

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

RECALLING the conclusions of the 6th GFCM/ICCAT meeting on the stocks of large pelagics in the Mediterranean relative to the effects of bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

CONSIDERING the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

DESIRING to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of the bluefin tuna stock;

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming of the bluefin tuna shall undertake the necessary measures:
 - a) to require that the captains of vessels carrying out the transfer operations of bluefin tuna for farming maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and the company responsible for the farming, in one of the official languages of the Commission.
 - b) to establish scientific observer programs of Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities covering at least 10% of their flag vessels that carry out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for farming. The program shall be designed so as to provide an estimate of the total quantities of bluefin tuna for farming and an estimate of the sizes of the bluefin tuna placed in cages, as well as information on the date, time and area of harvest and fishing method.
 - c) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
 - d) to set up and maintain a record of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type) i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities under whose jurisdiction are located the farms for bluefin tuna in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:
 - a) ensure that a report is presented, in one of the official languages of the Commission, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This report shall include information relative to the quantities (in kg) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the name and location of the vessel and harvest, as well as its flag and license number.
 - b) recommend that the tuna farms and the scientific institutes obtain data on the size of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of harvest and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes.
 - c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and the amounts sold.

- d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities managed by their citizens.
3. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes “Farming” in the “Gear Code” column of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or in the right hand column “Description of Fish Re-exported”, on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate.
 4. The information specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be transmitted by the relevant Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities annually to the Executive Secretary prior to August 31.
 5. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.
 6. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention Area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.
 7. Based on the reports referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.