

Original: English

STREAMLINING OF ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

ICCAT Secretariat with Chairs of Subsidiary Bodies

At its 19th Special Meeting in Genoa, Italy, November 2014, the Commission agreed that *the Committee [on Administration and Finance] develop a pilot project whereby once the recommendations and resolutions adopted annually enter into force, the Secretariat should review, together with the Chairs of the Panels and of the Compliance Committee, the existing measures, for the purpose of compiling, in the inter-sessional period, a list of those measures which could be eliminated, either because they have become obsolete, or have expired or due to duplication, and that this list be submitted to the Commission for its consideration..*

Following previous discussions by the Commission, the Secretariat has deactivated the Recommendations and Resolutions specifically indicated through new measures adopted by the Commission, in addition to those which were agreed by the Commission in 2014. The suggestions below have been reviewed by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, and include their findings.

Following the review, a few additional measures which could be considered redundant have been identified, and there are also a few outdated measures which have been left in force, in some cases due to just one paragraph. It may be constructive to encourage the incorporation of these paragraphs into any new measures being adopted where appropriate, in order to consolidate the requirements as far as possible.

Panel 1:

[14-01]: *Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas*

Given that the format for reporting this information has been combined with statistical data reporting requirements in an attempt to reduce the amount of different submissions, it would be helpful if the deadline for this reporting requirement could be changed to **31 July**, as requested by the Subcommittee on Statistics.

10. Each CPC shall by 1 July each year notify to the Executive Secretary the list of authorized vessels flying their flag which have fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area in the previous calendar year.

Panel 2

[98-08] *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the limitation of fishing capacity on northern albacore*

Some of the provisions have been incorporated into later Recommendations on northern albacore, and others have been repealed. Paragraphs 1 and 3 remain valid, and possibly paragraph 7. It may be helpful to incorporate those provisions still considered valid into future Recommendations on northern albacore. The Recommendation is meaningless when there is no definition on the vessel fishing on northern albacore.

[01-08] *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on bluefin tuna research in the central North Atlantic Ocean*

This Recommendation is considered no longer necessary in light of the GBYP. Panel 2 may wish to consider recommending that the Commission rescind this measure.

[01-09] *Resolution by ICCAT regarding the SCRS mixing report on Atlantic bluefin tuna*

This is a non-binding resolution which encourages CPCs to conduct research. This Resolution is considered no longer necessary in light of the GBYP. Panel 2 may wish to consider recommending that the Commission rescind this measure.

[06-08] *Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean*

1. *Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) should not increase their catch by large-scale tuna longline vessels from the 1999/2000 level in the area north of 10°N, and between 30°W and 45°W*

This is a non-binding Resolution which could be considered redundant in light of Rec. 14-04. Panel 2 may wish to consider recommending that the Commission rescind this measure.

[14-04] *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*

56. *By 1 April each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year.*

Given that the format for reporting this information has been combined with statistical data reporting requirements in an attempt to reduce the amount of different submissions, it would be helpful if the deadline for this reporting requirement could be changed to **31 July**, as requested by the Subcommittee on Statistics

Panel 3 – No suggestions

Panel 4

[94-14] *Recommendation by ICCAT for the management of Atlantic swordfish*

This Recommendation has been left active due to paragraph 6, but all other paragraphs are out of date.

6. *Contracting Parties are encouraged to take other appropriate measures to protect small swordfish, including, but not limited to, the establishment of time and area closures, possibly determined by test fisheries. Contracting Parties are further encouraged to conduct the necessary studies to determine whether gear selectivity can reduce catches of undersize fish.*

With respect to northern swordfish, paragraph 9 and 10 of Rec. 13-02 can cover this, while there is no similar paragraph for southern swordfish (Rec. 13-03). Therefore, Panel 4 may want to consider incorporation of this paragraph when amending Rec. 13-03 next year.

[01-04] *Resolution by ICCAT for evaluating alternatives to reduce catches of juveniles or dead discards of swordfish*

This is a non-binding resolution and for northern swordfish, paragraph 9 and 10 of Rec. 13-02 can cover this. Since there is no similar paragraph for southern swordfish (Rec. 13-03), Panel 4 may want to consider incorporation of this paragraph when amending Rec. 13-03 next year.

[13-04] *Recommendation by ICCAT for management measures for Mediterranean swordfish in the framework of ICCAT*

By 30 June each year, CPCs shall communicate specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year:

Given that the format for reporting this information has been combined with statistical data reporting requirements in an attempt to reduce the amount of different submissions, it would be helpful if the deadline for this reporting requirement could be changed to **31 July**, as requested by the Subcommittee on Statistics.

General measures – COC/PWG/Commission

[94-09] *Resolution by ICCAT on compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures (including Addendum)*

If the provisions of this Resolution remain in force, it may require updating, as many of the references are out of date. This could be amended to more general terms.

[97-11] *Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipments and vessel sightings*

It is unclear whether this Recommendation remains in force in the light of other more recent measures, but if so, it may require updating. This could be integrated into Res. 94-09, when the latter is amended.

Sanctions

[02-20] *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the trade sanction against St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

The sanctions against SVG were lifted, but this Recommendation remains in force due to a general provision regarding assistance:

Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall assist St. Vincent and the Grenadines with its efforts to ensure that the owners and operators of its large-scale fishing vessels have no history of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, or the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over its large-scale fishing vessels.

This measure could be rescinded if St. Vincent & the Grenadines have no objection. Assistance to St. Vincent & the Grenadines can be provided in the context of the capacity building funds and other measures in force.

[04-13] *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the lifting of trade sanctions against Equatorial Guinea*

The sanctions against Equatorial Guinea were lifted, but this Recommendation remains in force due to a general provision regarding assistance:

The ICCAT Secretariat continue providing Equatorial Guinea with the technical assistance necessary for the implementation of a statistical-fishing data system so that this country can fully adapt to the ICCAT requirements concerning the submission of statistical data.

As this assistance can be provided under the various capacity building/assistance funds and programmes in place, this measure could be rescinded of Equatorial Guinea have no objection. Assistance to Equatorial Guinea can be provided in the context of the capacity building funds and other measures in force.

Statistical and Catch document programmes

[06-16] *Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Statistical Document Pilot Programme*

In light of the eBCD, this Recommendation is no longer necessary and could be rescinded.

Terms of Reference

[06-19] *Resolution by ICCAT to establish a Capacity Working Group*

This Group was established to meet in 2007, which it did. This Resolution is considered no longer necessary as the over-capacity of bluefin tuna fisheries has been resolved.

[11-25] *Resolution by ICCAT on a programme of work for the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT*

This Resolution convenes a meeting for 2012, which was held. It may no longer be relevant since the establishment of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.