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US STATEMENT TO PANEL 1

PA1-503A: The United States thanks the Chair for incorporating our suggested changes and supports its adoption.

PA1-502A: The United States was disappointed to see that our comments were not taken into account in this new version. The United States agrees with many of the concerns Senegal and South Africa raised about this document and notes that the Compliance Tables already serve to calculate adjusted catch limits for CPCs that fall under paragraphs 4(a)-(c) of Rec 19-02. As a result we are not in a position to adopt or endorse PA1-502A and, further, do not consider action necessary on this document at this time. Instead, Panel 1 should simply take note of the document and its potential utility in supporting future allocation discussions, particularly its annex, which provides important context.

The United States also wants to emphasize that, for the purposes of future Panel 1 allocation discussions, our statement in the record of the 2019 annual meeting still stands: we consider 1,575 t to remain the applicable catch limit for CPCs included in the small harvester category established by Rec. 16-01, including the United States. Of course, CPCs covered by paragraph 4(d) should make best efforts to abide by its terms.

PA1-511: We are pleased to see the ambitious schedule proposed by the Chair although we have concerns with the proposed sequence of discussions. The 2021 meeting schedule (PLE-106) -- which the Commission has yet to approve -- includes a bigeye tuna stock assessment in late July. Should this remain, therefore, we are concerned that it may be premature to focus on the bigeye TAC and allocations in February, unless there are new ideas to consider. Likewise, it is not yet clear if there will be new scientific advice that would facilitate a review of measures regarding the number of FADs or closed areas. It would make sense to postpone both of these discussions until the most up-to-date information is available.

We suggest prioritizing discussion of other issues during the February and April intersessionals, such as FAD management and data collection, additional yellowfin tuna measures, review of electronic monitoring and observer measures, and the terms of reference for reviewing MCS mechanisms. We note that the yellowfin tuna TAC is already set based on scientific advice so should not be part of these discussions, absent new scientific information. Additionally, there were extensive discussions of supply vessel monitoring and control measures in 2019, but decisions on these measures were deferred to the intersessional. Finally, we suggest that the roadmap re-emphasize the topics on which Panel 1 would like to request additional SCRS advice to support 2021 negotiations, specifically advice related to time/area closures, FAD sets, support vessels, and impacts of size selectivity to bigeye and yellowfin MSY. We are submitting suggested changes to the 2021 roadmap to reflect these views.

The United States recognizes the heavy workload facing the SCRS in 2021, given the disruptions this year, but nevertheless hopes the SCRS can support the Panel 1 discussions to the extent possible.