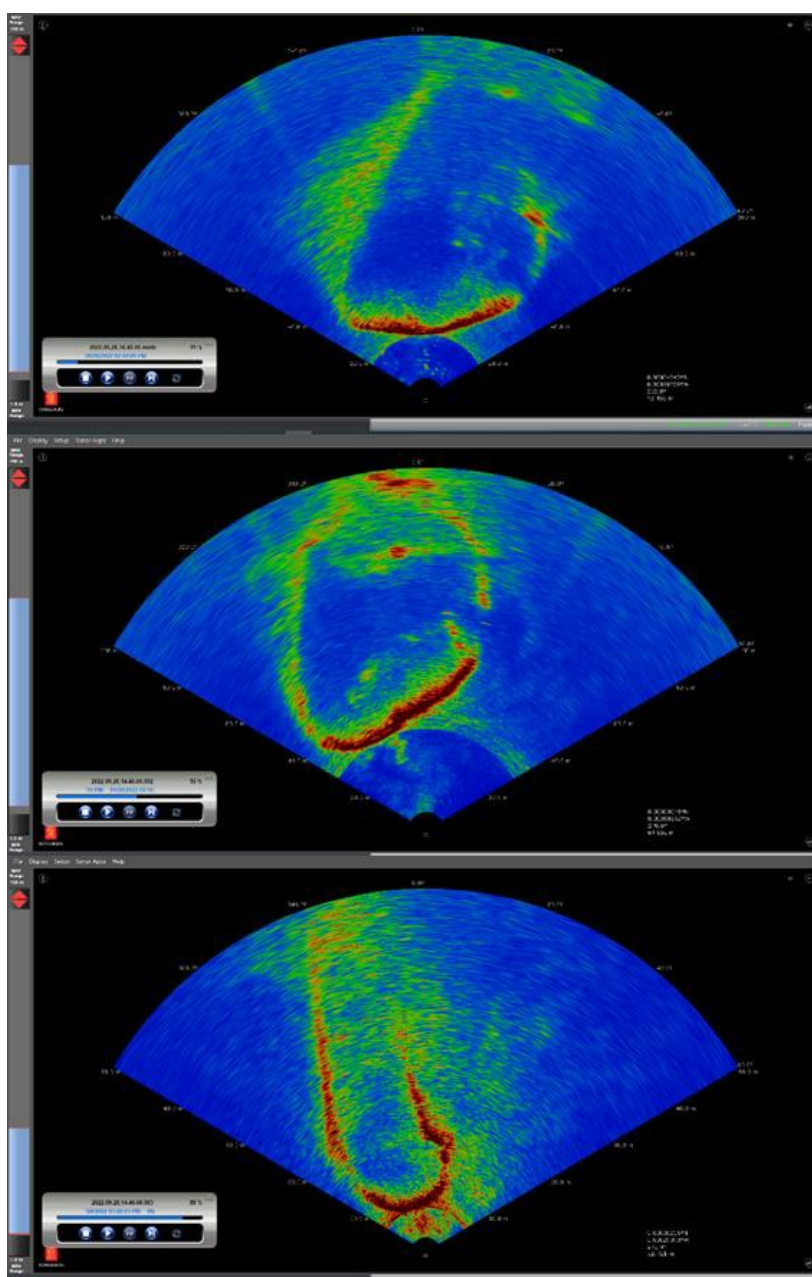


Fig. 3: Screen dumps from M3 sonar measured from a skiff on 28.09.22. The bottom red/brown echoes represent the purse seine net close to the transducer. In the opposite direction, at the top of each image is the vessel. From top to bottom the later stages during the retrieval process are shown. The top 2 images at a sonar range of 100 m, and the bottom image at 50 m range.

— *Small mesh panel in the seine*

Earlier sea trials have shown that with the purse seines used by fishermen today, which have a mesh size of approximately 200 mm in the whole net, the risk for BFT entanglement is high, especially with large catches. BFT entanglement leads to substantial logistic problems for the crew due to the size of the fish and therefore, a panel with meshes of approximately 60 mm was inserted in an area where BFT has earlier been observed to get entangled (**Fig. 4**).

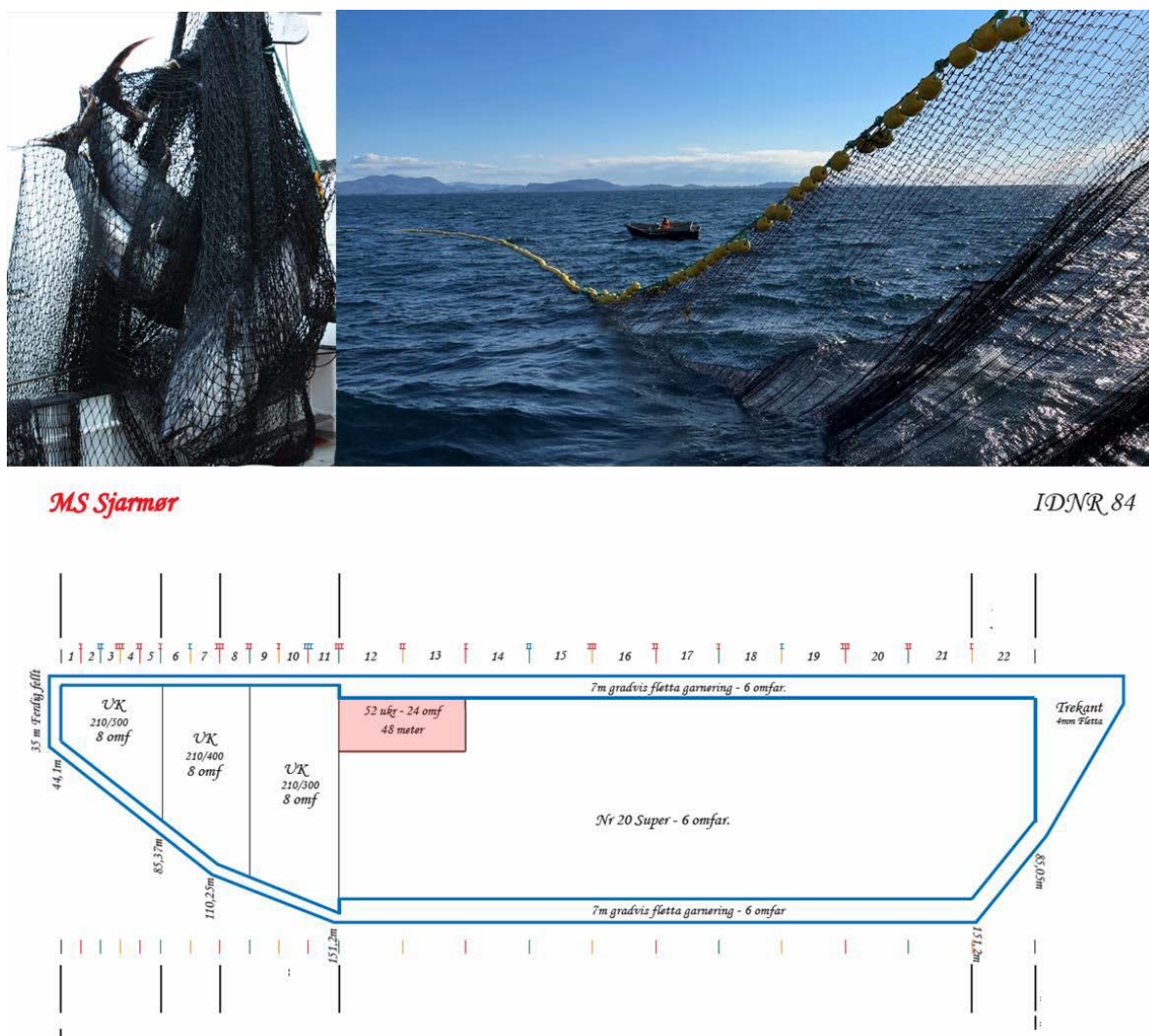


Fig. 4: Top panel left shows tuna entangled in the seine, top panel right shows the small mesh panel in the seine, and the lower panel shows the location of the small mesh panel (red area) in the seine.

The efficiency of the panel to avoid tuna entangling could not be tested because no BFT was caught during the trials. However, the trials showed that there were no operational problems handling a purse seine with such a panel inserted and it is anticipated that the measure will, at least to a certain level, mitigate the issue.

— Stereo camera system

One of the goals of the trials was to test a stereo camera equipment to count and monitor fish during transfer. Earlier tests carried out before the summer at the harbor in Bergen showed that the system would be able to register tuna passing through the channel if the fish would not pass closer than 2 m from the camera. To avoid the limitations of the field of view of the stereo camera system, two systems were rigged and were planned to be set on both sides of the channel and ca. 2 m below the surface. The camera systems were fitted to steel frames that could be attached to the netting panels in the channel (**Fig. 5**).

Each customized stereo camera system comprised of two Gigabit Ethernet cameras, with a 1720×1080 pixel resolution and framerate of 35 fps. The cameras were mounted in an underwater housing, with a baseline of 85 cm and inward convergence of 5° . Camera synchronization was achieved using the IEEE 1588 Precision Time Protocol (PTP) [26]. The system is rated for a depth of 40 m and has an umbilical cable that supplies power over ethernet to the cameras and transfers images to a logging computer, which encodes left and right videos using GPU encoding. The stereoscopic system was previously calibrated using a checkerboard pattern.



Fig. 5: Stereo camera systems rigged to be set on the side panels of the channel during BFT transfer.

– *Welfare monitoring - Behavioural observations*

Based upon earlier experiences and the need to observe BFT in the seine, the development of a camera system that enable the real-time observation of catches in the purse seine was prioritised. This would allow the size of the catch to be estimated, as well as monitor its behaviour, to inform decisions on whether the catch should be transferred to the cage.

This real-time surface ROV consisted of three key components: 1) a deployment platform; 2) an underwater camera; and 3) communications system for transferring the images to the fishing vessel (**Fig. 6**).

- 1) Deployment platform - used the USafe motorised buoy system, that could be remotely controlled from up to 500 m. This was tested prior to and during the research cruise and proved to be reliable and easy to operate. It was relatively easy to deploy from the fishing vessel and was easily recovered using one of the small boats.

- 2) Underwater Camera – development started with a modified GoPro Hero 9 camera, using its inbuilt WiFi to transmit the video signals via the wireless mesh network (see below) to the fishing vessel. However, initial trials showed that the camera transmission was unstable and would shut down if the signal to the vessel was briefly interrupted (>10 seconds). Unfortunately restarting the camera required recovering the system and reinitiating on deck. As a solution, an alternative Raspberry Pie camera was designed and constructed. During trials both before and during the cruise, this camera proved to be far more stable than the GoPro, although the image quality was not as good. A major advantage was that, once set up inside the underwater housing, the RaspberryPie camera could be left without having to reopen the housing to start the camera. Modifications to camera position and angle were required during the cruise, and this will likely require further development in the future to optimize camera views of the catch.
- 3) Wireless Mesh Network - this consisted of two Teltonika routers (RUTX10 & 11), linked to form a network that effectively extended the transmission range of each individual router by relaying signals (See Appendix 1 for more details). This wireless mesh network could be extended to include more routers and cameras (& other instruments) working over an extended range. The setup was different for the two camera systems (**Appendix 1**). The only camera tested on the WMN during the cruise was the RaspberryPie camera, but this was shown to give reliable and relatively stable images. There was some loss of signal, but this was generally regained after a few seconds and could likely be improved with the addition of more mesh nodes (routers).

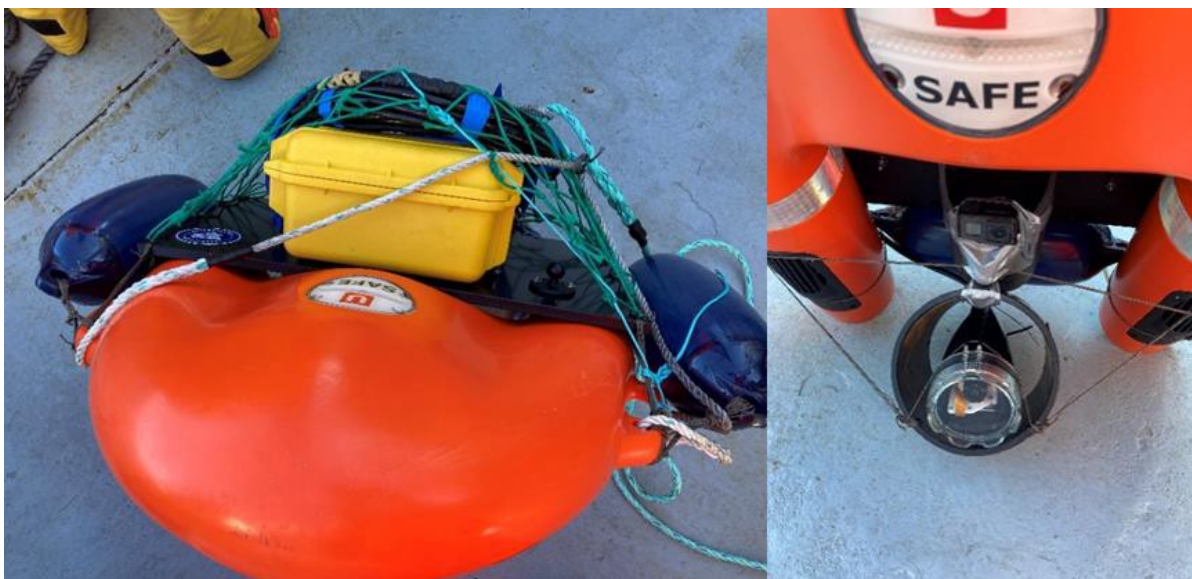


Fig. 6: “USafe” buoy and camera system for monitoring tuna in a purse sein in real-time. Left – the Wireless Mesh Network router inside a water-proof yellow housing, with aerial cable, mounted on type of the “USafe” motorised buoy; Right: the RaspberryPie camera, inside a waterproof housing, mounted beneath the buoy, with a GoPro Hero 7 mounted above. [Image source: Jostein Saltskår].

In addition to the system described above, several other camera monitoring systems were deployed during the trials including: an in-house real-time stereo-camera probe, (Breen et al, 2021) and various GoPro cameras for underwater observations in the purse seine and cage; a stereo camera system (University of València), for observation and measurement of fish during transfer from the purse seine to the cage; and the Noldus Observer XT system, with two CCTV cameras mounted on the vessel’s wheelhouse, to observe activities on deck and at the surface in the purse seine. Collectively, these systems would have been used to monitor key behavioural and vitality metrics detailed in the 2021 report.

– *Welfare Monitoring – Physiology, Injury, Condition & Quality*

It was planned to take blood and tissue samples from all tuna killed during this research cruise to determine their physiological status. Hematological metrics to be determined included blood glucose, blood lactate, hemoglobin, hematocrit, as well as plasma osmolarity, dissolved ion content, and plasma cortisol. To assess the condition of the fish, fork length (curved and straight) would be taken at the point of death which, with total and somatic weight estimates, would be used to determine relative condition indices. Stomach fullness, contents and digestion level would also be recorded, along with visceral fat levels. In addition, it was planned to photograph and describe external injuries to the body and fins of each tuna.

Muscle samples would be taken from the core (posterior to the pectoral fin) and the tail (anterior to the peduncle) to determine quality metrics (i.e. colour, protein and fat content and enzyme activity) and monitoring for the occurrence of burnt tuna syndrome (BTS). Also, core muscle temperature and pH would be monitored at the time of death and then later at the point of delivery. Rigor mortis would be assessed at each muscle sampling point, and through degree of shrinkage in fork length (curved and straight), at the time of death and then later at the point of delivery.

To enable tuna to be removed from captivity and slaughtered with minimal stress to the animals and hazard to the crew, we planned to test a commercially available electrical stunning system. The system is suitable for deployment in small boats, because it is water- proofed and can be operated from a 24 volt battery supply. However, the battery pack is heavy (~50 kg) and the pole with the stunning electrodes is ~3.5 m long.

The system was tested in seawater several times, both prior to the trials in Bergen and aboard Sjøarmør during the cruise. These tests demonstrated that the system was functioning correctly and safely (as determined by in-system testing) and was relatively simple to set-up.

To facilitate the trial stunning of tuna, a channel was constructed that would allow individual fish to be herded out of the transfer cage and into a shallow, closed end (**Fig. 7**). [Note - When not being used to stun fish, the stunning end can be removed, and the channel used to transfer fish to another cage]. The plan was for fish in the transfer cage to be herded to the channel end, by partially heaving in the far end of the cage using the triplex on the fishing vessel. Then individual fish would be guided into the entrance to the channel. Here the fish could be isolated, by closing the entrance of the channel at the cage, as well as at the entrance to the stunning section. Researchers would then have unrestricted access to and control of the fish while applying the stunning electrical field. When stunned, the fish would sink to the bottom of the stunning section, where the researchers would still be able to access it and attach lifting strops for transfer to the fishing vessel using a crane.

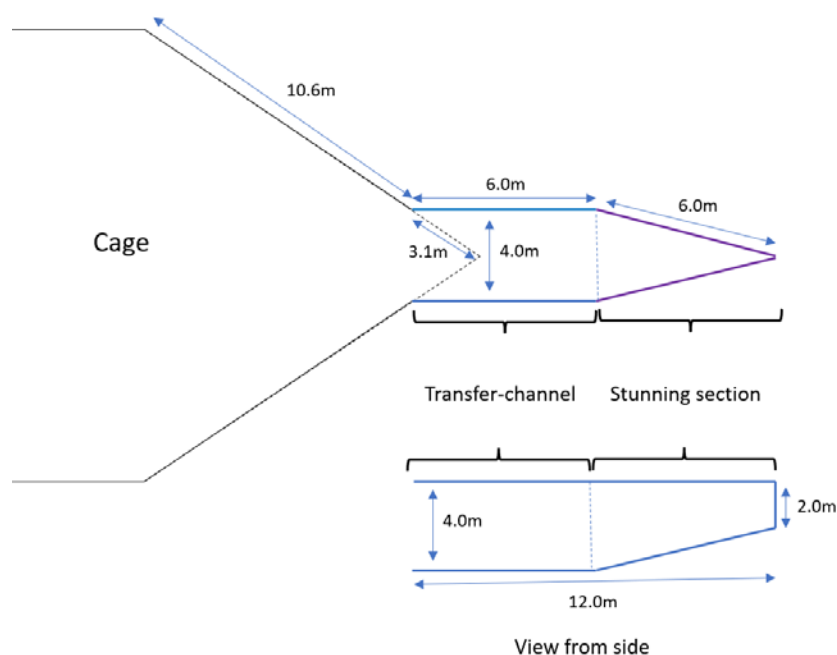


Fig. 7: Schematic overview of the transfer and stunning channel attached to the main transfer cage; insert below right: a side view of the transfer and stunning channel, with approximate dimensions. Further details on the transport cage can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Discussion

The sea trials in 2022 were impacted by bad weather and challenging fishing conditions in general, which led to the consequence of not being able to capture any BFT during the trial period. The same issues led to poor catches by the few commercial vessels in the fishing area at the same time. Further, this was the same outcome as in the trials from 2021, which proves that despite the abundance of fish on the fishing grounds, catching BFT is challenging. In other areas like in the Mediterranean for example, tuna behaves more calmly as it is in “spawning modus”, and the fishery is carried out in a different way with a different level of cooperation between the vessels and modus operandi than in Norway. Tuna in Norway, especially towards the end of the season in October, behaves more erratically with fast unforeseen movement patterns that makes it difficult to catch.

The first and most important premise for being able to live store BFT is actually catching it. Until the fleet can catch BFT regularly and with a high level of control over the fish during the harvest process, the chances of live-storage succeeding will be rather low. Therefore, we suggest that the trials in the coming years focus on the harvesting part of the process.

One of the main challenges in the fishery at the moment is the low prioritization of the BFT fishery by the fishermen mainly due to low profitability, which lowers the accessibility and possibilities for R & D that require cooperation with commercial activities. For different reasons (e.g. handling of the fish), Norwegian BFT has not acquired the expected prices in the market since the fishery was reopened in 2014. In addition, the BFT fishery is strictly regulated and requires the presence of an observer onboard, which adds substantially to the costs of participating in the fishery for the vessel. Further, most of the purse seiners harvesting BFT have a mackerel quota, which for many of these vessels is their main source of income. Because these vessels can no longer operate in British waters, they need to fish their mackerel in Norwegian waters and during the BFT fishing season before the mackerel migrates west. As long as there is no political solution and these vessels cannot fish within British EEZ, this problem will perdure, as the fleet will continue prioritizing mackerel instead of BFT.

Although finding BFT was not a problem during the trials, the low participation of the fleet could in the future add to the risk of not being able to find fish. Specially earlier in the season, where the aggregations of BFT are smaller and the conditions (e.g. weather, water temperature, etc.) most likely more suitable for live-storage of fish, lower number of active vessels in the fishery can add to the already challenging process of harvesting BFT.

The uncertainty in the fishery today is reflected on the fact that only three out of the eight purse seiners with BFT quota have enforced their right to fish and that overall, only one third of the quota allocated to Norway in 2022 was harvested. The problem of low willingness to invest in the fishery by the fleet, is further accentuated by the lack of infrastructure and routines to deliver BFT. This contributes to the low prices achieved in the market.

Some of the equipment tested prior to and during the fishing trials presented here (e.g. stereo camera systems, stunning equipment, surface ROV) showed promising results.

However, it is necessary to test them during a real fishing operation with fish to further develop them towards a potential future commercial use. This again stresses the need to focus on the harvesting element of the live-storage process because until this part is in place, the rest of the elements of the process are difficult to develop e.g. tuna monitoring equipment. The pole and line fishery for BFT has developed substantially in the last years and the catch efficiency in the fishery has increased, especially in 2022. Part of the development necessary regarding fish quality and welfare can be carried out in this fishery rather than the purse seine fishery, meaning that some of the fields relevant for the live-storage process can be developed using other fishing gears. This shows the importance of good communication and collaboration between the different fleets harvesting BFT in Norway to move the fishery forward and achieve the established goals e.g. live-storage of fish.

Acknowledgements

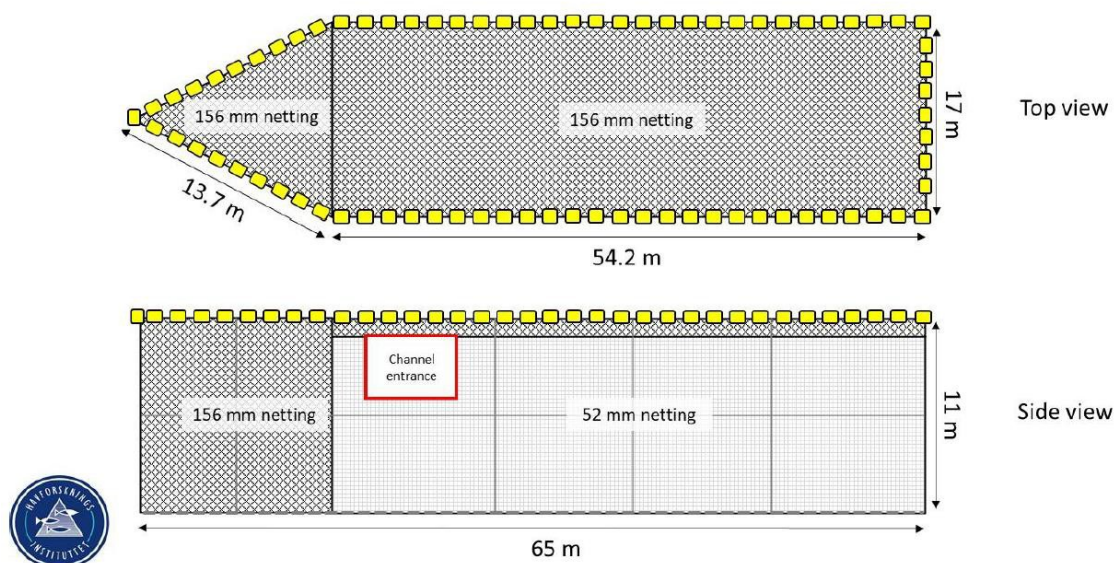
We would like to thank the Directorate of Fisheries for their help in acquiring the permits necessary to carry out the experiments and the assistance of Hermann Pettersen during the trials. We would also like to thank the Institute of Marine Research as well as the Norwegian Seafood Research Fund for their financial support.

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Appendix 1

Schematic drawing of the transport cage built for live-storage trials



Live storage of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in Norway: Initial trials

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SUMMARY

The Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (BFT) fishery was reopened in Norway in 2014. Norwegian vessels and processing plants can currently deliver and store fresh tuna or freeze it for shorter periods, which implies lack of flexibility regarding BFT supply to the market. Therefore, both fishermen and the processing industry are interested in developing a live storage industry of BFT along the Norwegian coast. This study is an initial attempt to map the improvements necessary to implement live storage of BFT in Norwegian waters, where fishing conditions differ substantially from the Mediterranean. Fish transfer through a netting channel and a novel camera equipment for fish counting and measuring were tested. The results showed that a netting channel can be used to successfully transfer BFT to a cage at sea. The trials demonstrated the need for improving the design of the transport cage and the novel camera equipment tested needs further development to efficiently identify BFT in the transfer process. Trials scheduled for 2021 will meet these challenges and carry out physiological and fish welfare analyses on BFT in relation to live storage.

KEYWORDS

Bluefin tuna, Norwegian waters, Live storage, Transfer channel, camera technology

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1. Introduction

Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) (BFT) is the largest tuna species and is highly sought because it can reach high commercial market value (Collette *et al.*, 2011). The Northeast Atlantic stock spawns in the Mediterranean during late spring and migrates to the Norwegian coast to feed on pelagic species (e.g., mackerel [*Scomber scombrus*]) during summer and fall. Norway had one of the world's largest BFT fishing fleets in the 1950s and - 60s, with around 470 vessels that caught 15,000 tons in its peak year (Tangen, 1999; Nøttestad and Graham 2004). From the end of the 1960s and during the 1970s, the stock dramatically decreased due to overfishing (Cort & Abaunza, 2015). The stock collapsed in the mid-80s and Norway ceased fishing as observations of BFT became rare in Norwegian waters. However, a recovery plan initiated in 2006 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) led to the recovery of the stock. Since 2012, tuna observations have become more frequent along the Norwegian coast (Nøttestad *et al.*, 2020a) and in 2014, the fishery was reopened with a small quota of 31 tons which has gradually increased to 312 tons in 2020.

There is great interest among fishermen and the seafood industry to develop a modern national fishery for BFT. However, factors like difficult weather conditions that lead to short seasons and operational challenges, low catch efficiency (Nøttestad *et al.* 2020b), variable levels of quality, and a lack of infrastructure and established market channels have led to the fishery being less profitable than anticipated. Several challenges must therefore be solved to develop a sustainable BFT fishery in the country.

In Norway, BFT has traditionally been harvested with small and medium sized purse seine vessels (<40 m) (Nøttestad *et al.*, 2020b). Norwegian vessels and processing plants can currently deliver and store fresh tuna or freeze it for shorter periods, which implies a lack of flexibility regarding the supply of fish to the market. Countries operating in the Mediterranean either store most of their catches in aquaculture cages (Ottolenghi, 2008) or freeze them at ultra-low temperatures (~ -60°C). Norway has one of the world's most developed aquaculture industries and although this knowledge can be useful for the development of BFT live storage, handling and transferring tuna from the fishing grounds to coastal cages are challenging. Procedures developed for the Mediterranean fisheries also require research and modification to suit Norwegian conditions (e.g., Fleet characteristics, BFT behavior/condition, weather, etc.). The Norwegian fleet targets small, widespread schools of large individuals during their feeding migration (Nøttestad *et al.*, 2020a;b), whereas Mediterranean BFT gathers in large spawning aggregations. These behavioral differences are likely to affect capture efficiency as well as transfer and storage processes. Thus, to develop a live storage industry in Norway, procedures and technology to handle tuna during capture and transfer to the coast (e.g. observation technologies to measure and count BFT) need further development.

Norway has wide experience with live storage of several species such as cod, mackerel and saithe. Further, it is expected that experiences from the salmon aquaculture industry and live storage of several other species together with experiences from other countries with BFT (e.g., Spain, Malta, Croatia, etc.) will contribute to a fast and safe development of tuna live storage in Norway. The industry, both fishermen and the processing industry, has shown much interest for the development of live storage of BFT in Norway. The aim in the near future is to land more fish that can be traded with the highest possible quality to obtain high market value. At the same time, there is increasing focus on fish welfare, ethical handling of animals and sustainability, parameters that need to be respected and preserved through the operations developed for the live storage of BFT (**Fig. 1**).

The aim of the present trials was to map the main improvements necessary at equipment level as the first step towards implementing live storage of BFT in Norway. Specifically, the goals were to:

- Investigate whether it is possible to transfer BFT from purse seine to a cage at sea using a transfer channel and without using divers (the common procedure in the Mediterranean).
- Study whether it is possible to use a new camera system that does not require the use of divers to count and measure BFT during the purse seine to cage transfer process.
- Evaluate the condition of live stored BFT and determine the potential benefits with respect to fish delivered fresh.

2. Vessel, equipment and sea trials

The sea trials were carried out onboard the purse seiner Vestbris (34,99 m LOA, 494 BT, built in 2002) the 28 and 29 of September 2020 a few miles off the coast of the community of Florø, Norway (61° 28' 73"N – 04° 23' 89"E). The vessel was equipped with a Furuno FSV 84 sonar and a SIMRAD SU90 sonar and used a BFT seine (825 m long x 130 m deep, mesh size 155/210 mm) produced by Fiskenet AS. The vessel had a fishing quota to harvest BFT in Norwegian waters and the skipper has extensive experience with BFT fishing from the 1960-s and 70-s. The permits necessary to run the live storage experiments were obtained through the Directorate of Fisheries in Norway.

The transfer channel used was built with the same netting as the purse seine (mesh size 210 mm). The channel was 6 m long, 6 m wide and 4 m deep. It was fixed to the cage and attached to the first section of the purse seine right before the cage was deployed from the vessel and the BFT transfer operation was meant to start (**Fig. 2a**).

The transport cage used during the trials was 15 m deep, 14 m wide and 55 m long, and was built of 60 mm nylon meshes. As nylon has higher density than water and the lower ropes in the structure of the cage were leaded, the cage had negative buoyancy. The whole structure was kept afloat by purse seine floats and 15-20 large marker buoys (**Fig. 2b**). Once the cage was deployed at sea, it was stretched by three small support vessels and reinforced with two transversal aluminum bars to keep the structure of the cage open.

Counting and measuring fish transferred from the purse seine to the cage is a requirement from ICCAT that represents a challenge for the tuna industry (Muñoz-Benavent *et al.*, 2018). Today, the international industry mainly uses a camera system known as AQ1 AM 100 (Phillips *et al.*, 2009). This system is dependent on divers for installation during transfer operations and is not viable for the Norwegian fishing fleet because it would imply high costs and logistic challenges as the divers would have to be onboard through long periods within the fishing season. Using a supporting steel frame, an alternative camera system was attached ~0.5 m below water surface in the middle of the transfer channel to observe, count and measure the tuna transferred from the seine to the cage. The camera system employed in the trials is a prototype developed by the Norwegian company Mohn Technology AS. This system is used to count and measure adult salmon swimming up the rivers in the summer, but the company is at the moment working on the development of a custom-made camera rig for BFT, which will comply with ICCAT's requirements. The camera system used in this experiment was 35 cm long, 30 cm wide and 10 cm high, weighing 5.1 kg, and could easily be attached to a fixed point at the gear using a steel frame. The camera was connected to a cable to a sender at surface that sent live images to a computer onboard via wifi (**Fig. 2b**). The system captures 2D and 3D images and provides fish measurements by means of artificial intelligence and machine vision algorithms. The main advantage of this system compared to the camera systems used in other BFT fisheries is that it does not require the use of divers for its operation and can send live images through a wireless data transfer technology.

3. Results and conclusions

A successful tuna catch operation was performed the 29th of September at 14:00 hours, after 3 failed attempts to surround tuna with the purse seine. During the pursing process, and once it was revealed that there were BFT in the net, the transport cage was deployed at sea and the channel connected to the purse seine. The deployment of the transport cage showed to be rather complex and for the future a lighter and more maneuverable design is needed. During the deployment of the cage and through the whole seine retrieving process three small vessels helped keeping the seine open so that as few tunas as possible would get entangled in the net (**Fig. 3**). Despite the efforts, some BFT got entangled in the net, which emphasizes the importance of always keeping the seine stretched so that the fish can stay clear from the net.

While the purse seine was being retrieved, several BFT were observed swimming through the channel and into the cage. However, the catch was larger than expected and the operation of loosening the tuna entangled in the seine netting was very time consuming. Therefore, it got dark during the purse seine retrieval process and the vision from the camera became limited, which made it difficult to determine the number of tuna swimming through the channel and into the cage (**Fig. 4**). Thus, the estimation of the number of BFT that was transferred into the cage was made mostly based on visual observations from the vessel rather than the camera. The camera system allows the use of artificial light, but the light was turned

off because earlier studies have shown that artificial light can affect tuna behavior both attracting it but also making it turn away from the source (Hsiao, 1951). The tuna close to the surface could be easily observed from the vessel and several individuals were seen turning when they approached the camera area with the light on. Whether they were turning solely due to the light or there were other factors that affected their behavior was difficult to discern.

Individuals were also observed swimming out of the cage and back into the purse seine, which made it difficult to determine the exact number of tunas in the cage. Thus, when we estimated that there were around 20 individuals of BFT in the cage the channel was closed using a tightening rope.

It was considered that the vessel was too far away from the coast to allow transferring the tuna further into a larger stationary holding cage. Therefore, the catch was taken onboard and slaughtered. The catch resulted in 152 BFT individuals, 51 of which were taken from the cage. The number of tunas in the cage was larger than expected, which demonstrates that the BFT counting and identification procedures and equipment need to be improved before new experiments can be carried out. Avoiding the transfer of fish in low light conditions seems necessary as camera systems in general do not perform in darkness. Despite the challenges with the counting and identification, the tuna in the cage were alive and seemed to be in good condition. The trials included dedicated sampling of BFT individuals for physiological analyses, which would have helped determining the condition of the tuna. However, because the transport cage could not be towed to land, these analyses were not carried out, which illustrates again the logistic challenges involved on the live storage of Norwegian BFT (e.g., large size fish, rough weather through longer periods, inconvenience of using divers, etc.).

The main conclusion from the trials is that it is possible to transfer BFT from a purse seine to a cage at sea by means of a transfer channel. However, there are several challenges that need to be solved and the transfer processes must be improved before the procedure can be adopted by the fleet for commercial live storage of BFT in Norway. Some of these challenges are related to the need for early evaluation of the numbers of tuna in the purse seine and the control and identification (number and size) of the fish transferred through the transfer channel and into the cage. It is also important to improve the net designs used to minimize the risk for tuna getting entangled in the net during the retrieval process. These challenges need to be solved before live storage of tuna can become a reality in Norway.

The trials presented here are the first of a series of trials planned by the Institute of Marine Research to develop sustainable procedures for live storage of BFT in Norway. The trials scheduled in the autumn 2021 include a new, lighter and more maneuverable transport cage, the use of additional vessels for assistance in the cage setting and seine hauling operation, and further development of camera equipment for control and observation of the fish when transferred to the cage. The trials planned for 2021 also aim at conducting individual sampling of BFT for physiological analyses (e.g., stress level) and focus on fish welfare in relation to live storage of BFT.

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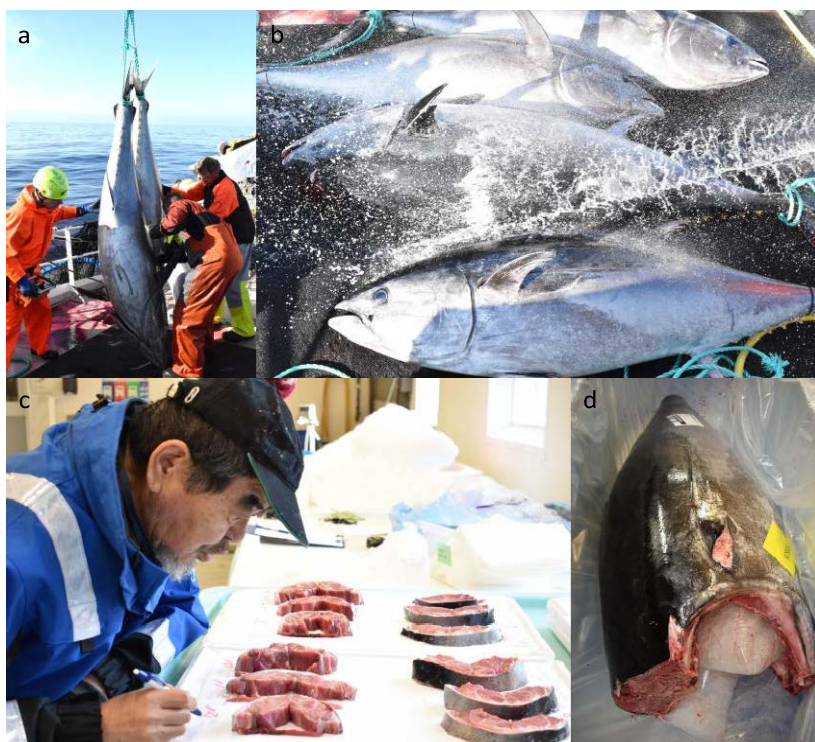


Figure 1. Photos “a” and “b” show Norwegian tuna catches from 2019. Photos c and d show the quality evaluation for each tuna individual and a bluefin tuna ready for export.

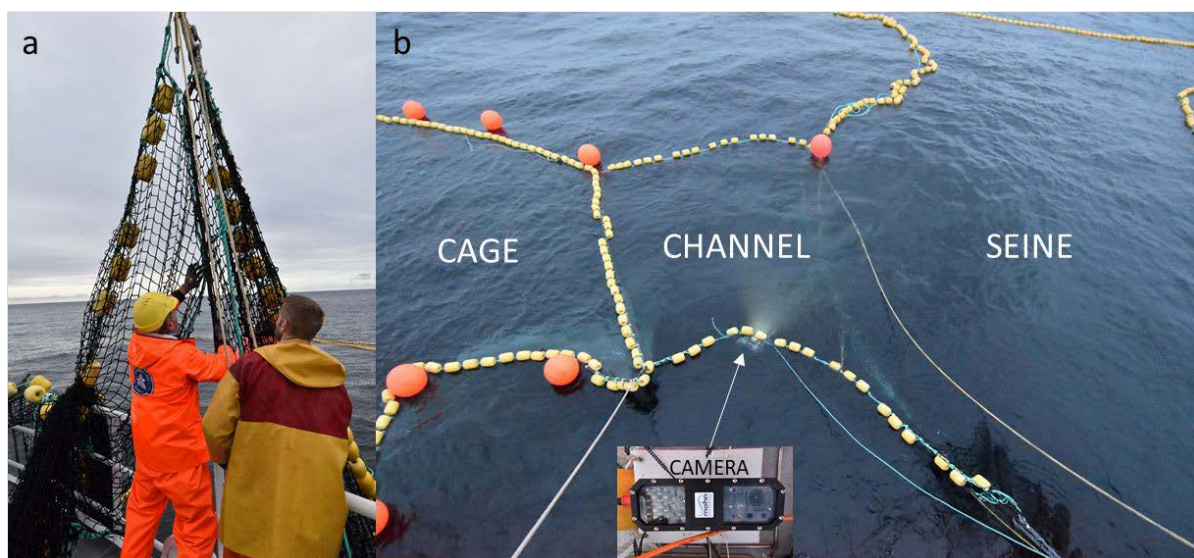


Figure 2. Photo “a” shows the operation of attaching the channel to the seine and photo b shows the experimental setup with the channel, the cage and the camera attached.



Figure 3. Three small boats keep the structure of the seine while hauling so that it does not collapse.



Figure 4. Screenshot from the camera system used during the sea trials. The low light conditions did not allow clear identification of the BFT passing through the channel.

Syria

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

- In accordance with the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission, which was held in hybrid format in Vale do Lobo (Algarve, Portugal), from 14 to 21 November 2022, and according to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2023, Syria has an annual quota of 129 t of bluefin tuna catch from the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea (Rec. 22-08).
- Longliner, baitboat, handboat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria for catching bluefin tuna, for that only 1 t (0.8%) of quota will be set aside for any possible bycatch as no bycatch or discards have recorded in previous years.
- The total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2023 fishing season is 128 t.
- Only one Syrian fishing vessel recorded in the ICCAT list of vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2023 to catch the Syrian allocated quota, and the whole quota shall be caught by one vessel taking into consideration that the fishing effort of that vessel is commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to Syria in 2023.
- Each year, the fisheries authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) announces terms and conditions for the BFT fishing season based on ICCAT recommendations.
- A special fishing license shall be issued by the fisheries authority for the vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in 2023.
- The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
- According to Rec. 22-08, para 28 Syria officially request to start the fishing season from 15 May to 1 July 2023.
- No activities of the recreational or sport fishery in Syria.
- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, and displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited.
- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour. VMS data will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.
- The fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.
- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to the competent authorities a daily catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish and total weight.
- Weekly and monthly catch reports of the active vessel for catching BFT shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

1 b) Carry-over

- No carry-over of under harvested tuna from 2022 is being requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

- The fish will be transferred for farming purposes in neighbouring countries.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The master of the catching vessel shall maintain a bound fishing logbook of his operation in accordance with ICCAT recommendations. The fishing operator shall by electronic or other means report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report). Syria will submit weekly and monthly catch report to ICCAT, as well as date of closure of the fisheries. Dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
2.	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine for fishing in eastern Mediterranean Sea. Syria officially requests to start the fishing season from 15 May to 1 July 2023. Syria may possibly extend its fishing period for the affected vessel for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel have been inactive.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (from 15 May to 1 July 2023).	
3.	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited. Fish below the minimum size that are discarded dead shall be counted against Syrian quota.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
4.	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	1 t of quota will be set aside for any possible bycatches. Previously no bycatch was recorded of BFT. And no bycatch of bluefin tuna recorded in 2021. Therefore, on this basis, a bycatch allocation of around 1% is set aside.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	

		The amount of bycatch for small scale coastal vessel fleet should be calculated on an annual basis. Bycatches, including discards, should be counted against the quota. Any bycatch shall be reported to ICCAT.		
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No activities for the recreational or sport fishery in Syria.	Not applicable	
6.	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Fishing vessel shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. No transshipment operations reported in Syria.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
7.	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	The vessel must be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
8.	CPC Observer programmes (paras 95-100)	Most of the Syrian fleet is less than 10 m and considered as small-scale coastal vessels and the possibility of catching bluefin tuna is negligible as no pelagic trawlers, longline vessels, baitboats or traps are operating in Syrian waters. The fishing operations of the Syrian vessel will be monitored throughout the fishing season by the CPC observer (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) which will embark onboard of the fishing vessel. He will be in charge of collecting and recording any scientific information like any accidental catch of sharks, turtles and sea birds during fishing trips. In addition, the regional observer will be embarked on the Syrian vessel for at sea transfers from neighbouring country.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing.	
9.	Regional observers Programme (paras 101-107)	An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage on purse seine vessels authorized to catch BFT.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing.	

10	Domestic legislation	The domestic legislation in Syria regarding BFT corresponds with the recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Every year domestic legislation is amended in accordance with ICCAT recommendations. The legislation includes all information regarding BFT fishing activity (fishing season, VMS, catch recording and reporting, minimum size, bycatch etc.)		
11	<i>Ports</i>	LATAKIA port is the authorized port for any landing or transshipment of BFT.		

1 e) Designated ports

- LATAKIA port is the authorized port for any landing or transshipment of BFT.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

- Only one vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2023 to catch the Syrian allocated quota, and the whole quota shall be caught by one vessel taking into consideration that the fishing effort of that vessel is commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to Syria in 2023.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

- There is no facility for farming BFT in Syrian waters yet. The fish will be transferred for farming purposes in neighbouring countries.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection(para 12 c)

- Most of the Syrian fleet is considered as small-scale coastal vessels and the possibility of catching bluefin tuna is negligible as no pelagic trawlers, longline vessels, baitboats or traps are operating in Syrian waters.
- General Commission for Fisheries Resources is the control competent authority for controlling and monitoring of fishing activities in cooperation with the General Directorate of Ports and the Director General of General Commission for Fisheries Resources is the contact point nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan.
- An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage on the purse seine vessel authorized to catch BFT.
- The fishing operations of the Syrian vessel will be monitored throughout the fishing season by the CPC observer which will embark onboard the fishing vessel, in addition to the regional observer that will be embarked on the Syrian vessel for at sea transfers from neighbouring country.
- In case of any violation, the fishing authorities will impose a penalty on the fishing operator.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection

- One Syrian vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2023 to catch Syrian quota, and no Joint Scheme of International Inspection is applied.

Capacity Table

Capacity Table

Tuna vessel type	-	Ref year	Fishing fleet							Ref year	Fishing capacity					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7															
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78															
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	33.68	33.68	
Purse seine total fleet		0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	33.68	33.68	
Longliner over 40m	25															
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68															
Longliner less than 24m	5															
Total longline fleet																
Baitboat	19.8															
Handline	5															
Trawler	10															
Trap	130															
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A															
Other (please specify)	5															
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	33.68	33.68	
Quota									0	66	73	80	80	80	129	
Percentage allocated to by-catch									0	0	1.4%	1%	1%	1%	0.8%	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									0	66	72	79.2	79.2**	79.2	128*	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Under/ overcapacity									0	-32.32	-38.32	-45.52	-79.2	-45.52	-94.32	

* 0.8% has been set aside for bycatch. ** Total quota (79.2 t) transferred to Tunisia.

Tunisia

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

Tunisia will hereby present its Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan for 2023.

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

The 2023 bluefin tuna fishing quota allocated to Tunisia is 3,000 t for the East Atlantic and Mediterranean.

On this basis, Tunisia established a fishing plan and will allocate individual quotas to 54 purse seiners to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2023. All Tunisian fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna use purse seine nets i.e., tuna purse seiners.

Likewise, Tunisia has adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT.

The Tunisian administration will issue fishing authorisations for these vessels for 2023 and these will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

Management of fishing activity will be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Recs. 21-08/22-08), and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended and/or supplemented, in particular by Laws No. 2013-34 and No. 2018-30 and their implementing texts, in particular, the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019).

1 b) Carry over

An under-harvest of 20 t out of a total of 26.55 t set aside for bycatch has been recorded in 2022. To this end, Tunisia requests the carry over of this under-harvest (20 t) from 2022 to 2023 in accordance with paragraph 7 of Rec. 21-08/ paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08. Therefore, the total quota available for the 2023 fishing campaign will be 3,020 t.

This adjusted quota will be distributed as follows:

- a. 2,990 t for tuna purse seiners. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be reported to ICCAT by the deadlines for submission set out in paragraph 52 of Rec. 21-08/22-08.
- b. 30 t for bycatch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 37 of Rec. 21-08/22-08.

1 c) Destination of catch

Catches will be destined as follows:

- a) 2,990 t of live fish, to be transferred to farms in the Mediterranean.
- b) 30 t of fresh fish (dead), to be landed at authorized Tunisian ports.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 21-08) /22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 74-88)	<p>Catch recording and reporting will comply with the provisions of Rec. 21-08/22-08.</p> <p>Catching vessel masters will maintain all the onboard documents required including a bound logbook or in electronic format in which the operations performed will be recorded in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 21-08/22-08 (Annex 2).</p>	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
2	Fisheries openings (para 28-32)	<p>The purse seine fishing season is from 26 May to 1 July 2023.</p> <p>In accordance with Rec. 21-08/22-08, Tunisia may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	<p>It is prohibited to catch bluefin tuna with a unit weight less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm calculated from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail.</p> <p>However, exceptionally, bycatch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm may be authorised.</p>	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	

		Bycatch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted from Tunisia's quota.		
4	Bycatch (para 37, incl % to be set aside)	<p>30 t will be set aside for bycatch (1%).</p> <p>This estimate is based on recorded bycatch from previous years, is a precautionary measure.</p> <p>If bycatch exceeds the 20% limit tolerated for vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna or if the total level of bycatch is surpassed, these are discarded and deducted from Tunisia's quota.</p>	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 38-46)	Sports and recreational fishing will not be authorised.		
6	Transshipment (para 89-94)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessels can only tranship bluefin tuna catches in the ports registered with ICCAT with prior authorisation in accordance with Rec. 21-08/22-08.	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
7.	VMS (para 218-224/219-225)	<p>All vessels participating in the bluefin tuna campaign with a length of more than 15 m are equipped with a VMS system, in accordance with Rec. 21-08/22-08 and current domestic legislation.</p> <p>Transmission of positions of catching, towing and support vessels starts 5 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until 5 days after the end of the authorisation. The positions will be communicated instantaneously to the ICCAT Secretariat every hour by the purse seiners in accordance with Recommendation 18-10.</p>	<p>Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as supplemented by Law 2013-34 of 21 September 2013 and Law 2018-30 of 23 May 2018.</p> <p>Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 26 June 2015 establishing the type of instruments for gathering instantaneous information on the positions of vessels fishing at sea and the type of vessels that must be equipped with them.</p>	

8	CPC observer programmes (para 95-100)	The Tunisian administration will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents on board all towing vessels i.e. 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 21-08/22-08.	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	The Tunisian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all transfers from one farming facility to another, during all bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities, throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities and during release of bluefin tuna from farming cages in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 21-08/22-08.		
10	Domestic legislation			
	<i>Other requirements, such as: Scientific programme (para 44) etc.</i>	Tunisia has implemented an onboard scientific observer programme, covering more than 10% of purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna. In addition, a periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme is implemented in fattening farms.		

1e) Designated ports

12 designated ports have been authorised for landing and transhipment of bluefin tuna in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation. These fishing ports are the following:

- Tabarka
- Bizerta
- La Goulette
- Kélibia
- Susa
- Monastir
- Teboulba
- Mahdia
- La Chebba
- Sfax
- Gabès
- Zarzis

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 16-21)

Tunisia's adjusted quota for 2023 will be 3,020 t. As Tunisia allocates 30 t for bycatches, the total quota available for purse seiners (approximately 54 vessels, including 34 vessels between 24 and 40 m in length and 20 vessels under 24 m) will be 2,990 t.

As total fishing capacity is 2,366.12 t, Tunisia has an undercapacity of 623,88 t (see **Table 2**).

3. Annual farming management plan (para 12; 22-26), if appropriate

In accordance with paragraphs 22 to 26 of Rec. 21-08/20-24 and rec. 22-08, the input volume for 2023 of bluefin tuna amounts to 3,000 t, i.e. proportional to the quota allocated to Tunisia for 2023.

Six (6) farms are authorised to engage in operations in 2023 (**Table 3**).

On the basis of the follow-up of bluefin fattening activities in Tunisia, no farms foresee a carry-over from the 2022 season to the 2023 season.

Any possible modification made to the farming plan will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the applicable deadline.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 12c)

In accordance with the domestic legislation in force, at-sea inspections in the fishing areas during the campaign will be carried out by agents authorised to police the fisheries from different corps that operate at sea. They are responsible for monitoring and assessment of compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Requests for entry and use of Tunisian ports by foreign-flagged vessels will be reviewed and granted, if appropriate, by the relevant port and maritime authorities.

In case of authorisation for port entry and use, in-port inspections will be carried out by government officials of the relevant authority.

In addition, control measures are provided for in Rec. 21-08/21-08 (paras 95 and 96) for regional and national observers programmes which ensure coverage of:

- 100% of purse seiners authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna,
- 100% of authorised towing vessels,
- 100% of bluefin tuna transfer operations from purse seiners, from caging on farms, from one farm to another,
- 100% of harvesting operations.

Measures regarding sealing of bluefin tuna cages stated in paras 128, 159, 164, 216, Annexes 4, 6 and 14 of Rec. 21-08 will also be applied.

Random control operations will be carried out in active farms by government officials of the relevant authority after the end of caging and in accordance with para 207-208 / 208-209 of Rec. 21-08/22-08. These control operations will be carried out for at least 10% of the number of cages in each farm at the end of the caging operations.

In accordance with paragraph 102 of Rec. 22-08. Tunisia will authorise, if appropriate, harvesting operations on its farms of up to 1,000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 t per farm per year to supply the market with fresh bluefin tuna and will ensure coverage and validation of all its operations through deployment of national inspectors throughout the entirety of these operations.

The competent control authority in Tunisia is the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA), which is attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries (MARHP). The following contact points are designated as responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan:

- Director General of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. Ridha Mrabet)
E-mail: ridha.mrabet@iresa.agrinet.tn
Telephone No.: +216 71 892 253
Fax: +216 71 799 401
- Deputy Director of Protection of Fisheries Resources (Mr. Hamadi Mejri)
E-mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com
Telephone No.: +216 71 890 784
Fax: +216 71 799 401

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 228-231/ 229-232)

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Rec. 21-08/22-08, it is envisaged that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Onboard inspectors will ensure implementation of inspection and boarding activities for all authorised Tunisian and foreign vessels. The operations period will last for 2 months (15 May – 15 July 2023) and concerns in particular bluefin tuna fishing, towing and caging activities, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- Onboard documents;
- Catch and transfer activities into towing and farming cages;
- Video recordings of catch transfer operations;
- Potential infringements of the conservation and management measures of Rec. 21-08/22-08.

5. Others

A periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme is implemented in Tunisian fattening farms. The main data collected concern demographic structures and size weight relations.

In addition, an onboard scientific observers programme, covering more than 10% of purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna is in place. This programme aims to collect fishery data (place, catch, composition, etc.) and bycatch (cetaceans, turtles, sea birds, sharks, etc.).

It should be noted that Tunisia also participates in the GBYP programme (tagging, species biology, etc.) and provision of scientific data to the SCRS. These programmes are implemented by the National Institute of Sea Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) in cooperation with the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) and the profession.

Table 2.

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	-	<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	29	31	32	32	33	34	1194.72	1443,62	1543.18	1592.96	1592.96	1642.74	1692,52
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	16	8	13	17	15	15	20	538.88	269,44	437.84	572.56	505.2	505.2	673,6
Purse seine total fleet		41	37	44	49	47	48	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	Not applicable														
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		41	37	44	49	47	48	54	1809.3	1713,06	1981.02	2165.52	2098.16	2147.940	2366,120
Quota									2254.48	2093,85	2400.00	2655.00	2655.00	2655.00	3000.00
Percentage allocated for bycatch										1% (21,15 t)	1% (24 t)	1% (26,55 t)	1% (26,55 t)	1% (26,55 t)	1% (30 t)
Adjusted quota (if applicable) *									2364.48	2115,00	2400.00	2675.40	2676.55	2679.72	2990
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)															0
Under/overcapacity									-555.18	-380,790	-418.98	-509.88	-578.39	-505.230	-623.880

* Adjusted quota (3,020 t) = initial quota (3,000 t) + unused quota from 2022 (20 t), of which 30 t are set aside for bycatch and 2,990 t remain available for vessels.

Table 3.

<i>Name of Farm</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Management establishment</i>	<i>Farm coordinates</i>	<i>Wild input (t)</i>	<i>Farming capacity (t)</i>
VMT	AT001TUN00001		36°00'18"N - 10°34' 36" E	500	1000
			36°00'18"N - 10°34' 55" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 00" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 37" E		
TT	AT001TUN00002		35°25'00"N - 11°04' 40" E	625	1250
			35°25'00"N - 11°05' 04" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°04' 40" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°05' 04" E		
SAGUN-DOUSS	AT001TUN00003		35°19'00"N - 11°09' 10" E	625	1250
			35°19'00"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°09' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°08' 45" E		
TFT	AT001TUN00004		36°01'49"N - 10°34' 00" E	500	1000
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 00" E		
			36°01'49"N - 10°34' 37" E		
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 37" E		
SNB	AT001TUN00005		35°18'10"N - 11°08' 26" E	375	750
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 26" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 10" E		
THC	AT001TUN00006		35°18'10"N - 11°08' 56" E	375	750
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 40" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 56" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 40" E		
TOTAL (t)				3,000	6,000

Türkiye

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

Türkiye will implement a total of 2,600 t catch limit for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2023.

The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 22-08, will be transposed into Turkish domestic regulation through “Ministerial Communiqué on Bluefin tuna Fishing, Farming and Trading”.

Fisheries and farming activities for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted in the context of Türkiye’s national quota and individual quotas shall be allocated for each E-BFT catching vessel.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Notifications and the Communiqué on E-BFT.

MoAF shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2023. All fishing vessels authorized by MoAF shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System in line with the obligations stipulated under Section G of Rec. 22-08.

The authorized E-BFT fishing season for purse seiners shall be implemented from 15 May to 1 July in accordance with Para 28 of Rec. 22-08. MoAF will make a distinction between those fishing vessels that will carry-out E-BFT fishery in the Eastern Mediterranean and in other parts of the Mediterranean, as it was applied in the previous year. Accordingly, the open season shall be applied as 26 May - 1 July for the vessels to conduct fisheries outside the Eastern Mediterranean.

Fishing permits issued by MoAF shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2023 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline, with a view to fulfil the relevant capacity adjustment provisions of Rec. 22-08 and taking into account domestic process applied by the Ministry; fishing permits are expected to be granted to maximum 30 purse seiners as BFT catching vessels for 2023 BFT fishing season. Similarly, around 55 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF.

MoAF plans to allocate the total quota for each authorized vessel based on a national criterion on activities and track records of the fishing vessels involved. Carry-over of unused quotas shall be authorized by MoAF.

Taking into account the catch trends pertinent to previous seasons, it is decided to allocate a specific quota level as 3 t for artisanal, coastal, recreational and sport fisheries and 10 t for bycatch in 2023. All bycatches shall be deducted from the total quota.

1 b) Carry over

Actual catch amount made by Türkiye in 2022 corresponds to 2256.7 t (out of 2305 t). Carryover of underharvest from the year 2022, corresponding to 48.3 t (2.09% of the annual quota), is requested by Türkiye.

1 c) Destination of catch

- Farming: 2,550 t (plus live BFT to be imported)
- Landing: Approximately 10 t (as BFT bycatches)

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	Recording/reporting requirements shall be implemented in line with paras 74-88 of Rec. 22-08. Both electronic and bound logbook shall be used for the recording of catch data. Dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Paras 28-32 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required. Türkiye requests the application of the derogation in para 28 of Rec. 22-08 for open season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, as follows: Fishing for E-BFT by purse-seiners shall be allowed for the period 15 May - 01 July in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (for fishing areas 37.3.1. and 37.3.2). It is expected that some E-BFT fishing operators may prefer to carry-out fisheries activities in line with Rec. 22-08 in the high seas of the Mediterranean Sea (possibly within area 37.2) within the period 26 May - 1 July.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Paras 33-35 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required. It is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transfer, land, transport, store, sell, display or offer for sale of E-BFT less than 30 kg	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>or with fork length of less than 115 cm.</p> <p>Bycatch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are to be released. Dead and undersized specimens shall be discarded at sea and deducted from Türkiye's quota.</p>		
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Para 37 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>A 10t (0,4%) specific quota shall be allocated for bycatch in 2023.</p> <p>Level of bycatch in 2022 = 2.8 tons, 0.1% 2021= 35 tons, 1.5% 2020 = 05 tons, 0.2% 2019 = 50 tons, 2.7%</p> <p>The level of bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip and shall be calculated in relation with the total catches on-board as "in weight" (or "in number of species" in case of tuna and tuna like species fishery).</p> <p>All bycatches including discards shall be deducted from the total quota.</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	.
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	<p>Paras 38-46 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Recreational and sport fisheries on E-BFT is subject to authorization for each vessel. Catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Amateur & Recreational Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>one E-BFT individual per vessel per day is prohibited.</p> <p>The marketing of E-BFT caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.</p> <p>Catch data obtained from the recreational fishery shall be submitted to the Ministry, all recreational catches shall be counted against Türkiye's total quota dedicated for recreational and sports fisheries.</p>		
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	<p>Paras 89-94 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Transshipment at sea operations of E-BFT shall be prohibited.</p> <p>E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land E-BFT catches in the ports designated for that purposes.</p> <p>List of designated E-BFT Landing and Transshipment Ports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adana Province: Karatas fishing port 2. Antalya Province: Antalya fishing port Gazipasa fishing port 3. Mersin Province: Erdemli fishing port 4. Hatay Province: Dortyol (TR HAT) fishing port 5. Canakkale Province: Kabatepe fishing port Gulpınar fishing port 6. Istanbul Province: Gurpinar fishing port Tuzla fishing port 7. Izmir Province: Karaburun fishing port 	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	<p>Paras 219-225 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2023 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoAF.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT shall be started at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall be continued at least 5 days after their period of authorisation.</p> <p>Position reporting in every one hour shall be required from the authorized E-BFT fishing vessels, including E-BFT towing vessels.</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	<p>Paras 95-100 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Presence of “CPC Observers” on all E-BFT Towing Vessels shall be ensured during the whole period of authorization.</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	<p>Paras 101-107 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>100% Coverage of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p> <p>As a derogation to the provisions of</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		operations) shall be mandatory.	para 101, harvesting from farms up to 1,000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market may be authorized by the Ministry without ICCAT regional observer coverage. In such cases, ministerial inspector(s) shall be present in the related farming facility for 100% of such harvests, control the entire operation and validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. It is expected that the necessary module should be incorporated into the eBCD system at once.	
10	Domestic legislation	The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 22-08, will be transposed into Turkish domestic regulation through “Ministerial Communiqué on Bluefin tuna Fishing, Farming and Trading”.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Electronic Tagging of Adult Bluefin Tunas captured in the Eastern Mediterranean (Turkish Levantine Coast) Tagging Programme 2022 Atlantic Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP)		

1 e) Designated ports

- Adana - Karataş
- Antalya
- Antalya - Gazipaşa
- Mersin - Erdemli
- Hatay - Dörtyol
- Çanakkale - Kabatepe
- Çanakkale-Gülpınar
- İstanbul - Gürpınar
- İstanbul - Tuzla
- İzmir - Karaburun

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

The number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity using the template provided by the Secretariat has been provided in the last page of the plan.

Fishing permits are planned to be granted to a maximum of 30 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoAF. This figure is the ceiling for BFT Catching Vessels that can be authorized in 2023. 55 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to the authorized E-BFT catching vessels acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2023 E-BFT fishing season).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

Information on the farm CPC competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation national caging activities and their control are provided as follows:

Farm CPC Competent Authority: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry / General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

List of Contact Points:

- Mr. Melih ER, Head of Department, melih.er@tarimorman.gov.tr
- Mr. Huseyin KARCI, Coordinator, huseyin.karci@tarimorman.gov.tr
- Mr. Fazli GUNGOR, Engineer, fazli.gungor@tarimorman.gov.tr

All farm activities shall be subject to regular monitoring, control and inspections by MoAF in 2023. These will be conducted on a quarterly basis in general or on caging operation, transfer operation, harvesting operation basis, whichever is applied in the context of Rec. 22-08. The inspections to be carried out by the Ministry throughout the year are planned on a farm basis and taking into account risk-based prioritization. Results of conventional and stereoscopic camera systems will be utilized by MoAF to estimate quota uptake.

Random controls will be carried-out on the basis of risk assessment and in line with paras 208-215 of Rec. 22-08. A 10% of the number of cages in each farm shall be covered in 2023 and documented data/information (cage content declared, farm schematic plans in the inventory of MoAF, related ITD(s), ICD(s), BCD, etc) will be cross-checked.

MoAF will establish protocols for the sealing of transport cages and farm cages, and require that the farm cages containing bluefin tuna will be sealed at all times in 2023.

With reference to paras 10; 20-24 of Rec. 22-08, annual farming management plan for the year 2023 is provided below:

Country	<i>Farming Capacity for the year 2023</i>				
	FFB*	Active/ Inactive	Capacity (t)*	Input Capacity(t)*	FFB Coordinates
Türkiye	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	800	348.916	38 29 16,73 N, 26 23 23,12 E 38 29 22,41 N, 26 23 23,08 E 38 29 22,37 N, 26 23 15,85 E 38 29 16,69 N, 26 23 15,90 E
Türkiye	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	800	348.916	38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E 38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E
Türkiye	BASARANLAR ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	Active	900	392.530	38 07 49, 03N, 26 39 28,19 E 38 07 48, 05N, 26 39 33,81 E 38 07 40, 26 N 26 39 25,20 E 38 07 39, 28 N 26 39 30,83
Türkiye	KILIÇ Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	1840	802.506	38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E 38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E
Türkiye	Sagun Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	1000	436.145	38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E 38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E
Türkiye	AK-TUNA ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	Active	1000	436.145	38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E 38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E
Türkiye		Inactive	500 ⁽¹⁾		
TOTAL			6,840	2,765	

* In case of any changes, final version of farming capacity plan shall be reported by 1 June.

(¹) The total farm capacity of Türkiye pertinent to the reference period is 6,840 metric tons. Without any prejudice to the right of utilization at any time, the farm capacity of 500 metric tons shown in the table above that belongs to Türkiye will not be used for the year 2023.

Based on the results of carryover transfers from the 2022 season to the 2023 season, and data obtained from the Ministry's Fisheries and Aquaculture Information System (SUBIS); the estimated total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming is around 2291 metric tons as of 07 February 2023. An annual carry-over declaration report for all farms will be submitted as an annex to the revised farming management plan, when all carryover assessment transfers are completed.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

The CPC control competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are provided as follows:

CPC Competent Authority: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry / General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture

List of Contact Points:

- Mr. Melih ER, Head of Department, melih.er@tarimorman.gov.tr
- Mr. Huseyin KARCI, Coordinator, huseyin.karci@tarimorman.gov.tr
- Mr. Fazli GUNGOR, Engineer, fazli.gungor@tarimorman.gov.tr

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT fishing and transfer operations

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System. The Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) operated by the Ministry shall continue to be utilized during the whole fishing campaign.

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoAF during 2023 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- will be commissioned by MoAF to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoAF inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoAF shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports, transport vehicles and fish markets to check and record any landing, transport or storing of E-BFT.

Artisanal, coastal fisheries, recreational and sportive fisheries shall be inspected in scope of the scheduled annual inspections to be undertaken by MoAF and TCGC in territorial waters.

If the video footage does not meet the minimum standards, the donor operator will conduct voluntary transfer(s), and MoAF shall order a control transfer in case determination of the number of fish being transferred cannot be estimated through voluntary transfers.

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations

MoAF inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. All transfers from towing vessels to farm cages shall be monitored by stereoscopic cameras as well as conventional cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to MoAF for assessment. Farm operator shall communicate the results of the caging programme to ministerial inspector and ICCAT Regional Observer. Those results shall also be communicated to the catching CPC, when applicable.

In accordance with the related provisions of Rec. 22-08; farm operators shall be allowed to carry-over of non-harvested bluefin tuna prior to the beginning of the 2023 purse seiner fishing season through carry over assessment transfers of non-harvested bluefin tunas to another empty cage(s) by using stereoscopic control cameras. The carry-over assessment shall be made under the presence of ministerial inspectors and reported to ICCAT. Carry-over declaration will be transmitted as an annex to the revised farming management plan within 15 days after the end of the assessment operation.

As provided in Section 3 above, MoAF shall carry out random controls at each of the farms before the first caging of 2023 in line with the procedures set out in paras 208-215 of Rec. 22-08.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Türkiye plans to continue its longstanding voluntary contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2023. In this respect, Turkish Coast Guard Command schedules to designate 77 inspection boats, 17 air control assets (helicopters / planes) and 491 inspectors on the field during the 2023 E-BFT fishing campaign. Additionally, Turkish Naval Forces Command is expected to join the inspection scheme of 2023 through assigning 54 inspection vessels during the 2023 E-BFT fishing campaign.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- that has been assigned by MoAF will also contribute to the activities under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons is planned to be focused on 2023. In this context, E-BFT fishing and transferring activities, as well as Med-SWO fishing activities will continue to be inspected on a regular throughout the upcoming fishing campaign.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored at the premises of MoAF and at Coast Guard Main Operation Centre in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centres of TCGC.

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

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Türkiye, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of E-BFT Fishing Season.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at E-BFT and Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2022's risk assessment data.

5. Others

Türkiye is one of the Contracting Parties who financially contributes and supports ICCAT GBYP programme.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	-	<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ^(*)
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	41	16	11	20	26	20	30	2899	1131	777	1414	1838,2	1414	2121
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	49	6	18	7	5	6	0	2439	299	896	348	248,9	1296,68	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	101	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		93	22	29	27	31	26	30	5439	1430	1673	1762	2087,1	1712,68	2121
Longliner over 40m	25														
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68														
Longliner less than 24m	5														
Total longline fleet															
Baitboat	19.8														
Handline	5														
Trawler	10														
Trap	130														
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A														
Other (please specify)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				48	13	3	3 ^(**)
Total fleet/fishing capacity		93	22	29	27	31	26	30	5439	1430	1861	1810	1810	1715,68	2124
Quota									887	1414	1880	2305	2305	2305	2600
Percentage allocated to bycatch											50 (2.7%)	5 (0.2%)	35 (1.5%)	10 (0.4%)	10 ^(***) (0.4%)
Adjusted quota (if applicable)											1830	2300	2270	2295	2638.3 ^{****}
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)															
Under/ overcapacity									4552	-16	-31	-495	-169,9	-579,32	-514.3

(*) Numbers of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional based on presumptions. Definite number and breakdown of vessels will be added up by 30 April.

(**) Allocated for the purposes of artisanal and coastal, recreational and sport fisheries.

(***) 10 t of which has been set aside for bycatch.

(****) Actual catch amount made by Türkiye in 2022 corresponds to 2256.7 t (out of 2305 t). 48.3 t of underharvest from the year 2022 is to be carried over.

Adjusted quota for 2023 = 2600 t (Quota) – 10 t (Bycatch quota) + 48.3 t (carried over amount) = 2638.3 t.

United Kingdom

Fishing Plan Year: 2023

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview

The UK has an initial quota of 63 t for 2023 as set out in ICCAT Recommendation 22-08. We will use this quota in further developing our fishing activities in 2023, building on those activities undertaken in 2022 and outlined in our 2022 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Farming, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan. In particular:

- The UK will continue to permit some limited opportunities for sale of bycaught E-BFT in commercial fisheries using certain gear types - details are set out below.
- In addition, the UK intends to trial a small-scale commercial fishery for E-BFT utilising highly selective gears.
- The UK will continue to build on the successes from the last two years of our Scientific Catch and Release, Tagging programme (CHART), which will be jointly delivered by specially trained skippers and scientists.

The UK will only permit the targeting of E-BFT with rod and reel in both our trial commercial fishery and scientific fisheries.

Our management approach will be kept under close review during the course of the year. Any refinements to that approach that require adjustments to our Fishing Plan will be notified to ICCAT in line with Paragraph 13 of Recommendation 22-08.

Bycatch coverage

Bluefin tuna has become prevalent in UK waters, which is increasing the potential for interactions between the UK fishing fleet and E-BFT. Prior to 2021 UK vessels which caught E-BFT were required to release any live fish, with dead catches reported to the relevant authorities and the catch surrendered for scientific sampling.

In 2022, the UK reserved a proportion of quota (20 tonnes) to account for accidental bycatch in commercial fisheries targeting other species. In 2022 the total bycatch by UK commercial industry was 2.2 tonnes of E-BFT. In 2023, the UK will reserve 14 tonnes for accidental bycatch. Taking into account previous years' catches the UK considers this to be a sufficient tonnage to ensure we can properly account for all E-BFT bycatch.

To avoid incentivising the targeting of the species in fisheries that are not part of the planned commercial trial, commercial UK vessels which are not authorised to target E-BFT will be permitted to land, and sell, a maximum of one bycaught fish per trip. This will also ensure they do not exceed the 20% maximum set out in paragraph 37 of Recommendation 22-08. Any further E-BFT that are caught will be required to be released alive if possible. If dead, the vessel will be required to notify the relevant authorities and may be required to retain the specimen for scientific sampling, but it cannot be offered for sale. All bycatches of dead E-BFT will be deducted from UK quota.

If UK quota is exhausted, all E-BFT that are caught that are alive will be required to be released. Under the UK Landing Obligation, any E-BFT that are caught that are dead will be required to be retained. Any such dead fish may be sent for scientific sampling but cannot be offered for sale. All landings will be accounted for against UK quota.

All bycaught E-BFT will be subject to the requirements of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Scheme (BCD).

Trial commercial fishery

The UK intends to conduct a trial commercial fishery for E-BFT in 2023. This trial is aimed at proving the viability of a small-scale, highly selective fishery sourcing large, high-quality fish for the human consumption market. The fishery will be conducted by small vessels utilising rod and reel with lures attached; no live bait or chumming will be permitted. Utilisation of this gear type maximises the possibility for safe live release of any undersized fish that are caught. We are planning for up to ten vessels of no more than 15m in length to participate in the fishery. To conduct this fishery the UK is setting aside 39 tonnes of our quota. This fishery will be open from 01 August to 30 November (4 months).

As we have done in previous years, we are taking a cautious approach to managing our fisheries, hence opting to conduct a limited trial fishery in 2023 rather than moving more quickly to a full-scale commercial fishery. Our aims in conducting the trial fishery include to develop a better understanding of the market implications of a small amount of high-quality product entering the supply chain and to assess the socioeconomic benefit to the coastal communities active in the fishery, in order that we can optimise the benefits derived from this valuable resource which is now abundant in UK waters.

Catch and Release Tag Programmes

A 'Catch and Release Tag' (CHART) programme for E-BFT in UK waters is planned for 2023 and will be carried out in accordance with paragraph 44 of Recommendation 22-08. A small number of recreational fishing vessels will participate in the programme. In 2023, 10 tonnes of the UK E-BFT quota will be used to account for any at-boat incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme. This figure was established taking into consideration envisaged programme duration and number of vessels alongside our estimates of average days fished per month, Catch Per Unit Effort, weight, and at-vessel mortality. The quota will not be allocated on a vessel-by-vessel basis but will instead cover the whole CHART programme. This figure is unchanged from 2022 and is considered suitably precautionary and more than sufficient to cover the envisaged activity, noting that in 2022 the UK tagged more than 1,000 fish and there were 5 mortalities (<0.5%, totaling 1.143t).

Vessels operating within the CHART programme will be authorised by the relevant UK Fisheries Administrations and will carry out fishing under strict monitoring and reporting conditions. This monitoring will be undertaken using a risk-based approach, and we will aim for 5% observer coverage. Mechanisms will be in operation to pause, refine and if necessary close the programme in the face of incidental mortalities to ensure that the allocated quota is not exceeded.

Data from the CHART programme will be reported to the scientific coordinator of the programme within 24 hours so that catches and incidental mortalities can be evaluated in near real-time. Any incidental mortalities will be recorded appropriately and counted against national quota. Due to the domestic landing obligation, dead catches will be landed but not offered for sale; they may instead be used to support Atlantic bluefin tuna research. However, if vessels are not capable of bringing the specimen on board, the dead catches will be discarded (dead discards are permitted in circumstances where the health and safety of the crew is likely to be endangered).

The fishing season for the CHART programme is envisaged to be August to mid-December 2023.

Any additional fishing activities will be reflected in expedient amendments to the plan in line with ICCAT requirements.

Electronic tagging programmes

The UK also expects to continue its electronic tagging programmes supporting GBYP (Grand Bluefin Year Programme) with mortality covered by the Research Mortality Allowance rather than national quota. Twelve BFT were tagged with electronic tags in 2022 under the Thunnus UK project. Five of these tags were supplied by ICCAT, while seven were supplied from funding provided from the UK and Jersey governments.

Fisheries science is a devolved matter in the UK and if any UK Fisheries Administration expresses intention to run a scientific study which is substantively different to the ones outlined above, then the UK will notify ICCAT via modification of this plan. The UK is provisionally allocating 1 tonne of quota for scientific activity which falls outside the scope of GBYP and CHART.

1 b) Carry over

In accordance with paragraph 4 in recommendation 22-08 the UK's quota for 2023 is 63t. In 2022, the UK had an underharvest of E-BFT in which we had 45.1t of our initial quota remaining. In accordance with paragraph 6 in 22-08 the UK will carry over 2.42t (5% of our initial quota) from 2022 to 2023. The adjusted quota for the UK in 2023 will therefore be 65.42t.

1 c) Destination of catch

All of the UK's commercial related catches will be landings. The UK does not have any bluefin tuna farming activity.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22- 08</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p><i>Commercial fishery trial and bycatch</i> All commercial vessels authorised to target E-BFT will be required to keep a record of all their catches in a logbook. These logbooks will meet the requirements set out in Annex 2 of recommendation 22-08.</p> <p>Any vessel which catches an E-BFT will be required to alert the relevant authorities four hours prior to arrival into port or as soon as possible.</p> <p>The UK will submit bi-weekly catch reports of E-BFT in accordance with para 86 in recommendation 22-08.</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme (CHART)</i> As a minimum, the CHART programme will require licensed/authorised skippers to record specified fishing and capture data on datasheets or via electronic means within 24 hours. Data will include (among other things) date, time, location of effort and capture, number of bluefin tuna caught and tagged, their lengths, along with any incidental mortalities.</p> <p>Any vessel which has an incidental E-BFT mortality will be required to alert the relevant authorities four hours prior to arrival at port or as soon as possible to arrange for collection or disposal. Any incidental E-BFT mortality that occurs will be counted against the UK's E-BFT quota.</p>	Retained Regulations 1224/2009, 404/2011 and 2016/1627	

2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p><i>Commercial bycatch</i> Commercial bycatch will be accounted for against the UK E-BFT quota at all times during 2023</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> The CHART programme is envisaged to be open for recreational fishing between August and mid-December 2023.</p> <p><i>Commercial Fishery trial</i> The commercial fishery using rod and reel will be open between 01 August and 30 November. All activity will occur in UK waters. Once the quota is exhausted this fishery will be closed.</p>		
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p><i>Commercial fisheries trial and bycatch</i> UK commercial fishing vessels will be required to release any accidentally caught undersized live E-BFT (i.e., those below 30kg or with a fork length of less than 115cm).</p> <p>Undersized fish will not be allowed to be marketed or retained. All retained and dead E-BFT will be deducted from UK quota and reported to ICCAT.</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> As no E-BFT will be landed as part of the CHART programme, no minimum sizes will be required.</p>	<p>Retained Regulation 2016/1627</p> <p>Landing obligation regulation 2013/1380 article 15</p>	
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p><i>Commercial fisheries for other species</i> All UK landings of E-BFT will be deducted from UK quota.</p> <p>Fourteen tonnes of UK quota will be set aside to account for accidental bycatch by commercial fishing vessels targeting other species. In 2022 2.2 tonnes of E-BFT were caught as bycatch in UK fisheries targeting other species.</p> <p>Calculations of bycatch will be based on the proportion of E-BFT as compared to live weight of all other species on board.</p> <p>Any bycaught E-BFT will be subject to eBCD requirements.</p> <p>Only commercial fishing vessels licensed to fish other species and likely to interact with E-BFT will be permitted to sell E-BFT. They will be limited to a maximum of one E-BFT per trip.</p>	S.23 of Fisheries Act 2020	

		<p>If more than one fish is caught, additional fish will be released if alive. If dead, the fish will be retained but will not be allowed to be sold. All retained fish will count towards against UK quota.</p> <p>If UK quota is exhausted, vessels will still be required to retain dead E-BFT. They cannot be sold but may be sent for sampling.</p> <p>All catch data will be provided to ICCAT.</p> <p><i>Recreational tagging programme (CHART)</i> Ten tonnes will be allocated to account for incidental mortality in the CHART programme.</p>		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	<p><i>Non-tagging related recreational and sports fishing</i> There are currently no plans to allow recreational fishing of E-BFT outside of the CHART tagging programme in 2023. Enforcement of this will be conducted by relevant authorities within the different fisheries administrations of the UK.</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> A CHART programme for E-BFT in UK waters is planned for 2023 and will be carried out in accordance with paragraph 44 of recommendation 22-08.</p> <p>A maximum of 50 vessels will be permitted to participate in the CHART programme. Any incidental mortalities which occur during this activity will be taken from the 10 tonnes quota allocated to this activity. All obligations stated under para 44 will be complied with.</p>		
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	UK vessels are prohibited from transshipping at sea.	Article 20 of retained Regulation 1224/2009 (Commercial vessels)	
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	<p><i>Commercial fisheries</i> UK commercial fishing vessels of 12m and over in length must have an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) system to operate in UK waters, third country and/or international waters.</p> <p>It is the UK's intention to introduce a measure to require all commercial fishing vessels under 12m, regardless of nationality, to have an operating Inshore VMS (IVMS) when operating in English waters. This is likely to come into force mid to late 2023. I-VMS measures have been in place in Welsh waters since February 2022.</p>	Article 9 of retained Regulation 1224/2009	

		<p><i>Recreational tagging programme</i></p> <p>Vessels will be required to keep a record of their activity for each tuna fishing day and submit those to the relevant fisheries authorities or nominated scientific bodies responsible for the CHART programme (e.g., in England the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)).</p>		
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	<p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i></p> <p>The CHART programme would be looking to observe up to 5% of tagging activity to ensure best practice catch, tag and release protocols are observed.</p> <p><i>Commercial fishery</i></p> <p>The UK's trial commercial fishery for E-BFT will be limited to vessels under 15m which will be using rods and reels with lures attached. They will not be permitted to use live bait or to chum bait.</p> <p>ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 para 95 does not require vessels under 15m to deploy observers. However, the UK is considering whether observers would, at least initially, be deployed in order to monitor the prosecution of the fishery in detail.</p>		
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	N/A – The UK has no intention to allow any purse seiners to fish for BFT. The UK will also not permit any traps, caging, transfers from one cage to another or farming for E-BFT.		
10	Domestic legislation	<p>The UK has in place Retained EU Regulations/2016/Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The UK is in the process of transposing ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 into UK domestic law.</p>	Retained EU regulations 2016/1627	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	<p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i></p> <p>Conventional floy tagging will be undertaken in the CHART programme by suitably trained skippers. For England this training will be overseen by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) of Cefas, or the equivalent bodies in the UK's Fisheries Administrations.</p>	UK electronic tagging activities will be conducted in accordance with UK Home Office regulations by trained and licensed individuals	

		<p>The UK is also planning to undertake continued scientific research to improve understanding of bluefin tuna movements and behaviour. This is intended to be conducted under the auspices of ICCAT GBYP; the UK will request Research Mortality Allowance on that basis.</p> <p>Any scientific activity undertaken by the UK administrations which falls outside ICCAT's GBYP specifications will be accounted for with the one tonne allowance the UK has set aside for such activities.</p>	operating under an establishment and project licence (see section 5, below).	
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1 e) Designated ports

The list of UK designated ports can be found in **Annex 2**. The UK will not use any third-party ports.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

For the first time the UK is setting up a trial commercial fishery for E-BFT. Previously we had restricted all E-BFT activity to bycatch or as part of our scientific catch and release programme. The UK will license a maximum of 10 vessels under 15m to part take in this trial commercial fishery. Details are set out in **Annex 1**.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

N/A: the UK does not farm E-BFT.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

UK enforcement authorities - the MMO, Marine Scotland Compliance, the Northern Irish Sea Fisheries Inspectorate and the Welsh Government's Control and Enforcement team – have inspection teams at commercial ports and carry out regulatory inspections of landings and seagoing enforcement. The competent authority can be contacted by emailing control.and.enforcement@defra.gov.uk

Such inspection teams are based in or near to all commercial ports and carry out inspections of at least 5% of landings or transshipments into UK ports each year. Inspections are risk-based, intelligence-led, and annual target rates will be kept under review. This includes recreational and commercial activity and downstream market activity. Control activity will focus on ensuring that no unauthorised marketing takes place and that catches are fully documented. This will apply in respect to all E-BFT activity.

Any incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme would be notified to the relevant national Fisheries Administration immediately and any dead E-BFT may be required to be brought to shore for biological sampling in support of research. It will not be permissible to offer any such fish for sale. A suite of monitoring measures will be in operation as part of the programme, including aiming for observer coverage of up to 5% and where possible video of the capture event. Mechanisms are in operation to pause, refine and if necessary close the programme if there is a risk of incidental mortalities exceeding the allocated quota. Data from the CHART programme are to be reported within 24 hours so catches and incidental mortalities can be evaluated in near real-time.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

N/A the UK does not participate in the joint inspection scheme as the UK plans to have less than 15 fishing vessels active in the fishery.

5. Others

The UK is planning to continue research that will generate information and understanding of the residency, migrations and behaviour of bluefin tuna found in UK waters. Any tagging and sampling work under this programme will be conducted in accordance, and consistent with, ICCAT GBYP protocols and techniques, and contribute to the GBYP's research goals. The UK will request coverage from the ICCAT Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) to account for any mortality associated with this research.

Annex 1

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>	-	<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>							<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0												
Purse seiner between 24 & 40m	49.78	0	0	0												
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0												
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0												
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0												
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0												
Total longline fleet		0	0	0												
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0												
Handline	5	0	0	0												
Trawler	10	0	0	0												
Trap	130	0	0	0												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0												
Rod and Reel	5	0	0	0				10								50t
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	0												50t
Quota		0	0	0										48.4t	48.4t	63t
Percentage allocated to by-catch*		0	0	0										41.3%	41.3%	23.8%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		0	0	0										n/a	n/a	65.42t
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0										10t - tagging programme	10t - tagging programme	10t -tagging programme (of which we estimate that 1.143 t mortality will occur, based on 2022 data)
Under/ overcapacity **		0	0	0												-0.277 t

*The UK will allocate 14 t to incidental bycatch.

** The UK has deducted 1.143 t from our total capacity to account for the expected incidental mortality from our CHART programme.

Annex 2

UK designated ports

PortName	Country	PortCode	Latitude	Longitude
Brixham	GB-ENG	GBBRX	50.401	-3.509
Falmouth	GB-ENG	GBFAL	50.161	-5.073
Fleetwood	GB-ENG	GBFLE	53.922	-3.008
Folkestone	GB-ENG	GBFOL	51.078	1.190
Grimsby	GB-ENG	GBGSY	53.579	-0.074
Harwich	GB-ENG	GBHRW	51.945	1.280
Hull	GB-ENG	GBHUL	53.742	-0.280
Immingham	GB-ENG	GBIMM	53.636	-0.185
Ilfracombe	GB-ENG	GBILF	51.210	-4.112
Liverpool	GB-ENG	GBLIV	53.422	-3.008
Lowestoft	GB-ENG	GBLOW	52.474	1.736
Looe	GB-ENG	GBLOE	50.354	-4.455
Lyme Regis	GB-ENG	GBLYR	50.720	-2.934
Mevagissey	GB-ENG	GBMVG	50.269	-4.783
Newhaven	GB-ENG	GBNHV	50.786	0.058
Newlyn	GB-ENG	GBNYL	50.104	-5.547
Newquay	GB-ENG	GBNQY	50.419	-5.083
North Shields	GB-ENG	GBNSH	55.009	-1.439
Padstow	GB-ENG	GBPAD	50.540	-4.936
Plymouth	GB-ENG	GBPLY	50.372	-4.150
Porthleven	GB-ENG	GBPLV	50.086	-5.315
Portsmouth	GB-ENG	GBPME	50.803	-1.102
Rye	GB-ENG	GBRYE	50.945	0.747
Scarborough	GB-ENG	GBSCA	54.283	-0.390
Shoreham	GB-ENG	GBSHO	50.830	-0.233
St Ives	GB-ENG	GBIVS	50.210	-5.476
Whitby	GB-ENG	GBWTB	54.485	-0.612
Whitehaven	GB-ENG	GBWHV	54.551	-3.594
Holyhead	GB-WLS	GBHLY	53.318	-4.629
Milford Haven	GB-WLS	GBMLF	51.700	-5.003
Ardglass	GB-NIR	GBAGL	54.261	-5.605
Bangor	GB-NIR	GBBNG	54.666	-5.668
Belfast	GB-NIR	GBBEL	54.619	-5.898
Kilkeel	GB-NIR	GBKLE	54.059	-5.995
Londonderry	GB-NIR	GBLDY	55.045	-7.254
Portavogie	GB-NIR	GBPVG	54.458	-5.437
Warrenpoint	GB-NIR	GBWPT	54.100	-6.260
Aberdeen	GB-SCT	GBABD	57.143	-2.079
Buckie	GB-SCT	GBBUC	57.681	-2.957
Campbeltown	GB-SCT	GBCBT	55.426	-5.600
Cullivoe	GB-SCT	GBCUV	60.700	-1.001
Eyemouth	GB-SCT	GBEYM	55.873	-2.087
Fraserburgh	GB-SCT	GBFRB	57.693	-2.000
Kinlochbervie	GB-SCT	GBKBE	58.457	-5.049
Kirkwall	GB-SCT	GBKWL	58.987	-2.959

Lerwick	GB-SCT	GBLER	60.168	-1.152
Lochinver	GB-SCT	GBLOV	58.148	-5.247
Mallaig	GB-SCT	GBMLG	57.006	-5.825
Oban	GB-SCT	GBOBA	56.414	-5.478
Peterhead	GB-SCT	GBPHD	57.498	-1.782
Pittenweem	GB-SCT	GBPWM	56.211	-2.727
Portree	GB-SCT	GBPRT	57.411	-6.190
Scalloway	GB-SCT	GBSWY	60.135	-1.277
Scrabster	GB-SCT	GBSCR	58.611	-3.544
Stornoway	GB-SCT	GBSTO	58.207	-6.384
Troon	GB-SCT	GBTRN	55.548	-4.680
Ullapool	GB-SCT	GBULL	57.893	-5.155
Dundee	GB-SCT	GBDUN	56.463	-2.947
Grangemouth	GB-SCT	GBGRG	56.029	-3.705
Greenock	GB-SCT	GBGRK	55.948	-4.743
Invergordon	GB-SCT	GBIVG	57.687	-4.161
Leith	GB-SCT	GBLEI	55.982	-3.171
Methil	GB-SCT	GBMTH	56.184	-3.005

Chinese Taipei**Fishing Plan Year: 2023****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)**

The initial eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT) quota allocated to Chinese Taipei in 2023 is 101 t, of which 50 t will be transferred to Korea pursuant to paragraph 4 of Rec. 22-08. Hence, the adjusted quota is 51 t.

Chinese Taipei has established regulations to prohibit its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009, and such regulations still remain in force. As a result, no fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain E-BFT in the ICCAT Convention area in 2023. In addition, the domestic regulations have also required fishermen to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook and e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. The bycatch amount in 2022 is 0. In any event, Chinese Taipei will deduct the bycatch amount from the 51 t of adjusted quota.

It should be noted that the E-BFT quota is granted to Chinese Taipei based on its previous catch records, and thus should be deemed the historical right of Chinese Taipei. The prohibition to such a fishery is implemented on voluntary basis, and Chinese Taipei reserves the right to resume the E-BFT fishery at any time considered appropriate by the Fisheries Agency.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Any bycatch of E-BFT is required to be immediately discarded, and the amount of discard shall be recorded on the catch logbook and E-logbook for submission to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. In case of bycatch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 51 t of adjusted quota. 	Article 41 of the <i>Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation</i> .	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. No fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain E-BFT in the ICCAT Convention area in 2023.	Article 41 of the <i>Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation</i> .	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
4	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. 2. Fishermen are required to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook and e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. 3. In 2022, the reported bycatch amount is 0. In case of bycatch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 51 t of adjusted quota. 	Article 41 of the <i>Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation</i> .	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Not applicable. Chinese Taipei does not have recreational and sports fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.	Not applicable.	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
7	VMS (paras 218-224 / 219-225)	All Chinese Taipei's vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention area are installed with the VMS, report vessels positions hourly, and are monitored by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.	Article 33 of the <i>Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation</i> .	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT	Not applicable.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 21-08/22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.		
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
10	Domestic legislation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Taipei has established regulations to prohibit its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery. The domestic regulations have also required fishermen to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook and e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. 	Article 41 of the <i>Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation</i> .	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	

Designated ports

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in E-BFT fishery. As such, we do not designate ports for landing or transshipping E-BFT.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 16-21)

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in E-BFT fishery. The attached table is filled in accordingly.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 12; 22-26), as applicable

Not applicable.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 12 c)

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in E-BFT fishery. In case of bycatch, fishermen are required to discard the E-BFT, record such bycatch on the logbook and e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (paras 228-231 / 229-232)

Since Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery, the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection is thus not applicable.

5. Others

None.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2023

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>							<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		2008	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quota										68.71	79	84	90	90	90	101
Percentage allocated to by-catch																
Adjusted quota (if applicable)										68.71	29	34	40	40	40	51*
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																
Under/ overcapacity										-68.71	-29	-34	-40	-40	-40	-51

* Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in E-BFT fishery. In the case of bycatch, fishermen are required to discard the E-BFT, record such bycatch on the logbook and e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency. 51 t of adjusted quota are all reserved for bycatch.

Questions for clarification from ROP-BFT consortium - Rec. 22-08**Summary of responses to requests for clarification**

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
Minimum size Rec. 22-08 para 33	Is a fish to be considered undersized, if less than either 30 kg or 115 cm fork length, or both?	Agreement that the minimum size for BFT could be either 30 kg or 115 cm fork length.
Minimum size derogations Rec. 22-08 para 34c)	Does the derogation outlined in para 34 also apply at the point of harvest?	Agreement that the derogation should relate to capture and not farmed but some uncertainty.
Minimum size tolerances Rec. 22-08 para 36	Does the tolerance outlined in para 36 also apply at the point of harvest?	Agreement that the tolerance applies at capture onboard and trap but the text needs to be amended by deleting “onboard a vessel” ...
ICCAT Regional Observer Programme Rec. 22-08 para 104	May the consortium request in advance a list of those farms considered by their CPCs to be operated jointly as one unit?	Agreement, all agree that the lists can be provided. The Secretariat agreed with the EU that it is in the interests of CPCs to send these lists, and if a CPC did not inform the consortium, their farms would be treated as separate units and would not be able to share observers.
Sealing operations Rec. 22-08 para 128 Annex 14	Any there any other circumstances on purse seine vessels, farms or traps that may require the sealing of the cages, and for which the observer may be expected to provide seals?	Agreement that regional observer should cooperate in other sealing operations if required and present.
Sealing operations Rec. 22-08 para 129 Annex 14	<p>The presence of the ICCAT observer is not mandatory if the CPC competent authority is present for the operation, but should observer, if present, be involved in the pre caging control transfer at the farm?</p> <p>In the case of ROP involvement in the control operation occurring before the caging, should the observer be given a copy of video of the original sealing operation, as well as verify that the video of the subsequent pre caging control operation includes the unsealing operation, allows identification of the seals and that these had not been tampered with?</p>	<p>Agreement: if the authorities of the purse seiner in which the observer is, require the sealing of the cage for another reason other than Paragraph 28, the observer should collaborate and facilitate the seal and supervise the sealing operation. However, if sealing is required where observer is not present, then national observers/inspectors should use the CPC official seals.</p> <p>Annex 14 to be amended and text to be reviewed during the IMM.</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
Fish that die during caging Rec. 22-08 para 167 Annex 11 Rec. 18-13	Currently the consortium understands that this dead fish shall be recorded in the comments section of section 6. Should this dead fish also be included in section 7 and/or 8 of the eBCD?	General agreement that this is pending the outcome of eBCD TWG decision.
ICCAT Transfer Declaration Rec. 22-08 para 132 Annex 4	How may separate farm destinations be recorded in the ITD noting that the further transfer section does not include information on the destination farm?	Agreement that three farms can be added in Section 1, but USA asks if any amendment needed to structure of form.
Purse seine releases Rec. 22-08 Annex 10	Should this information also be excluded from a release report in the case of a release from a purse seine net? What is meant by release authorization number - Is this the same as the release order reference, listed in the release report?	Agreement that the information should not be included in the release report.
Purse seine releases Rec. 22-08 paras 117-118 Annex 10	Should releases from towing cages resulting from cancelled or withdrawn transfer authorizations also comply with Annex 10 of the Recommendation?	Agreement that all releases should be observed in accordance with Annex 10. Annex 10 to be amended and text to be reviewed during the IMM.
Farm releases Rec. 22-08: para 155a) Annex 10	Are there are any foreseen farm releases for which the operation does not have to comply with Annex 10 of the Recommendation?	Agreement that all releases should be in accordance with Annex 10.