

Original: English/French

**ALTERNATIVE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN LIEU OF
REGIONAL OBSERVER DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Given the difficulties posed to international travel arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, some special procedures were proposed by the Commission Chair and agreed by the participants. These can be found in ICCAT Circular 2282/20. It was agreed that *"If the CPC decides to allow the activity to proceed without either a Regional Observer or national inspector/observer, it should make every effort to implement a set of appropriate alternative measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the ROP. Such CPCs are to notify the Secretariat without delay of their decision to allow the activity to proceed and of alternative measures that will be implemented. Such alternative measures and the actions taken will be examined in detail by the Compliance Committee, at its meeting in November 2020."*

Alternative measures were submitted by Norway and Tunisia for those deployments in which neither a Regional Observer nor a national inspector could be deployed.

1. NORWAY: DEPLOYMENT OF OBSERVER FROM ROP ON NORWEGIAN PURSE SEINE VESSELS FISHING FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN 2020

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, The Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries has decided to prohibit the vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in 2020 to have an international observer on board. The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries informed the ICCAT Secretariat of this decision the 14 August 2020.

Background

In accordance with the approach suggested by the Commission Chair in ICCAT Circular #2282/2020 (later endorsed in ICCAT Circular #2488/2020), Norway requested the deployment of regional observers for all 8 purse seine vessels which will be conducting a fishery for bluefin tuna in Norway in 2020. Furthermore, the ICCAT Secretariat was informed of the Covid-19 situation in Norway in April this year (ICCAT Circular #2389/2020).

Throughout the summer, the spread of Covid-19 has increased. The signals from the Government is that it might be necessary to implement stricter regulations in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19. The situation is highly dynamic, and it is difficult to tell how rapidly new regulations concerning Covid-19 might enter into force.

Norway has contacted the ICCAT Secretariat to confirm that it is not the Consortium, but the CPC itself which decides, during the Covid-19 pandemic, whether an international observer shall be on board the vessel or not. The Secretariat has informed us that it cannot interpret the procedures outlined by the Chair (in ICCAT Circular #2282/2020) and agreed, in principle, by the CPCs. Neither the Chair nor the COC, which received a copy of the reply from the ICCAT Secretariat has added any comments to this reply. Thus, Norway is of the understanding that during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, it is the CPC itself, not the Consortium, which decides whether an observer shall be on board a vessel or not.

The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries has made a risk assessment for national inspectors/observers, concluding that they will not be allowed on board vessels. The risk assessment concludes that it is nearly impossible to keep a sufficient distance between the inspector/observer and the rest of the crew. Consequently, having an inspector or observer on board will increase the risk of transmitting Covid-19 to/from the crew on the vessel, and the severe risk of a potential life-threatening outcome. In this risk assessment, travelling to the vessel is also considered a high threat, even if the travelling is within Norway. When it comes to an international observer, the risk of catching Covid-19 while travelling to/from the destination is also considered as a high threat.

Alternative measures

In the approach suggested by the Commission Chair in Circular #2282/2020, there is a way for CPCs who are not able to deploy an observer to still be able to permit a bluefin fishery. The CPC can either deploy a national observer/inspector, or implement a set of appropriate alternative measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the ROP. As mentioned, the use of national inspectors/observers is not an option for Norway at the moment. Norway will, however take all possible measures to secure that the catch of bluefin tuna is in compliance with ICCAT regulations. The Norwegian fishery is less complex than other CPCs fishery, given that we do not have any transfer or farming activity. Thus, there are fewer operations to monitor in the Norwegian fisheries than in many other BFT-fisheries. Nevertheless, due to the situation, it is important for Norway to make the best effort to comply with the requirements in REC 19-04 and ensure that the fishery is monitored the best way possible.

In order to engage in the ROP programme as much as possible, each vessel will have a designated crew member to take the role as observer and fill out a weekly report, and complete a summary report at the end of the deployment. The crew member, as well as the designated personnel from the Norwegian Directorate of Fishery, will participate in a one-day online briefing/training by the ROP, clarifying the procedures and data requirements.

The Norwegian Institute of Marine research has planned on having researcher on board several of the vessels. This might not be possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The purse seine vessels participating in the bluefin tuna fishery can, however, be instructed to take samples from their catch, and will receive training in order to do so. To the extent possible, the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries will also monitor the harvesting of the bluefin tuna from the purse seine net to the vessel.

The vessels participating in the fishery will be monitored electronically by the Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre, which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As long as the vessel is active in the BFT-fishery, the vessel will send in daily catch reports to the FMC through the electronic reporting system. These reports will be sent even if the vessel has had zero catches. The data from these catch reports will be compared to the catch landed in port.

Any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real-time and control the fishing vessels to the extent possible.

The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries will notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any changes regarding the participation throughout the Norwegian purse seine fishing season. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan will, in accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 17, be transmitted to the Secretariat at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.

2. TUNISIA: REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE MEASURES OF TUNISIAN VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2020 BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING SEASON WITHOUT ONBOARD REGIONAL OBSERVERS

1. Introduction

In light of the special situation which has marked this year involving the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Commission Chair's proposal regarding implementation of the bluefin tuna regional observers programme (Circulars No. 2282/20 of 20 April 2020 and No. 2488/20 of 28 April 2020), Tunisia has made efforts to enable the Consortium responsible to ensure the availability of Tunisian citizen regional observers. However, a delay occurred in customs clearance due to the Consortium and with delivery of personal protective equipment for regional observers, despite the efforts made in this respect by the competent Tunisian authorities.

At the start of the fishing season (26 May 2020) and to avoid time being wasted due to immobilization of purse seiners in ports, Tunisia had proposed to embark observers on their vessels, given that they offer minimum security conditions. However, the regional observers were not granted authorisation by the Consortium to go to sea without the equipment referred to above.

On 29 May 2020, and as the fishing season had already commenced, Tunisia decided to authorise operation of all its purse seiners (49 vessels) without onboard regional observers. The Secretariat and the Consortium were also notified that deployment of all observers had been maintained and that they could embark as soon as they received their equipment.

Finally, the observers received their equipment on 6 June 2020 and boarded their respective vessels. Fishing operations have taken place in normal conditions from that date.

2. Clarifications regarding authorisation of purse seiners without regional observers

On 02/06/2020, Tunisia received notification from the ICCAT Secretariat regarding grouped PNCs of 39 Tunisian vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna from 30 May 2020 to 4 June 2020 without an onboard regional observer. The Consortium also requested designation of national inspectors or observers to act in place of regional observers, specifying that these national inspectors/observers will be temporarily considered regional observers and must send their reports and data directly to the Consortium, in accordance with Circular No. 1745/20 of 23 March 2020 and subsequent related correspondence.

However, it is important to bear in mind the Commission Chair's proposal, and in particular bullet point 7 which states:

-If the CPC whose request for a Regional Observer has been denied by the Consortium wishes to permit the activity to take place nevertheless, the CPC should, where possible nominate either a national inspector or a national observer to act in locum of the Regional observer. In such cases all details should be sent to the Consortium via the Secretariat in order to assign a temporary ROP number, and the observer should record and report, to the extent possible, information otherwise required of the Regional Observer and send his/her report and data directly to the Consortium. It should be noted that such inspectors/observers will be temporarily considered Regional Observers during this period.

This is not a case of denial of deployment by the Consortium. It is rather a case of refusal to sail by regional observers which is not reflected in the exceptional circumstance referred to above.

49 regional observers were actually deployed, assigned and embarked on their respective vessels, and it was only following the instructions from the Consortium that they refused to embark and carry out their missions onboard purse seiners for reasons beyond our will, which we are all trying to solve as quickly as possible.

It should be recalled that, as stipulated in the text itself (bullet point 7), hire and assignment of national inspectors/observers should merely be envisaged *where possible*, which cannot in any case be interpreted as mandatory. Considering that there is no lack of will in this matter from Tunisia's side, authorisation to fish without onboard regional observers granted to our purse seiners was dictated by the late notification of refusal to sail via the Secretariat on 29 May 2020, i.e. after the start of the fishing season. It should be noted that embarkation of 49 national inspectors/observers in place of regional observers would entail prior administrative and financial preparations as well as specific training, which was not possible in such a short period of time.

Despite the voluntary nature of this deployment, it should be recalled that following the exchange of notes regarding the Commission Chair's proposal, on 23 April 2020 Tunisia expressed its reservations precisely in relation to this measure, while Tunisia had accepted the proposal as a whole. This objection has been formulated based on the following considerations:

- Recommendation 19-04 makes no provision for replacement of the regional observer by a national inspector or observer,

- the national inspectors/observers hold the status of State civil servants and therefore cannot perform dual functions or present conflicts of interest. With this in mind, if a national inspector/observer is deployed, the person should not in any case be considered a regional observer and could only report to the Tunisian authorities.

Taking into account the foregoing, Tunisia considers that the requirements cited by the Consortium are not applicable in the case of the Tunisian fleet operating until now without regional observers.

Finally, Tunisia recalls that all the fleet in question operates under its instructions and continuous control. The necessary steps and action have already been taken to apply the potential alternative measures, with particular attention to the inspection of these vessels, as stated in bullet points 9 and 10 of the Commission Chair's proposal.

-If the CPC decides to allow the activity to proceed without either a Regional Observer or national inspector/observer, it should make every effort to implement a set of appropriate alternative measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the ROP. Such CPCs are to notify the Secretariat without delay of their decision to allow the activity to proceed and of alternative measures that will be implemented. Such alternative measures and the actions taken will be examined in detail by the Compliance Committee, at its meeting in November 2020.

-In cases where a Regional Observer cannot be deployed, CPCs should prioritize such vessels, farms, and traps for inspection.

3. Alternative MCS measures taken by Tunisia

In light of this special situation, Tunisia has taken action based on risk analysis to ensure a satisfactory level of compliance with bluefin tuna conservation and management measures by the vessels affected.

This action involves paying special attention to catching vessels without observers, in particular those that have carried out one or more fishing operations, as well as all the "other vessels" participating in the same Joint Fishing Operation (JFO).

In this respect, the following actions have been undertaken:

- Real-time monitoring, via satellite, of the activities of all vessels at sea,
- at-sea inspection by the international inspection vessel deployed by Tunisia of all vessels that have made catches and/or carried out transfers,
- attendance by inspectors of all transfers carried out from purse seiners to tug vessels,
- estimation of all quantities transferred and validation of transfer declarations (ITDs),
- in-port inspection of all vessels on return to port,
- attendance by ICCAT inspectors of all caging operations carried out in Tunisian farms to finalise the quantities.

Finally, it should be noted that on 8 June 2020, the Tunisian catching vessels had resumed their fishing activities following an imposed halt due to bad weather as from 4 June 2020. These vessels were operating from this date in the presence of their respective regional observers after customs clearance and with distribution of personal protective material from 6 June 2020.

Moreover, the action taken for fishing vessels was also been applied even after embarkation of regional observers onboard their respective vessels and until closure of the bluefin tuna fishing season in Tunisia.

**INTERIM REPORTS CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE ROP-BFT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

FIRST REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROP-BFT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ICCAT Secretariat

Following the agreement of the procedures proposed by the Chair of the Commission circulated through ICCAT Circular 2282/20, the Secretariat has worked with the consortium contracted to implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. As required through those procedures, *"the Secretariat shall compile and periodically circulate to the Commission all the information received on the implementation of these procedures, including Regional Observer requests that have been denied by the Consortium, deployments of Regional Observers that are nationals of the flag CPC or CPC in whose jurisdiction the trap or farming activity takes place, CPC decisions on whether to authorize the activity in the absence of a Regional Observer, and alternative measures notified by such CPCs"*.

Purse Seine Vessels

The Secretariat is pleased to report that ICCAT Regional Observers have been embarked on all purse seine vessels, which have requested observers with the following exceptions:

1. One Maltese vessel; the observer assigned to this vessel withdrew from the deployment due to sickness but could not be replaced given the difficulties in mobilising observers from outside Malta and the scarcity of Maltese observers. The Maltese authorities assigned a national inspector to the vessel, and this inspector has been assigned a temporary ROP number and will provide the necessary information at the end of the deployment.
2. There were some unfortunate delays at customs of the equipment destined for the Tunisian and Libyan vessels which prevented the embarkation of the observers. These delays were beyond the control of the consortium, the Secretariat and the Tunisian fisheries authorities. Following many attempts to unblock the situation, 39 Tunisian vessels were authorised by Tunisia to leave port to fish. On returning due to bad weather, all vessels were able to collect their observers with the equipment which had meanwhile been released.

This is the first time these problems have arisen with the customs authorities, which were also encountered in Morocco this year, and we believe may be due to two factors 1) COVID-19; due to closures of administration offices, one of the usual documents could not be procured and had been replaced by a self-declaration form following the instructions of the authorities of the export country; in addition, the pandemic may have also slowed down the customs offices of the receiving country and 2) this is the first year that the InReach communication devices were issued to observers in accordance with Rec. 19-10. These devices may be considered sensitive at customs and have perhaps caused more delays than usual.

The Tunisian authorities have informed the Secretariat that during their brief trip without observers (dates varying between 30 May to 5 June), the entire fleet operated under the instructions and continuous control of the Tunisian authorities. The necessary steps and actions were taken to apply all possible alternative measures with particular attention to these vessels in terms of inspection, as stipulated in dashes 9 and 10 of the proposal of the Chairman of the Committee, and all transfer operations were conducted in the presence and direct control of the JIS inspectors aboard the joint international inspection vessel "Amilcar MA 878". Regional Observers will have access to the documents relating to this period.

3. Some of the Libyan deployments started late due to the equipment problems mentioned above. However, there is no indication that the Libyan fleet fished during this time and observers have since boarded the vessels.

4. The Secretariat has received, at the time of writing, a request for observer deployment on one Syrian vessel. The request is awaiting the associated funds, but it is believed that an observer will probably be available to cover this deployment.
5. No observers have yet embarked on Norwegian vessels, as the fishing season is different, and their deployments will start in August. No problems are foreseen at this stage.

For the following fleets, Regional Observers of the same nationality have been deployed on all vessels: Algeria, EU-Croatia, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey and all of EU-Italy with one exception. In addition, same nationality observer was deployed on one vessel for EU-France. Different nationality observers were deployed on the vessels flagged to Albania, Egypt, EU-Cyprus, EU-France (except one), EU-Spain and Libya.

Farms and Traps

All requests for farms / traps have been met, but the following should be noted:

1. Some farm deployments have started later than the request date due to the requests themselves being received late, in some cases the day before the due start date. There is no indication however of activities having taken place before the arrival of the observers.
2. The consortium has informed the Secretariat that they may have some difficulties in covering some of the requests for observers on farms in Malta due to travel / COVID-19 restrictions, but logistics are still underway and it is unclear at this stage. The problems have been noted since the start of June, but the first requests have been fulfilled. Further information will be included in the next report in the event that any farms have been left uncovered by standard ROPs, together with the alternative measures being taken.
3. A request has been received for a farm in Tunisia which is currently being processed. It is expected that deployment can take place, but more information will be included in the next report.

Due to travel and / or quarantine restrictions, since April 2020 observers of the same nationality have been deployed on some farms and traps, as shown below.

<i>Deployment number</i>	<i>CPC</i>	<i>Nationality of observer</i>
001MA0546	Maroc	Moroccan
001MA0547	Maroc	Moroccan
001EU0548	EU-Spain	Portuguese
001EU0549	EU-Croatia	Croatian
001EU0550	EU-Croatia	Croatian
001EU0551	EU-Croatia	Croatian
001EU0552	EU-Croatia	Croatian
001EU0553	EU-Spain	Moroccan
001EU0554	EU-Spain	Venezuelan
001EU0555	EU-Malta	Algerian
001EU0556	EU-Malta	Italian
001EU0557	EU-Spain	Portuguese
001EU0558	EU-Malta	TBD
001EU0559	EU-Malta	TBD
001TN0560	Tunisia	TBD
002EU019	EU.Italy	Italian
002EU020	EU.Italy	Italian

SECOND REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROP-BFT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ICCAT Secretariat

Further to the first interim report on the implementation of the procedures proposed by the Chair of the Commission circulated through ICCAT Circular 2282/20, the Secretariat would like to provide the following update.

Purse Seine Vessels

Difficulties in initial embarkation were outlined in the first report, circulated through ICCAT Circular 3949/20 of 11 June 2020. There are no other incidences to report at this time.

Observers have not yet embarked on Norwegian vessels as activities will not start until August. Deployment will be determined by developments in the current pandemic, but no problems are foreseen at present.

Additional days for bad weather have been requested by Algeria, Libya and Tunisia; the Regional Observers currently deployed on these vessels will remain on board for these additional days. The list of vessels is shown in **Table 1**.

Farms and Traps

All requests for farms / traps have been met, but the following should be noted:

Some difficulties were encountered in covering farm deployments in Malta due to the unavailability of regional observers of Maltese nationality coupled with quarantine restrictions in place in Malta and in some cases late requests by the operators. For the caging operations, and with the consent of the CPC authorities, two farms (ATEU1MLT00001 and ATEU1MLT00002) in Malta have been allowed to share one observer until 1 July, considering the *force majeure* circumstances. Operations will be scheduled in such a way as to ensure that the observers can cover both.

All other farm requests have been covered to date. Despite the Secretariat appeal for requests for observers to be sent two weeks in advance this year in order to be able to organise the logistics under the current travel restrictions, as can be seen from the table below, some requests were received with less than the usual 96 hour deadline, and some on the same day as the requested start date, which under normal circumstances would be impossible to satisfy. A list of these late requests is shown in **Table 2**.

Table 3 shows the nationality of observers deployed on farms since previous report; those of the same nationality have been marked in **bold** font.

A further report will be issued later in the year once all purse seine deployments have been completed.

Table 1. List of vessels whose authorisation period has been extended under the provisions of Rec. 19-04, para 30.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Vessel number</i>	<i>New end date</i>
Algeria	AT000DZA00817	11/07/2020
Algeria	AT000DZA00013	11/07/2020
Algeria	AT000DZA00001	11/07/2020
Algeria	AT000DZA00011	11/07/2020
Algeria	AT000DZA00978	11/07/2020
Tunisia	AT000TUN00030	10/07/2020
Tunisia	AT000TUN00065	10/07/2020
Tunisia	AT000TUN01050	10/07/2020
Tunisia	AT000TUN00044	06/07/2020
Tunisia	AT000TUN00050	06/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00027	11/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00010	11/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00028	11/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00009	10/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00046	11/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00047	11/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00038	11/07/2020
Libya	AT000LBY00062	10/07/2020

Table 2. Late requests for observer deployments / extensions.

<i>Request number</i>	<i>Requested by</i>	<i>Date RCD</i>	<i>Farm / traps details</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>New Deployment</i>	<i>Extension</i>
001EU0533	EU-Malta	16/12/2019	ATEU1MLT00003	16/12/2019	x	
001EU0534	EU-Croatia	16/12/2019	ATEU1HRV00006	19/12/2019	x	
001TR0535	Turkey	16/12/2019	AT001TUR00010	19/12/2019		x
001EU0544	EU-Malta	29/01/2020	ATEU1MLT00004	31/01/2020	x	
001EU0545	EU-Spain	12/02/2020	ATEU1ESP00005	15/02/2020	x	
001EU0554	EU-Spain	01/06/2020	ATEU1ESP00001	03/06/2020	x	
001EU0555	EU-Malta	03/06/2020	ATEU1MLT00008	03/06/2020	x	
001EU0556	EU-Malta	04/06/2020	ATEU1MLT00004	05/06/2020	x	
001TR0561	Turkey	17/06/2020	AT001TUR00004, AT001TUR00005, AT001TUR00013 *	18/06/2020	x	
002EU0020	EU-Italy	29/05/2020	ATEU2ITA00009	29/06/2020		x
001TN0560	Tunisia	30/06/2020	AT001TUN00002	01/07/2020		x
001TR0565	Turkey	30/06/2020	AT001TUR00011	02/07/2020	x	

* Note, this is one farm with three licences, and not a shared observer. Red font indicates requests which were sent to the Secretariat on day the deployment was due to start

Table 3. Nationality of observers deployed on farms since previous report.

<i>Deployment number</i>	<i>CPC</i>	<i>Nationality of observer</i>
001EU0558	EU-Malta	Italian
001EU0559	EU-Malta	Italian
001TN0560	Tunisia	Tunisian
001TR0561	Turkey	Turkish
001EU0562	EU-Malta	Irish
001TN0563	Tunisia	Tunisian
001EU0564	EU-Malta	Tunisian
001TR0565	Turkey	Turkish

THIRD REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROP-BFT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ICCAT Secretariat

Further to the previous two interim report on the implementation of the procedures proposed by the Chair of the Commission circulated through ICCAT Circular 2282/20, the Secretariat would like to provide the following update.

Vessels:

The reports from all purse seine vessel deployments have been received and as usual will be made available through the Commission document web site as an Annex to COC-305/2020 once the document web site is activated. Other than some short delays in observer recovery due to quarantine restrictions in some cases, there were no episodes of note during the deployments.

Debriefing arrangements following purse seine deployments were largely dictated by the COVID pandemic. When possible, debriefing was carried out directly in person, or by combination of web conference and a senior observer. At times though due to travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, debrief was obliged to be carried out by web conference, as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Type and location of debriefing of observers deployed on vessels.

<i>Flag / CPC</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Debrief type</i>	<i>Debrief location</i>
Albania	2	Web conference	N/A
Algeria	23	Senior observer / web conference	Azzefoun, Algeria
Egypt	1	In person	Ankara, Turkey
EU.Croatia	17	In person	Split, Croatia
EU.Cyprus	1	Web conference	N/A
EU.France	10	In person	L'Ametlla de Mar, Spain
EU.France	3	In person	Oliva, Spain
EU.France	9	Senior observer / web conference	Montpellier, France
EU.Italy	5	In person	Paris, France
EU.Italy	14	In person	Ercolano, Italy
EU.Malta	1	Web conference	N/A
EU.Spain	6	In person	L'Ametlla de Mar, Spain
Libya	1	In person	Ankara, Turkey
Libya	5	In person	Hammamet, Tunisia
Libya	3	In person	Marsaxlokk, Malta
Libya	6	Web conference	N/A
Morocco	2	Web conference	N/A
Syria	1	In person	Ankara, Turkey
Tunisia	49	In person	Tunis and Hammamet, Tunisia
Turkey	27	In person	Ankara, Turkey

Norway had originally requested Regional Observer Deployment on all their vessels, but in light of developments have concluded that the deployment of a ROP from a third party would not be in line with the advice of their health authorities. For similar reasons, no national inspection could be deployed. Notwithstanding, one crew member from each vessel has been designated to liaise with the ROP-BFT consortium to ensure that all data can be included in the ROP data base, and the alternative measures taken by Norway were circulated through ICCAT Circular 5835/20.

Any further developments regarding these last purse seine deployments will be included in the Fourth and Final report to be made after conclusion of the Norwegian fishing season.

Farms/ Traps:

There have been no trap deployments since the Second Report.

Regarding farms, some problems with late requests for deployments and extensions continue to be noted, and this is causing serious difficulties due to their dynamic nature of travel restrictions. The most recent late requests are shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Late requests for observer deployments / extensions since previous report.

<i>Request number</i>	<i>Requested by</i>	<i>Date RCD</i>	<i>Farm / traps details</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>New Deployment</i>	<i>Extension</i>	<i>Payment late</i>
001TN0563	Tunisia	06/07/2020	AT001TUN00004	07/07/2020		x	
001EU0548	EU-Spain	06/07/2020	ATEU1ESP00004	03/07/2020		x	
001TN0569	Tunisia	14/07/2020	AT001TUN00001	18/07/2020	x		x
001EU0556	EU-Malta	06/07/2020	ATEU1MLT00004	06/07/2020		x	
001EU0558	EU-Malta	20/08/2019	ATEU1MLT00003	21/08/2020		x	

As with purse seine and trap briefings/debriefings, the arrangements for these have been largely dictated by COVID. Remote briefing / debriefing is preferred when using experienced observers and when equipment is available either one site or with the observer, as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Type and location of debriefing of observers deployed at farms / traps.

<i>Request</i>	<i>Farm/Trap name</i>	<i>Briefing Location</i>	<i>Debrief Location</i>
001EU0542	Caladeros del Mediterraneo	Remote	Remote
001MA0547	Blue Farm	Remote	Remote
002EU020	Capo Altano	Remote	Paris
002EU019	Isola Plana	Remote	Paris
001EU0554	Tuna Graso	l'Ametlla de Mar	Paris
001EU0548	Ensenada de Barbate	Remote	Lisbon
001EU0559	AJD / MML	Remote	Lisbon
002EU021	Isola Plana	Remote	Paris
001EU0562	MML	Remote	Remote
001TR0566	Basaran	Remote	Ankara
001TN0563	TFT	Remote	Hammamet
001EU0564	Ta Matthew	Remote	Malta
001TR0567	Kilic	Remote	Ankara
001TR0561	Akua Group	Remote	Ankara
001MA0546	Blue Farm	Remote	Remote
001EU0550	Sardina	Remote	Split
001EU0551	Pelagos	Remote	Split
001EU0552	Jadran	Remote	Remote
001TN0569	S.VMT	Hammamet	Remote
001EU0568	Tunipex	Lisbon	Lisbon
001TR0565	Sagun	Remote	Bodrum
001EU0558	Fish & Fish	Remote	Still deployed
001EU0549	Kali Tuna	Remote	Still deployed
001EU0555	Mare Blu	Remote	Still deployed
001EU0553	Balfego	l'Ametlla de Mar	Still deployed
001EU0556	MFF	Remote	Still deployed
001TN0560	Tunisian Tuna	Remote	Still deployed
001EU0557	Caladeros del Mediterráneo	Remote	Still deployed
001MA0571	Bluefarm	Remote	Still deployed
001MA0572	Bluefarm	Remote	Still deployed

Table 4. Nationality of observers deployed on farms since previous report.

<i>Deployment number</i>	<i>CPC</i>	<i>Nationality of observer</i>
001TR0566	Turkey	Turkish
001TR0567	Turkey	Turkish
001EU0568	EU.Portugal	Spanish
001TN0569	Tunisia	Tunisian
001EU0570	EU.Spain	Venezuelan
001MA0571	Morocco	Moroccan
001MA0572	Morocco	Moroccan
001MA0573	Morocco	Moroccan
001MA0574	Morocco	Moroccan
001EU0575	EU.Croatia	Pending allocation