

Original: English

Appendix 1

UNITED STATES RESPONSE TO THE COC CHAIR'S SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Barbados: The United States commends Barbados for its submission of a shark check sheet but was disappointed to see the lack of information on robust implementation of ICCAT's shark measures. For example, ICCAT has prohibited oceanic whitetip retention since 2011, but it appears Barbados has not yet implemented the required measures for this threatened species.

China: We thank China for clarifying its North Atlantic shortfin mako data. We look forward to seeing an updated data submission and respectfully encourage China to submit discard data given that its fleet does not retain North Atlantic shortfin mako, as stated in their Shark Implementation Check Sheet. Timely submission of these data are essential to support enhanced shark science and management.

Côte d'Ivoire: The United States thanks Côte d'Ivoire for its response to our questions. Given that Côte d'Ivoire is actively expanding its longline fleet, it is particularly important that implementation of billfish and shark measures is reported in the check sheets. Rec. 16-11 requires that CPCs take or maintain appropriate measures to limit sailfish mortality. Such measures could include, for example: releasing live sailfish, encouraging or requiring the use of circle hooks or other effective gear modifications, implementing a minimum size, and/or limiting days at sea.

El Salvador: We agree with the Chair's suggested approach of sending a letter to El Salvador, which will effectively lift their 2019 identification. The United States notes that while El Salvador's catches last year continued to exceed the 1,575 t bigeye cap under Rec. 16-01, their catches did decrease from the previous year.

That said, the United States must express its shock and grave concern regarding El Salvador's response to our questions in COC_320A. It appears that rather than make efforts to improve compliance with ICCAT measures in the seriously overfished bigeye fishery, El Salvador has chosen to try to re-litigate its 2019 identification by the Commission through efforts to alter the ICCAT meeting proceedings. This is inappropriate and a significant waste of everyone's valuable time. There is no question that El Salvador was identified last year. As a result, the Commission issued a letter of identification. The suggestion that CPCs could consent to a post facto change to a Commission decision simply by failing to notice a late, substantive, and inappropriate change to the COC report - a change that was not appropriately brought to the attention of CPCs - is absurd. El Salvador's request to remove itself from the list of identified CPCs came late in the process after a majority of CPCs, including the United States, had already undertaken a thorough review of the report. We encourage El Salvador and all CPCs to respect the decisions of the Commission. We further hope that this episode does not reflect El Salvador's current level of willingness to undertake good-faith negotiations to adopt improved tropical tuna management measures, which are seriously needed.

Korea: Based on submission of updated information as well as correspondence from Korea, it is still not clear to the United States whether Korea bans or requires retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako. We ask that Korea clarify their domestic rules in their 2021 annual report and shark check sheet submission and ensure that discard data are being appropriately collected and reported to ICCAT. Korea has also indicated that discrepancies in reported data may be due to the fishermen's ability to identify shark species. We encourage Korea to provide fishermen with the necessary training to identify bycatch species, which will lead to more accurate discard and landing data.

Liberia: The United States thanks Liberia for its response to our questions in COC_320A. Our analysis identified thirteen vessels that undertook suspicious loitering activity while flagged to Liberia:

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Flag at time of incidents</i>	<i>IMO</i>	<i>Number of Events</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
GENTAMARU	LBR	9620384	36	Flagged to Panama 2019-03
CHIKUMA	LBR	9666493	32	Ownership Transferred to "Eikyo Marine Inc" 2020-03
MEITAMARU	LBR	9071583	22	Flagged to Panama 2020-09
SHOTAMARU	LBR	9194892	8	Flagged to South Korea 2020-01. Renamed "Lake Aurora"
VICTORIA2	LBR	9140097	5	Flagged to Panama 2018-09, Flagged to Russia 2020-01. Renamed "AMFITRITA"
PACIFICMERMAID	LBR	9045924	3	Remains Liberian flagged
ATLANTICREEFER	LBR	9179256	2	Remains Liberian flagged
EASTERNBAY	LBR	9143752	2	Flagged to Panama 2019-12. Renamed "FRIO GALICIA"
EVERESTBAY	LBR	8911073	1	Remains Liberian flagged
ZENIT	LBR	8700228	1	Broken up 2019-03
PACIFICREEFER	LBR	9179268	1	Remains Liberian flagged
BALTICPATRIOT	LBR	9038488	1	Flagged to Bahamas 2020-09
REINA	LBR	8202226	1	Broken up 2019-03

We hope this additional information is helpful to Liberia and other CPCs and can inform Liberia's letter from the COC Chair.

Morocco: The United States thanks Morocco for its response to our question in COC_320A. We urge Morocco to report dead discard and recreational data for marlins in 2021.

Namibia: The United States agrees with the Chair's suggestion of identification given several concerning compliance issues. We have also noted the increasing chartering activity and the Secretariat's concerns with CPCs failing to implement the required chartering reporting requirements. We encourage Namibia and its chartering partners to ensure its charter fleet is properly monitored and its chartering activities are appropriately reported to ICCAT.

Senegal: The United States remains concerned about Senegal's recent performance as a flag and port State and encourages Senegal to ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of its fleet and ports.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: The United States encourages St. Vincent and the Grenadines to provide information to the Commission on the suspicious at sea encounters referenced in COC_317 and COC_320A, and we ask that the COC Chair include this request in the Commission's letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Chinese Taipei: The United States remains concerned that Chinese Taipei may be underreporting its discards of North Atlantic shortfin mako (and perhaps other species). We encourage them to provide more information about how these estimates are derived and/or the methods used by its vessels to avoid these interactions.