

**STATEMENT BY CANADA ON PANEL 1 - ROUND 3**

Canada would like to provide the following statement regarding document PA1\_502B, "2020 Bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)."

As noted in our round 2 statement, there are accuracy concerns with table PA1\_502B. The Bigeye catch averages continue to contain errors due to the method used to calculate the averages. For example, if a CPC's bigeye catches were recorded as 0, 0, 1000, 0 over four years, their average was recorded as 1000, when it ought to be 250. Omitting zero catch years from averages impacts future allocation discussions, therefore this table should be amended to ensure the accuracy of the averages prior to use as a reference document. Canada reiterates that the table, in particular the calculated averages, should not be used until comprehensively reviewed prior to any acceptance. If the average catches presented in table PA1\_502B are used as reference points to determine future allocations, those allocations will be incorrect due to these inaccuracies.

As other CPCs have identified previously, the Compliance Tables already serve to calculate adjusted catch limits for CPCs that fall under paragraphs 4(a)-(c) of Rec 19-02. Table PA1\_502B principally provides a visual reference for those CPCs whose catch limits are in accordance with para 4(a)-(c).

Rec. 19-02 does not contain binding limits or rules for determining a limit for CPCs with recent average catches of less than 1,000 t. Further, it is inaccurate to present any limits for those countries with a recent average of below 1,000 t. As such, CPCs under paragraph 4(d) have no catch limits and should not be included in a catch limits table. Nevertheless, CPCs covered by paragraph 4(d) should continue to make their best efforts to abide by the terms of that paragraph.

Canada also wants to emphasize that, for the purposes of future Panel 1 allocation discussions, our previous non-binding commitment to maintain our catches at less than 1,575 t, as articulated in paragraph 4 of Recommendation 16-01, is the valid reference point for calculating recommended catch levels moving forward.

Canada strongly encourages intersessional meetings in order to work towards the important management decisions to support conservation and sustainability of the tropical tunas. As such, Canada endorses the revisions in PA1\_511A which aim to facilitate productive deliberations.