

## EXTRACTS OF SECTION 5 FROM ANNUAL REPORTS

### ALBANIA

No technical difficulties encountered in implementation and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Thanks to the help and readiness of Secretariat and Compliance Committee, Albania has realized in appropriate time all the reporting requirements to ICCAT.

### ALGERIA

Pour mettre en œuvre et répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT, l'Algérie a mis en place des systèmes et des programmes de suivi, d'observation, d'inspection et de collecte pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences fixées transmettre toutes les informations sollicitées par l'ICCAT.

Néanmoins, il est à souligner que l'implémentation des exigences de l'ICCAT, nécessite beaucoup de temps.

### BARBADOS

GEN 0020 and GEN 0021: There is one fishing vessel greater than 20m LOA registered but has not actively fished in well over a decade. ICCAT will be duly notified in the event that the vessel returns to active fishing.

GEN 0023: The Fisheries Act (1993) mandates the licensing of all fishing vessels involved in sport fishing in the waters of Barbados. The legal definition in the Act for sport fishing is "fishing for the purposes of recreation, personal consumption or competition". In addition to the suite of draft fisheries regulations that apply to all persons fishing in the waters of Barbados, additional controls on sport fishing in particular will be applied via conditions attached to the issue of the sport fishing licences and additional regulations for the sport fishery.

GEN 0026, TRO 2006 and SWO 3001: This is being addressed and methods of improving the traceability of fish and fish products is being developed in the upgrade of food safety legislation which have already been drafted.

SWO 3007: A plan for the management of the swordfish fishery is included in the draft Fisheries Plan for the Management of Large Pelagic Resources, which has not been officially adopted but will be submitted to ICCAT in due course.

SHK 7005: The development of a Barbados NPOA and participation in the development of an RPOA have already been mentioned in Section 4 of this report. Legislative support specific to the respective ICCAT recommendations in relation to the management of shark species where applicable will be put in place through the new draft regulations and any adjunct legal instruments.

BYC 8001: Fishers will be instructed to report any incidences of sea turtle entanglements with the fishing gear in their trip reports. The use of non-offset circle hooks as already noted should reduce the mortality rate of any turtles caught on longline gear and in tandem with this, the Fisheries Division will be collaborating with the Barbados Sea Turtle project in a programme to advise and fishers on the best practises of safely extricating non target species including turtles from longline gear to reduce injury and morality.

BYC 8002: Fishers will be instructed to note any incidences of sea bird entanglements with the fishing gear in their trip records. In addition the use of Tori lines to reduce such occurrences will be considered.

BYC 8003: It must be reiterated that the current longline gear used by local fishers targets all species in the range of the gear and any species is equally likely to be taken. The definition of any species as "by-catch" is difficult and not appropriate in the context of most Barbadian fisheries as it is only under extraordinary circumstances that any of the catch is deliberately discarded. Nevertheless, fishers will be required to report any catch discards in trip reporting when such systems are implemented.

## **BELIZE**

As a small developing country with a distant water fishing fleet, Belize has been able to ensure satisfactory compliance with majority of the important measures adopted by the Commission. However, there are a few measures that have posed significant challenges to fully implement. This is as a result of several factors, including but not limited to, restrictions in human and institutional capacity and changes in our management and government regime and interagency communication and collaboration. Nonetheless, the adoption of our amended Act and subsidiary Regulations has allowed us to easily adopt and implement relevant conservation and management measures. Despite our minor limitations with compliance obligations, the Government of Belize is fully committed and invested in making certain that the relevant steps are taken to ensure compliance with all relevant and important conservation and management measures to which we are obligated.

## **BRAZIL**

The main difficulties encountered in implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures were related to the artisanal nature of the majority of the catches in Brazil, since the landing sites of the boats are widespread requiring a quite significant logistic effort for their monitoring, besides the limitations to get observers onboard, differently from highly industrialized fleets that land large amounts of fish in relatively few ports and have much more space/ facilities to accommodate observers.

## **CABO VERDE**

El principal problema que enfrenta nuestro sistema de gestión e de investigación en su desarrollo es la disponibilidad insuficiente de recursos financieros para todos los costos operativos. La implementación de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT requiere un seguimiento permanente y sería útil contar con el apoyo de ICCAT mediante acciones de formación con respecto a las diversas obligaciones en términos de conservación. notificación de datos a ICCAT. Los principales problemas encontrados son los siguientes:

- Existe una gran dificultad en la coordinación entre los diferentes actores, en particular la administración, vigilancia, investigación y operadores. Esto crea enormes problemas para obtener datos e información que cumplan positivamente con las obligaciones de ICCAT.
- Los recursos financieros son limitados para apoyar y mejorar la recopilación de datos, así como para fortalecer el sistema de vigilancia, el plan de muestreo estadístico y los datos biológicos.
- El apoyo técnico y financiero de ICCAT sería muy importante y bienvenido para apoyar y mejorar los programas estadísticos y el plan de muestreo biológico debido al aumento de desembarques locales y barcos extranjeros, que, por desembarques, también transbordo de especies de ICCAT en Cabo Verde.

## **CANADA**

Canada had no particular difficulties in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures during the preceding year. Due to oversight, the following sections were sent to ICCAT on October 9 rather than September 15:

Summary  
PART II, Section 5 (text)

In addition, all other submissions documents, including the annual report were initially submitted on September 15, 2020.

## **CHINA**

Currently no such cases, and will record and advise in a timely manner in future once encountered.

## **CHINESE TAIPEI**

To meet the reporting requirements established by ICCAT for species encountered as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries and "Recommendation on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries" (Rec. 11-10) which requires CPCs to provide bycatch and discard data, Chinese Taipei has taken necessary steps to collect and report these data to the extent possible. However, it should be noted that since some of bycatches are required to be released alive or discarded dead without being taken onboard, measuring weight and length of them turns out to be difficult. Therefore, the crews or observer on board could only record the number of the bycatch.

## **COLOMBIA**

N/A

## **CURACAO**

Requirements for vessels larger than 24 metres in length

The fishing vessels under the flag of Curaçao larger than 24 metres in length must fulfil the following obligations in order to fish in the ICCAT convention area:

- Be fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System, by satellite tracking system
- To follow strictly all the recommendations issued by ICCAT for their fishery.
- To submit a monthly report of catches to the fishing Authorities.
- To submit a "Transshipment Declaration" each time a transshipment is carried out.
- To submit a "Discharge Declaration" each time a discharge is carried out.
- Every year, to submit a list of "Fishing Licenses" those are issued to the vessel by third countries, in order to fish in the EEZ of different countries.
- Inform us as soon as a fishing licence is renewed.
- To apply for an International Fishing Permit issued by the Government of Curaçao that allows the vessel to operate in the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean and in the ICCAT Convention Area.

## **EGYPT**

Unfortunately the pandemic of covid-19 effect the whole world negatively which also paralyzed everyone to fulfil the obligation of timeline, providing the needed information, tables and the other format required by ICCAT to be sent on time, since workforce and manpower is less 50 % ... even so, Egypt has tried to survival on this very tough season and committed as much as we could to the recommendation also by the help of the Iccat secretary who provide the help and all needed assistance all over this difficult year.

On the other hand, there was excellent cooperation between us and the other CPCs especially Morocco under the leadership of panel's 2 chairman this outstanding cooperation helped us to complete our season with the less losses possible.

So, Egypt implemented ICCAT conservation and management measures, and Egypt collect the fisheries data by the end of the year on the other hand the large amount of data collected from all over Egypt with the long and existing routine doesn't help to provide the information on time , but it is not living up to be difficulties since, ICCAT secretary shows a respectable understanding for the situation, also in case of any new data collected after its deadline Egypt shall amend the concerned report along with the new data and resend.

## **EL SALVADOR**

No se encontró dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento, no obstante lo cual se desarrollan programas constantes de fortalecimiento institucional.

## **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Según el Decreto nº 50/2005, de fecha 7 de marzo, por el que se crea la Sociedad Nacional de Pesca Marítima de Guinea Ecuatorial, en anagrama SONAPESCA, el Gobierno de nuestro país sigue derrochando esfuerzos para dotar a dicha Empresa de las embarcaciones de pesca mejoradas, tanto para la pesca costera, pesca de bajura, así como de la pesca de altura y ponerles medios logísticos necesarios para que la Empresa pueda ser operativa.

Se está actualizando el Censo de la Pesca Artesanal: Flota artesanal, pescadores, lugares de desembarque, así como la formación en taxonomía de las especies, formación en procesamiento de datos, entre otras, todo eso gracias al Proyecto UTF/EQG/005/EQG, sobre la Evaluación de los Recursos Pesqueros Marinos en Guinea Ecuatorial.

El Ministerio de Pesca y Recursos Hídricos, está realizando campañas de sensibilización a los Pescadores Artesanales e Industriales de todo el ámbito Nacional sobre la importancia de la conservación del ecosistema marino, haciéndoles recordar el Decreto de prohibición de captura de las especies en peligro de extinción y sobre la importancia de declarar los datos estadísticos al Ministerio tutor.

El Ministerio de Pesca y Recursos Hídricos, está implementando dos grandes Proyectos en el País; El Proyecto de Pesca y Transformación del Atún y Especies Afines en la Isla de Annobón y el Proyecto de Apoyo al desarrollo de cadenas de valores en el Sector de la Pesca y la Acuicultura (PASPA) a nivel Nacional.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

No important difficulties were encountered in 2019.

## **GABON**

L'administration des pêches est confrontée à des difficultés d'ordre administratif, technique et financier depuis 2015. Par conséquent, les actions visant la mise en œuvre et le respect des mesures de conservation de l'ICCAT sont limitées. Les contraintes financières ont entraîné une diminution du nombre d'enquêteurs sur les sites de débarquement de la pêche artisanale.

## **GHANA**

### 5.1 Tropical

The Ghanaian processing software for her catch data is still not available to streamline Task 2 after a decade of revisions. Within the complexities of our fishery, we do hope that that the new software will be finalized by ICCAT/IRD which will yield fruitful results. Ghana has stated her willingness to co-operate in all spheres for a suitable programme which would stand the test of time. In the interim all raw data from all our individual vessels have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat and impartially incorporated into the ICCAT database since 2006.

It is very difficult to collate weekly data on Big Eye tuna T and other important species as vessels after months of leaving port and more so have no real-time electronic monitoring systems to disseminate the information such as electronic logbook.

In integrating data collected in the field especially FAD deployed among others, over a set by set basis for monthly analysis for all segments of surface fishing fleets has become cumbersome and a unified system and software is envisaged.

## 5.2 Sharks & By-Catch Issues

There is the need for more training in this field as the fishery is becoming more important especially in areas of endangered species becoming extinct. Manuals are few and general and presently we are able to work closely on a few sharks grouping such as silky and blue sharks as we encounter them a lot. The others are termed others or as “shark NEI”. We do not have the expertise in the field of shark taxonomy hence we often don’t fill out the forms to the best of ICCAT’s requirements; this has been a concern to us.

### **GUATEMALA**

Guatemala ha realizado diferentes mejoras para fortalecer el cumplimiento de las medidas aplicables en el marco del Convenio o aquellas que puedan contribuir a ésta.

Sobre el tema de los DCP, buques de apoyo y cuadernos de pesca, la flota atunera nacional es parte de un programa de observadores independiente que cumple con los estándares internacionales en cuanto a registro y seguimiento de las actividades pesqueras. Este proveedor de servicio comunica con regularidad informes y datos a la Comisión.

Con relación a los tiburones y otras especies de captura fortuita, existen una serie de instrumentos nacionales e internacionales adoptados para el ordenamiento, regulación y manejo de estas especies, como: Protocolo de liberación y tiburones y rayas, el reglamento regional OSP-05-11 para desalentar el aleteo del tiburón (a pesar que en Guatemala no se realiza dicha práctica), entre otros. Por lo cual, nuestros armadores atuneros que operan en la zona del Convenio conscientes de la importancia de estos recursos y en cumplimiento diferentes regulaciones o iniciativas se esfuerzan en implementar las acciones posibles para liberar los organismos vivos al mar.

Sobre los informes trimestrales de patudo, ha sido complicado el lograr separar entre trimestres las capturas, debido a que la duración de los viajes de pesca y también al momento de completar lo requerido posiblemente ya esté fuera de plazo de comunicación. Sin embargo, entendemos lo importante de la información oportuna y precisa. Por lo cual, nos esforzaremos en mejorar el cumplimiento y así atender responsablemente nuestra parte.

### **GUYANA**

N/A

### **ICELAND**

Due to a discard ban onboard Icelandic fishing vessels, ICCAT CMM provision that ban retention or landing of certain commercial fish species cannot be implemented as such. In yearly BFT regulations for directed fishing provisions are made that require such species (mostly shark species not present in Icelandic waters) to be released alive if possible. If dead the catch shall be landed, registered and submitted to the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute for scientific purposes only.

### **JAPON**

N/A

## **KOREA**

None

## **LIBERIA**

Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures is a priority to the fisheries management of Liberia; as such Liberia is making every effort to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures. In 2019, there were 48 licensed tuna fishing vessels through Access Agreement to fish in the EEZ of Liberia. Liberia in an effort to ensure that it tracks the implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, has staff delegated with specific responsibilities to the execution of adopted recommendations of ICCAT.

## **MAURITANIE**

A partir de 2015, la Mauritanie a élaboré et mis en œuvre une nouvelle réforme de son secteur des pêches ; introduisant ainsi le paradigme du système de gestion par quota. Ce système repose sur les connaissances scientifiques les plus récentes et fiables disponibles, permettant de définir un TAC global, puis par groupes d'espèces ou espèces qui sont ensuite répartis par opérateur.

D'ores et déjà, au niveau de la pêcherie des thons un gap d'information existe quant au suivi du niveau de l'exploitation des différents groupes de la pêcherie thonière aussi bien en termes d'espèces capturées accessoirement par les opérateurs non moins de concession sur le thon (licence thon) qu'en termes de quantité (données agrégées au niveau du journal de pêche et autre déclarations de débarquement).

Cette situation constatée et signalée par nos services de gestion chargés du suivi régulier de l'exploitation des concessions de droit d'usage allouées dans le cadre de la nouvelle réforme du système de gestion, constitue une insuffisance qui pourrait impacter la durabilité de la pêcherie des thon (Tableau 4).

## **MEXICO**

No aplica.

## **MAROC**

Le Maroc n'a pas de remarques ou commentaires à soulever concernant les difficultés rencontrées dans la mise en œuvre des mesures de conservation et de gestion de l'ICCAT.

## **NAMIBIA**

All Namibian licensed Large Pelagic vessels ensure that all products of tuna and tuna-like species, when entering or leaving the country, are accompanied by necessary documents. For vessels operating under a charter arrangement, Namibia validates the documents for those on the ICCAT record. Re-export certificates for foreign catches landed in Namibian ports are also issued.

Management measures in force in the large pelagic fishery are: the ICCAT Catch Documentation Scheme, TACs for Albacore and Swordfish, catch limit on big eye tuna as by-catch in the Albacore fishery and a sharing arrangement quota on Albacore and gear restrictions for long-line & bait boat vessels only. In addition, value-added processing as a license condition for bait boat vessels and limited entry (number of licences) for the long-line fishery are the other management measures in place.

## **NICARAGUA**

Ausencia de dificultades sustantivas para la implementación y cumplimiento

Nicaragua no ha tenido dificultades para la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación del ICCAT, haremos todos los esfuerzos para evitar incumplimientos en las medidas establecidas por la Comisión.

## **NORWAY**

Not applicable. Norway has not encountered any difficulties in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

## **RUSSIA**

In 2019 Russia did not carry out the specialized fishery for tunas in the Atlantic Ocean. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). In 2019 the catch of tunas was 1500 tons.

Difficulties are encountered in collecting of scientific materials by observers on board fishing trawlers.

1. With periodic by-catch of tunas and in small quantities (sometimes singly) difficulties are encountered in collecting materials on fish length and their biological parameters. At certain periods, it is not possible to provide monthly data for some tuna species.
2. In the case of the low by-catch of tunas, difficulties are encountered in assessing the proportion of by-catch in the total catch by trawl. Observers who periodically carry out work in the vessel's hold on a conveyor feeding the catch for processing, cannot make an accurate assessment on the by-catch per day.

In order to more fully collect by-catch materials, two observers per vessel are sent to Russian fishing vessels. The work schedule of observers at sea is optimized for a more complete and efficient use of working time.

## **SAO TOME & PRINCIPE**

N/A

## **SENEGAL**

Des difficultés d'ordre administratif, de gestion et techniques peuvent être évoquées pour une bonne observation des règles de gestion de l'ICCAT. Il s'agit de:

- La transposition de l'ensemble des recommandations pertinentes dans le cadre juridique de la pêche du Sénégal qui est en cours ;
- L'implication de plusieurs services administratifs nécessite une synergie et une coordination qui se mettent en place progressivement ;
- Les bases de données disponibles qui n'offrent pas un traitement optimal des informations ;

- Le vieillissement et le nombre réduit des observateurs font qu'il est difficile de mettre en œuvre le programme national d'observateurs scientifiques. A cet effet, il y a un besoin de formation et de renforcement des capacités en matière de collecte des données, d'identification des espèces, d'échantillonnage biologiques, de mise à niveau pour pouvoir accomplir les tâches scientifiques à bord.

## **SIERRA LEONE**

N/A

## **ST VINCENT & GRENADINE**

As an island state, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes the contributions which the fisheries sector makes to the economy and the food and nutritional security of developing states. With an increased demand for fish and the increased efforts from fishers to meet this demand, globally fishing pressure on the marine capture fisheries has led to the degradation of some fish stocks. The key constraint faced in the implementation of conservation and management measures is a lack of capital to finance relevant initiatives, however St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to implement activities towards the improvement of legislation, policies and procedures involving the marine space.

Due to unforeseen late scheduling in the national observer deployment programme and unanticipated delays, it was not possible to deploy an observer in 2019. St. Vincent and the Grenadines deeply regrets this unexpected turn of events.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is drafting by-catch mitigation measures as well as safe handling procedures for sea turtles. Notwithstanding, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has placed a total ban on the harvesting of sea turtles as of 2017. With regards to seabird interactions, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is drafting a NPOA for seabirds.

## **SURINAME**

Because of several factors such as, limited financial and human capacity, an outdated fisheries legislation we are not in a position to ensure full compliance with all the conservation and management measures adopted by the ICCAT Commission.

Suriname acts as a port state and, in addition to its normal reporting obligations, we must also comply with port state obligations. Under these port state obligations, Suriname is obliged to inspect 5% of the total number of landings of foreign fishing vessels offloading their catch in Suriname. However, it has been found that Surinamese inspectors are currently not well trained to inspect foreign tuna vessels. Therefore, in 2012 Suriname asked ICCAT to assist Suriname in training these inspectors in order to comply with the obligations towards ICCAT (Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)).

A thorough control of the landings of internationally operating vessels in Suriname is important to ensure that no Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fish are being landed in Suriname. In this context, Suriname is in favor of joining the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) in the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, but must first make all preparations necessary to comply with the conditions set out in the agreement. Therefore, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been requested to provide support. This should result in the establishment of a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Suriname.

## **SYRIA**

General Commission for Fisheries Resources as fish authority in Syria doing all available means to improve fisheries management and statistical data collection under the difficult conditions in Syria, it encourage fishermen to develop their fishing gear and extend fishing activities to EEZ to meet the high demand for marine products due to overexploitation of coastal fisheries resources, but because of circumstances in Syria and illegal sanctions since 2011 there is less interest of investing in fishing activities, in addition to the fact that many fishermen moved for another alternative works. We hope that with the end of the crisis in Syria, more new vessels will be operated and conduct to fishing activities. Another difficulty raised in 2020 as result of compulsory quarantine and suspension of all administration services activities for long time in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in Syria, we are sorry for any default of fulfilling of ICCAT obligations in 2020.

General Commission for Fisheries Resources request for technical support and training programs regarding resource management to insure more cooperation and best implementation of ICCAT recommendations in future to come.

## **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

Trinidad and Tobago's outdated fisheries legislation continues to be addressed to facilitate full compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Draft Fisheries Management Bill (DFMB) was laid in Parliament in August 2020 and is currently being reviewed by a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee. Regulations to facilitate implementation of the registration and licensing system, and monitoring, control and surveillance are also being developed.

There has been advancement in the addressing of the lack of MCS and enforcement capacity targeted at fisheries management in Trinidad and Tobago. The Memorandum of Understanding among the agencies with responsibilities linked to regulating fishing, fishing related activities and relevant trade came into effect in August 2019. The agencies include: the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (Fisheries Division), the Ministry of National Security (Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard), the Ministry of Finance (Customs and Excise Division), the Ministry of Works and Transport (Maritime Services Division), the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Tobago House of Assembly (Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries). Further an Oversight Committee was approved by Cabinet to oversee, monitor and report on implementation of the MOU. The members of Committee are currently being finalised.

In preparation for implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, Trinidad and Tobago is participating in the 3-year Port State Measures Support Project, GCP/RLA/222/USA, which is funded by the United States and implemented by the FAO and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA. Thus far, a draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the PSMA was developed and assessments of the MCS capacity and capabilities of national agencies and ports has been completed. Enactment of the Draft Fisheries Management Bill and re-establishment of the fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement capability within the Fisheries Division were determined to be the most significant interventions required for Trinidad and Tobago's advancement with respect to compliance with its international obligations. In this regard an action plan to address the deficiencies in Trinidad and Tobago's legal, administrative and MCS frameworks has been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries is continuing its efforts to finalise a National Plan of Action for sharks. The draft NPOA is to be submitted by the Fisheries Division for Ministerial approval followed by Cabinet approval. In addition, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission endorsed a Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing which will be used as a guide for developing National Plans of Action IUU Fishing, including that of Trinidad and Tobago. Further, Trinidad and Tobago participated in a WECAFC Survey on the state of readiness to implement the RPO-IUU Fishing in-country to help guide the regional approach towards strengthening: (a) national capacity to develop and implement NPOA-IUU Fishing; (b) regional coordination in fisheries enforcement; (c) data collection on IUU fishing incidences; and (d) national capacity to implement the RPOA-IUU Fishing – among other things. Trinidad and Tobago also participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on IUU Fishing (8 to 9 September 2020) which among other things updated on developments at the global level, of the implementation of the PSMA and complementing instruments in the WECAFC region and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and developed an updated work plan of the RWG-IUU Fishing and recommendations to be considered by the 18th Session of the WECAFC.

Finally, it must be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had the effect of inhibiting the pace of delivery of output of the Fisheries Division and the submission of data and information by industry operators, as a result of the national level restrictions placed on both the Public Service and the public in general beginning March 2020. These restrictions have at times included the shutdown of all operations save and except essential Public Service operations, and since March 2020 the closure of all of Trinidad and Tobago's borders including its maritime borders. As a result of the closure of the maritime borders, all Trinidad and Tobago-flagged fishing vessels have been restricted to fishing within the country's EEZ.

## TUNISIA

L'année 2020 est marquée par l'apparition et l'expansion de la pandémie COVID-19 qui ne cessait de faire des dégâts aussi bien humains qu'économiques. Pour en faire face, la Tunisie a entrepris depuis le 16 mars 2020 des mesures préventives en vue de contenir cette pathologie.

Ces mesures, sans précédents, sont résumées ainsi :

- La fermeture des frontières terrestres, aériennes et maritimes du pays, excepté le trafic commercial et certains vols de rapatriement, à partir du 16 mars 2020.
- L'établissement du couvre-feu de 18h à 6h, à compter du 18 mars 2020.
- La limitation de la circulation des personnes et des rassemblements hors horaire du couvre-feu, à partir du 22 mars 2020.
- La suspension de toutes les activités des services administratifs non essentiels, y compris les réunions et les formations présentielle, à compter du 16 mars 2020.

Le secteur de la pêche en Tunisie comme partout dans le monde a été affectée par les mesures susmentionnées notamment au niveau de la mise en œuvre des dispositions internationales et nationales de conservation et de gestion des pêches.

En effet, ces mesures d'urgence qui sont maintenues aussi pendant toute la saison de pêche du thon rouge ont engendré des difficultés de mise en œuvre du programme des observateurs régionaux (ROP) et du schéma d'inspection internationale (JIS) qui ont été affectés par les restrictions sur les personnes et les navires de nationalités étrangères.

Du retard plus ou moins considérable a été également enregistré au niveau du travail administratif à cause du confinement général établis en Tunisie pendant les mois d'avril et mai 2020.

## **TURKEY**

Turkey did not encounter any difficulties in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

## **UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEA TERRITORIES**

The Overseas Territories are small islands at various stages of development with limited human and financial resources available. Capacity and capital restrictions are therefore an issue in all attempts to comply with ICCAT measures in all the territories. However, all the territories take their ICCAT responsibilities seriously and are endeavouring to improve fisheries management where resources allow this, with the support of the UK Government.

Structured development of sustainable fisheries is a core component of the UK Government's environmental strategies for its Overseas Territories. The UK is working closely with territories to achieve these objectives, focusing on a range of areas. In 2016 the UK Government announced its 'Blue Belt' initiative which will continue through to 2021, providing technical advice to support improvements in institutional arrangements in the UKOTs and effective ecosystem-based management of marine resources. Whilst legislative changes are being considered in many of the territories, implementation can take time and is impacted by the amount of outstanding legislation in other areas.

### **5.1 Bermuda**

As a result of upgrades to the Bermuda Customs Department's system a few years ago, there is better itemisation of imported tuna and tuna-like species. However, a fair amount of tuna is still being characterised as 'other tunas'. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will work with the Customs Department to continue to improve reporting in this area. In addition, work still needs to be done to ensure that checks on the documentation of consignments of bigeye tuna and swordfish imported into Bermuda are implemented in line with all import requirements (GEN 0026; TRO 2006; SWO 3001).

### **5.2 St Helena**

For St Helena, capacity and capital restrictions are still an issue in complying with ICCAT measures. However, St Helena is committed in its endeavour to improve fisheries management and established a fisheries science programme, including a tuna tagging programme. This programme has facilitated better data collection and submission of relevant information to ICCAT. The Fisheries Section of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division is still in the final stages of reviewing the licensing system for commercial, recreational and sports fishing activities within St Helena waters. Relevant ICCAT recommendations are being fully considered within this process and provisions to meet them will be incorporated.

### 5.3 Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

The Turks and Caicos Islands, as mentioned in previous sections, is not presently targeting ICCAT species commercially, although the interest to pursue same has risen over recent months. The TCI is also in the process of amending regulations, to enhance the protection of sharks and other elasmobranchs in over 70% of the fishery limits. Hence from a conservation standpoint, the TCI is proactively making strides to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures, which would help if and when species begin to be targeted commercially.

### 5.4 British Virgin Islands (BVI)

The British Virgin Islands, experienced two major (Category 5) hurricanes during September 2017, which devastated the island's infrastructure, had a major effect on fishing activity and fisheries data collection and the territories ability to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures.

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Due to complications associated with the pandemic, fourth quarter catch data for bigeye tuna could not be reported by the deadline. This bigeye tuna data (together with data for the other tropical tuna species) however, was included with updated estimates for quarters 1, 2 and 3 in the U.S. Task 1 data submitted to ICCAT on 27 July 2020.

Based on the best available landing information, NOAA Fisheries has determined that the Atlantic blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish 250-landings limit has been met and exceeded for 2020. From September 30, 2020, through December 31, 2020, NOAA Fisheries is requiring catch- and-release fishing only for Atlantic blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish in all areas of the Atlantic Ocean. The final amount of 2020 overharvest will be deducted from the U.S. landings limit during or before the 2022 adjustment year, consistent with the provisions of Rec. 19-05.

## **URUGUAY**

No se encontraron dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT.

Todas las Recomendaciones de ICCAT aprobadas durante la Reunión de la Comisión en el año 2019 han sido internalizadas en Uruguay.