

**LETTER FROM PANEL 1 CHAIR
(ON WAY FORWARD ON ROUND 2 OF CORRESPONDANCE PERIOD)**

10 November 2020

Dear members of Panel 1,

I hope that this message finds you in good health at this difficult time.

I would like to thank all CPCs that have submitted comments and made very positive contributions to the two draft documents submitted.

The agenda circulated by the Secretariat is contained in document **PA1-500A/20**.

Item 1, Review of Panel membership

The composition of Panel 1 membership is published as **GEN-004**.

Item 2, Review of compliance tables

Input on COC-304 should be provided to the Panel Chair, with copy to the Chair of the Compliance Committee and the Secretariat by **1 November 2020**. The catch limits for 2020, as calculated by the Secretariat and corrected by the members of Panel 1 are available as **PA1-502/20**.

Item 3, Measures for conservation of stocks and implementation of ICCAT Criteria for Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

An interim measure to extend outdated provisions of Rec. 19-02 will be required. The Chair will distribute later a roadmap for 2021 to address the priorities of Panel 1.

Item 4, Recommendations to the Commission

Documents **PA1-502/20** and **PA1-503/20** have been submitted for review by correspondence as essential business of the Commission. Following this first round, the points of the response received from CPCs are as follows:

1. Document PA1-502 – 2020 bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)

South Africa and Senegal do not approve that table PA1-502 be used for compliance purposes or any other because it does not reflect the intention of paragraph 4 of Recommendation 19-02. They also request that proof be provided for the addition of 2,121.35 t (from 2018 catches) to the EU's limit for 2020, as indicated in the annex to PA1-502 provided by the Secretariat.

Based on these comments, the table has been made available as **PA1-502A/20** and will be resubmitted to the Commission for review and adoption by correspondence.

2. Document PA1-503 – Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas [19-02]

Given that it is not possible to hold an in-person Commission meeting in 2020, several CPCs, in particular South Africa, Senegal, the European Union, Curaçao, Japan, the United States and Morocco have endorsed the proposal for extension of paragraphs 4, 8, 18 and 60 of Rec. 19-02, so that they will continue to apply in 2021. However, the United States have made some drafting suggestions.

The European Union strongly recommends establishment of a TAC allocation scheme for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, whereby each ICCAT CPC would be fully responsible for any eventual overages, as well as the end of the current system of aspirational limits, which has been and continues to be responsible for overfishing of these stocks. This must be a priority for the Commission in 2021.

It should be recalled that the measures agreed for implementation in 2021 are maintained and are not affected by this proposal.

The comments circulated by the Secretariat before the correspondence period stated in ICCAT Circular No. 7097/ 2020 are not reflected in the analysis of feedback received. These CPCs can submit statements during this period should they wish to do so. These statements will be included in the final report of the Commission.

The document now incorporates the comments from the United States which are merely of an editorial nature and do not change the substance of the text. This new version has been submitted for your approval. If no objections are raised, I propose that this new version PA1-503A be referred to the Commission for adoption.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SHEP Helguilè', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

SHEP Helguilè