

Original: English/French

**SECRETARIAT'S REPORT TO THE
ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

NOTE: This report is based on information received by the Secretariat by **2 October 2020**. Any information received after that date will be brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair. Such additional information will not be translated.

This report contains only those measures for which review by the Compliance Committee is warranted. In some cases, measures may have expired, but were in force for the review period under consideration (2019).

TRO – TROPICAL - BET - BIGEYE TUNA (*Thunnus obesus*); YFT – YELLOWFIN (*Thunnus albacares*); SKJ – SKIPJACK (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

[19-02] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas

Tropical Tuna Fishing Management Plans; FAD Management Plans and Statements of Intent:

Please see document **PA1-501** for details of the plans sent. The plans from Canada, El Salvador and Russia were received after the deadline. No plan has been received from Trinidad & Tobago, but quarterly reports are being made.

Quarterly catches of bigeye tuna: Table 1 shows the catches of bigeye tuna in 2019 reported quarterly. Many CPCs report by “fishing year”, a concept which may vary from one CPC to another. The question of definition of “quarter” was raised at the intersessional meeting of Panel 1, and at that time there was general agreement that the dates on which quarterly reporting is provided may be determined based on each CPC’s fishing year. It is therefore not possible to determine total annual catches on the basis of such reports, or to make any meaningful comparison with Task I or compliance table data.

Task I data for 2019 indicates that the following CPCs fished for bigeye tuna, but no quarterly catch reports were received from these for 2019; Angola, Guinea Republic; Liberia and Namibia.

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex (document **COC-304/20**).

List of authorised Tropical vessels: Please see www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp. Annex 5 contains the list of vessels having fished the previous year.

At the time of writing, 29 CPCs had vessels on the authorised Tropical Tuna Vessel list. In 2020, the ICCAT Record of Vessels contains 1126 vessels in its Tropical Vessel Registry List. All these vessels are of length of 20 meters or greater, duly registered in accordance with Rec. 13-13/14-10 and Rec. 19-02.

Status	Flag Name	2020 Trop List
CP	Belize	19
CP	Brazil	38
CP	Canada	3
CP	Cape Verde	1
CP	China PR	41
CP	Côte d'Ivoire	27
CP	Curaçao	7
CP	El Salvador	4
CP	EU.España	316

CP	EU.France	36
CP	EU.Portugal	74
CP	FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	1
CP	Ghana	35
CP	Guatemala	2
CP	Japan	183
CP	Korea Rep.	12
CP	Liberia	2
CP	Maroc	24
CP	Mexico	8
CP	Namibia	10
CP	Panama	31
CP	Senegal	21
CP	South Africa	45
CP	St. Vincent and Grenadines	4
CP	Trinidad and Tobago	7
CP	U.S.A.	112
CP	UK.Sta Helena	1
CP	Vanuatu	6
NCC	Chinese Taipei	56
	Total	1126

Capacity management

Capacity management plans and declarations on expansion of capacity are included in document **PA1-501/20**.

FAD management plans and steps undertaken to use non-entangling FAD

FAD management plans were received in 2020 and are included in **PA1-501**.

	FAD management plan (2020) sent	ST-08 - FAD data (2019) sent
Belize	✓	✓
Curacao	✓	✓
EU	✓	✓
El Salvador	✓	✓
Ghana	✓	✓
Guatemala	✓	✓
Senegal	✓	no, but may be n/a
SVG	✓	no, but may be n/a
UKOT	✓	✓

Data and information collected from sampling programme:

Information from Port sampling as required by paragraph 43 of Rec. 16-01 has been submitted by Canada, Curacao, European Union, and Mexico.

Observer Programme

The EU informed the Secretariat of some difficulties in embarking observers on several EU vessels due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their report on this is attached as **Annex 10**.

SWO - SWORDFISH (*Xiphias gladius*)

[03-04] Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports. The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document **COC-304/20**.

ICCAT Record of Mediterranean Swordfish vessels: Authorised lists, received from five CPCs, have been published on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>. The list of vessels fishing in 2019 is contained in **Annex 5**.

ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports: A total of 750 ports, from a total of six CPCs are published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>.

Inspection agencies, inspectors and ships: Information has been received from EU, Tunisia (partial) and Turkey. Lists of agencies and inspectors as reported in **Annex 4**. A list of inspection vessels has been published on the ICCAT website. A summary of the inspection reports received has been included in **Table 2**, and any with infractions included in **Annex 3**.

SWO-MED fishing plans: Plans were received in 2020 from the following CPCs: Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. These plans were circulated intersessionally through ICCAT Circular 1829/20 to CPCs and have been made available as **PA4-802/20**.

Closures: Reports on the implementation of closure periods have been received from Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey and are contained in **Appendix 1** of this report.

Quarterly reports: The quarterly reports received from CPCs for 2019 are shown below, together with the totals from Task 1 and Compliance Tables. In most cases, totals are the same or differences are very minor, except in the case of the European Union, where totals differ more substantially.

CPC	2019 quota (t)	Catches in 1st quarter	Catches in 2nd quarter	Catches in 3rd quarter	Catches in 4th quarter	TOTAL 2019	Task 1 2019	Compliance Tables
Algérie	517,49	1,2	217,6	195,2	100,79	514,79	517,49	514,79
European Union	6965,85	0	1023,503	2903,563	935,204	4862,27	5301,84	5197,8
Maroc	982,26	0	824,2	25,8	132	982	982,26	982,26
Tunisie	948,14	0	303	578	53	934	934	934
Turkey	414,94	23,62	186,72	175,13	28,53	414	414	414
Other CPCs								
Total	9828,68	24,82	2555,02	3877,69	1249,52	7707,06	8149,59	8042,85

[17-02] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/20.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of Rec. 17-02, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of N-SWO:

Belize	<i>Belize has established a general onboard bycatch limit for all species inclusive of Northern Swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any N. Swordfish taken as bycatch.</i>
China	The catch of swordfish in 2019 was 302.5 t, 138.8 t lower than that in 2018 (441.3 t). Of the total, 175.2 t were caught in the North Atlantic Ocean and 223.8 t were caught in the South Atlantic Ocean.
Curacao	Curacao does not have Authorization vessels fishing swordfish. But Curacao has a limit for by catch on swordfish. Complied with Rec 16-04 .
EU	In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-03, EU-Member States have adopted different by-catch limits of N-SWO. For more details on individual Member States, see Annex II of EU Annual report.
Senegal	5% established by decree.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for N. SWO by Trinidad and Tobago.

N-SWO fishery management/development plans: Updated versions received are contained in PA4-801/20. Re-submission is no longer required if there have been no changes to previous plans.

Specific authorisation for N. SWO vessels: Fourteen CPCs have authorised vessels of 20m or greater with specific authorisations for N. SWO.

Four CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch N. SWO: Barbados, Mexico, UK (OT), Vanuatu.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/2020.

[17-03] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-04

Specific authorisation for S. SWO vessels: Thirteen CPCs have authorised vessels of 20m or greater with specific authorisations for S. SWO.

Six CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch S. SWO: Angola, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, UK (OT), Uruguay and USA.

In accordance with Rec. 17-03, paragraph 9, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports as follows:

Belize	<i>Belize has established a general bycatch limit for all species inclusive of Northern Swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any S. Swordfish taken as bycatch.</i>
China	The catch of swordfish in 2019 was 302.5 t, 138.8 t lower than that in 2018 (441.3 t). Of the total, 175.2 t were caught in the North Atlantic Ocean and 223.8 t were caught in the South Atlantic Ocean.
Curacao	Curacao came to an agreement with the vessels on 10 tons maximum bycatch.
El Salvador	According to records in the data developed by observers, only 3 swordfish were caught in 2018. This information can be verified in the form.
EU	In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-03, EU-Member States have adopted different by-catch limits of S-SWO. For more details on individual Member States, see Annex II of EU Annual report.
Senegal	5% established by decree.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for S. SWO by Trinidad and Tobago.
UK-OT	Any SWO caught in pole & line fishery are released alive.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/20.

ALB - ALBACORE (*Thunnus alalunga*)

[16-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore

List of authorised vessels: At the time of writing, thirteen CPCs had vessels authorised to fish for northern albacore. The list is included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at:

<https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>

In accordance with Rec. 16-06, paragraph 11, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of N-ALB:

Belize	<i>Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of Northern Swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any N. Albacore taken as bycatch.</i>
Canada	No limit since landings well below 200 t.
Curacao	We agree with the vessels on 50 ton
China	Albacore tuna was caught as bycatch by the Chinese fleet in the Atlantic Ocean. The total albacore tuna catch in 2019 was estimated to be about 261.2 t, 21 t higher than the catch in 2018 (240.2 t). The catch of North Atlantic albacore and South Atlantic albacore was 129.16 t and 132.07 t in 2019, respectively.
EU	EU-Member States have adopted different by-catch limits of N-ALB. For more details on individual Member States see annex II of EU Annual Report
EU-France	By-catches of bigeye tuna are allowed within the limit of 3 t per vessel and trip, only for vessels holding the northern albacore tuna RFMOs fishing license in the ICCAT area with pelagic trawl gear in the Atlantic Ocean, North of 5 ° N.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for N. ALB by Trinidad and Tobago.

UKOT	The bycatch limit for N. ALB in Bermuda is 71.6 t. The total N. ALB caught in 2019 was within the 215 t quota for UKOTs.
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[16-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020

List of authorised vessels: At the time of writing, twelve CPCs had vessels authorised to fish for southern albacore. The list is included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at: <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>

In accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 16-07, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on maximum on board by-catch limit of S-ALB:

Belize	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of Northern Swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any S. Albacore taken as bycatch
China	Albacore tuna was caught as bycatch by the Chinese fleet in the Atlantic Ocean. The total albacore tuna catch in 2019 was estimated to be about 261.2 t, 21 t higher than the catch in 2018 (240.2 t). The catch of North Atlantic albacore and South Atlantic albacore was 129.16 t and 132.07 t in 2019, respectively.
Curacao	We agree with the vessels on 50 ton
EU	EU-Member States have adopted different by-catch limits of S-ALB. For more details on individual Member States see annex II of EU Annual Report
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for S. ALB by Trinidad and Tobago.

[17-05] Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing Management Measures for the Stock of Mediterranean Albacore

List of authorised vessels: Two CPCs (European Union and Turkey) have submitted lists of authorised vessels in accordance with this Recommendation.

BFT - BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)

[06-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming

ICCAT Record of FFBS: The ICCAT Record of farms, currently containing 61 farms, is published on the ICCAT website: <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ffb.asp> Annual lists/authorisations are not required. Many of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT website do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT).

[16-24] Guidelines for preparing the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans

Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans were received within the deadline and following the adopted Guidelines, from all CPCs with a quota for E-BFT. All plans were endorsed and can be found attached to the Report of the intersessional meeting of Panel 2, except that of Syria which was endorsed later by correspondence [PA2-602/20].

[17-06] Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

Monthly catch reports: Please see **Table 7** for a summary of reports received during the year. The reported amounts continue to be published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/20.

[18-02] Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea and

[19-04] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/2020.

Fishing Plans: Plans were received within the deadline and, following requests for clarification, were all endorsed by Panel 2 (see Ref. 16-24 above).

Joint fishing operations: 24 joint fishing operations (JFO) were reported for 2020. The Secretariat received the necessary information five days before the JFOs. The information has been posted on the ICCAT webpage: <https://www.iccat.int/en/JFO.asp> and the same information has been registered in the eBCD system. The shortened deadline makes it difficult to get full information to the ROP observers in time for their embarkation.

VMS

This year, up to 2 October 2020, a total of 2,183,487 VMS messages have been received (in calculating this total, the messages that the systems identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). In comparison with the same period last year, 257,241 more messages have been received or approximately an increase of 13.35%. Over the same period this year, 959 vessels have been active (as in the criterion for messages, active vessels are considered to be those that have transmitted at least one message with an out of port position), which is 27 vessels more than last year, i.e. an increase of approximately 2.9%.

Messages have been received from unknown vessels (18), i.e. not registered on the ICCAT List of Vessels.

For another year, EU-Greece has not transmitted VMS messages in 2020.

For more details regarding VMS messages transmitted, please see **Tables 4, 5 and 6**.

Weekly catch reports: Please see **Table 8**.

Farming reports/caging declarations/carry over of caged fish:

According to the declarations received at the Secretariat, no caging took place after 22 August 2020. Carry-over of caged fish was reported by EU, Tunisia and Turkey, as shown in **Table 9**.

ICCAT Record of BFT Catching / BFT Other vessels: Authorised lists were published on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>. Some compliance issues have been detected: Rec. 19-04 (Paras 50 ii for 49b): retroactive registry (Tunisia: 24 vessels) ; Rec. 19-04 (Paras 50 ii and 51): retroactive registry and "Force majeure"-weather conditions), and Rec. 19-04 (Paras 46 & 47): "n/a and Not Named"-vessels (EU-Spain: 7 vessels). The list of vessels fishing in 2019 information is contained in **Annex 5**.

Authorised Port lists: There are currently 635 ports on the ICCAT Record authorised for landing and/or transshipment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>

Trap lists: There are currently 32 traps on the ICCAT Record authorised to catch eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: <https://www.iccat.int/en/Traps.asp>. No compliance issues have been detected with the list *per se*. Potential non-compliance issues raised by ICCAT observers during deployment on traps are contained in **COC-305/20**.

Fishery closure: in accordance with paragraph 75, CPCs have informed of their date of quota utilisation as follows:

CPC	DATE ON WHICH ENTIRE QUOTA OF EBFT HAS BEEN UTILIZED
Albania	02/06/2020
Algeria	03/07/2020
China	20/11/2019
Egypt	18/06/2020
European Union	Quota not fully utilised at time of reporting- PS closures reported as follows:
EU-Croatia	13/07/2020
EU-Cyprus	19/06/2020
EU-France	19/06/2020
EU-Italy	30/06/2020
EU-Malta	19/06/2020
EU-Spain	03/06/2020
Iceland	Total quota not fully utilised at time of reporting
Japan	10/12/2019
Korea	Not applicable because Korea did not utilize its quota of bluefin tuna entirely.
Libya	11/07/2020
Morocco	Total quota not fully utilised at time of reporting
Norway	Not applicable, quota not fully utilised at time of reporting
Syria	25/06/2020
Tunisia	10/07/2020
Turkey	29/06/2020
Chinese Taipei	not applicable, no BFT fishery

Inspection reports under Joint Inspection Scheme and list of agencies and inspectors' names: Please refer to **Table 3** for the list of BFT inspection reports submitted by EU, Tunisia and Turkey. Copies of reports submitted are available as **Annex 3**. **Annex 4** contains the list of agencies and the inspectors' names received from EU, Tunisia and Turkey.

Implementation Reports: through Circular number 5548/20, the Secretariat requested information to draft a biennial report to the Commission. This report is published as **COC-302/2020**. Information was received from all CPCs with quota except China and Libya.

Observer Programmes: As the requirements and procedures for the submission of information was not developed by the Commission by 2009, as required by Recommendations, information from national observer programmes is included in regular scientific submissions. Some CPCs also submit national observer reports, but these may contain confidential information and are not distributed. For information on the Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, please see documents **PA2-601/20** (ROP implementation), **COC-305/20** (PNCs) and **COC-307/20** (Alternative measures).

BIL - BILLFISHES: Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*), Spearfish (*Tetrapturus pfluegeri* and *T. belone*)

[15-05] Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks [18-04]) to be Replaced by: Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish [19-05]

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document **COC_304/20**. For other information, please refer to Rec. 18-05 below.

[16-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish

If the total catch of either stock of Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the level corresponding to 67% of the average estimate of their Maximum Sustainable Yield (i.e. 1,271 t for the eastern stock and 1,030 t for the western stock), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this recommendation. The total catches, are shown below:

Task I data:

<i>Sailfish</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
ATE	1,650	1,183	2008
ATW	1,080	1,250	1258

Task I reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2017, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. These reports are included in the Billfish Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-05 below).

[18-05] Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Billfish Caught in the ICCAT Convention Area

Updated or new Billfish Check Sheets were received this year from 24 CPCs: Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Mexico, Norway, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, UK-Other Territories, United States, Uruguay, Chinese Taipei, Colombia and Suriname.

Despite this requirement being obligatory for all CPCs, no billfish check sheets have been received (either in 2019 or 2020) from the following CPCs: Angola, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Honduras, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe, Syria, Vanuatu, and, Venezuela.

Algeria, Norway and Turkey had previously requested exemption from this requirement in accordance with the procedures established, but the SCRS considered that the guidelines for granting exemptions should be further developed and reviewed. The reporting requirement therefore will remain in force for all CPCs until further review.

BYC - BY-CATCH SPECIES

[04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

Please see Rec. 11-09 below. The Secretariat reiterates its suggestion that these two Recommendations be combined.

[09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks caught in Association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 / 18-06 below.

[10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 / 18-06 below.

[10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries

Various collaborative efforts to assemble and analyse observer shark, seabird and sea turtle by-catch data are active within the SCRS (see **PLE-105/20**). It should be noted that the applicability of the requirements relating to the maximisation of survival of sea-turtles is not dependent on the extent of interactions; i.e. this should be implemented by all those with purse seine and/or longline fishery. In many cases, it is unclear from reporting whether the measures have been implemented in a legally binding way. It is recommended that CPCs cite the relevant domestic legislation in their Annual Reports to avoid such uncertainty.

[11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[11-09] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries

Seabird incidental by-catch is included in **PLE-105/2020**. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs in **2020** are shown below:

CP44 forms in **2020** are shown below:

CPC	Night setting with minimum deck lighting	Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)	Line weighting	Status of NPOA on seabirds	Comments
EU-Malta	Night setting is generally not applied for most surface longline and bottom longline operations	Not applied	Line weighting utilised in bottom longlines but generally not in surface longlining	No national plan of action is currently into place	
EU-Spain	Yes	Yes			
Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	In place	
Korea	No	Yes	Yes	In place	
Sierra Leone	Not yet implemented	Not yet implemented	Not yet implemented	None	
Turkey	Partly implemented	No legal obligation exists, implemented on a voluntary basis			

In 2019, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of Panel 4, proposed a measure combining Rec. 11-09 and Rec. 07-07 in order to streamline compendium and facilitate compliance. This draft may be further discussed in 2021.

[11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries.

Please see Rec. 16-14 and PLE-105/20 for information relating to this Recommendation.

[13-11] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries

See Rec. 10-09 above. To avoid possible redundancies, the Secretariat suggest the Commission considering combining these two measures into one.

[14-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

[15-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below. Catches have not exceeded 2004 levels in any year.

[16-12] Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

(to be replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries [19-07] and Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries a[19-08])

If the average total catch of the North Atlantic blue shark in any consecutive two years from 2017 onward exceeds the average level observed during the period 2011-2015 (i.e. 39,102 t), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of these measures. The reference level was exceeded in 2017, but not in 2018 or 2019. In 2019, the Commission took additional measures on blue shark; compliance with these will be reviewed in 2021.

Blue Shark	2017	2018	2019
North Atlantic	39,664	33,853	27,279

[17-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries and Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries [19-06]

Please see Shark Check Sheets (**COC-314/20**) for implementation of this measure.

[16-13] Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-13 on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [18-06])

Twenty-four CPCs submitted new or updates to the Shark Check Sheets in 2020 to include the implementation of new measures Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Equatorial, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Maroc, Mexico, Norway, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Chinese Taipei, and Suriname

No shark check sheets have yet been received in any year from: Angola, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea or the Philippines.

Algeria, Norway and Uruguay had requested exemption from this requirement in accordance with the procedures established, but the SCRS considered that the guidelines for granting exemptions should be further developed. The reporting requirement therefore will remain in force for all CPCs until further review.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE:

GEN - GENERAL ISSUES

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[96-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through **COC-304/20**.

[96-15] Resolution by ICCAT on large-scale pelagic driftnets

Please see Rec. 08-09 for more information.

[97-01] Recommendation by ICCAT to improve compliance with minimum size regulations

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through **COC-304/20**.

[97-08] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[97-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipments and vessel sightings; replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel sightings [19-09]

Please see information contained in **COC-312/2020** and **PWG-405/2020** (Draft IUU list).

[98-11] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ban on landings and transshipments of vessels from non-Contracting Parties identified as having committed a serious infringement

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[00-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits

CPCs have implemented Rec. 00-14, and through the form CP13 have reported their underages/overages for the species under quota/catch limit management. These are presented in document **COC-304/20**.

[01-12] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas

Authorised adjustments are contained in various Recommendations and reflected in document **COC-304/20**.

[01-18] Resolution by ICCAT further defining the scope of IUU fishing

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-12] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in relation to their vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-16] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt additional measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

Completed forms containing information on imports and landings were submitted in accordance with this measure within the deadline by China, European Union (Malta), Egypt, Japan, Korea, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey and Chinese Taipei. The information submitted by CPCs is contained in **Annex 1**.

[06-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to Promote Compliance by Nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[07-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[08-09] Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Process for the Review and reporting of Compliance Information

The information submitted by NGOs, together with one response to date, is available in **COC-312/20**.

[11-11] Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex

Compliance Tables are contained in **COC-304/2020**.

[11-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations

Following the 2019 Commission meeting, prohibition was imposed on Egypt, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Republic, the Philippines and Venezuela. The Secretariat is pleased to report that the prohibition has since been lifted from Egypt and Venezuela.

No Task I statistics for 2019 were received during 2020 from, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep. of), Philippines, as shown in **Appendix 3**. In addition, some data may be missing from European Union.

A history of prohibitions applied is contained in **Annex 8**.

Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities [18-08]

The information gathered by the Secretariat during 2020 is presented in document **PWG-405/20**.

[12-07] Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT On Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing [18-09])

Information on contact points for AREP and receipt of reports is published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website under <https://www.iccat.int/en/portinspection.html>, as well as any infringements reported and the actions taken. In some cases, it is not clear from the reports if infringements have taken place, and if/when these infringements relate to ICCAT requirements:

Request from the Secretariat: In order to ensure correct implementation of the requirement for CPCs to submit inspection reports which contain ICCAT infringements for inclusion on the ICCAT website, it would be helpful if the CPCs submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the Flag State.

Rec. 18-09 provides that the submission of inspection reports in which no infraction has been found is voluntary. A summary of reports received is contained **Table 3**. Those with possible infringements, together with the responses received, are contained in **Annex 9**.

Reporting of designated ports under Rec. 18-09

The ICCAT Record of Ports into which foreign vessels may enter is published on the ICCAT website at <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>.

Some CPCs have not yet submitted their lists of ports; in other cases it is unclear from the information available whether the requirement is applicable. Barbados, China and Trinidad & Tobago give some indication in their Annual Reports regarding the problems leading to non-submission of lists, but further clarification may still be required from the following: Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep. of), Liberia, Nigeria, Philippines, Syria, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Guyana.

[13-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention area

See also Rec. 14-10 below for issues of retroactive reporting. At the time of writing, no IMO numbers were missing from any vessels of 20m or greater (unless exempt, e.g. wooden or non-commercial vessels). Following the instructions from the Compliance Committee in 2019, all the vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater without an IMO number by 31 of December 2019 were deactivated and CPCs notified accordingly. In several cases, the outstanding IMO numbers have been provided for those vessels which were then reactivated.

Updates to internal action reports (presented in the form CP10) were received from Belize, Ghana, and Mexico and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These are contained in **Annex 2**.

[13-14] Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering

The chartering summary reports are contained in **Appendix 2** and the table summarizing the chartering arrangements reported in **Table 10**. Some difficulties remain in receiving coherent information from both parties involved in a timely manner. A new reporting form will be circulated in 2021 in an effort to improve reporting. Meanwhile, bilateral coordination between the CPCs involved before reporting the information to the Secretariat would greatly facilitate processing.

The provisions of paragraph 13 c) of Rec. 13-14 have not been adequately implemented by some CPCs (neither the Chartering CPC nor the Flag States). At the time of writing, five (5) chartering have expired for more than 43 days (up to 105 days in 2 cases).

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements

Updates relating to ongoing Access Agreements were received from Gabon, Morocco and Suriname since the last Commission meeting. Some of the agreements reported in previous years were multi-annual and are still ongoing. Liberia has included in its Annual Report information on catches taken by foreign flagged

vessels in their waters under such ongoing agreements. Cabo Verde, European Union and Senegal have summarised current agreements but have not provided catch data. Colombia has reported that it is not involved in any Access Agreements, despite information to the contrary in the original request for cooperating status. The Secretariat has requested clarification which will be provided as an addendum when available. Belize has reported no access agreements in its annual reports but the agreement with Suriname reported by the latter started in 2020, and hence details should be reported in 2021. Ghana has reported an access agreement with three vessels flagged to Belize; the Secretariat requested clarification from both Parties. Belize has clarified that the agreements are not made at CPC level, but are private arrangements. Updates from Ghana are currently awaited. Uruguay reported that they are in the process of drafting an agreement with Argentina. The full list of Access Agreements is contained in **Annex 6**.

In order to avoid any confusion with Task I reporting, the Secretariat has published a revised reporting form for submitting information on Access Agreements; both for the Agreement itself and for the catches made under such agreement (see CP39). It should be noted that the reporting of catches is required by Rec. 14-07, but this is rarely received.

[14-09] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 concerning minimum Standards for the establishment of a vessel fishing monitoring system in the ICCAT Convention area (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area [18-10])

The current Recommendation does not contain any direct reporting requirements. For compliance issues with the implementation of VMS, please refer to Rec. 18-02/19-04. No compliance issues with Rec. 18-10 have been detected.

[14-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize and Guide the Implementation of ICCAT Vessel Listing Requirements

No submissions of vessels for inclusion on the list more than 45 days after the start date of the authorisation were received.

[15-09] Resolution by ICCAT Establishing Guidelines for the Implementation of the Recommendation 11-15 by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in the Case of Non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations

Please see Rec. 11-15 above.

[16-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program

Several CPCs have indicated difficulties in implementing scientific observer programmes. A summary of CPC's observer programmes can be found in **PLE-105/20**.

[16-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment

Carrier vessels and associated LPLVs are published on the ICCAT website in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>.

PWG-402/20 contains more information. PNCs reported by observers and responses from CPCs are contained in **COC-305/20**. The reports of the observers have been published on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/ROP.html>) as required by the Recommendation.

[18-11] Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

Contact points have been published on the ICCAT website at:
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/Res_18-11_InspectionPersonnelPilotProgram.xlsx

[19-10] *Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs*

Emergency Action Plans have been received to date from Japan, Liberia and Turkey and are published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/EAP.html>

[19-11] *Recommendation by ICCAT on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear*

No information has been submitted to date. See document **PWG-404/20** on reporting format.

SANC - SANCTIONS, TRADE-RELATED MEASURES

[No measures currently active]

SDP - STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS

[01-21] *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program*

Information can be found in documents **PWG-401/20** and **PLE-105/20**.

[01-22] *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program*

Imports and Re-exports of both bigeye and swordfish from unknown flag and/or unknown area continue to be reported by some CPCs.

More information can be found in documents **PWG-401/2020** and **PLE-105/2020**.

[Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 18-13]

Please see document **PWG-401/20** for information on the implementation of Rec. 18-13 under the eBCD system. Refer also to Rec. 18-12 below.

Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 17-09 on the Application of the EBCD System [Rec. 18-12]

In accordance with Annex 3 of Rec. 18-12, outside the Secretariat's office hours and the technical assistance' hours contracted with the Consortium, any CPC can self-register an incident on the ICCAT web page <https://www.iccat.int/en/eBCDprog.asp> to inform all CPCs of its temporary use of the paper BCD. No such issues were reported in 2020.

More information on the eBCD systems can be found in documents **PWG-401/20** and **PWG-403/20**.

TOR - TERMS OF REFERENCE

[16-19] *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System*

Information on progress to date can be found in document **COC-306/20**.

MISC - MISCELLANEOUS

[99-07] *Resolution by ICCAT on improving recreational fishery statistics*

Information is included in Annual Reports (**COC-301/20**) and in Task I statistics. Given that the wording of the Resolution is vague [*"each CPC provide specific data to SCRS to allow the Commission to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish"*], the Commission may wish to better define the information required.

[03-20] Recommendation by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Colombia and Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname currently enjoy Cooperating status. Review of compliance by Cooperating parties, Entities and Fishing Entities is included in document **COC-308/20**. No new requests for Cooperating status were received in 2020. Requests for renewal are not required, but letters from Bolivia and Colombia are contained in **COC-313/20**.

[05-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations

Please see **PLE-105/20** for more details on statistical reporting, as well as Rec. 11-15 above. Two non-Contracting Parties without Cooperating status, St. Kitts & Nevis and Jamaica, voluntarily submitted Task I in 2020 (for 2019 catches). The data for St. Kitts and Nevis included 82 t of blue marlin. No Task I report was received from Dominica, currently under identification.

[05-11] Resolution by ICCAT on pelagic Sargassum

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time, other than to note that Barbados has reported, in its Annual Report, that “*Mass incursions of Sargassum sp. incursions into local fishing areas continued through 2019 and resulted in catastrophic declines in catches of the island’s traditional keystone species flying fish and dolphinfish*” and that Trinidad and Tobago reported that they “*submitted results of a fact-finding survey regarding the influx and impacts of Sargassum seaweed in the Caribbean region, to the CRFM in February 2019.*” Guyana reported that “*Climate change and influx of sargassum weeds hindered the capture of marine species during 2019*”.

[12-13] Revised guidelines for the preparation of the Annual Reports

Document **COC-311/20**, contains a summary of section 5 of Part II of the Annual Reports (“Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures”) presenting the main difficulties of some CPCs and raising the possible need for technical assistance.

As previous years, some CPCs continue to send outdated versions of the tables, incomplete versions of the report, several updates and corrections, as well as incomplete answers, particularly in the case of ‘not applicable’. These cases seriously hinder the ability of the Secretariat and Chair to carry out an analysis of the information in an orderly and timely fashion.

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Table 2. Summary of JIS inspection reports received.

Table 3. Summary of Port inspections reported to the Secretariat.

Table 4. VMS messages received by CPC and number of vessels.

Table 5. Vessels that during May-July 2020 have been registered in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and that during some of the weeks of this period have not issued any VMS messages.

Table 6. Vessels that during May-July 2020 have not been registered in the ICCAT Record of Vessels or whose authorization has expired yet have issued VMS messages during some of the weeks of this period.

Table 7. Monthly catch reports (BFT-W).

Table 8. Weekly catch reports (BFT-E).

Table 9. Summary of E-BFT caging reports

Table 10. Summary of reported chartering arrangements.