

LETTER FROM PA1 CHAIR ON WAY FORWARD TO CLOSURE OF DISCUSSIONS PERIOD

Dear Panel 1 Members,

I would like to thank you for your highly constructive contributions on the various issues discussed.

At the end of the two rounds of negotiations via correspondence, I would like to summarise the main issues agreed.

Some CPCs notified that their comments in the first round had not been taken into account, and the reason was simply that these comments were received before the beginning of the correspondence period. However, due note was taken of these issues, and these will be discussed during the intersessional period.

The European Union provided evidence with regards to the claim of carry-over 2121,35 t from 2018 to 2020. However, South Africa expressed concern that some CPCs exploit the lack of clarity in the measure that allows for under catch of adjusted limits. To that end, South Africa suggested that the ICCAT Secretariat seek legal advice on the interpretation of these specific provisions and whether carry-over of undercatch from adjusted catch limits is allowed. It should be noted that the Secretariat does not have such a mandate and that the interpretation of the Recommendations is the Commission's responsibility.

Most CPCs suggested that "*2020 bigeye tuna catch limits*" [document PA1-502A] should not be considered a document that has been adopted, but rather as a basis for future discussions. Nevertheless, given that advice is required for 2020 and 2021, I propose that the figures contained in document PA1-502B be used as a basis. However, this suggestion takes into account that the amounts indicated for CPCs that do not have fixed limits are only reference points.

If we do not agree on the amounts, it will not be possible for CPCs to manage their fisheries properly without knowing the limits allowed.

No CPCs objected to the "*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*" despite comments from CPCs who basically do not question the provisions of the proposal.

Accordingly, this recommendation is considered adopted by Panel 1 and will be transmitted to the Commission.

The roadmap proposed by the Chair raised numerous concerns as regards the nature of the meetings and also the issues to be addressed.

In fact, for most CPCs, virtual meetings are not appropriate to address issues regarding TAC and quota allocation. Furthermore, to implement a multi-annual conservation and management programme, the scientific advice of the SCRS should be the main compass. To accomplish this, this issue cannot be addressed without the results of the bigeye stock assessment scheduled for 2021. Considering that the maximum duration of a virtual meeting is 4 hours 30 minutes, I suggest that two virtual meetings be held to enable the Group to make progress on other issues other than the discussions related to TAC and quota allocation. Accordingly, the attached new roadmap is proposed for adoption.

In view of the various comments and the current discussions, it seems appropriate to conclude our work while allowing the CPCs, wishing to do so, to provide comments and/or statements by **11 December 2020**.

I encourage you to continue the exchanges aimed at in-person discussions that could be held from 24 to 29 October 2021 if the health situation allows and if the bigeye stock assessment report is available.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shep, Helguilè', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Shep, Helguilè
Chair of Panel 1