

2015 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT¹

1. Introduction

In accordance with Article VII of the Convention, this report is presented by the Secretariat to the Commission to outline its activities during financial year 2015.

2. Contracting Parties to the Convention

At 20 October 2015, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna has the following 50 Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

3. ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

Adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions

On 3 December 2014, the Secretariat officially transmitted the text of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission (Genoa, Italy, from 10 to 17 November 2014) to the Contracting Parties and the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that have Atlantic coastlines or that fish tunas in the Convention area, and to the intergovernmental fishery-related organizations, requesting their cooperation in this regard.

The text of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2014 was published in the *Report for Biennial Period 2014-2015, Part I (2014), Vol. 1*.

Following the notification, the Secretariat received the following correspondence which it circulated to all the Contracting Parties:

- Objection by Turkey to the *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* [14-04].

Following the six-month grace period after the transmission of the Recommendations adopted by the Commission, the Recommendations entered into force on 3 June 2015, except [Rec.14-04] which did so on 2 August 2015 in accordance with the notification and review process set forth in Article VIII, paragraph 3 (a) of the ICCAT Convention.

4. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups

In accordance with Commission decisions on this subject, the following meetings were held in 2015:

¹ Information at 20 October 2015.

- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Vigo, Spain, from 21 to 22 January 2015*)
- Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (*Miami, United States, from 16 to 20 February 2015*)
- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (*Madrid, Spain, from 23 to 24 February 2015*)
- 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Methods (*Madrid, Spain, from 25 to 27 February 2015*)
- Bluefin Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 6 March 2015*)
- Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting (*Tenerife, Spain, from 23 to 27 March 2015*)
- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Brussels, Belgium, from 7 to 9 April 2015*)
- Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 4 to 8 May 2015*)
- 1st Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs (*Madrid, Spain, from 11 to 12 May 2015*)
- Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (*Miami, United States, from 18 to 22 May 2015*)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems (*Madrid, Spain, from 8 to 12 June 2015*)
- Small Tunas Species Group Intersessional Meeting (*Madrid, Spain, from 10 to 13 June 2015*)
- Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) / Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment (*Bilbao, Spain, from 22 to 26 June 2015*)
- Bigeye Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain, from 13 to 17 July 2015*)
- Blue Shark Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain, from 27 to 31 July 2015*)
- Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 17 to 18 September 2015*)
- SCRS Species Groups Meetings (*Madrid, Spain, from 21 to 25 September 2015*)
- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (*Madrid, Spain, from 28 September to 2 October 2015*)

Like last year, in 2015, the Commission Chairman held once again two Regional Workshops for ICCAT members. The objective of these Workshops was to enable the Contracting Parties to share their opinions and points of view on any important ICCAT-related issues, as well as the priorities of the Commission after 2015. To cover the organisational costs of the Workshops and to provide travel assistance to the representatives of the developing member States, including the costs of the Secretariat, a special fund was created by the Chairman at the level of the Secretariat with financing from the European Union.

- Chairman’s Regional Workshops: Caribbean and Latin America (*Panama, 20 October 2015*). Participants: Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador and Uruguay.
- Chairman’s Regional Workshops: West Africa (*Marrakech, Morocco, 29 October 2015*). Participants: Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea (Rep.), Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Senegal.

5. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

Within the framework of ICCAT’s mandate to inform other international organizations of the measures adopted by the Commission, the Secretariat participated in several meetings and technical consultation processes, which included several regional fisheries organizations (see **Annex 1** to this Report (**STF-201/2015-Anexo 1**), which summarizes the main issues discussed at these meetings).

- Joint Workshop on the Harmonisation of Longline Observer Data collected by Tuna RFMOs (*Keelung, Chinese Taipei, from 27 to 29 January 2015*)
- EU Workshop on Reporting obligations (*Brussels, Belgium, 4 and 5 February 2015*)
- Training course on stock assessment methods (*Casablanca, Morocco, from 9 to 13 March 2015*)

- 10th Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement for Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (*New York, United States, from 16 to 17 March 2015*)
- ATLAFCO meeting on ICCAT Convention Amendment (*Casablanca, Morocco, from 13 and 14 April 2015*)
- Training Workshop for Implementation of the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (*Praia, Cape Verde, 20-24 July 2015*)
- Second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Project on Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – Oceans in common (*Rome, Italy, from 28 to 30 July 2015*)
- IOTC Port State Measures – Port Inspection Training Course (*Malé, Maldives, from 23 to 27 August 2015*)
- Conference of the Advisory Council of the Long Distance Fleet in non-Community Waters (LDAC) on the external dimension of the CFP (*Las Palmas, Spain, from 16 to 17 September 2015*)
- Second Conference “Our Ocean” (*Valparaiso, Chile, from 5 to 6 October 2015*)

6. Tagging lottery

National laboratories give awards or prizes to people who recover tags to encourage the return of tags. To support these programmes, ICCAT organizes a lottery each year with a US\$500 award.

In the last ICCAT lottery, which was held on 28 September 2015, prizes were awarded for three tags, corresponding to the following categories: tropical tunas/small tunas, billfish and sharks.

The winning tags were as follows:

- *Tropical tunas/small tunas*: The winning tag carried the number MT000569 and was recovered from a bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*/BET) by a Spanish national, 194 days after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the United States campaigns.
- *Billfish*: The winning tag carried the number BF477299 and was recovered from an Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*/BUM) by a Venezuelan national.
- *Sharks*: The winning tag carried the number 352305 and was recovered from a blue shark (*Prionace glauca*/BSH) by a Spanish national 642 days after it had been attached.

This year, there were only recoveries of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*/BFT) tags in the category of temperate tunas. This species has only been included since last year in the draw associated with the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP); therefore, the category had no winner.

Again this year, an additional draw was held with the support of the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP). This lottery awards three prizes (one for €1,000 and two for €500 exclusively for recoveries of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*/BFT). The winning tags and the awards were as follows:

- *€1,000*: The winning tag carried the number BYP010761 and was recovered by an Algerian national, 636 after it had been attached.
- *€500*: The winning tag carried the number BYP016072 and was recovered by a Spanish national, 129 after it had been attached.

- €500: The winning tag carried the number BYP014646 and was recovered by a Spanish national, 596 after it had been attached. The tagging was carried out during the Spanish campaigns.

7. Letters concerning fulfilment of budgetary obligations

In early 2015, the Executive Secretary notified all the Contracting Parties of the amount of their contributions to the 2015 budget. In July 2015, a reminder was sent to the Contracting Parties that had not made the corresponding payments. Later, a second reminder was sent in September to those Contracting Parties that had not acted. The following table summarizes the correspondence sent to the Contracting Parties who have outstanding contributions.

	<i>First reminder Letter of 16 July 2015</i>	<i>Second reminder Letter of 18 September 2015</i>
Barbados	X	X
Brazil	X	X
Cape Verde	X	X
Côte d'Ivoire	X	X
Curaçao	X	X
Egypt	X	X
Ghana	X	X
Equatorial Guinea	X	X
Guinea (Rep. of)	X	X
Honduras	X	X
Libya	X	X
Mauritania	X	X
Nicaragua (Rep. of)	X	X
Nigeria	X	X
Panama	X	X
Russia	X	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	X	X
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	X	X
Senegal	X	X
Sierra Leone	X	X
Syria (Arab Rep.)	X	X
Trinidad and Tobago	X	
Tunisia	X	
United Kingdom (O.T.)	X	X
Uruguay	X	X
Vanuatu	X	X
Venezuela	X	X

8. Publications of the Secretariat - 2015

In 2015, the following publications were issued:

- Report for Biennial Period 2014-15, Part I (2014), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: English (Vols. 3 and 4 in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2014-15, Part I (2014), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: French (Vols. 3 and 4 in electronic format only).

- Report for Biennial Period 2014-15, Part I (2014), Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4: Spanish (Vols. 3 and 4 in electronic format only).
- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 42 (2), which includes the catch series by species and country from 1950 to 2013. Starting in 2013, the paper copy will be issued biennially, with annual updates which will be available in electronic format, on the ICCAT web site and on CD.
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 71, comprised six volumes. This publication is issued in paper copy and on CD and is also available on the ICCAT web site.
- ICCAT Newsletter (February and September 2015).

9. Organisation and management of the Secretariat staff

9.1 Organisation

The Secretariat is organised as follows:

Executive Secretary

Mr. Driss Meski

Scientific Coordinator

Dr Miguel Neves dos Santos, reporting directly to the Executive Secretary, performs the tasks related to the coordination of research programmes, collection of fisheries statistics, preparation of reports and coordination with other RFMOs. He is in charge of the Department of Translation and Publications and coordination between the Department of Research and Statistics and the Compliance Department. He is also responsible for coordination between the Secretariat and the SCRS and preparation of SCRS meetings. Moreover, he undertakes other tasks delegated by the Executive Secretary, which includes representing the ICCAT Secretariat in meetings of a technical and/or administrative nature.

Department of Research and Statistics

Because of its mandate to manage and conserve tuna fishery resources, ICCAT members carry out a wide spectrum of scientific research and monitoring activities. The Secretariat is directly involved in the coordination of some of these activities, although a large part of the practical work is carried out by the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat maintains a large number of databases that contain information on fishery statistics which are useful for stock assessments and for compliance-related records. The main tasks that are carried out are requests for data, rules for data transmission, development of databases, user interfaces of the databases, quality control of data, data mining and publication of data, management of the web site, tagging inventory, preparation of reports and coordination with the SCRS and management of information technology.

The research and statistics activities, under the supervision of the Scientific Coordinator, are carried out by the Coordinator of the Department, a Population Dynamics Expert, a Fishery Data Analyst, a Biostatistician, a Database Programmer, a Technical Assistant and a VMS Program Manager and a specialist in information technology. Dr Paul de Bruyn is the Coordinator of the Department of Research and Statistics as well as the By-catch Coordinator. Dr Laurence Kell is in charge of the activities related to coordination with the SCRS regarding stock assessments and other scientific matters. Dr Mauricio Ortiz is in charge of the activities relating to the analysis of tuna and tuna-like species data contained in the ICCAT databases. Mr. Carlos Palma is in charge of activities related to the creation and maintenance of databases, Mr. Juan Carlos Muñoz is the Database Programmer, Mr. Juan Luis Gallego is the Technical Assistant and Mr. Alberto Parrilla is the VMS Program Manager.

Compliance Department

In recent years, the Commission has adopted an increasing number of Recommendations and Resolutions that require the CPCs to communicate various types of information such as vessels lists, compliance reports, etc. The Compliance Department compiles and distributes a large volume of information. The Department's main tasks are: preparation of the compliance tables; implementation of the Regional Observer Programme for transshipment and for bluefin tuna; maintenance of the vessels lists; the inventory of vessel chartering agreements; bluefin tuna farming reports; data and validation of the ICCAT Statistical Document Programs and the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programs; compendia of the management regulations; requests for cooperating status; requests for observer status; Annual Reports, and queries regarding compliance. The department is supervised by the Executive Secretary and is comprised of Ms. Jenny Cheatle, Head of Department, Ms. Carmen Ochoa, and Dr M'Hamed Idrissi, as Compliance Coordinators, and Ms. Aldana Vieito, as the Data Entry Clerk.

Department of Translation and Publications

The Department of Translation and Publications carries out tasks related to the compilation, adoption, translation and publication of circulars, reports and scientific documents, ASFA and FIRMS entries, in the three official languages of the Commission, the coordination of peer reviews of scientific documents, and publications in electronic format, communications and design of the web site. The department is coordinated by Dr Neves and is comprised of six translators: Ms. Rebecca Campoy, Ms. Karen Donovan, Ms. Christine Peyre, Ms. Dorothée Pinet, Ms. María Isabel de Andrés and Ms. María José García-Orad.

Department of Finance and Administration

This Department carries out all the administrative and financial tasks of the Secretariat. Its main tasks are: preparation and control of the budget, accounting, preparation of the administrative and financial reports, organisation of ICCAT meetings, management of special funds, human resources within the Secretariat, purchases, travel, reception, archives, management of contact information, inventory of the library and publications, photocopying, scanning and mail. The department is comprised of eight members: Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of Department, who coordinates all the tasks related to the department, Ms. Felicidad García (Administrative Secretary), Mr. Cristóbal García (photocopying and library), Ms. Africa Martín (Accounting Assistant), Ms. Ana Martínez (Accounting Assistant), Mr. Juan Angel Moreno (photocopying and mail), Ms. Esther Peña (Purchasing Assistant) and Ms. Gisela Porto (Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary).

9.2 New recruits

In July 2015, Dr Pilar Pallarés, Deputy Executive Secretary, retired after having worked at the ICCAT Secretariat for 10 years. Due to her departure, Dr Miguel Neves dos Santos was hired in May 2015 as Scientific Coordinator, following recommendation by the Assessment Committee and decided by the Executive Secretary.

Atlantic-wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)

In April and May 2015, Ms. Stasa Tensek and Mr. Alfonso Pagá were hired as Assistant Coordinator and Database Specialist of the GBYP, respectively.

9.3 Future recruitments

The Secretary requests that a new person be recruited for the Department of Administration and Finance in order to meet the work requirements.

10. Other issues

10.1 Management of other programs

It should be noted that the Financial Report (STF-202/2015) contains detailed information on the financing of these programs.

Since 2005, the United States has contributed to the Special Data Fund established in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Rec. 03-21], to assist scientists from developing countries to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee. The contribution in 2015 was €8,970.00.

In 2006, the United States made a contribution to help establish the Fund to Prohibit Driftnets so as to encourage compliance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04].

In April 2015, the contract was extended with the Consortium MRAG/CapFish for the ICCAT Regional Observer Program, in compliance with *ICCAT Recommendation Establishing a Programme for Transshipment* [Rec. 06-11]. This program was financed in 2015 by voluntary contributions from Belize, China (People's Rep. of), Japan, Korea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chinese Taipei; the Program continues to be managed by the Secretariat.

To implement the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05], in 2009 the Regional Observer Program for bluefin tuna was established. For this purpose, in April 2015, the contract with the Consortium MRAG/COFREPECHE was extended for the hiring and deployment of observers. During this period, vessels, farms and traps have participated, and their operators have financed the programme.

Since 2008, the United States delegation has made numerous contributions to the United States Fund for Capacity Building for developing countries.

At its 16th Special Meeting (Marrakech, Morocco, 17 to 24 November 2008), the Commission endorsed a five-year coordinated Atlantic-wide bluefin tuna research program (known as GBYP-ICCAT). Currently, the Program is in its fifth phase. The European Union is financing 80.00% of this amount and the remainder is funded through voluntary contributions from Algeria, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Egypt, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Norway, Tunisia, Turkey, United States and Chinese Taipei.

Following the ICCAT-Japan Data and Management Improvement Project, which took place from 2009 to 2014, in December 2014, a special new project for capacity-building with a five-year duration began financed by the Government of Japan, the ICCAT-Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Project (*JCAP*). Its overriding objective is to assist ICCAT developing CPCs in complying with their obligations related to data compilation and reporting, as well as in implementing efficiently ICCAT measures.

In June 2015, the Secretariat received a contribution of €18,360.00 from China (People's Rep. of) for the continuation of the activities of the Special Data Fund – People's Republic of China.

Following approval in 2014 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 14-14], the Secretariat, in addition to the 2015 allocation of €74,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund, received a voluntary contribution from Morocco in the amount of €1,000.00.

In 2013, the Morocco Fund to Support National Capacity for Participation at Commission Meetings was created. For this purpose, in May 2015, Morocco made a voluntary contribution in the amount of €83,500.00.

In 2013, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 13-19] for the purpose of supporting scientists from ICCAT Contracting Parties that are developing States in their need to acquire knowledge and develop skills on issues related to ICCAT. The special Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) was allocated €80,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

In May, a contract was signed with the CITES Secretariat (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) for the purpose of cooperating on data collection for management of pelagic sharks, including CITES Appendix II species. To carry out the activities of this project, the CITES Secretariat will finance up to US\$100,000.00 until June 2016.

On 30 June 2015, the Secretariat signed the contract with the European Union for implementation of the Atlantic Ocean-wide Tropical Tunas Tagging Programme (AOTTP). The contract has a five-year term, with the possibility of an 18-month extension for data analysis, and a budget of €15,000,000.00, of which the European Union will finance a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%). The remaining 10% must be financed by ICCAT or ICCAT CPCs. To date, voluntary contributions have been received for the Programme from the United States (€77,400.00) and Chinese Taipei (€25,000.00).

In July 2015, a contract was signed with the European Union for a one-year term, to continue improvement of the capacity of developing countries, and which includes the activities of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 14-14] and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 13-19], and for which a voluntary contribution of €39,900.00 has been received.

Another contract was also signed in July with the European Union to cover the costs of the 2015 Commission meeting which is to be held in Malta from 10 to 17 November as well as the costs of the Chairman's workshops. To date, the Secretariat has received under these headings a voluntary contribution of €409,167.77 and another of €42,000.00, respectively. It should be recalled that in financial year 2015, the Secretariat received the remaining amount from the contribution by the European Union to the organisation of the 2014 meeting (see financial report).

10.2 Revision of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules

In 2012, the Secretariat informed the Commission that it would be advisable to update the Staff Regulations and Rules so as to adapt them to the changes that have occurred in recent years. In 2015, work has been done on the new text which will bring up to date the outdated Articles, but this task has not been completed. Consequently, the text will be submitted to the Commission in its 2016 meeting.

**REUNIONES EN LAS QUE HA ESTADO REPRESENTADA ICCAT
ENTRE ENERO DE 2015 Y OCTUBRE DE 2015**

RESUMEN

Este documento presenta información básica sobre las reuniones científicas en las que ICCAT estuvo representada, ya sea por miembros de la Secretaría o por otras personas que actuaron en su nombre. La información básica que se presenta para cada reunión incluye los puntos principales del orden del día y sus principales implicaciones para ICCAT.

JORNADAS CONJUNTAS SOBRE ARMONIZACIÓN DE DATOS DE OBSERVADORES DE PALANGRE DE LAS OROP DE TÚNIDOS

Lugar: Taiwan Ocean University

Fechas: 27 - 29 January 2015

Representante: Paul de Bruyn

Puntos principales del orden del día

The conference was organised by ISSF and invited participants from IATTC, WCPFC, IOTC, SPC, CCSBT, the government of New Zealand, Birdlife Int. and ACAP were present. The purpose of this meeting was fourfold:

1. To summarise across all tRFMO the data fields in existing observer forms that are common (by name and definition) and those that are RFMO unique;
2. To provide a forum for discussion on LL observer database structures to facilitate future data exchanges between tRFMOs;
3. To identify common issues that could be answered by tRFMO wide analyses of LL Observer data;
4. To identify common gaps in current LL observer data collection.

Comentarios

The meeting was very useful for contrasting the different data collected by the various observer programmes. Despite some key differences, in general the observer programmes collected many common data types. Also of interest were differences in terminology used by the various programmes. It was agreed a standardised set of terms should be used to facilitate cross tRFMO comparisons. The importance of a consistent vessel register was also highlighted. Issues such as data confidentiality were also discussed and solutions to these problems were suggested. Finally a table of best practices was drafted as well as where RFMOs could improve their systems to achieve these practices.

Report availability

An informal report containing the key elements of the discussions was drafted and will be circulated for comment amongst the participants. A final version of the report will be produced once the comments are incorporated into the preliminary document.

EU WORKSHOP ON REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Location: DG Mare Brussels, Belgium

Dates: 4-5 February 2015

Representative: Paul de Bruyn, Jenny Cheatle; Carlos Palma; M'Hamed Idrissi

Substantive agenda items

The aim of the Workshop was to clarify doubts regarding the ICCAT Reporting Obligations, and to highlight areas for possible improvement. The Secretariat presented an overview of requirements, with some detail on the areas raised by EU on submission of statistical data; other scientific requirements; vessel lists; bluefin tuna reporting requirements and statistical document requirements.

Comments

The Workshop was useful for both EU member states to raise their doubts and difficulties, and for the Secretariat to understand and determine reporting channels and challenges. For reporting requirements, it was agreed that, in general, all submissions should come through DG Mare, with the exception of BCDs, Task II data, and tagging data, which could be sent to the Secretariat with a copy to DG Mare. DG Mare would provide the Secretariat with a list of authorised statistical and tagging contacts.

Useful discussions took place following which the EU identified areas in which proposals to the Commission could be made to modify the existing Recommendations in order to facilitate data reporting, such as harmonising deadlines where possible, reducing redundant information and reporting, clarifying required coverage for Task II (both catch & effort and size samples), etc. It was also generally agreed that some clearer definitions of ICCAT terminology would be useful, especially terms such as Task 1, fishing vessel, carrier vessel, and that this issue should be raised with the Commission.

In addition, some particular problems were identified, e.g. the lack of vessel characteristics for Italian recreational vessels, the difficulties of *inter alia* Portugal in extracting data from their data bases to the ICCAT electronic forms, Spain / Netherlands uncertainty of where to include carrier vessels. Italy undertook to include the recreational licence number which could serve as name and national registry number, and the other issues would be resolved through the actions which the Secretariat undertook to carry out.

Secretariat Actions required

Liaise with any EU member states to develop specific bi-lateral formats for Task II submission if requested (under the SCRS special data exchange formats possibility).

Consider ways for the future of developing web-based applications (with embedded forms) to submit data and verify/inform in real time the acceptance/rejection status in accordance with SCRS filtering criteria.

Review and consider, for the future, the CEFAC vessel data base, to see how this could be applied to ICCAT reporting requirements.

Review the list of reporting requirements to ensure no overlap in the TRO requirements, and correct some errors in deadlines/paragraphs numbers.

Seek clarification from IMM/Commission regarding the correct listing of carrier vessels which do not participate in the ICCAT transshipment at sea programme, but are involved in transshipment in port.

Make some adjustments to the form on the Compliance Tables to clarify what was to be reported (i.e. which options was being reported for Atl. SWO, add base for % calculation of EBFT BB/Trol and the addition of SWO-Med)

Revise the guidelines for submitting information to include reporting forms which are specifically referenced in the ICCAT Recommendations.

Contact IOTC to ensure that the reporting formats for statistical document reports could be standardised between these two RFMOs, to try to reduce reporting burdens.

Report availability

The EU drafted a report for its Member States (for EU internal use only).

TRAINING COURSE ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS

Location: Casablanca, Morocco

Dates: 9-13 March, 2015

Representative: Laurence Kell, Jose Maria Ortiz de Urbina

Substantive agenda items

The course was based on R and FLR. Topics included, exploratory data analysis, stock assessment, estimation of reference points, provision of advice and the use of harvest control rules. The course also covered different methods for estimating uncertainty for both data poor and rich stocks. A main objective of the course was to allow scientists to perform a variety of tasks required by stock assessment working groups.

Comments

The materials used during the course are available via the ICCAT cloud server <http://rscloud.iccat.int/Tutorials/Casablanca-2015/programme-casablanca-2015.html>. These include example code, presentations and vignettes.

RAPPORT SUR LA REUNION SUR LA CONSULTATION INFORMELLE DES PARTIES DE L'ACCORD DE L'ONU DE 1995 (UNFSA)

Lieu: New York, USA

Date: du 16 au 17 Mars 2015

Représentant: D. Meski (Secrétaire exécutif de l'ICCAT)

En réponse à l'invitation de la Division des Affaires des Océans et du Droit de la Mer, le Secrétariat de l'ICCAT a participé à la 11ème Réunion de la Consultation informelle ouverte sur la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la Mer qui s'est tenue au siège de l'ONU à New York du 16 au 17 Mars 2015 en la personne de son Secrétaire exécutif.

L'ordre du jour de cette consultation consiste à discuter la préparation de la deuxième conférence d'examen de l'Accord UNFSA de 1995.

Les participants ont examiné le projet du cadre de l'organisation du travail de la deuxième Conférence ainsi que le projet de l'ordre du jour de ladite conférence. Après une riche discussion sur les différents points de l'ordre du jour il a été convenu ce qui suit:

- Approbation des projets du cadre de l'organisation du travail et de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence ;
- Convoquer la réunion pour la conférence d'examen de l'accord UNFSA du 25 au 28 Mai 2016
- Considérer la possibilité de convoquer une autre réunion de la consultation informelle avant la tenue de la conférence de l'examen.

Au cours de la discussion, les participants ont insisté sur la nécessité de rétablir le fonds d'assistance prévu dans la Partie VII de l'accord. Ce fonds a joué un grand rôle dans la participation des représentants des pays en développement aux réunions concernant la mise en œuvre des dispositions de l'accord.

La deuxième journée a été consacrée à la célébration du 20ème anniversaire de l'ouverture de l'Accord à la signature des Parties. Plusieurs interventions ont été faites concernant l'importance de l'accord et les premières conclusions tirées après 20 ans de sa mise en œuvre. Dans ce cadre Mr. Driss MESKI Secrétaire Exécutif de l'ICCAT a fait une présentation pour souligner que les interventions de l'ICCAT ont été toujours en harmonie avec les dispositions de l'Accord UNFSA. Ceci bien que la convention de l'ICCAT soit plus ancienne de 30 ans que l'Accord de l'UNFSA.

RAPPORT DE LA REUNION DE LA COMHAFAT SUR L'AMENDEMENT DE LA CONVENTION DE L'ICCAT

Lieu: Casablanca, Maroc

Date: 13 et 14 Avril 2015.

Représentant: D. Meski (Secrétariat de l'ICCAT)

l'ICCAT a été invitée pour participer aux travaux de la réunion de la COMHAFAT pour préparer la réunion inter session de l'ICCAT sur l'amendement de la Convention qui aura lieu à Miami, aux USA du 18 au 22 Mai 2015.

Mr. Driss MESKI secrétaire Exécutif de l'ICCAT a participé aux travaux de cette réunion pour donner tous les éclaircissements nécessaires sur les différents points de l'ordre du jour. La COMHAFAT a chargé un expert externe pour présenter toutes les questions à l'ordre du jour et les propositions qui seront examinées lors de la réunion de l'ICCAT à Miami.

Au cours de la réunion les participants ont examiné avec beaucoup de détails toutes les questions qui ont fait l'objet d'un éventuel amendement et les propositions qui seront présentées pour une adoption finale. Mr. Driss MESKI est intervenu sur l'ensemble des points en discussion pour apporter des précisions sur des questions que se posaient les participants.

Au terme d'une discussion très fructueuse les travaux de la réunion ont été sanctionnés par un rapport qui reflète débat au cours des deux journées. Le rapport peut être consulté sur le site suivant : <http://www.atlafco.org/fr/files/actualites/14292015115335AM.pdf>

L'ATELIER DE FORMATION POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE L'ACCORD FAO 2009 RELATIF AUX MESURES DE L'ÉTAT DU PORT VISANT À LUTTER CONTRE LA PÊCHE ILLICITE, NON DECLAREE ET NON REGLEMENTEE

Lieu: Praia, Cap Vert

Date: 20-24 juillet 2015

Représentant: Taoufik EL KTIRI, PWG Chair

L'atelier de formation pour la mise en œuvre de l'Accord FAO 2009 relatif aux mesures de l'Etat du port visant à lutter contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée, tenu dans la ville de Praia (Cap vert, 20-24 juillet 2015) a été organisé par la FAO dans le cadre d'une série d'atelier de sensibilisation et de renforcement des capacités au niveau de la région Etats africains riverains de l'Océan Atlantique, identifiée comme étant prioritaire pour ce type d'ateliers pour préparer ainsi l'entrée en vigueur dudit Accord.

Les objectifs attendus de cet Atelier, outre une meilleure sensibilisation des participants aux effets indésirables et préjudiciables de la pêche IUU, sont :

- une compréhension approfondie des dispositions de l'Accord FAO 2009 et leur adaptation aux spécificités des pays participants ;
- l'identification des normes, critères, besoins, enjeux, avantages potentiels et les mécanismes régionaux et nationaux pour favoriser la mise en œuvre de ces dispositions ;
- l'amélioration de la compréhension mutuelle du rôle essentiel d'une bonne gouvernance pour une mise en œuvre plus efficace des mesures du ressort de l'Etat du port ; et
- la contribution à l'élaboration de directives et de stratégies régionales, notamment dans leurs aspects juridiques, politiques, administratifs et opérationnels.

Des experts de la FAO, de représentants d'ORGP, d'ONG ainsi que des consultants internationaux se sont relayés pour présenter les résultats de leurs travaux et avis sur cet important sujet. De même, plusieurs documents de référence ont été distribués pour servir d'outil de travail.

De même, des exercices et simulations de cas pratiques ont été organisés pour se familiariser avec cet instrument.

Ainsi, cet Atelier a été l'occasion pour présenter la Commission et rappeler les mesures qu'elle a adoptées pour garantir la durabilité des ressources thonières et des espèces apparentées dans sa Zone de Convention.

S'agissant des inspections au port, il a été signalé qu'en 2012, la Commission a adopté la *Recommandation concernant un système ICCAT de normes minimales pour l'inspection au port*.

Les principales mesures de cette Recommandation ont été présentées. Elle prévoit, entre autre, que les CPC inspectent **au moins 5 %** des opérations de débarquement et de transbordement, dans leurs ports désignés, au fur et à mesure que ces opérations sont réalisées par des navires de pêche étrangers.

Quant au degré d'application de celle-ci, et selon les informations disponibles, il paraît que ce niveau de mise en œuvre est considérablement plus faible que ce qu'il devrait être et que ceci pourrait être dû à la capacité technique ou à l'incapacité économique de certaines CPC à mettre intégralement en œuvre les exigences d'inspection.

Étant donné que la même Recommandation reconnaît que les États en développement devraient recevoir de l'aide pour développer leur capacité et qu'il faudrait veiller à ce qu'ils n'aient pas à assumer un fardeau disproportionné résultant de la mise en œuvre de cette recommandation, il a été signalé que la Commission recherchait des options visant à fournir une formation pour l'inspection au port. La formation à l'inspection au port pourrait aussi s'avérer utile pour aider les pays en développement à mettre en œuvre d'autres mesures de l'ICCAT, telles que les exigences en matière d'échantillonnage au port.

Enfin, un aperçu a été donné aux participants sur les autres mesures de contrôle, suivi et surveillance des activités de pêche (MSC) adoptées par la Commission pour une lutte active contre toutes les formes de pêche IUU (*programmes de documentation des captures et documents statistiques, programme régionaux d'observation, exigences en matière de transbordement en mer et au port, normes concernant les affrètements et autres accords de pêche, Programmes d'observation des navires en mer et d'inspection, Programmes d'inspection au port et autres mesures relevant de l'État du port, Exigences d'inscription des navires, Exigences du système de surveillance des navires –VMS- Responsabilités de l'État de pavillon, liste des navires IUU..*).

Au terme de cette présentation, les organisateurs et participants ont exprimé leur satisfaction quant aux efforts consentis et les décisions prises par la Commission pour une lutte efficace contre toutes les formes de pêche IUU ce qui dénote du rôle important joué par les organisations régionales de gestion des pêches pour atteindre cet objectif.

SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TUNA FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION COMMON OCEANS

Venue: FAO Offices, Rome, Italy

Dates: 28-30 July 2015

Attended by: Jenny Cheatle, Compliance Department, ICCAT

Main agenda items

The main agenda items were the progress made to date in the programme, and the consideration of the work plan for the July 2015 – July 2016 period. Many of the partners undertaking activities relating to the trials of innovative technologies, in particular electronic monitoring systems presented their findings.

Of interest to ICCAT in particular may be the presentation by the IOTC in relation to their newly completed electronic port state measures system (ePSM), which has been completed and is now in trial phase, as well as the results to date of the electronic monitoring system tested in Ghana. While it is not foreseen that this system could fully replace human observer programmes, it is a good complementary tool and could be of particular interest on smaller vessels where safety and space issues preclude the boarding of observers.

For the forthcoming year, in addition to the continuation of the current activities, three new projects were submitted and approved, including a proposal by the IOTC for the development of an e-reporting system similar to that which had been proposed for the future by ICCAT. It is suggested that, subject to Commission approval, ICCAT monitor developments to see if the IOTC system could be adapted to ICCAT, or whether there are lessons to be learned from it.

Actions for Commission consideration

ICCAT will be directly involved in three activities under the project during the coming year, if there is no objection by the Commission 1) the organisation of an MSE workshop under the Kobe process involving all five tuna RFMOs and chaired by ICCAT. Funding for meeting support participants was approved by the Steering Committee. 2) A meeting between RFMOs on Ecosystem based fisheries management Implementation which will be chaired and led by ICCAT. Funding for meeting support and financing of participants was approved by the Steering Committee. 3) Tentative funding for the development of an ICCAT training programme and manual for port inspection was also approved, with details to be determined pending budget determination and discussion and approval by the Commission.

With regards to the financing of the eBCD, ICCAT expressed its disappointment, particularly regarding the time which had been lost while waiting for the answer from GEF. The Global Project Coordinator regretted the delays and explained that the proposal had not met the GEF criteria, as some of the funding involved ongoing work relating only to bluefin tuna. GEF could only consider work which involved new projects, such as the prototype to extend the system to other areas and oceans, which under the original ICCAT proposal had accounted for only 15% of the total. Consideration to this proposal could be given in the future, but only in the event that it was limited to the extension to other species / oceans, as indicated at the first inception workshop, and would most likely require a call for tender. The Global Project Coordinator indicated that he would make available clearer written guidelines for the submission of future proposals for activities.

It was tentatively agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held 6 July 2016 three days prior the COFI meeting.

IOTC PORT STATE MEASURES – PORT INSPECTION TRAINING COURSE

Venue: Male', Maldives

Dates: 23-27 August 2015

Attended by: Jenny Cheatle, Compliance Department, ICCAT Secretariat

Main agenda items

IOTC has developed a training course for the implementation of port State measures and inspection of foreign fishing vessels in port, in accordance with the IOTC conservation and management measures. This programme has been developed in conjunction with a fishery consultant agency, and courses are imparted on a CPC basis, in groups of not more than 25 participants. The Maldives course was attended by customs officials, coast guard officials, police officers and staff of the Ministry of Fisheries. The Maldives is in the process of integrating port State measures requirements into its national legislation, and drawing up Memorandum of Understanding to ensure cooperation among the various agencies involved.

Although there are some significant differences between the port State measures adopted by IOTC and ICCAT, the basic procedures for port inspection are the same, and the forms to be completed by both tRFMOs are practically identical. Much of the course which the IOTC has developed could therefore be quite easily adapted to ICCAT needs, while other sections would require modification to reflect ICCAT practices and requirements. The IOTC course curriculum and training materials are available on the IOTC web site at: <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/port-state-measures>. The course curriculum could be adapted to ICCAT by replacing/modifying the inputs for learning tasks numbers 1, 3; 5; 10; 11; 14 and 15. Learning task 4 could be reduced for ICCAT and minor changes may be needed to other sections to take into account specific ICCAT requirements. The Secretariat has also noted a few possible areas for restructuring / additions which could be beneficial if adapted to ICCAT.

Actions for Commission consideration

In the context of Rec. 14-08, the Commission may wish to consider the development of a similar training course for ICCAT, in order to enhance compliance with Rec. 12-07. If such a course is considered necessary, financing would have to be approved by the Commission, as well as future funding of actually implementing the training. The Secretariat, however, is still trying to determine the need for / interest in such a training programme, as response to ICCAT circular 1159/15 has been disappointingly low, both by developing CPCs and developed CPCs. It is important to note that such training will only be useful if it is backed by pertinent policy decisions,

national legislation and administrative cooperation among all official sectors which may be involved in any given CPC.

The estimated cost of the IOTC course is approximately €20,000 for course and material design. The cost of each training course is estimated at approximately €28,000 euro for trainers and materials, not including any associated costs (travel, per diem etc) of prospective participants. It is assumed that the facilities for imparting courses are provided by the host CPC. Note that the costs indicated above do not include Secretariat staff time, and could vary considerably depending on the agency selected if a tender were launched.

The Secretariat would like to thank the IOTC for allowing ICCAT to attend in an observer capacity, and the GEF-ABNJ project for financing participation.

RAPPORT SUR LA PARTICIPATION DU SECRETARIAT A LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR L'IMPORTANCE DE LA DIMENSION EXTERIEURE DE LA POLITIQUE COMMUNE DES PECHEES SUR LA COOPERATION ENTRE L'UE ET L'AFRIQUE

Lieu: Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Espagne

Date: 16 et 17 Septembre 2015

Représentant: D. Meski (Secrétaire exécutif de l'ICCAT)

Sur invitation du *Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)*, le Secrétariat a été représenté par M. Driss Meski aux travaux de la Conférence citée en objet. Cette conférence était une grande opportunité pour discuter l'état de la coopération entre l'UE et les pays africains dans le domaine de la pêche. Les différents exposés ont mis en relief le rôle joué par les ORGP et notamment l'ICCAT dans les pêcheries thonières. Les présentations à caractère scientifique ont mis en exergue les efforts déployés par les ORGP dans la conservation des stocks de plusieurs espèces. L'accent a été mis sur la nécessité de continuer à coopérer afin que l'ensemble des partenaires se conforment aux mesures de gestion et de conservation adoptées sur la base des recommandations scientifiques. Cette conférence a été caractérisée par une forte participation de l'administration et des opérateurs du secteur aussi bien d'Europe que d'Afrique. Le débat a été concentré sur l'intérêt des accords de partenariat entre l'UE et les pays d'Afrique. Dans ce sens, le Secrétaire exécutif est intervenu pour demander aux différents partenaires d'utiliser le cadre desdits accords afin de se conformer aux mesures adoptées par l'ICCAT.

2EME CONFERENCE « OUR OCEAN » ORGANISEE PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT DU CHILI

Lieu: Valparaiso, Chili

Date: 5 et 6 Octobre 2015

Représentant: Driss Meski (Secrétaire exécutif de l'ICCAT)

Comme cela a été promis par le ministre des Affaires étrangères du Chili lors de la première conférence sous le thème « Our Ocean » organisée à Washington D.C les 16 et 17 juin 2014, le Gouvernement du Chili a accueilli la 2^{ème} conférence à Valparaiso les 5 et 6 octobre 2015. Cette deuxième édition dont l'ouverture des travaux a été présidée par la Présidente du Chili, a connu une participation du même niveau que la première avec la participation du Secrétaire d'Etat des États-Unis, du Prince de Monaco, des chefs de gouvernement et de ministres de plusieurs pays. Elle a connu également la participation des experts de renommée mondiale, des organisations non gouvernementales et du monde de l'art. Le Secrétaire exécutif de l'ICCAT y a participé en réponse à l'invitation qui lui a été adressée.

Durant les deux jours, la discussion a porté sur des thèmes de grande importance notamment :

- Les dangers qui menacent les océans notamment en matière de pollution et d'acidification ;
- La prolifération de la pêche IUU et les risques de surpêche ;
- L'établissement des aires protégées un peu partout dans les différents océans ;
- Les engagements de plusieurs personnalités et de gouvernements sur les actions à entreprendre y compris le financement ;

- Présentation des expériences des petites communautés en matière de gestion soutenable des affaires maritimes à travers le monde ;
- Présentation des instruments juridiques disponibles en matière de gestion des pêcheries et des affaires relatives aux océans. En ce qui concerne cette question, une part importante a été consacrée à l'Accord des Nations Unies sur les stocks chevauchants (Accord de New York 1995) et le rôle des organisations régionales de gestion des pêcheries.

La conférence a, une nouvelle fois, fait état de la situation préoccupante dans laquelle vivent les océans qui sont menacés par le réchauffement climatique, la pollution et la surexploitation des ressources halieutiques. Selon les experts scientifiques, les océans qui couvrent près de 72 % de la planète ont connu une dégradation spectaculaire suite à l'augmentation du dioxyde de carbone et une pollution qui s'aggrave de plus en plus.

Plusieurs engagements ont été confirmés pour la création de nouvelles aires protégées dans le Pacifique et une dans d'autres régions. Des engagements financiers ont été pris pour faire face au défi de rétablir la situation des océans.

La tenue de cette conférence a été une occasion pour le Gouvernement chilien de ratifier séance tenante l'accord de New York et de signer des conventions avec des communautés locales pour la création des aires protégées dans les eaux du Chili.

Tous les participants ont insisté sur la nécessité de maintenir cette rencontre qui constitue un forum important afin d'avancer sur la gestion de nos océans. Ainsi, le Secrétaire d'Etat des États-Unis s'est proposé pour accueillir les travaux de la 3^{ème} Conférence en 2016 et le Commissaire de l'Union européenne a invité la 4^{ème} Conférence en Europe pour l'année 2017.