

[03-09]

### RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING

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

*RECALLING* the conclusions of 6th GFCM/ICCAT Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the 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 bluefin tuna;

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:
  - a) to require that the captains of vessels carrying out 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 of the company responsible for the farming.
  - b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
  - c) to set up and maintain a list 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. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction are located the farms for bluefin tuna in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:
  - a) ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached Annex, 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 declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, 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 of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t),
  - d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction,
  - e) establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught, e.g., through scientific observers on-board the vessels or at the farming sites. Such programs shall be transmitted to and validated by the SCRS.
3. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to [03-19]).

4. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:
  - the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c),
  - the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2e),
  - the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
  - the quantities marketed during the previous year.
5. The CPCs 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 information referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.
8.
  - a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this Recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.
  - b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
    - name of the FFB, register number,
    - names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
    - location,
    - farming capacity (in t)
  - c) Each CPC shall notify, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.
  - d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
  - e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.
  - f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:
    - i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,
    - ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and,  
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    - iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
9. This recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [02-10].

**ICCAT DECLARATION ON CAGING**

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Flag</i>	<i>Registration number</i>	<i>Date of catch</i>	<i>Place of catch</i>	<i>Date of caging</i>	<i>Quantity placed in cage (kg)</i>	<i>Number of fish placed in cage</i>	<i>Farming facility*</i>

\* Farming facility authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.