

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE PANEL 1 CHAIR
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1. Review of Panel membership

In accordance with ICCAT Circular #7729/20, Panel 1 welcomes the United Kingdom as a member of Panel 1. A full list of Panel 1 members is contained in document GEN_004A/20.

2. Review of Compliance Tables

The main issue of relevance for the drafting of the Compliance Tables is the determination of the initial quotas/catch limits for bigeye tuna for 2020. The tables indicate quotas, catch limits and catches up to 2019. Some questions were raised regarding the calculation of underages, namely whether this should be based on the initial quota or the adjusted quota. One CPC requested that the Secretariat seek legal advice on this issue, but it was noted that it is not within the Secretariat's mandate, and that the interpretation of the Recommendations is the Commission's responsibility.

On this issue, one CPC disagreed that "some CPCs exploit the lack of clarity of the measure." For this CPC, the mandate of the measure is absolutely clear in terms of its subject matter, timeframe and form.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee was requested to contribute to the discussion, and he noted that the calculation of available underages has included using adjusted quotas in the past and that Rec. 16-01 (as amended by Rec. 18-01) limits the percentage carry over of underharvest to 15 percent of the annual initial catch limits specified for relevant CPCs in paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01.

Several CPCs noted the inappropriateness of referring to the reference points specified in Rec. 19-02, paragraph 4(d), as "adjusted catch limits" in the Compliance Tables. The figures, therefore, have been deleted from the Compliance Tables to avoid any confusion.

On a related matter, the Chair of Panel 1 clarified his conclusion with respect to the status of PA1-502B/20. The document has not been adopted. Rather, it can be used as a basis for discussions for the work of the planned 2021 Panel 1 intersessional meeting.

3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

The Chair of the Panel presented for review the "Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas," (PA1-503A/20). This document aimed to roll over some expiring provisions of that recommendation for one additional year. The Chair's draft recommendation was supported by a majority of CPCs.

A few CPCs expressed their disagreement with PA1-503A/20 because they felt that their views were not taken into account and that the process was not transparent and inclusive. These CPCs reiterated that paragraph 1 of the Chair's proposal should be rephrased as follows: "The provisions of the 2019 Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-year conservation and management program for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02) applicable to the year 2020 are extended to 2021". Another CPC, supporting this new reformulation of paragraph 1, proposed the reformulation of paragraph 2 as follows: "An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in 2021 to review the existing measures and, in the event of new overages of yellowfin and/or bigeye TAC, to contemplate the adoption of a new multiannual plan for tropical tunas based on effort management". The Chair concluded that, at this stage of the discussions, no consensus had been reached on his draft recommendation within Panel 1, and the matter was submitted to the Commission for resolution.

Regarding the roadmap proposed by the Chair of the Panel, some CPCs, while not opposing to it, would like the items for discussion not to be closed and that there be a possibility of developing the agenda items in due course.

4. Recommendations to the Commission based on the above findings

Panel 1 recommends that:

- The Commission thoroughly review the “Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” in the Plenary with a view to finding a way forward.
- The Commission adopt the work plan proposed by the Chair of Panel 1 for 2021 presented in document PA1_511A, and consider the list to be non-exhaustive, noting that the IMM Working Group will work on many Panel 1 related issues, and that the Panel will review the results of this Group.