

**REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2**  
*(Madrid, Spain, 5-6 March 2020)*

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan).

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Fiona Harford (European Union) was designated as Rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**

The Panel reviewed the draft agenda. At the request of Turkey, a point was added under agenda item 10 about conversion factors from whole to processed fish. The agenda was adopted with this change and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Executive Secretary introduced the participating delegations. **Appendix 2** lists the delegates from each participating CPC, and observers.

**4. Consideration of fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for 2020 presented by CPCs**

The Chair drew attention to a number of recurring issues concerning the plans submitted by CPCs. Although paragraph 7 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04) allows CPCs to request a carryforward of up to 5% of their unused 2019 quota to 2020, only Japan and Norway had submitted such a carry-over request in their fishing plans. Other CPCs wanting to make use of this option were required to submit a revised fishing plan. The Chair also invited CPCs to ensure the correct completion of the capacity table, in particular the recording of under- and overcapacity. Although a dedicated footnote explained that undercapacity should be indicated using a minus and overcapacity using a plus, this had not been respected in all plans. Furthermore, although paragraph 94 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04) requires all farming CPCs to provide in their farming plans the geographical coordinates corresponding to the polygon where their farms are placed, only one CPC had provided this information. The CPCs concerned were requested to provide the missing information or explain why this would not be possible. In addition, the Chair asked all CPCs to include in their fishing plans the methodology used for calculating the proposed by-catch quota, as required by paragraph 38 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04).

The EU expressed its concern about the increase in the number of purse seine vessels proposed by several CPCs, noting that some were doubling their capacity compared to 2018. This could be problematic considering that the fishing season for purse seine vessels had been extended by at least 23% and up to 73% in some geographical areas and weather conditions. It was also an indication that the SCRS 2009 catch rates used to calculate fishing capacity are not adapted to current fishing patterns and need to be revised as soon as possible to avoid a risk of severe overcapacity. The EU remarked that CPCs that are increasing their farming activities or the number of purse seine vessels by more than 20% should explain the need to do so, and that such increases should not be considered as historical rights.

The United States noted that paragraph 20 of Rec. 19-04 (18-02) limits the adjustment of fishing capacity for purse seine vessels to a maximum variation of 20% whereas the plans of some CPCs provided for a higher increase. The United States also indicated that paragraph 20 was not part of the derogation allowed under paragraph 23 and asked how this should be operationalised.

The Chair stated that the Panel could not endorse fishing plans from CPCs with a purse seine capacity increase in excess of 20%, unless they were developing countries or CPCs in the Northeast Atlantic fishing mainly in their own economic zone (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Zone) benefiting from the derogation under paragraph 22a and b of Rec. 19-04 (18-02), and that the current SCRS catch rates should be used to determine overcapacity.

The United States noted that Rec. 19-04 will enter into force in June 2020 and that some fishing plans refer to Rec. 19-04 as the applicable ICCAT framework whereas other plans refer to Rec. 18-02 or to both Recommendations. The Chair clarified that Rec. 19-04 made changes of a mainly editorial nature to Rec. 18-02, thus reducing the importance of which Recommendation was referred to. Until Rec. 19-04 enters into force, each CPC should decide for itself which Recommendation it will apply, bearing in mind that some CPCs may face legal constraints in applying Rec. 19-04 before its entry into force and that CPCs could decide to apply Rec. 19-04 on a voluntary basis until then.

The United States suggested that the fishing plan template (i.e. guidance document 16-24) be modified to include instructions on how to complete the capacity table, in particular as regards by-catches. The Chair noted that a footnote in the template should provide the necessary guidance. Nevertheless, while inviting CPCs to follow it, he also indicated a willingness to try to improve the instructions further.

CPCs then presented a summary of their fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans, which were subsequently discussed, revised as necessary, and presented for endorsement. The final action taken with regard to each plan is reported under agenda item 5.

### ***Albania***

Albania presented the main elements of its fishing plan for 2020. The plan provided for a total bluefin tuna quota of 169.748 t for 2020, this being the result of deducting the 252 kg of bluefin tuna caught as by-catches by an Albanian small pelagic purse seine vessel in the Adriatic Sea in September 2019 from Albania's overall 2020 quota allocation of 170 t. Of the total available quota for 2020 (169.748 t), 168.748 t will be allocated to 2 purse seine vessels and 1 t will be reserved for incidental by-catches. Other aspects of the fishing plan, such as the fishing season (26 May to 1 July) remained the same as in 2019.

The Chair noted that, depending on where the fishery takes place and its purpose (farming), the fishing season could be extended to 15 July. He also noted that the minimum size requirements that applied for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes were 8 kg or 70 cm fork length. The EU considered that the two conditions stipulated in paragraph 29 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04) had to be met to extend the fishing season, notably the fish had to be both caught and farmed in the Adriatic Sea. Albania confirmed that the fishing will take place in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and that it had no farming activities.

The EU requested information about the number of designated ports for transshipment and asked Albania whether the prohibition of recreational and sport fisheries was still applicable given that bluefin tuna was no longer subject to a recovery plan but to a management plan. The EU also requested that Albania explain the need to double its fishing capacity from 1 purse seine vessel in 2019 to 2 in 2020, considering that this increase could present a risk in view of the slight overfishing in 2019.

Albania confirmed that although there were 4 designated ports for transshipment in Albania (Shengjin, Durres, Vlore and Saranda), transshipment operations of bluefin tuna were allowed only at the designated port of Shengjin. Albania further noted that as recreational and sports fisheries were not very developed, no bluefin tuna quota was allocated for these activities. Regarding the fishing capacity increase, Albania indicated that a quota of 168.748 t was sufficient to allow 2 purse seine vessels to operate, while any excess catches will be deducted from Albania's total quota for the next year.

The Panel noted the concerns expressed by the EU regarding the increase in Albania's fishing capacity. The Chair invited Albania to take into account these concerns in its fishing plan and to provide further information about where fishing will take place and about designated ports as well as the reason why Albania wished to increase its fishing capacity in view of para 22 (a) of Rec. 19-04. The Panel endorsed the plan after the required amendments were included.

### ***Algeria***

Algeria explained that its 2020 fishing plan was based on Rec. 18-02 and relevant national regulations and legislation. The plan provided for a total bluefin tuna allocation of 1,655 t, of which 1,650 t will be allocated to purse seine vessels only and 5 t will be reserved for by-catches. Vessels without a specific bluefin tuna permit and not targeting bluefin tuna will not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Any bluefin tuna by-catch will either be released alive or discarded if dead and deducted from the bycatch allocation. The

fishing season will run from 26 May to 1 July 2020. Algeria further indicated its interest in developing bluefin tuna farming activities but noted that it had not yet established any farms. A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2020 campaign, in accordance with national rules and ICCAT requirements, including in particular inspections in port. The relevant authorities will maintain constant contact with controllers and observers on board authorised purse seine vessels. Algeria noted that it will not be operating an inspection vessel for the implementation of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection ('JIS').

The EU asked for clarification about the number of purse seine vessels that will be authorised, noting that there were discrepancies in the numbers included in various parts of the fishing plan. As Algeria will not be deploying an inspection vessel, the EU asked whether it had been in contact with other CPCs to conduct joint operations or whether it intended to report the result of its risk assessment and alternative measures in the fishing plan, as required under paragraph 111 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04).

The Chair invited Algeria to clarify the correct number of authorised purse seine vessels in the fishing plan and to explain the method used for calculating the by-catch quota, noting that it had decreased from 9 t in 2019 to 5 t in 2020, whereas Algeria's total allocation increased from 1,446 t in 2019 to 1,655 t in 2020. Some minor corrections were also needed regarding in the capacity table including for previous years. The Chair, supported by Japan, considered that the explanations provided in the fishing plan about the inspection regime complied with the requirements of paragraph 111 but suggested to include additional information about the risk assessment carried out and the presence of control officers onboard purse seine vessels. Japan requested that Algeria indicate clearly that bluefin tuna by-catch will be counted towards the total quota in case the amount reserved for bycatch is exceeded.

Algeria confirmed that the correct number of purse seine vessels is 26 and clarified that the 9 t reserved for bycatch in 2019 was not used. It therefore considered that 5 t should be sufficient in 2020 and confirmed that excess bycatches will be deducted from the total quota. Although Algeria was unable to participate in the JIS due to funding restrictions, it was interested in continuing the cooperation it started with the EU in 2018. A risk assessment had been carried out, covering aspects related to authorisations to fish, the lack of serious infringements identified during inspections, 100% observer coverage of purse-seiners by national controllers and observers, investigations based on cross checking of information, continuous monitoring of vessels using VMS, and sanctions for non-compliance.

The EU explained that joint inspections with Algeria were not possible due to EEZ-related bilateral issues and proposed that Algeria explore cooperation opportunities with other CPCs. Tunisia expressed interest in continuing its cooperation with Algeria in the framework of EU-funded training programmes for inspectors and noted that the Tunisian inspection vessel 'AMILCAR' was available for joint operations and that two new inspection vessels were being acquired.

Algeria indicated that any EEZ issues with the EU will be resolved bilaterally and that discussions are being maintained with Spain. Algeria has agreed to submit a revised fishing plan addressing the concerns raised in relation to bycatch, the number of authorised purse seine vessels and the capacity table, fisheries openings, and risk assessment. The Panel endorsed the revised plan with the necessary amendments.

### **China**

The Chair explained that China was unable to attend the meeting due to COVID-19 outbreak and that the Secretariat was in close contact with China regarding the Panel's discussions on its fishing plan. The Chair noted that the figure for adjusted quota (101 t) was missing from the capacity table.

The EU considered that the fishing plan lacked information about the monitoring, control and inspection measures China intended to implement. Japan suggested informing China of the possibility to include a carry-over request in the fishing plan. The United States remarked that the language on designated ports was unclear and asked China to specify whether it had designated ports and, if so, if they have been notified to the Secretariat. The United States also noted that the information on domestic laws or regulations was less comprehensive than what had been provided in 2019 and asked that references to relevant domestic laws and regulations be included in next year's fishing plan. The United States proposed that China include more information as regards catch recording and reporting, as well as fisheries openings and areas. On transshipment,

the United States and Japan considered that reference to the prohibition of transshipment on the high seas should be to transshipment at sea.

The Chair indicated that China's 2020 fishing plan was almost identical to its 2019 plan and questioned whether paragraph 73 of Recs. 18-02 and 19-04 concerning the prior notification of landings did not apply as indicated in the plan on the basis that China does not have a port where bluefin tuna fishing vessels conduct landings or transshipments. The Secretariat explained that a distinction had to be made between landings of bluefin tuna at domestic designated ports and foreign designated ports and confirmed that all bluefin tuna catches by Chinese vessels were landed or transhipped at foreign designated ports. The Chair invited China to clarify how it would manage inspections of landings in port and transshipment of bluefin tuna in foreign designated ports, to include information concerning the fishing area and to correct the reference to transshipment on the high seas. He also encouraged China to provide more information on its domestic laws and regulations in its fishing plan next year.

The Panel endorsed China's revised fishing plan after the necessary changes were made, including information about the implementation of paragraph 73 and confirmation that transshipment of bluefin tuna will be allowed only at designated ports.

### ***Egypt***

Egypt outlined its fishing plan, which was based on Rec. 18-02 (19-04), explaining that of the total quota of 330 t allocated for 2020, an amount of 326.7 t will be fished and the remaining amount of 3.3 t (1% of the total quota) was reserved for by-catches. The fishing season will start on 15 May and end on 1 July 2020. A maximum of 2 purse seine vessels will be authorised to fish with individual quota respecting the overall limit. The Resolutions and Ministerial decrees adopted to implement Rec. 18-02 will be updated to reflect the changes brought by Rec. 19-04. Egypt also provided an overview of its actions to implement ICCAT requirements for its bluefin tuna fishery including those related to catch recording and reporting, minimum size, release of undersized live fish, reporting of dead fish and deduction from quota, prohibition of recreational and sport fisheries, prohibition of transshipment, minimum VMS polling frequency (1 hour), deployment of national and regional observers onboard vessels, observation of landings by permanent observers at designated ports, and the prohibition for foreign fishing vessels to enter Egyptian fishing ports except in cases of emergency. Egypt expressed its intention to establish farming activities.

The Chair asked Egypt to explain the basis for reserving 1% of its total quota for by-catches. Although the EU considered that Egypt could improve the monitoring, control and inspection section of the fishing plan, the Chair noted that Egypt had provided the appropriate references to its domestic laws and regulations, that the plan concerned purse seine vessels only and that the information on the JIS was optional. The United States questioned whether Egypt intended to establish farms in 2020 and if so, noted that Egypt should provide the information required pursuant to paragraph 26 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04).

Egypt explained that the basis for setting the by-catch allocation at 1% of the total quota was that no by-catches were recorded in 2019. Egypt also confirmed that farming activities will not start until 2021. The Chair therefore suggested that the plan specify that no farming activities will take place in 2020 and asked Egypt to correct and complete the capacity table as regards the number and type of purse seine vessels and fishing capacity. The Panel endorsed the plan with the necessary changes.

### ***European Union***

The EU introduced its plan, explaining that 8 EU Member States actively fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, covering a range of fishing gears. The majority of the overall 2020 quota of 19,460 t will be attributed to the purse seine vessels and trap sectors and a total of 664.87 t has been set aside for by-catches. The EU explained the various tables in the plan noting that the fishing plan table shows the quota allocations among different sectors including the actual number and length category of vessels that will be authorised by the EU in 2020 and their quotas. The capacity plan shows the potential capacity that can be deployed with the maximum number and length category of vessels and the minimum quota that should be allocated to each gear type on the basis of the SCRS catch rates. The EU noted that the number of vessels in the fishing plan (1429) is lower than the number in the capacity plan (1457). The farming plan included a table showing the distribution of wild input and maximum farming capacity among EU Member States. Some of the farms listed in the plan are inactive and therefore do not have any input capacity allocated to them. The EU

noted that a revised farming plan will be submitted by 1 June 2020. The EU also briefly set out how it will implement ICCAT rules regarding fishery openings, minimum size requirements, by-catches, recreational and sport fisheries, transshipment and VMS, the CPC and Regional observer programmes, the tagging programme, intra-farm transfers and random controls in farms, and carry-over estimations in farms. Regarding the inspection plan, the EU presented the measures that will be taken at the level of the EU Member States, by the European Commission and under the JIS, notably the implementation of its Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean which will be coordinated by the European Fisheries Control Agency and cover a minimum of 301 days of control and inspection activities at sea and 52 air surveillance flights.

The Chair noted that if the EU wished to carry-over unused 2019 quota, it should submit a revised plan with a carry-over request and explanatory calculation. The EU should also explain the level of the by-catch allocation, noting that it did not increase proportionally with the EU's total quota, and provide the geographical coordinates of each farm. Moreover, there were discrepancies between the table showing the quota distribution among sectors and the fishing capacity table, with the theoretical capacity for some sectors appearing to be lower than actual capacity. For example, the number of longline vessels below 24m in the quota distribution table was 187, whereas the capacity table included 173 such vessels. The Chair asked the EU to respect the template, including for reporting under/overcapacity.

The EU explained that its plan was based on the national plans received from EU Member States. A by-catch allocation of 664.87 t should suffice because many small vessels that previously used that allocation will now fish under a specific sectorial quota for small-scale coastal vessels. The EU confirmed that it would provide the geographical coordinates of each farm, noting that some farms have more than one location. Regarding the discrepancies between the different tables, the EU confirmed that the fishing plan shows the EU's maximum potential capacity whereas the capacity table shows its actual capacity. The quota allocated in the fishing plan was higher than the corresponding quota when using the SCRS catch rates, indicating a situation of no overcapacity.

Japan noted that the capacity of three of the tuna farms described in the plan as inactive had been increased and asked how the total wild input capacity of 24,777 t was calculated and how it related to the EU's overall catching and farming capacities. The EU explained that its 2019 wild input capacity was based on the historical input of all farms, including farms that had never been active and therefore did not have any historic capacity or assigned input capacity. All farms marked as 'inactive' in the plan were farms that were currently inactive but that may have had activity in the past, whereas farms with assigned wild input were those that had activity at some moment, based on historical input records. The EU noted that it had sufficient wild input capacity to absorb any potential EU input.

The United States asked the EU to explain the sectorial quota for small-scale coastal vessels and the additional measures taken to measure the quota consumption of these vessels, as required by paragraph 19a of Rec. 19-04 (18-02). The EU explained that this would be subject to special fishing authorisations valid for a defined season and that uptake will be monitored by the relevant EU Member States according to national legislation. In relation to intra-farm transfers and random controls in farms, the United States noted that, contrary to the EU's 2019 plan, the 2020 plan did not specify the minimum percentage of the total number of cages in each farm that will be inspected. The EU noted that inspection benchmarks were still being discussed with EU Member States, some of which have a very small number of cages making it difficult to plan random controls. It confirmed that the overall minimum benchmark will not be lower than the 2019 benchmark but if it were lower in a given situation, the Panel will be informed of the reason.

The EU submitted a revised plan including a statement of its intention to transfer a maximum of 5% of its unused 2019 quota to 2020, explanations on the by-catch quota level and the sectorial quota reserved for small-scale coastal vessels and related additional measures, a corrected fishing plan table (adjusted quota) with a footnote explaining the difference with the capacity table. The revised plan also confirmed that the minimum percentage of the number of cages to be inspected in each farm will not be below the 2019 benchmark and included the geographical coordinates of 24 farms with the remainder to be provided by 1 June. In response to a question from the United States, the EU confirmed that the exact quantity of the carry-over and details of the underlying calculation will be communicated at a later stage.

In response to a request from Albania, the EU confirmed that a total of 70 purse seine vessels will be authorised in 2020. The EU recalled that in 2018, overcapacity had been identified in all CPC fleets and that ICCAT had established a plan to eliminate overcapacity over 4 years. The EU's maximum potential purse seine capacity

consisted of 45 vessels over 40 m, 20 vessels of between 24 and 40 m and 5 vessels of less than 24 m. However, because some vessels had been substituted by smaller vessels, the actual distribution within the purse seine vessel category had changed to 30 vessels over 40 m, 35 vessels of between 24 and 40 m and 5 vessels of less than 24 m. The EU noted that it had presented its fishing plan in this way since 2018 for transparency reasons but that it was open to changing its methodology if so requested. In any event, it considered that the SCRS catch rates should be revised urgently.

The Chair noted that there was no overcapacity due to the application of higher catch rates than those of the SCRS and asked the EU to follow the same rules as other CPCs for presenting its capacity management plan next year. The Panel endorsed the EU's revised plan with this understanding.

### ***Iceland***

Iceland did not attend the meeting but responded by correspondence to the issues raised by the Panel. The Chair asked Iceland to clarify why it had increased the amount allocated for by-catches from 7 t in 2019 to 10 t in 2020 and to correct the capacity table.

Korea noted that Iceland had indicated that it did not have observers and that instead, inspectors were responsible for ensuring the minimum 20% observer coverage on-board fishing vessels, as required by paragraph 83 of Recs. 18-02 and 19-04. Because observers are required to carry out scientific work in addition to compliance monitoring, Korea asked whether Iceland's inspectors will carry out such scientific work and if they were trained for this purpose. The United States asked why the language on authorised ports included in the 2019 plan was not included in the 2020 plan.

Iceland submitted a revised fishing plan including information on authorised ports, an explanation for the level of by-catches, confirmation that national inspectors will carry out scientific work and a corrected capacity table. The Panel endorsed the revised plan.

### ***Japan***

Japan briefly presented its fishing plan, which was largely the same as the 2019 plan. The plan included a request for the transfer of maximum 5% of its unused 2019 quota to 2020 in accordance with paragraph 7 of Rec. 19-04 (Rec. 18-02), i.e. an amount of 20.27 t. A quota of 14 t was reserved for dead discards (as in 2019) and a by-catch amount of 1 t was set aside for other fisheries, taking into account that Japan's fishing grounds for bluefin tuna are located far from those for other species and that no bluefin tuna by-catches were reported by Japanese fishing vessels targeting bigeye tuna around the equator. The capacity table included a total of 38 longline vessels but this figure was provisional given that the domestic process for selecting vessels and allocating individual quota was still ongoing. The final vessel names, individual quotas and other information will be provided to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the start of the Japanese fishing campaign, which runs from 1 August through 31 July of the following year. The quota set aside for dead discards and for bycatch for other fisheries will be officially confirmed in function of the number of licenses issued. Monitoring, control and inspection measures will remain the same as in previous years. Japan explained that because the bluefin tuna fishing ground was located in a very limited area off Iceland, it was relatively easy to monitor the activities of the vessels targeting bluefin tuna. Its Fisheries Agency continuously monitors vessel positions through VMS and cross checks these with logbook data. Additional measures taken by Japan included the undercapacity of its longline vessels, the prohibition to land in foreign ports, 100% inspections of landings, and cooperation with port states, in particular as regards transshipments. In view of these measures and the risk assessment conducted, Japan will not deploy an inspection vessel under the Scheme of Joint International Inspection.

The EU and the United States asked Japan to clarify whether 'off the island' in the fishing plan meant to refer to Iceland. The United States also asked how the carry forward of unutilised 2019 quota would work given that Japan's fishing season runs from 1 August through 31 July of the following year.

Japan confirmed that the correct reference was to 'Iceland' and explained that its domestic fishing season had no impact on the carry-over request because the bluefin tuna campaign runs from September to December of the same year, and therefore only 2019 catches and unused quota were concerned. Panel 2 endorsed Japan's revised fishing plan with the inclusion of the explanation provided for the level of authorised by-catches and the correct reference to the fishing ground.

***Korea***

Korea noted that its fishing plan was based on an overall 2020 allocation of 250 t, consisting of an initial quota of 200 t and, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Rec. 19-04, a 50 t transfer from Chinese Taipei. The transfer notification will be sent to the Secretariat soon. Korea noted that it had not included a carry-over request in its fishing plan but that it intended to request a carry-over of 1.567 t, bringing its total 2020 quota to 251.567 t. The level of by-catches was set at 0.5 t as the possibility of bluefin tuna by-catch by Korean vessels targeting tropical tunas near the equator being almost zero.

The United States asked how the carry-over provision in paragraph 7 of Rec. 19-04 should be applied in relation to the transfer of quota from Chinese Taipei to Korea, in particular whether the transfer limit referred to the initial quota as included in the table under paragraph 5 or to the adjusted quota after the transfer from Chinese Taipei. The Chair noted that this provision had not changed substantially from Rec. 18-02 but that this was the first time that the carry-over possibility was being applied; hence, there was no precedent. Moreover, the proposed transfer amount remained within 5% of Korea's initial allocation, regardless of the transfer from Chinese Taipei. The United States indicated that this was an important issue of principle with substantive implications and suggested that when the Recommendation is revised, the text of paragraph 7 clearly specify what quota level (initial or adjusted) the transfer limit applies to, in order to avoid confusion going forward.

Korea submitted a revised fishing plan including a carry-over request and a corrected capacity table. The Panel endorsed the plan and agreed to review the language of paragraph 7 in 2021 to clarify its applicability to initial or adjusted quota limits.

***Libya***

Libya presented its 2020 fishing plan. Out of a total quota of 2,255 t, an amount of 2,235 t was allocated to 15 purse seine vessels over 24 m. An amount of 20 t was reserved for by-catches by the artisanal fleet or overruns by purse seine vessels; this amount was considered sufficient on the basis that the 17 t set aside for by-catches in 2019 had not been used fully. Libya confirmed that information on authorised ports had been sent to the Secretariat and noted that it would not participate in the JIS because the number of vessels that would engage in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities was below the limit set out in paragraph 111 of Rec. 19-04 (18-02). In this respect, Libya considered that 'fishing vessels' in that paragraph referred to catching vessels, this being how it has been interpreted since 2010.

The EU stated that as Libya will use 15 purse seiners and 14 other vessels, which means that the number of its fishing vessels will be more than 15, it should follow paragraph 111 even if it had not done so in the past. This was supported by Norway. The Chair acknowledged that Libya's 2019 fishing plan had been endorsed with similar language on paragraph 111 but noted that a strict reading of that paragraph combined with the definitions set out in paragraph 3 meant that 'fishing vessels' included not only catching vessels but also towing and support vessels among others. Hence, if more than 15 such vessels will be engaged in fishing activities, Libya should participate in the JIS. The Chair further noted that the capacity table needed correction.

The EU indicated that the wording of paragraph 111 of Rec. 19-04 was different from previous versions in that it allowed CPCs a choice between three options, notably to provide an inspection vessel, to cooperate with other CPCs, or to establish other measures. The EU cautioned against weakening the control provisions, in particular as regards the control of the transfer of transport cages from catching vessels to towing vessels.

Tunisia agreed with Libya that 'fishing vessels' in paragraph 111 was meant to refer to catching vessels.

The Chair noted that there was no consensus to continue past practice and invited Libya to consider submitting a proposal to change the wording of paragraph 111 at the next annual meeting. In the meantime, Libya could consider implementing one of the options contained in paragraph 111.

Libya recalled that it had limited its fishing capacity to 15 purse seine vessels due to the particular situation that its ports could not be used and that inspection vessels from other CPCs encountered problems entering its waters. Libya's plan therefore provided for the inspection of 100% of the activity of towing and auxiliary vessels by national observers. Turkey expressed its support for Libya in view of the difficult situation and indicated that there had been no compliance issues last year. Libya submitted a revised plan, deleting an erroneous

reference to a by-catch allocation of 1.5 t, correcting the capacity table, and adding explanations about the placing of local researchers on board catching vessels and the implementation of the JIS, in particular its participation with 1 inspection vessel.

The Chair indicated that the fishing plan was still lacking an explanation of the by-catch allocation level. Libya explained that the risk of incidental bluefin tuna catches was very low and that an amount of 20 t had been established taking into account past by-catch records and the increase of its total quota from 2,060 t in 2019 to 2,255 in 2020. Libya agreed to submit a revised version of its fishing plan with this explanation to the Secretariat. Panel 2 endorsed the fishing plan with that understanding.

### ***Morocco***

Morocco briefly introduced its revised fishing plan, noting that its total 2020 quota was fixed at 3,284 t and was distributed as follows: 2,424 t for 18 traps, 440 t for 4 purse seine vessels above 40 m, 400 t for small coastal vessels and artisanal boats (longline and handline), as well as a reserve quota of 20 t in case of overshoot of the allocated quota and potential dead discards. Morocco will apply the provisions of Rec. 19-04, including requirements regarding the recording of catches (logbook and eBCD), fishery openings and minimum size requirements. In accordance with paragraph 28 of Rec. 19-04, Morocco intends to continue its study on growth rates of fattened bluefin tuna, based on the measurement of the stereoscopic cameras and size samples at the start and at the end of the season. The study will be complemented by a pilot study based on acoustics and coordinated jointly by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and the ICCAT GBYP.

The Chair asked Morocco to clarify whether the amount of 400 t for small coastal vessels and artisanal boats was a by-catch allocation and to explain how this amount was calculated. The geographical coordinates of each farm should be provided and the capacity table should be corrected with regard to under/overcapacity, including for previous years.

Morocco confirmed that the amount of 400 t reserved for small coastal vessels and artisanal boats was intended to cover potential bluefin tuna by-catches and was based on historical statistics. In 2019, the artisanal fleet had a by-catch of 324 t. The increase to 400 t matched the increase in Morocco's total quota.

Morocco submitted a revised plan with an explanation of the level of by-catch quota set aside for small coastal vessels and artisanal boats, the geographical coordinates of each farm and a corrected capacity table. In response to the EU's question why changes were made to trap capacity and overall capacity, Morocco explained that it has revised its table of fishing capacity using the calculation method proposed by the Chair and the capacity table guidelines. For example, total trap capacity in 2018 increased from 1,635 t to 1,950 t, based on 15 traps with a capacity of 130 t each. Following these explanations, the Panel endorsed Morocco's revised plan.

### ***Norway***

Norway introduced its information paper "Fishing capacity on Atlantic Bluefin tuna by purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian EEZ from 2014 to 2019" (SCRS/2020/017). The paper found that bluefin tuna migrated over long distances to Norwegian waters to feed and that small schools (1-5 individuals) dominated in Norwegian waters. Small school size, low density and highly dynamic behaviour and pronounced long-distance feeding migrations may strongly affect the purse seine catch rate and fishing capacity. The paper suggested that the estimated average fishing capacity for purse seine vessels inside the Norwegian EEZ was considerably lower than the estimated fishing capacity of similar sized purse seine vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea. They suggested that 20.6 t should be used for all purse seiners operating in the Norwegian waters.

The Chair welcomed the information paper as a useful contribution to the SCRS' work on capacity benchmarks and recalled that the Panel had asked the SCRS to review the current catch rates. Japan recalled that at the previous meeting of the Panel, the SCRS Chair had requested guidance on calculating catch rates. In response, the Panel had asked the Secretariat to examine past records for details of the calculations used for the current rates. Japan asked if the results of the Secretariat's work were available.



The EU considered that the SCRS had sufficient information to calculate catch rates, at least for some years, and called on the SCRS to step-up its work on this important issue. It was clear that the current rates did not match Norway's experience and that different rates should apply to different zones. The Secretariat reported that it had found some background figures linked to the catch rates included in the 2009 SCRS report but that it was unlikely that the SCRS figures can be reconstructed exactly because many scientists had retired or moved on. The Chair expressed concern that simply asking the SCRS to construct new catch rates would not be a good idea, given the past responses of the SCRS to Panel's request. The Panel supported a suggestion by the Chair that CPCs should provide the SCRS for its review the best estimates of their catch rates based on the fishing activity of their fleets in the last five years.

Regarding its 2020 fishing plan, Norway noted that its initial 2020 quota was 300 t and that it was requesting a transfer of 11.95 t corresponding to 5% of its unused 2019 quota to 2020, resulting in an adjusted 2020 quota of 311.95 t. Group quotas of 256.95 t and 18 t were set aside for 8 purse seine vessels and 3 longline vessels, respectively. In addition, 5 t were set aside for a recreational fishery, 1 t for tag-and-release, 6 t for research activities and 25 t for incidental by-catches. Although Norway's total quota had increased compared to 2019, the by-catch level set for 2020 was 2 t lower than in 2019, taking into account the fact that bluefin tuna by-catches in the Norwegian EEZ were associated mainly with non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries were reflected in bluefin tuna by-catch levels, the highest level in recent years occurring in 2015 at 8.4 t whereas the level in 2019 was as low as 0.73 t. Thus, Norway considered 25 t sufficient to cover by-catches in 2020. If a vessel exhausts its individual quota or has no quota, the bluefin tuna will be released alive or, if dead, landed and deducted from the quota. A minimum size of 30 kg or 115 cm will apply although a maximum of 5% bluefin tuna by-catch weighing between 8 and 30 kg with fork length between 75 and 115 cm could be authorised. Pursuant to paragraph 22 b of Rec. 19-04, the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 20 did not apply to Norway. The results of the scientific pilot study into the possible future short-term live storage in cages and maintaining the high quality of the fish during and after purse seine catch operations will be submitted to the SCRS in 2021.

The Chair asked Norway to include such explanation on by-catch levels in the fishing plan. In response to a question from Korea, Norway confirmed that all dead fish, including from the recreational and tag-and-release fisheries, will be landed in designated ports. The United States noted that the fishing capacity and inspection plan was very comprehensive and welcomed that the fishery will be monitored closely. Regarding Norway's capacity table, the United States noted that Norway's scientific paper had not yet been presented to and endorsed by the SCRS. Toward that end, Norway's use of these new capacity figures in its plan did not prejudice the need for such review and endorsement.

The Panel endorsed the revised fishing plan including an explanation of the by-catch allocation level.

### ***Syria***

Syria did not attend the meeting but submitted a fishing plan. The Chair noted that the fishing plan did not explain the amount reserved for by-catches (1 t).

The Secretariat transmitted this remark to Syria so that it could submit an amended plan. As its response was not received in time, the Panel agreed to consider endorsement of the plan by correspondence, noting the deadline for completing this process was March 31, 2020.

### ***Tunisia***

Tunisia noted that its 2020 quota was fixed at 2,655 t, out of which it has allocated 99% (2,628.45 t) to 50 purse seine vessels and 1% (25.55 t) as a by-catch quota. Tunisia will apply ICCAT rules on catch recording and reporting, fishing seasons (including any extension due to bad weather conditions) and minimum size (no less than 30 kg or 115 cm). Dead and undersized specimens will be discarded at sea and deducted from the total quota. If by-catches exceed the 20% limit tolerated for vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna or if the by-catch quota is surpassed, they will also be discarded and deducted from Tunisia's allocation. Sports and recreational fishery will not be authorised. All vessels over 15 m will be equipped with VMS with transmissions to start 5 days before the start of the authorisation period at a polling frequency of 1 hour for purse seine vessels and 2 hours for other vessels. Tunisia will ensure 100% national observer coverage on board towing vessels and will implement the ROP. It will also implement an on-board scientific observer programme

covering more than 10% of purse seine vessels and a periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme in farms. A list of 12 designated ports was submitted to the Secretariat. As regards the farming plan, Tunisia adjusted the input volume for 2020 of bluefin tuna to its 2020 allocation of 2,655 t, in accordance with paragraphs 24 to 27 of Rec. 19-04 (18-02). Any live bluefin tuna to be carried-over will be placed in separate cages from new catches in 2020. Monitoring, control and inspection measures will be implemented in accordance with ICCAT requirements, including at-sea and in-port inspections, landing and harvesting operations. Random controls will be implemented at active farms using conventional cameras covering at least 10% of fish in farming cages. A systematic in-depth assessment using stereoscopic cameras will be conducted for all bluefin tuna carried over to farms after bulk harvesting and before first caging in 2020. The Tunisian inspection vessel AMILCAR will participate in the JIS from 15 May to 15 July 2020, covering fishing, towing and caging activities. A periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme will be implemented at Tunisian fattening farms programme and participation in the GBYP will continue.

The Chair asked Tunisia to explain in the plan the basis for setting a by-catch quota of 1%, to indicate if it would be requesting a carry-over of unused 2019 quota, and to provide the geographical coordinates of the farms. The United States asked why the language on designated ports included in the 2019 plan had been removed. Korea noted that Tunisia's monitoring and inspection plan mentioned that all landings and harvesting operations will be controlled by 'certified agents of the relevant authority', whereas paragraph 73 of Rec. 19-04 (18-02) referred to 'relevant control authorities' and asked whether the 'agents' in question were government officials or private sector employees.

Tunisia explained that the by-catch quota was based on historical data from previous years (2017-2019) and adjusted for the overall increase in its 2020 allocation. In 2019, a by-catch quota of 24 t had been set aside but by-catches amounted to only 3 t. Tunisia confirmed that it intended to carry-over its unused 2019 by-catch allocation of 20.4 t. It also agreed to provide the missing geographical coordinates and to include information in the plan about designated ports. Tunisia further confirmed that all its inspectors were government officials, noting that in the French language '*agent de l'état*' means government official.

Tunisia submitted a revised plan with these clarifications, which was endorsed by the Panel.

### ***Turkey***

Turkey noted that its total quota allocation 2,305 t for 2020 was allocated in full to 36 purse seine vessels. A quota of 5 t had been set aside for by-catches. Turkey has transposed Rec. 19-04 into national law. The fishing season will run from 15 May to 1 July with a possible extension in the event of bad weather conditions. All vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to have a fishing permit. Transshipment at sea has been prohibited and designated ports will be open 24 hours a day. The list of designated ports was provided to the Secretariat. The VMS polling frequency will be 1 hour and the presence of CPC observers will be required during the whole process of bluefin tuna catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farms. A regional observer coverage of 100% will be implemented on the purse seine vessels and at farms during caging and harvesting operations. The farming plan included 6 farms and farm authorities will be allowed to carry-over non-harvested bluefin tuna from 1 to 30 April 2020. The monitoring, control and inspection plan will be similar to 2019, with inspections to be conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with the Turkish Coast Guard Command, including at sea and at active landing ports, as well as random control transfers at farms. Turkey will continue its voluntary contribution to the JIS and its support for GBYP.

The Chair asked Turkey to explain the significant decrease in the level of by-catch quota from 50 t in 2019 to 5 t in 2020 in the fishing plan and to correct the capacity table. Turkey explained that by-catches in previous years were below 5 t and submitted a revised fishing plan. The Panel endorsed the revised plan with the understanding that the adjusted quota in the capacity table should be 2,300 t.

### ***Chinese Taipei***

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting. The Chair noted that although Chinese Taipei had submitted a fishing plan, it had indicated that it would not fish for bluefin tuna in 2020.

The Panel endorsed Chinese Taipei's fishing plan.

***Senegal***

The Panel appreciated that Senegal had submitted a fishing plan but, as with Mauritania, agreed that completion of a plan is unnecessary for those with only a research quota. Given that, no endorsement decision was needed concerning Senegal's plan. The Panel invited Senegal to report its research results to the SCRS.

***Other plans***

The Chair recalled that at the 2019 annual meeting, Namibia and the Russian Federation had expressed an interest to fish for bluefin tuna and had been invited to submit information regarding their intentions as a basis for discussions on possible quota allocations at the 2020 annual meeting. The submission of fishing plans by both CPCs for consideration by the Panel at its 2020 intersessional meeting appeared to be based on the misunderstanding that fishing could start in 2020 using a portion of the unallocated reserve quota. The Chair noted that fishing would only be possible if the CPCs concerned were allocated quota at the 2020 annual meeting and after endorsement of their fishing plans at the next intersessional Panel meeting. On this understanding, the Panel agreed that it was not required, nor would it be appropriate to take an endorsement decision on these plans, but the Panel did agree to provide feedback on the fishing plans.

***Namibia***

The Chair indicated that it was not clear if Namibia would allocate individual quota to the 2 longline vessels mentioned in the fishing plan and noted that there was also a possibility of bluefin tuna by-catches from gears other than longline. Namibia should provide information about where fishing will start (eastern Atlantic or Mediterranean), specify the VMS polling frequency and explain the national observer coverage rate (50%?). The Chair also clarified that the weather conditions derogation and ROP were applicable to purse seine vessels only, that transshipment was allowed at designated ports only and that there was no need to complete the capacity table as capacity had yet to be allocated. The EU noted that the catch rates had been deleted from the capacity table and that the amount of 500 t did not correspond to the capacity of the 2 longline vessels. The Chair indicated he would provide Namibia the correct vessel capacity information.

The Panel invited Namibia to provide the clarifications in advance of the 2020 annual meeting in order to inform discussions on a possible allocation for 2021.

***Russian Federation***

The Chair noted that the fishing plan did not include a quota for bluefin tuna by-catches with an explanation of the level. Additional information was also needed about catch recording and reporting (e.g. electronic or paper logbooks), possible derogations for weather conditions, the fishing area (eastern Atlantic or Mediterranean), the destination of the bluefin tuna catches and the VMS polling frequency. Reference to the ROP in the section on the CPC observers programme (row 8 in the table) is incorrect unless the Russian Federation intends to implement a national programme on a voluntary basis in addition to the ROP. The EU asked if incidental catches of undersized fish will be deducted from the quota.

The Panel invited the Russian Federation to provide the requested clarifications in advance of the 2020 annual meeting in order to inform discussions on a possible allocation for 2021.

**5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4**

The Panel endorsed all plans during the meeting, except those of the Russian Federation, Namibia, Senegal and Syria. Concerning Syria, the Panel decided to consider endorsement of the plan through correspondence subject to its revision and further circulation to CPCs by e-mail. The Chair noted that the deadline to complete this process was March 31, 2020

The Panel considered that endorsement of the fishing plans presented by Namibia and the Russian Federation was neither required nor appropriate given that neither CPC has available quota with which to conduct a bluefin tuna fishery in 2020. The question of quota allocations for Namibia and Russia will be taken up at the 2020 ICCAT annual meeting. The Namibian and Russian fishing plans for these two CPCs are available, respectively, on the [meeting website](#)).

In the case of Senegal, the Panel confirmed that submission of a plan was not required given that Senegal's allocation of 5 t was for research purposes. The plan presented by Senegal is not attached to this report given that it did not require approval and is available [on the meeting website](#).

The endorsed plans as well as the plans presented by Namibia and the Russian Federation are included in **Appendix 3**.

## **6. Consideration of potential non-compliance issues for ROP**

The Panel examined the 'List of potential non-compliance (PNC) events to be reported by regional observers' (**Appendix 4**), in particular the 7 PNC events highlighted in the document.

Turkey noted that the PNC events relating to problems with official documentation arose because regional observers did not have access to the eBCD (they only receive information provided to them directly) and were not responsible for incorrect or inconsistent information in eBCDs. The Chair confirmed that regional observers did not have access to the eBCD and noted that although the farming information in the eBCD required the observer's signature, that was not the case for the two issues under consideration. As this was a fundamental issue, it may be necessary to consider changing the eBCD format. The United States indicated and the Panel agreed that there is an important connection between the regional observer's responsibility to sign an eBCD to confirm the accuracy of the reported data and their ability to access corroborating information to verify that data before signing -- especially if relevant activities occurred when the observer was not on scene (such as during intra-farm transfers).

As regards the two PNC events relating to problems with videos during a transfer, the Chair noted that the first issue concerned the non-provision of the electronic storage device to the observer as soon as possible after the transfer operation (Rec. 18-02; Paragraph 92 and Annex 8 iii). As the aim was to avoid tampering, the timing element was important. This was to be distinguished from the second issue concerning the non-provision of a copy of the video record of transfer to the observer during deployment (Rec. 18-02; Paragraph 92 and Annex 8 iii).

The Chair noted that the three remaining PNC events highlighted in the document concerned problems with caging and during a harvest deployment (Rec. 18-02; Paragraphs 100 and 103). He noted with the support of Turkey that as these issues related to control tasks, they were not the responsibility of the regional observer. Although the Chair proposed to remove them from the list, the United States asked to keep them in because they concerned the regional observers' ability to understand the situation they were facing, the information to be accessed for their verifications, and what they could be required to sign-off on.

The EU, supported by the United States, proposed that these issues be discussed at the relevant working groups with participation of the ROP Consortium. The EU explained that it had organised an informal meeting with the ROP Consortium because some EU Member States had encountered problems with using the reporting forms. Other CPCs had joined the meeting at their request. Many aspects of these discussions were reflected in the 'Proposed changes to the ROP-BFT reporting forms'. The Secretariat noted that the report of the meeting had been shared only with those who attended because the meeting was not an official ICCAT meeting. The Secretariat also remarked that there could be timing issues if any technical working group discussions were to be held in May because observer training will have started by then and observers may therefore receive different information.

The Panel took note of the timing constraints raised by the Secretariat and agreed that the aforementioned issues should be discussed in a technical working group with CPCs and the Consortium. The Panel noted that depending on the outcome of these discussions, it may be necessary to amend Rec. 19-04 and/or Rec. 18-13 notably as regards the eBCD format. In addition, Panel 2 agreed that, to ensure transparency, a timely notification process would be followed to inform CPCs of the outcome of any informal discussions with the ROP Consortium related to the interpretation and implementation of the ROP provisions of Rec. 19-04.

## **7. Determination of responses to the ROP Consortium regarding clarification of provisions of Rec. 19-04**

The Panel reviewed the 'Proposed changes to ROP-BFT reporting forms' together with Appendix 1, which sets out Algeria's observations on those changes and the 'Responses to requests for clarifications ROP-BFT' (**Appendix 5**), which included responses provided by Algeria, Turkey and the United States. Algeria noted that there should be coherence between the terminology used in the ROP report and in the Recommendations in order to avoid confusion. Algeria had identified two issues of substance in relation to the proposed changes to the ROP-BFT reporting forms. The first related to the Consortium's suggestion to introduce the recording by the observer of by-catches of other species although this was not part of the minimum logbook information requirements, and it was unclear what was meant by 'other species'. The second issue was that viewing release operations did not fall within the regional observers' remit in the case of releases from towing cages after transfers at sea (vs releases from farms where the presence of an ROP is required even if a towing cage is used as a first step in the release). Algeria, therefore, proposed to delete these changes proposed by the Consortium unless there was agreement to amend the logbook and release operations provisions.

As regards the ROP Consortium's requests for clarifications of provisions of Rec. 19-04, the EU proposed to discuss them with the Consortium in an informal technical meeting back-to-back with the next IMM Working Group meeting in May 2020. The Panel could then return to these issues during the ICCAT annual meeting. The Chair noted that the IMM Working Group meeting in May could be too late and proposed as an alternative to invite the Consortium to update their list of observations. The United States welcomed the Chair's proposal considering that the Technical Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures had addressed many of the Consortium's requests for clarifications.

The Panel agreed that the issues raised by the ROP Consortium regarding clarification of provisions of Rec. 19-04 should be discussed in a technical working group with CPCs and the Consortium on the basis of an updated list of observations.

## **8. Review of growth rates for farmed bluefin tuna**

The GBYP Coordinator updated the Panel on progress achieved in its study to review bluefin tuna growth rates in farmed fish, which will form the basis for the SCRS to review and update the 2009 growth table and the growth rates utilised for farming bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea. In accordance with paragraph 28 of Rec. 19-04, the results of this work are to be presented to the 2020 annual meeting of the Commission. The GBYP multiannual Work Programme included the analysis of growth of individual fish through tagging experiments to provide individual growth trajectories of juvenile and adult fishes, intensive monitoring of representative cages in selected areas, and the building-up of a global database integrating all stereoscopic camera and harvesting data.

The GBYP reviewed the state of play of the work packages. Work package 5, which was launched in May 2019, focused on the implementation of field and desk work for base data generation and will continue into 2020. Work package 6 will start in April 2020 when the SCRS BFT Species Group rapporteurs will convene an ad-hoc expert group involving interested SCRS scientists, Secretariat staff, the scientific teams in charge of ongoing field studies and the GBYP coordination team to initiate a global analysis of available data. The results will be presented at the 2020 annual meeting of the Commission.

The preliminary results of the scoping study, based on data collected by questionnaire from all active bluefin tuna farms in the Mediterranean, confirmed that the initial study design covered most of the potential scenarios but also that the Moroccan Atlantic waters should be included as a new area due to its specific features. Concerning individual growth rates, problems had been encountered in tagging operations of adult fish in the Portuguese trial, in particular the loss of many external tags, high stress-induced mortality of tagged fish, and high variability in individual growth rates. Fewer problems had been encountered in the tagging operations of juvenile fish in the ongoing Croatian trial. As regards the monitoring of selected cages, the preliminary results of the Modal Progression Analysis confirmed that different modal groups can be defined in all monitored cages (located in different regions) and that there was a recognisable increase in their mean lengths between successive measurements. In relation to the global analysis, the first step of consolidating the information from the stereoscopic camera files was completed, whereas the second step of validating and complementing this information, including checking for gaps and integrating information from eBCDs and VMS, was ongoing. These

studies will continue in 2020 and a pilot study will start on combining image analysis system (IAS) and acoustic techniques for monitoring growth in farms. The latter will provide information on the length of the fish and on their weight (and therefore on the fattening of fish).

Japan welcomed the work done so far and recalled that, at the 2019 ICCAT annual meeting, it had emphasised the importance of bringing neutrality and objectivity to these activities and had proposed to adopt a direct tracing system in the study, including farming operations after tagging. Japan expressed disappointment that the trial in Portugal had not been successful due to high mortality but welcomed that work will continue via the trial in Croatia. Alternative methodologies should be designed carefully to ensure the objectivity and neutrality of the results. Japan welcomed the use of state-of-the-art technology including acoustic technology for measuring length and weight. As Rec. 19-04 required the SCRS to invite independent scientists to review the updated growth tables, they should contribute to the report before its finalisation and the presentation of the results to the 2020 annual meeting of the Commission. The GBYP explained that it did not have plans to involve external experts but that it could consider inviting internationally recognised experts to attend the April meeting if requested to do so by the Panel. In any event, the rapporteurs of two species groups were looking to create an expert group that would be open to participation by all scientists that usually attend the species group meetings.

The EU welcomed the progress made and requested more information about the use of external expertise, how the Panel will be kept informed and whether the updated growth rates will be available by the 2020 annual meeting of the Commission, as required by paragraph 28 of Rec. 19-04. Morocco questioned the need for external expertise, which could put into question the expertise of ICCAT's own scientists in particular the SCRS, and noted that scientists are supposed to be neutral and objective. Tunisia reminded the GBYP of the need to consider differences among geographic areas. The United States welcomed the continuation of work in the Croatian trial but asked whether those fish, which were much smaller than other fish, were a good proxy for estimating growth rates in larger fish. Noting the limitations involved in using stereoscopic camera footage, the United States also remarked that the updated growth tables should be considered preliminary until the output and analysis of such footage is improved.

The GBYP explained that the Portuguese and Croatian trials were complementary, one focusing on adults and the other on juveniles. It was likely that the Portuguese trial will be repeated to obtain data from adult fish. Data from studies that were being conducted elsewhere (e.g. in Malta and Morocco) could also be combined with GBYP data. In relation to the stereoscopic camera footage, the problem was not the camera (which was precise enough) but the use of a common length-weight relationship for all fish, which resulted in a bias. It was, therefore, important that the footage sample used be representative of the cage population. Although the final version of the growth tables will not be ready until 2021 because the harvesting data from the trial in Croatia will be available only then, draft tables could be presented in 2020. The GBYP confirmed that its steering committee was willing to consider participation requests from SCRS scientists and to contract external experts to participate in the study.

The Chair noted that paragraph 28 of Rec. 19-04 clearly refers to a review by independent scientists and invited CPCs to provide the names of possible experts to the Secretariat for transmission to the GBYP.

## **9. Review of the outcomes from the Technical Working Group on Bluefin tuna control and traceability measures**

The Panel conducted an initial review of the 'Conclusions of the Working Group on Bluefin tuna control and traceability measures', including suggestions to strengthen the control and traceability of bluefin tuna fisheries, in particular of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna destined for farms, and to help prevent IUU fishing activities and trade in illegal bluefin tuna. The Working Group identified various provisions of Rec. 19-04 and other relevant ICCAT measures including Recs. 06-07, 18-12, and 18-13 that could potentially benefit from being clarified, combined, streamlined, or otherwise improved. The Panel held substantive discussions on the following provisions of Rec. 19-04:

- *Paragraphs 9 and 100:* Morocco and Tunisia called for an urgent clarification on the possibility of grouping fish from different cages into the same cage during carry-over operations within a farm undertaken pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rec. 19-04, and also during intra-farm transfers. They noted that there were good operational and practical reasons for the grouping to be used provided it was done in compliance of

paragraph 5 of Rec. 18-13, i.e. with catches partitioned on the basis of flag CPC origin or of joint fishing operations (JFOs). They noted that the eBCD WG will have to develop the corresponding eBCD functionality to allow transcribing the grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO and that the IMM Working Group will have to reflect the relevant grouping of eBCDs in Rec. 18-12 / 18-13. They added that discussions should continue through the IMM working group on the grouping of fish from different origins. The United States and Japan considered that more time was needed to examine possible implications of allowing the grouping of fish from different cages during carryover operations. Allowing such grouping would likely negatively affect the traceability of the grouped fish and would be particularly problematic if it involved fish from different flag CPC or JFO origins. The United States noted that the Panel could return to this issue in November 2020 to decide whether to refer the matter to IMM/PWG for a discussion on possible amendments to Recs. 18-12 and 18-13.

- *Paragraph 24:* Japan considered it useful to know how farming CPCs interpret farming and input capacity. The EU noted that definitions of these terms were needed as they were used in Rec. 19-04 without being defined.
- *Paragraph 85:* The EU noted the interest of its Member States in participating in the trials for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) analysis of stereoscopic camera footage. Morocco indicated that it was clear that regional observers must examine stereoscopic camera footage whereas Tunisia considered that regional observers need to access the footage only at the moment of harvesting. By then, the results would already have been approved by the farming CPC (in collaboration with other CPCs) so there would be nothing for the regional observer to validate. The United States noted that farming CPCs should be applying this provision consistently and if they were not, the Panel needed to consider clarifying the rules. The Pew Charitable Trusts stated that coupling independent human observation with technical observation was the hallmark of modern control.
- *Paragraph 86:* The Chair invited CPCs to provide comments on the revised draft ITD model submitted by Turkey as a basis for further discussion.
- *Paragraphs 91 and 92:* The EU raised the issue of the role of the regional observers. Although the relevant provisions of Rec. 19-04 clearly provided that regional observers should have access to stereoscopic camera footage, it was not clear whether they actually have access to the related software in practice as the only way that would allow them to estimate the weight of the fish. The software is expensive and the licenses are not transferable as they are subject to intellectual property rights. Because farms could legitimately refuse access to their software, the ROP Consortium should have its own software and licenses. This matter should be clarified urgently because the bluefin tuna campaigns will start soon. The ROP Consortium confirmed that its observers do not currently have access to the software, which needed to be purchased. If observers need to check the footage, they would need to be able to access it and watch it independently from the operators. Morocco noted that the issue depends on when the footage is being analysed. If the observer intends to watch the footage some months after departure, they would need to have the software but if the analysis is to be done on board the vessel, or at the trap or farm, the observer could use the operator's equipment. Because the software licence accompanies the equipment, this would not constitute a breach of copyright. The Chair recalled that flag and farming CPCs were required to communicate the results of their investigations to the regional observers but that it was unclear how the latter dealt with these results. The Chair called on CPCs to volunteer to propose a way forward concerning the role of the regional observers in advance of the 2020 ICCAT annual meeting.
- *Paragraphs 106 and 107:* The EU highlighted the importance of continuing discussions on enforcement in particular on the drawing up of a list of serious violations regarding live bluefin tuna activities, including those related to trade. The EU noted that it will present a first version for discussion at the next IMM/PWG meeting. Turkey reserved its position on the EU's proposal and made statement A included at **Appendix 6**. The Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers agreed that such a list of serious violations was needed.
- *Other possible measures / eBCD / Proposal of the EU:* Turkey reserved its position on whether to complete, on a mandatory basis, the section for information on transport means located in the trade section of the eBCD as well as to consider adding the dates for departure and arrival. Turkey made statement B included at **Appendix 6**.

- *Other possible measures / eBCD / Proposal by Morocco*: Regarding Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04, point iii (Section 2), Morocco requested clarification about the figure to use for determining the range of the stereoscopic camera results, in particular whether 5% should be used as a default or whether the range should be calculated. The Chair explained that 5% was the maximum limit for errors and that the range should be calculated within that margin and the system should be recalibrated if above 5%.
- *Other possible measures / BFT processing vessels / EU proposal*: The EU noted that it will produce a paper related to the control and traceability of bluefin tuna processing vessels as a basis for discussion by the Panel during the next annual meeting and invited interested CPCs to participate in drafting.

After extensive discussion, the Panel endorsed a revised version of the conclusions (**Appendix 7**). It was agreed that the outcome of the Panel's deliberations on the Working Group's suggestions did not prejudge the position of CPCs on these matters when they will be further considered either intersessionally by other ICCAT subsidiary bodies or during the 2020 ICCAT annual meeting.

The Chair noted that further follow-up work was needed to draft potential amendments to Recs. 19-04, 18-12 and 18-13 and called on CPCs to volunteer to progress this work.

The EU volunteered to produce draft amendments to Recs. 19-04 and 06-07 and suggested that any amendments to the eBCD provisions contained in Recs. 18-12 and 18-13 be dealt with separately and in consultation with the eBCD technical working group. The United States noted that some provisions of Rec. 06-07 were linked to Recs. 19-04 and 18-12 and vice versa such that there should be consistency and complementarity across these Recommendations as well as consolidation where needed. The United States offered to progress work on Recs. 18-12 and 18-13 in time for the next meeting of the IMM working group, including the possible streamlining of reporting obligations.

The Chair welcomed these offers and noted that the eBCD technical working group was well placed to provide input on possible amendments to Recs. 18-12 and 18-13. Although work on some aspects of the Recommendations would depend on amendments to Rec. 19-04, work on other aspects could already start.

The Panel agreed that the EU will produce a first draft of amendments to Recs. 19-04 and 06-07 by the first week of June. After translation into the ICCAT languages, the draft amendments will be circulated to CPCs for comments by the end of July. The Chair will subsequently compile these comments into one document, which will be translated into the ICCAT languages and circulated to CPCs for comments by 15 September barring anything unforeseen. The Panel also agreed that the United States will start work on revising Recs. 18-12 and 18-13 in view of a discussion at the next IMM working group meeting.

## 10. Other matters

### 10.1 *Consideration of a draft protocol for Northern Albacore Exceptional Circumstances*

The Chair introduced the 'Draft Protocol on Exceptional Circumstances Northern Albacore' (**Appendix 8**), which included his draft Protocol proposal and comments from Canada, the United States and the SCRS Chair.

The United States welcomed the Chair's draft Protocol proposal as a good basis for further work. The draft Protocol provided for management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur, in line with similar work done by NAFO and CCSBT. The United States noted the importance of a common understanding between managers and scientists of the timing of the different steps outlined in the Protocol. The adoption by ICCAT of a management procedure for northern albacore is essential for an effective management strategy evaluation (MSE) process, and the Protocol should be framed in these terms. This would be in line with the MSE roadmap for northern albacore and Rec. 17-04, which calls for the adoption in 2020 of a long-term management procedure for this stock. Work is needed to further develop the general criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances developed by the SCRS in 2018. The United States considered that ICCAT should proceed on this matter with care bearing in mind that any decisions regarding northern albacore may set a precedent for other stocks. They, therefore, suggested that the Panel refer the draft Protocol and outcome of its discussions to the SCRS for review and input.



The EU considered that exceptional circumstances should not include events voluntarily determined by managers such as the development of new fisheries and stated its intention to submit written comments. In addition, the EU noted that the Panel would benefit from SCRS review of Canada's comments on the Chair's draft protocol in particular.

The Chair confirmed that these discussions will be relevant for the future MSE process for bluefin tuna. He questioned the need to refer the draft Protocol back to the SCRS, noting that the SCRS Chair had provided comments already and that the SCRS expected the Commission to decide on this matter.

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomed the draft Protocol, noting that not many RFMOs had developed one, and considered that ICCAT should determine how exceptional circumstances will be identified and prescribe what to do when they are found to occur. The Protocol should be specific to northern albacore and should be developed further, in particular through the addition of information in the indicator table.

The United States agreed that the Protocol should be specific to northern albacore and appreciated Canada's efforts in this regard. The United States considered that the SCRS Chair's comments could be understood as meaning that the initial feedback from SCRS was generic and that further work was needed.

The Panel agreed that CPCs could submit additional comments by the end of March 2020, after which the draft Protocol and comments received would be transmitted to the SCRS Chair with a request that he refer them to the SCRS Working Group(s) that were best placed to discuss them and provide feedback on this important issue to the Panel.

## **10.2 Conversion factor from whole to processed fish**

Turkey explained that since 2013, it had been using the conversion factors published by the SCRS in 2001 and 2009, as well as the guidance in the SCRS 2010 manual for using conversion factors to calculate processed weight, noting that these form the basis of Turkey's control of bluefin tuna products. Information from industry stakeholders suggested that other CPCs were using different factors for the same product types, thereby creating difficulties and jeopardising the level playing field of trade in bluefin tuna. Turkey had engaged in informal consultations with other CPCs on this matter to find a way forward and to allow its authorities to continue validating eBCDs. Turkey requested guidance from the Panel on the proper application of the conversion factors, in line with SCRS guidance.

In response to a question from Morocco, the Chair clarified that it was not the length-weight conversion but the conversion of bluefin tuna from processed weight back to whole weight that was at issue. Turkey confirmed that its main concern was the after-harvest implications of the conversion factors used *vis a vis* validation of the trade section of the eBCD, rather than the general issue of the conversion factors used in the logbook.

The Chair noted that Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04 required the logbook to be kept in equivalent live weight of fish and to mention the conversion factors used in the evaluation. Unlike in other RFMOs, there was no ICCAT obligation to use the most up-to-date conversion factors. The Chair considered that all CPCs should use the same method. If no such obligation existed, it should be introduced.

The EU stated that CPCs should use the conversion factors for bluefin tuna published under the Statistics heading of the ICCAT website. The EU also recalled that paragraph 95 of Rec. 17-07 required the conversion factors adopted by SCRS to be applied when calculating the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna, but that this provision had not been retained in Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04.

The Panel concluded that because Rec. 17-07 had been repealed, amendments will need to be introduced during the agreed process to revise Rec. 19-04.

## **11. Adoption of report and adjournment**

The Chair thanked all participants for their hard work and adjourned the meeting. The meeting report was adopted by correspondence.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Consideration of fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for 2020 presented by CPCs
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4
6. Consideration of potential non-compliance issues for ROP
7. Determination of responses to the ROP consortium regarding clarification of provisions of Rec. 19-04
8. Review of growth rates for farmed bluefin tuna
9. Review of the outcomes from the Technical Working Group on bluefin tuna control and traceability measures
10. Other matters
  - 10.1 Consideration of a draft protocol for Northern Albacore Exceptional Circumstances
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

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**Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna farming, fishing, farming,  
inspection and capacity management plan endorsed by Panel 2<sup>1,2</sup>**

**ALBANIA**

**Fishing Plan Year: 2020**

**1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

By the Minister Order Nr. 102, dated 05/02/2019, implementing provisions were approved of Recommendation 18-02 that amends the ICCAT Recommendation 17-07, and based on that Recommendation, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota allocated to Albania for the year 2020 is 170 t, (para 5, Rec. 18-02). We have deducted from the total quota, the amount of 252 kg BFT, caught as by-catch during September 2019 by an Albanian small pelagic purse seiner vessel in the Adriatic Sea, as it was foreseen in Management Plan 2019, (point 4 in the table, By-catch para 38 Rec. 18-02).

We also reported these data to ICCAT Secretariat on January 7, 2020 (Information on fishing activities 2019 (para 57, Rec. 18-02).

So, for the year 2020, the total quota of bluefin tuna (169.748 mt) is allocated to purse seiner vessels (168.748 mt) and incidental by-catch (1 mt).

Two purse seiners vessels (41 m and 28 m) are authorized to fish the Albanian bluefin tuna quota and these vessels are provided with Bluefin Tuna Fishing Authorization.

Albania adjusts the number of fishing vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated quota, and on the other hand Albania needs to develop its fishing capacity so to fully use its quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS. (para 22, Rec. 18-02).

The method used to allocate and manage the quotas is based on Minister Order Nr. 102 dated 05/02/2019, implementing provisions of ICCAT Rec. 18-02, national legislation as well as in the Albanian fishing fleet register and fleet segments.

Legal basis:

Law No. 64/2012 "On fisheries", amended, article 69, Paragraph 1/point b and c, Paragraph 3 and 5.

In the Albanian fishing fleet register, there are no baitboats, longliners, handliners or traps. The fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners is not developed and no permissions are issued. Albania reports annually the fishing gear groups and fleet segments (DCRF - GFCM and DG MARE).

The permissions issued to small scale vessels clearly indicate the distance from the coast (1 – 2 NM) and fishing gears to be used (gill nets and trammel nets with respective length and mesh size).

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<sup>1</sup> The Syrian fishing plan is not included here as the revised plan was endorsed by correspondence and not at the Panel 2 intersessional meeting. It is available with the meeting documents the ICCAT website:

<https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/czzTppB3CsSI4BL>

<sup>2</sup> The plan presented by Senegal is not included as there was no requirement to endorse it and is available on the ICCAT website:

<https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/czzTppB3CsSI4BL>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Catch recording and reporting</b> <b>Para 63</b></p> <p><b>Para 65</b></p> <p><b>Para 66</b></p>	<p>The Electronic log-book is still under development. During this year, the Masters of authorized vessels are obliged to use a bound fishing logbook for their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2 of Rec. 18-02.</p> <p>The Master shall transmit every day to the Albanian authorities, during the whole period in which he is authorized to fish bluefin tuna, the daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34 of Rec. 18 -02. That information shall be sent in the format set out in Annex 2.</p> <p>Masters of purse seiners shall produce reports on a fishing operation basis, including for operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Albanian authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p> <p>On the basis of the information, the Ministry will transmit a weekly catch report to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	<p>Annex 4 of DCM Nr. 407 dt. 08/05/2013 "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy", implementation of the EU Regulation 1224/2009 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 "Establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy".</p> <p>Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019.</p>	



		be counted against Albania's quota.	
4	<b>By-catch</b>  <b>Para 38</b>	Catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and Albania allocate 1 (one) t as a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. If the specific quota for by-catch is exhausted all by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of Albania and reported to ICCAT. All by-catches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea. Albania shall report information on such quantities (landed dead or released live) on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No quota is allocated for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries and this fishing activity is not permitted.	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019.
6	<b>Transhipment</b> <b>Para 77</b>  <b>Para 78</b>	There are four designated ports in Albania (Shengjin, Durrës, Vlorë and Saranda) but the transhipment operations of bluefin tuna shall be allowed only at the designated port of Shengjin. Prior to entry into Shengjin port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the Albanian authorities at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transhipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019.
7	<b>VMS</b> <b>Para 105</b>	VMS implemented; the polling rate is at least once every hour (Rec. 18-10, para 3).	Law Nr. 64/2012, Article 72: The vessel monitoring system Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install on their board the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through

			the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.	
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme</b>  <b>Para 83</b>	The bluefin tuna fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners as well as traps or towing vessels is not developed and no permissions are issued. On the other hand, Albania has started implementing the by-catch monitoring program through the observers on board of fishing vessels (bottom & pelagic trawlers, purse seiners and small-scale artisanal fishing) in 4 designated ports to obtain representative data on the discard component of total by-catch, as well as information on the incidental catch of vulnerable species.	LoA between FAO under GCP/RER/010/ITA and MTF/INT/943/MUL – Baby 26 and the Albanian authorities for provision of “Support the fisheries monitoring of Albania”, signed on 29/01/2019.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme</b> <b>Para 84</b>	Albanian purse seiners fishing vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna will be covered 100% from ICCAT Regional Observer Programme.	Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>			

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

(Attached)

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A.

## 4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

### a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

By special order, No. 5, dated 28.01.2019, issued by the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, a Task Force will be installed at the Shengjini fishing Port, during the fishing season, to carry out duties based on ICCAT Recommendation 18-02, Albanian legislation and Minister Order No. 102, dated 05/02/2019.

During this period, in addition to other duties as per articles 67-69, 74-75, 80-83, and 121-124 of the Law 64/2012 “On Fisheries”, and the Minister's Order No. 102, dated 05/02/2019, the Fishery Inspector, based at the fishing port of Shengjini, and the Task Force, should prioritize implementation as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The Master of the Authorized Fishing Vessel should notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the estimated time of arrival into the port, estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Fishery Inspectors takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and obtain from the master the landing declaration which reflects the above data already specified (through weighing) and not in a random way.

The Master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The Albanian authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

- The Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by the authorized fishing vessel, the data communicated, the landing declarations in the fishing port, as well as other details that are seen as reasonable. The Fishery Inspector shall communicate these data to the Fishery Directorate within 48 hours of the landing of the fish products by the authorized fishing vessel.
- Ensure that the Master of fishing vessel fills correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.
- Not allow the bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the snout to the bifurcation of the tail). The Inspector makes measurements of each tuna caught, just landed and verifies implementation of the foregoing obligation to weigh/minimum size of fish caught.
- Check the functionality of the VMS system of the vessel, with a non-stop signal, which is not interrupted even when in port.
- Send to the Fishery Authorities at the Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.
- Observe, identify and monitor any quantity of bluefin tuna caught by the fishing vessel (outside of authorized fishing season).

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

N/A.

**5. Others**

N/A.

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Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity													
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7												1	1													70.7	70.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78							1	1	1	1			1								49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78			49.78
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																											
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>									<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>														
Longliner over 40m	25																											
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																											
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
<b>Total longline fleet</b>																												
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10																											
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																											
Other (please specify)	5																											
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>																												
<b>Quota</b>																						<b>39.65</b>	<b>47.40</b>	<b>56.91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>169.748<sup>3</sup></b>	
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																											<b>155</b>	<b>168.748</b>
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>																												
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>																						<b>10.13</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>-7.31</b>	<b>-50.22</b>	<b>-84.3</b>	<b>-48.268</b>	

<sup>3</sup> A 1 t quota is set aside for incidental by-catch. Also, 252 kg was deducted due to incidental by-catch during 2019.

**ALGERIA****Year of Fishing Plan: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Algeria presents its eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan below.

Algeria's 2020 fishing plan is based on the relevant provisions of the ICCAT recommendations, in particular Recommendation 18-02 and the national regulation and legislation, including in particular the Law 01-11 regarding fisheries and aquaculture, amended and supplemented by the Executive Decree No. 03-481 establishing the methods and conditions for exercising fishing and the Ministerial Order of 19 April 2010, amended and supplemented, which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for Algerian-flagged vessels and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.

Bluefin tuna fishing activities in 2020 will be carried out in accordance with the same methods and conditions as of previous campaigns and with other improvements on fishing documentation (logbook) and ICCAT monitoring and control requirements, in particular, the obligation regarding an IMO number for all the fleet participating in the campaign.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of ICCAT Recommendation amending Recommendation 18-02 on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Algeria in 2020 is 1,655 t.

Algeria will implement its fishing plan to catch 1,650 t, which will be distributed among the tuna purse seine vessel owners that have been selected in accordance with the fishing and maritime security regulatory conditions to participate in the 2020 campaign. A quota of 5 t will be reserved for by-catch.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to participate in the campaign are established in accordance with a national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of the 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation. The distribution criterion for individual quotas is based on the size of the vessels used (gross tonnage and vessel length).

For the 2020 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Algeria will allocate fishing quotas only to the tuna purse seine vessels with a length overall between 22 and 40 m. The list of live bluefin tuna catching vessels authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 18-02, i.e. 12 May 2020.

With regard to by-catch, vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current Algerian regulation and that do not target bluefin tuna, will not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Specimens of bluefin tuna taken as by-catch will be discarded and recorded in logbooks.

Bluefin tuna individuals taken as bycatch and discarded dead will be deducted from the quota reserved for bycatch. In case of potential overshoot of the amount reserved for bycatch, the quantities fished in excess will be deducted from the national quota.

It should be noted that Algeria has not registered for 2019 any bycatch of bluefin tuna by vessels without a bluefin tuna fishing permit, even though a quota of 9 t has been reserved for this purpose. Algeria has therefore revised downwards the quota reserved for bycatch to 5 t.

Regarding the bluefin tuna fishery opening period, and in accordance with paragraph 29 of Recommendation 18-02, Algeria authorises fishing for bluefin tuna by purse seine vessels for the 2020, from 26 May to 1 July 2020.



	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Purse seiners participating in the fishing season must record catches (including null catches) in the logbook. The logbook is bound and maintained onboard the vessel in accordance with domestic regulations the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation. Weekly catches of bluefin tuna are communicated to the fishing administration in accordance with paragraphs 65-66 of Rec. 18-02.	Article 13 and its Annex 6 of the Order of 10 March 2019, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Purse seine tuna vessels: 26 May 1 July.	Article 5 of the Order of 10 March 2019, which amends and supplements Article 23 of the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.  However, in accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 18-02, Algeria may possibly extend the fishing period of its affected vessels, by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days in the event of bad weather	

			<p>conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.</p>	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	<p>115 cm - 30 kg. However, by-catch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm in relation to total catch may be authorised. Dead fish will be declared and deducted from Algeria's quota and live fish will be released.</p>	<p>Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources. Article 23 quarter of the Order of 18 March 2015, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.</p>	
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<p>With regard to by-catch, vessels that do not hold a specific permit for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the</p>	<p>Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 which amends and supplements Executive Decree</p>	

		<p>Algerian regulation in place, are not authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Any discard of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 5 t allocated to by-catch or from Algeria's quota. Discards will be recorded in logbooks and counted against Algeria's quota.</p> <p>In addition, catches are controlled at port accesses by members of the National Coast Guard Service and at landing sites by fishing inspectors.</p>	<p>No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004, which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources.</p>	
5	<b>Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	<p>There are no recreational and sport fisheries targeting bluefin tuna in Algeria. No quota is allocated to recreational and sport fisheries.</p>	<p>Article 16 of Executive Decree No. 03-481, dated 13/09/2003 establishing the fishing conditions which stipulate that only bluefin tuna vessels carrying a fishing license are authorised to catch bluefin tuna.</p>	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	<p>Transshipment is prohibited.</p>	<p>Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented.</p>	
7.	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	<p>Legislative and regulatory obligation</p>	<p>Article 20 bis of Law No. 15-08, which amends and supplements the Law 01-11 on the fisheries and aquaculture, and Article 7 of the Order of 15 May 2012, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under</p>	<p>For purse seine tuna vessels, VMS messages are transmitted every hour, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recs 18-02 and 18-10.</p>

			national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
8	<b>CPC observer programmes (para 83)</b>	Boarding of two controllers / national observers onboard each of the bluefin tuna purse seine vessels actively targeting bluefin tuna throughout the fishing season. There is a 100% coverage for purse seine vessels.	Article 8 of the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Regulatory requirement: Purse seine tuna vessel owners are required to take onboard ICCAT regional observers.	Article 8 of the Order of 15 May 2012, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
	<b>Other requirements, such as the tagging programme (para 45).</b>	Use of video camera for transfer surveillance: Transfer operations from the fishing net to the transport cage will be recorded by video camera, as required by paragraph 91 and Annex 8 of ICCAT Rec. 18-02.	Article 17 of the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 26 tuna purse seine vessels, is adapted to the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e. 1,650 t. Therefore, Algeria will not exceed its bluefin tuna fishing capacity.

Individual quotas are attributed in accordance with the national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of the 18 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.

The list of vessels that should participate in the 2020 fishing campaign will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 18-02.

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), if appropriate**

Algeria is not operating any bluefin tuna farming facilities in 2020.

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### ***a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2020 campaign, in accordance with national legislation and the domestic regulation and the relevant provisions of ICCAT recommendations. This programme consists in carrying out in-port inspections on tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2020 fishing campaign, before and after the campaign.

Two controllers / national observers board each of the tuna purse seine vessels throughout the fishing season. The controllers / observers are responsible for monitoring fishing, transfer operations and verifying information and data on the fishing campaign. They will ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller / observer are required to produce campaign reports at the end of the campaign.

The controllers / observers will remain in constant contact with the fisheries administration and communicate all information on fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, for the purposes of monitoring, the tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a VMS beacon which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and must start 5 days before the authorisation period and will continue 5 days after the fishing campaign. The polling rate will be every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

With regard to landing ports, tuna vessels flying the national flag are authorised to land bluefin tuna caught during the fishing campaign in the authorised ports only, i.e.: Port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Bejaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran, port of Ténès, port of Bouzedjar and the port of Beni Saf. An inspection of products to be landed by tuna purse seine vessels that have participated in the bluefin tuna fishing season, and all the onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant State institutions (Fisheries and Coast Guards). It is prohibited for foreign vessels to land bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at the annual meeting held in Dubrovnik, regarding the IMO number of fishing vessels on the ICCAT record, IMO number is a regulatory requirement of tuna vessels that will participate in the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

### ***b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Algeria has more than 15 tuna vessels that will participate in the 2020 live bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

In the preparation of financial regulations for 2020, Algeria has initiated internal procedures with the Ministry of Finance to grant the necessary funds to hire an inspection vessel for the implementation of the joint international inspection programme.

However, it is important to note that in 2020 (2 January 2020) a new governmental organization was implemented. Previously the fishing sector depended on the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries and on 2 January 2020 it was established as a ministerial department, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

This new organization will represent an obstacle for the release of funds that were allocated for this operation.

To this effect, Algeria will not operate an inspection vessel for the implementation of the joint international inspection programme.

Therefore, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 111 of Recommendation 18-02, Algeria has carried out a risk analysis, which can be summarised as follows:

**Authorisation to fish:** It should be noted that pursuant to regulations, bluefin tuna fishing is only authorised to those vessels carrying a fishing licenses, with individual quotas, issued by the Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Resources.

**Monitoring of fishing campaigns:** Algerian tuna purse seine vessels are monitored by VMS by the National Coast Guards Service and the Fisheries Administration.

**Inspection:** Tuna purse seine fishing vessels that only participate in international waters carry out bluefin tuna fishing, inspected by European Union or Tunisian inspection vessels during each inspection campaign. These inspections have not signalled any serious infringement of the rules adopted by ICCAT.

**National observer programme:** It should be signalled that there is 100% coverage by fishery inspectors of purse seiners that have participated in the campaign. In addition, fishing administration inspectors onboard tuna vessels submit to the fisheries administration reports on monitoring of the fishing campaign.

**Investigations:** Investigations based on cross-checking of information are carried out in the event of potential non-compliance with the national regulation and ICCAT rules.

It is also important to note that Algeria has not registered any serious infringement of the bluefin tuna management rules contained in the relevant ICCAT recommendations and national legislation and regulation.

In view of the foregoing, it should be noted that the alternative measures referred to above enable Algeria to carry out monitoring and control of the bluefin tuna management rules.

In addition, it should be noted that Algeria has strengthened compliance with regard to the fisheries through implementation of the legislative provisions transcribed in the new law 15-08 that regulates the fisheries and aquaculture and carries heavier sanctions and penalties including custodial sentences, depending on the type of infringement incurred.

## **5. Others**

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TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)													Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009(t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	8	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	20	24	398.24	696.92	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	597.36	597.36	995.6	1194.72
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36
<b>Total purse seine fleet</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>398.24</b>	<b>730.6</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>614.94</b>	<b>614.94</b>	<b>664.72</b>	<b>664.72</b>	<b>1062.96</b>	<b>1262.08</b>
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 20 and 40m	5.68	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	11.36	11.36	5.68	5.68	0	5.68	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>16.36</b>	<b>16.36</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	Not applicable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>408.92</b>	<b>746.28</b>	<b>596.94</b>	<b>596.94</b>	<b>596.94</b>	<b>597.62</b>	<b>597.62</b>	<b>625.62</b>	<b>625.62</b>	<b>664.72</b>	<b>670.4</b>	<b>1062.96</b>	<b>1262.08</b>
<b>Quota</b>															1460.04	1460.04	1306.35	138.46	138.46	143.83	143.83	169.81	202.98	243.7	1260	1446	1655
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>															1460.04	1460.04	684.9	138.46	138.56	243.83	243.83	369.81	425.98	1043.7	1300	1437	1650*
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>															-1051.12	-713.76	-87.96	-458.48	-458.48	-353.79	-353.79	-255.81	-199.64	-378.98	-629.6	-374.04	-387.92

\*A quota of 5 t is reserved for by-catch.

**CHINA****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)****1.1 Introduction**

According to Recommendation 18-02/19-04, China was allocated 102 metric tons BFT in 2020 fishing season, China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels to conduct BFT fishing activities seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea as same as last several years.

The *Fisheries Law* and the *Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management* are the main national legislation to manage Chinese deep sea fishing vessels to conduct fishing activities on high seas. In addition, we also issued the *VMS Management regulation* and *Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management* which respectively specify the stipulation of VMS and observer on our deep sea fishing vessels, besides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs updated and re-issued the ministerial-level document *Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures* which enter into force from 1 January of 2019, include the main requirement contained in the ICCAT recommendation 18-02/19-04, such as the minimum size, observer coverage, VMS requirement, logbook requirement, fishing season and designated transshipment/landing port requirement and so on.

**1.2 Details of fishing plan**

China will dispatch two fishing vessels to catch BFT and they are all longliners, both vessels will be allocated to 50.5 tons, each vessel hold one half of the 101t, the other 1t will be allocated for possibly by-catch and discarded catch.

It is relatively simple to monitor and respect the quotas since only two fishing vessels share the limited quotas and they belong to one company. We could manage the quotas through the following ways:

**Observer program:** usually we implement 100% observer coverage for BFT fishing vessels which is much higher than the requirement in 18-02/19-04, the observer must familiar with the BFT recommendation and will record every day the accurate weight and number of BFT, including the weight for round fish and GG wight.

**Catch report:** we have daily\weekly\monthly BFT catch report and we could cross-check the catch. The fishing vessel owner will be warned when 80% and 90% of the catch is reached, and the BFT fishing vessel must cease to fish and immediately leave the fishing ground when the quota is exhausted.

**Logbook:** the fishing vessel master must strictly and accurately fill in the logbook, including any other by-catch and incidental catch.

**Landing\transshipment:** only the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities.

**VMS requirement:** we could monitor these vessels through our VMS platform and their positions could be polled whenever we need.

**Catch documentation:** using the catch documentation system to check the quotas.

BFT by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT. Our BFT fishing area is delimited by west of 10°W and north of 42°N, and no fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea which means no by-catch and small-scale BFT. However, we reserved 1t for discarded catch just in case.

**Training program:** each year we will hold a training program for the fishing vessel owner and vessel master, interpret the relevant recommendations and the main requirement, meanwhile, the Rec. 18-02/19-04 was translated into Chinese and distribute to them for their better understanding and learning.



	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	We distribute every Chinese fishing vessel operating on the high seas the standardized logbook and ask the master to timely and accurately fill it in, the BFT must land and transship at the designated port. The fishing vessel owner must report daily/weekly/monthly catch to us. We will issue the warning notice when the quota approaches 80% and 90% respectively of the total. When the quota is exhausted we will ask the fishing vessels to stop operation and leave the fishing ground immediately, then we report the closure to Secretariat at once.	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management  2. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs: For example, Section 2, Logbook: Each tuna fishing vessel must file in the logbook and record truly all the catches including marine mammals. The bluefin tuna company must report its catches to the China Overseas Fisheries Association daily/weekly/monthly.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Usually, our vessels will start to fish at the end of September until the quotas are exhausted but usually before the end of the year given the very few limited quotas in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management  2. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. For example, Section 4: Fishing area and gear limitation and prohibition: the fishing seasons and fishing area in the Atlantic Ocean should be from 1 August to 31 January next year, in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Through the observer program and logbook as well as the daily/weekly/monthly catch report we could monitor the Minimum	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management.	

		size, any catch under the minimum size must be released and recorded. We set the minimum size limit which is corresponding to Rec. 18-02, prohibit to catch, retain, transship, land and sell BFT less than 30kg or 115cm, the maximum of 5% tolerance is authorized. Discarded catch is also counted against our quotas.	3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. For example, Section 5: Vessels targeting BFT in the Atlantic Ocean must follow the minimum size.	
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	The Chinese government has instructed that Chinese vessels that do not target bluefin tuna shall not retain bluefin tuna by-catches in accordance with paragraph 38 of Rec. 19-04. In practice, there is almost “zero” possibility that by-catch occurs because all of the Chinese tuna fishing vessels other than bluefin tuna catching vessels are operating in the tropical area, i.e. around the equator. Nevertheless, China will set aside 1 t of its quota for possible by-catch. The amount of any by-catch will be deducted from China’s quota and these data will be reported to ICCAT.	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management.  2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management which stipulated that tuna fishing vessel is obliged to board national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements.  3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. For example, Section 3: Fishing quota: tuna fishing vessel is not allowed to catch if no quota is allocated.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Bluefin tuna fishing vessel shall only transship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Transshipment at sea is not allowed for BFT fishing vessel.	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management  2. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. For example: Section 7:	

			transhipment: Longline tuna fishing vessels targeting Atlantic BFT is only allowed to conduct transhipment at the designated port in accordance with the relevant ICCAT requirement.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	The VMS could be report to the Secretariat directly and we will also poll the vessel position from our VMS platform. From our platform we could monitor and poll 24 positions per day, once every one hour which is higher than ICCAT requirement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management.</li> <li>2. VMS Management Regulation which stipulates that vessels must report their position once every hour.</li> <li>3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.</li> </ol>	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Usually we will implement 100% observer coverage which is higher than 20% for longliners stipulate in the 18-02/19-04.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management.</li> <li>2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management which stipulates that tuna fishing vessels are obliged to board national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements.</li> <li>3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.</li> </ol>	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	
	Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).	Each BFT will have a tag with a unique number.	Since only two fishing vessels engage in BFT fishing and these two vessels belong to one	

			company, according to Fisheries Law of PRC, Chinese fishing vessels must be compliance with measures adopted by RFMO which China is Contracting Party. Chinese fishery competent authority has notified relevant company such requirement of ICCAT on BFT.	
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**2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Please see the attachment.

**3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not applicable as China has no BFT farming.

**4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Prior to entry into port, the master of a Chinese fishing vessel must notify, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, the relevant information required by para 73 of Rec. 19-04. The vessels must accept the inspection conducted by the port authorities. Meanwhile, after each trip, they must submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to Chinese authorities as well as the China Overseas Fisheries Association. Then we will compare the transshipment data with the catch report to see if there are any problems, and any (potential) non-compliance will be handled as soon as it is discovered according to our domestic regulations.

Not applicable for para 97, 99, 103, 104 as China has no farming and caging BFT fishery.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Not applicable as China has two BFT fishing vessels.

**5. Others**

Not applicable as China has no such research projects.

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<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																										
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																										
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>																											
Longliner over 40m	25	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	50	50
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	50	50
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5																										
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	50	50
<b>Quota</b>															63.55	61.32	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	53.9	64.71	79	90	102
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																											101
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>																											
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>															36.4	-11.32	11.52	13.2	13.2	11.8	-13.19	-20.09	-3.9	-14.71	-29	-40	-51

## **EGYPT**

### **Fishing Plan Year: 2020**

#### **1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

The allocated 2020 quota for Egypt fishing season is 330 t.

The total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2020 fishing season in total is 326.7 t.

The Egyptian fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea are purse seiner fishing vessels (P.S.). The General Authority for Fish resources development (GAFRD) is the Egyptian authority in Egypt which enforces the ministerial decrees on Egyptian fishermen.

GAFRD will licence P.S. to catch BFT for the 2020 fishing season as soon as those vessels are selected and it will notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the vessel names, which starts on 15 May 2020 and ends on 1 July 2020 in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02 (19-04). Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of bluefin tuna.

#### ***Decree Number (830) for the year 2019***

- Article (1) The prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 2 July to 25 May of the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly, if necessary, according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.
- Article (2) Transfer of any bluefin tuna at sea is prohibited unless it has been previously authorized by the relevant authority.
- Article (3) Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 18-02 (19-04).

#### ***Decree Number (828) for the year 2011***

- Article (1) The prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.
- Article (2) All transfer from purse seiners to towing cages should be monitored by video camera and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions. In the context of Para. No. 75 of ICCAT Rec. 14-04.

#### ***Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011***

- Article (1) The prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except in the port of EL-Media for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.
- Article (2) Prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD on-board.

#### ***Resolution Number (829/#1) for the year 2019***

- Article (3) All authorized BFT. fishing vessels masters shall use and record fishing logbook in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02 (19-04).

#### ***Resolution Number (831) for the year 2019***

- Article (1) As a deadline each year on 15 February, an allocated quota of bluefin tuna shall be specified as by-catch of the total allowed quota.

- Article (2) All bluefin tuna by-catch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board, the percentage calculated per each trip in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).
- Article (3) All by-catch shall be landed at the designated port and shall be monitored / inspected by the assigned inspector at the designated port, relative procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant ICCAT Recommendations.
- Article (4) All discarded by-catch of bluefin tuna whether alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately.
- Article (5) All exceeded by-catch shall be deducted against the total allowed quota.

In the case of non-compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the bluefin tuna fishing for the next season, and in case of repetition of non-compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from bluefin tuna fisheries.

	<b>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</b>	<b>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</b>	<b>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</b>	<b>Note:</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD</li> <li>- using available inspection reports, regional and national observers' reports also recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011</li> <li>- Resolution Number (829/#1) for the year 2019</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 2 July to 14 May of the next year. Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by the Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.</li> <li>- The authorized period for fishing bluefin is from 15 May 2020 to 1 July 2020.</li> <li>- In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Egypt may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period.</li> <li>- Fishing season may extend up to 10 days based on operators request, due to bad weather conditions equivalent to the lost days.</li> <li>- No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resolution Number (830) for the year 2019</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations. Rec. 18-02 shall be strictly implemented.</li> <li>- National observer / inspector on board shall ensure the full commitment of the minimum size in accordance with the ICCAT relative Rec. 18-02 during the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decree Number (828) for the year 2011</li> </ul>	

		<p>season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.</li> <li>- Incidental catch of max. 5% of BFT. Weighing (8 to 30 kg) or fork length 75 to 115 cm may be authorized.</li> <li>- All live-undersize BFT must be released to sea and the dead BFT should be reported and deducted from the quota.</li> </ul>		
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Egypt shall specify allocated quota for by-catch 1% of the total allowed quota yearly.</li> <li>- In 2020 fishing season a quantity of 3.3 t is specified as quota for by-catch.</li> <li>- The basis for setting 1% (3.3t) is that there is no bycatch recorded in 2019.</li> <li>- All by-catch quantities shall be calculated for each trip against the total catch on board which must not exceed 20% from the total catch on board, those quantities as by-catches shall be calculated in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).</li> <li>- Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are monitored by our national inspectors on landing ports to count any by-catches of BFT (in case if any) in order to ensure implementing of ICCAT Rec. 18-02.</li> <li>- All our inspectors in landing ports have been instructed to monitor and report any By-catch of BFT all the year round.</li> <li>- In cases of BFT by-catch, investigation shall be done in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02.</li> <li>- Egypt shall quarterly submit its by-catch report and final report by the end of the year declaring all BFT. By-catches (if any) which must be deducted from the specified by-catch quota of the year.</li> <li>- In case of exceeding the assigned quota for by-catch, all exceeding quantities must be deducted from the next year assigned quota for by-catch</li> <li>- The amount of by-catch discarded whether alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. At the same time, all by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Egypt. In accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02.</li> <li>- All BFT by-catch quantities shall be landed only at the designated ports.</li> </ul>	- Resolution Number (831) for the year 2019	



5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	- No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.	- Decree Number (830) for the year 2011	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	- Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recs 14-04 & 18-02.	- Decree Number (830) for the year 2011	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	- All authorized BFT vessels fishing actively in the 2020 fishing season, shall be equipped with a fulltime operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) on-board, as required by GAFRD, on the basis of a transmission every 1 hour as minimum requirement.		
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	- One of national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and ensuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions. The permanent observer in port is assigned to follow up the landed catches (if any) and reviewing the on board observers reports.	Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	- Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send deployment request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have Arabic speaker observer (s) for the authorized fishing vessel (as the case may be). - All BFT vessels, fishing actively in 2020 fishing season have to be covered (100%) by two observers (one national observer and one ICCAT ROP. Observer).		
10	<b>Joint Fishing Operations (JFO)</b>	- Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will be allowed if a JFO is requested by our fishing vessels operator.		

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The GAFRD will allocate to each P.S. an individual quota and it will ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota according to Recommendation (19-04).

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27)

No farming activities will take place in 2020.

## 4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

### a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2020 bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e. fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any.

In case of any BFT landing after receiving notification from the catching vessel an inspection shall be done by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort.

According to the national law No. 124/1983, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to enter any Egyptian fishing port except in cases of emergency.

***b) B- Joint scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Egypt is not involved in an international inspections plan up till now.

**5. Others**

INTERSESSIONAL PA2 MEETING - MADRID 2020

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>													<i>Fishing capacity</i>																
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	50	49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78			
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	33.7	0	33.68	33.68	
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	83.46	83.46			
Longliner over 40m	25																													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																													
Longliner less than 24m	5																													
<b>Total longline fleet</b>																														
Baitboat	19.8																													
Handline	5																													
Trawler	10																													
Trap	130																													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																													
Other (please specify)	5																													
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	83.46	83.46			
<b>Quota</b>													2		0	50	33	65	65	77	77	79	100	113.67	181	266	326.7			
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																								123.67						
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>																														
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>																														

**EUROPEAN UNION (EU)****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****Introduction**

The European Union hereby provides its Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management plans and its Farming Management plan for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) for 2020.

The eight EU Member States actively fishing Bluefin tuna are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors. However, significant catches are also made by more artisanal sectors, such as the baitboats, handlines and pelagic trawlers, in both the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The eight EU Member States also cooperate to implement a Joint Deployment Plan of inspections means, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 on 6 April 2009 transposing into EU Law ICCAT Recommendation [08-05] to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] amending ICCAT Recommendation [08-05], adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan, which took place under ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. Regulation 544/2014 transposed these additional measures into EU law. Finally, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] replaced by Recommendation [17-07]. Regulation (EU) 2019/83<sup>1</sup> partially transposes Recommendation [18-02] replaced by Recommendation [19-04]. The EU is currently working in the full transposition of the Recommendation [19-04]. In the meantime, and pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, international agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the Union and on its Member States. In these circumstances, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, and in particular Recommendation [19-04].

**Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

In 2020, the EU will implement the provisions of Recommendation [19-04].

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided for under Recommendation [19-04], the quota for the EU in 2020 will be 19,460 t. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Recommendation 19-04 (Rec. 18-02), the EU has the intention to request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. The decision to make effective this transfer as well as the exact quantities will be communicated at a later stage.

EU has drawn up the annual Fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 meters and their associated individual quotas. All purse seine vessels over 24 meters are allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SCRS catch rates as adopted by the ICCAT Commission for estimating fleet capacity.

The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels', and will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2020 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 50 of the Rec. [19-04].

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/833).

The EU has allocated quotas<sup>2</sup> to the following sectors:

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>	<i>2020</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Fleet (No. vessels)</i>	<i>Quota allocated (t)</i>
Purse seiner over 40m	30	6279,89
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	35	4386,73
Purse seiners less than 24m	5	225,53
<b>Total Purse Seine fleet</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10892,15</b>
Longliner over 40m	0	0,00
Longliner between 24 and 40m	4	46,10
Longliner less than 24m	187	1582,95
<b>Total longline fleet</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>1629,05</b>
Baitboat	73	1214,70
Handline	52	251,00
Trawler	49	386,00
Trap	13	2253,46
Small scale <sup>3</sup>	920	1778,30
Other	61	254,27
<b>Total fleet/fishing allocation</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>18658,93</b>
<b>Quota</b>		19460,00
Recreational		136,20
By-catch reserve		664,87 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		18658,93
<b>Under-capacity (t)</b>		0,00

<sup>2</sup> The EU capacity plan shows the potential capacity that EU can deploy, with the maximum number and length category of vessels and the minimum quota that should be allocated to each gear type following the catch rates in accordance with the methodology approved in the 2009 annual meeting. The EU fishing plan on the other hand shows the actual number and length category of vessels that will be authorized by EU in 2020 and the quota allocated to them. In 2020, the number of vessels in the fishing plan (1429) is lower than the number in the capacity plan (1457). The quota allocated in the fishing plan is higher than the correspondent quota when using the catch rates. This is the indication that there is not overcapacity.

<sup>3</sup> A sectorial quota has been allocated to the small-scale coastal vessels in accordance with para 19a of Recommendation 19-04.

<sup>4</sup> Vessels that were using the by-catch quota (not direct fisheries), fish now under the sectorial quota for small-scale coastal vessels (see figures for 2019 and 2020).

The EU hereby submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all BFT fisheries and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the Bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries, including Recommendations [19-04], [06-07], [18-13], [18-12] and [18-10].

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. [19-04] as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Purse seine vessels, vessels over 24 meters and traps shall send daily reports to their flag Member State administration. Weekly reports for all vessels are sent by Member States to the European Commission, which transmits them to the ICCAT Secretariat. In 2020, all vessels authorized to fish for BFT independently of the length shall record their catches in a logbook.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 <sup>5</sup> Section 2 Article 25 "Recording Requirements" "Catches", Article 26 "Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators", Article 27 "Weekly and monthly catch reports sent by the Member States", Article 28 "Information on quota exhaustion" Article 29 "Yearly reporting of catches by the Member States".	All catch reports are recorded at EU level, and crosschecked with authorizations, s individual quotas, s national quotas and s JFO quotas (when relevant). In accordance with Art. 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 all EU fishing vessels above 10 m have to be equipped with a bound logbook with chronologically numbered pages. For fishing vessels over 12m, an electronic logbook is required. Additional requirements set up by ICCAT are covered by Art. 25 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627.
2	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	The fishing seasons applicable to the EU fleets in all Member States concerned are in line with the seasons established by ICCAT Rec. [19-04]. Art 11 and Art 12 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 implement them into EU law.  According to Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as the BFT quota is exhausted.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", SECTION 1 "Fishing seasons",  Article 11 "Longliners, purse seiners, pelagic trawlers, traps and sport and recreational fisheries"  Article 12 "Baitboats and trolling boats"	According to provisions in Recommendation [19-04], fishing seasons will be as follows:  Fishing season for purse seine vessels will be from 26 May to 1 July.  By derogation, the fishing season for purse seiner will be extended until 15 July in the Adriatic Sea.  Within the EUs Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

		<p>In addition, under Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Member States shall inform the Commission when the BFT quota allocated to a gear group referred to in Article 11 or Article 12 of this Regulation or to a JFO or to a purse seiner is deemed to be exhausted.</p> <p>A special reporting and alert system is in place to verify at EU level the quota used in each Member State for each fleet.</p>		<p>verification of the respect of the fishing seasons.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation [19-04], EU may extend its fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of 10 days in case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs, evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessel members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	<p>According to Art. 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, incidental catches of a maximum 5 % of Bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length between 75 and 115 cm are allowed for all catching vessels and traps fishing actively for Bluefin tuna. These catches are subject to logbook entry, designated port and prior arrival notification requirements, and shall be deducted from the quota.</p> <p>Art. 15 of Regulation EU No 1380/2013 establishes a general landing obligation across the EU. Where a derogation to this Regulation is granted in accordance with Article 15.2 and in line with international obligations, this is provided for by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 14 "Minimum conservation reference size" Article 15 "Incidental catches" and Annex I of the same Regulation "specific conditions applicable to the fisheries referred to in Article 14(2).</p>	<p>For the implementation of the derogation to the Minimum size set up by Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123<sup>46</sup> of 27 January 2020 and Annex IV, sets fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations for BFT by fixing yearly the number of vessels per Member State concerned.</p> <p>Compliance with capacity limitation provisions is monitored in the context of the JDP (Joint Deployment plan) (see 3.2.2.).</p> <p>A tolerance of a maximum of 7% weight for specimens with a minimum size of 6.4 or 66 cm caught for farming purposes by PS operating in the Adriatic Sea.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

<p>4</p>	<p><b>By-catch (para 38)</b></p>	<p>In accordance with ICCAT measures, the EU deducts all dead fish caught as by-catch from its quota. As every year, for Member States without a quota, the EU reserves part of its quota in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123 of 27 January 2020. For more visibility and transparency a quota allocated to by-catch has been included in the EU fishing plan provided to ICCAT.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 16 "By-catch"</p>	<p>A by-catch quota for accidental catches by EU Member States without a BFT quota is provided in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123 of 27 January 2019. Catching vessels not fishing actively bluefin tuna shall not retain on board bluefin tuna exceeding 20 % of the total catch by weight or number of specimens, compared to tuna and tuna-like species. For small-scale coastal vessels, the amount of by-catch may be calculated on an annual basis. Any by-catch in excess of the 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip shall be released alive whenever possible.  Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 regulates under which circumstances BFT may be released or discarded within the EU Regulation (EU) 404/2011 provides that discards shall be recorded in the logbook.  All by-catches discarded or retained on-board are counted against the quota.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b></p>	<p>Recreational and sport fisheries are managed in different ways across the EU from a total ban of these activities to a catch and release or a maximum catch per vessel and day. In any case, dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries are counted against the quota. In this regard, a quota has been allocated for sport and recreational quota in the 2020 fishing plan. Furthermore, in the context of its Joint Deployment Plan, the EU conducts a series of inspections targeting sport</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter IV "Sport and Recreational Fisheries", Article 19 "Sport and Recreational Fisheries"</p>	<p>Under Art. 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 each EU Member State is obliged to record catch data, including weight and length of each BFT caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate the data for the preceding year to the European Commission by 30 June of each year. The EU Commission forwards that information to the SCRS. According to para 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98, the limit of one fish per</p>



		and recreational activities, based on minimum benchmarks established based on a risk assessment procedure. Finally, in addition to these common activities, each Member States also conducts programs of inspections, targeting sport and recreational fisheries. The European Commission through verification missions assesses these programs.		vessel per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	<p>Transshipments at sea are prohibited.</p> <p>Land inspections in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan also cover transshipments.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 3" Landings and transshipments", Article 32 "Transshipment"	Art. 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 prohibits all transshipments at sea in the Convention area. Fishing vessels can only tranship BFT catches in designated ports. Full inspection coverage is ensured during all transshipment times and at all transshipment places.
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	<p>The team responsible within the EU for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) monitors in real time the VMS submissions. To this end, a special IT system is in place.</p> <p>All vessels are continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will immediately be followed up with the Member State concerned.</p>	<p>According to EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Article 9 "Vessel Monitoring system", all EU vessels over 12 meters are equipped with a VMS. By Article 49 Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 this obligation was extended to all BFT tug and towing vessels irrespective of their length.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations by their vessels and, as appropriate, their nationals.</p>	EU also follows the additional provisions set up ICCAT Recommendation [18-10]. VMS messages from the fishing vessels flying their flag are forwarded to the European Commission at least once every one hour for purse seine vessels and once every two hours for other vessels. A specific IT system is in place to ensure the implementation of this obligation at EU level.
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Masters of any fishing vessel holding a European licence for Eastern BFT pelagic trawler, long liner, baitboat and traps as well as masters of towing vessels receive national observers according to measures set up by Regulation (EU) 2016/1627.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 50 "National observer programme"	Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 "National observer programme" establishes the minimum levels of national observer coverage and describes the tasks to be performed by national observers. EU Member States also ensure a representative temporal and spatial presence of national observers on their

				vessels and traps to ensure that the European Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries. The implementation of these provisions is ensured through the Data Collection Framework.
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The EU ensures 100% coverage of all purse seine vessels and for all caging and harvesting activities. As in previous years, replies to all the cases highlighted by ROs will be duly provided to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 51 "ICCAT Regional Observer Programme".	
10	<b>Tagging programme (para 45)</b>	In accordance with ICCAT provisions, the use of tags is authorised only upon request and when the accumulated catch amounts are within Member States' quotas or catch limits for each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps. A summary of any tagging programs implemented by MS is sent to ICCAT.	Art. 5 of (EU) Reg. 640/2010.	EU also follows the additional provisions set up at ICCAT level by para 5d of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12].
		Up to 105 <sup>6</sup> sport/recreational vessels will conduct catch-and-release activities in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes.  The objective of the project will be to study the horizontal and vertical distribution and stock composition of the Bluefin tuna, to define periods of residency and philopatry, and to understand overlap between fishing activity		Sport or recreational vessels intending to conduct catch-and-release activities from 1 <sup>st</sup> July to 31 <sup>st</sup> December, in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes shall be authorised. Fitting and operation of a simple VMS system will be a requirement of the authorisation.  National Control Authorities would monitor the activities of these

<sup>6</sup> The number is subject to revision according to the level of funding.

		<p>and tuna spatial distribution as well as behaviour of tuna over periods of months, its migration patterns, population ecology, genetic specificities and its role in the ecosystem as a predator.</p> <p>Researchers will report about their activities in accordance the provisions applicable for this in ICCAT. The data collection will be consistent with the ICCAT GBYP research programme, and will be communicated to and discussed with ICCAT as necessary.</p>		<p>vessels both at sea and at landing to ensure compliance with National and EU Regulations.</p> <p>Tagging will be operated by staff of Marine Institutes or by recreational fishing vessel operators. Operators concerned will be trained in tagging using Floy (spaghetti) or electronic tags.</p> <p>Any person authorised to target bluefin tuna in a catch-tag-release fishery shall not retain on board, tranship, transfer, tow, land, transport, store or sell bluefin tuna.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna caught alive shall not be removed from the sea but, if so, shall be carefully handled and returned alive to the waters from which it was taken.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that dies during capture must be recorded and discarded by returning immediately to the sea. The master of the vessel concerned shall immediately report to the flag authorities any discards of bluefin tuna in that trip.</p>
11	<b>Intra-farm transfers and random controls in farms (para 103)</b>	<p>Traceability in farms shall be ensured, including by way of the control of all transfers of tuna between cages (“intra-farm transfers”). Transfers undertaken by the farm operators between farm cages of the same farm shall follow all the requirements of transfers as laid down in paragraph 92 of ICCAT Recommendation [19-04] and hence require the necessary completion in the eBCD system. The presence of control</p>		

		<p>authorities is mandatory for such transfers.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 103 of ICCAT Rec. [19-04], random controls shall take place in farms between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following year and, preferably before the start of the bulk harvesting. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other empty farm cage(s) in order that the number of BFT can be counted by way of control video record(s).</p> <p>The number of controls shall be decided by the farm Member State authorities on the basis of their risk assessment.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the minimum % of the total number of cages in each farm under each farm flag state jurisdiction always involving, or of the total fish reported in the farm cages will be defined in the context of the joint deployment plan (see 5.2.2), and will not be lower than the benchmark provided in the 2019 plan. If required, following the outcome of the risk analysis, the percentages referred to above can be increased as necessary.</p> <p>Additional measures and procedures are under development and will be communicated in due course.</p>		
<p>12</p>	<p><b>Carry-over estimations in farms (para 9)</b></p>	<p>In accordance with the measures laid down in para 9 of ICCAT Rec. [19-04], the following procedures shall be followed for the implementation of carry-over assessments:</p> <p>Between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following</p>		

		<p>year, all fish remaining in cages reported in the Carry-over Declaration shall be transferred to other empty farm cages in order that they can be counted and estimates of weight be taken by way of stereoscopic cameras.</p> <p>Until SRCS review the growth tables as referred to in para 28 of ICCAT Rec [19-04], average weights shall be estimated according to the current growth tables taking into account the fish that has already been harvested from the cages concerned. Additional measures and procedures are under development and will be communicated in due course.</p>		
<b>19</b>	<b>Sectorial quota</b>	<p>A total sectorial quota is allocated to a group of small-scale vessels with special fishing authorisations, valid for a defined season.</p> <p>The quota uptake is monitored following the national legislation.</p>		

**Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

The EU Capacity management plan is included below.

**Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

The farming management plan for EU is detailed below. This plan may be subject to amendment in line with paragraph 24 of Recommendation [19-04].

	<b>Wild input (t) 2020</b>	<b>Capacity (t) 2020</b>
<b>Spain</b>	6,300	11,852
<b>Italy</b>	3,764	12,600
<b>Greece</b>	285	2,100
<b>Cyprus</b>	2,195	3,000
<b>Croatia</b>	2,947	7,880
<b>Malta</b>	8,786	12,300
<b>Portugal</b>	350 <sup>8</sup>	500 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Total EU</b>	24,777	49,732

<b>Farm Name</b>	<b>ICCAT FFB</b>	<b>Geographical coordinates</b>	<b>Wild Input (t)<sup>9,10</sup></b>	<b>Capacity (t)<sup>9</sup></b>
Tuna Graso	ATEU1ESP00001	N 37°45,95' W 00°39,49'	1,200	2,560
Atunes de Mazarrón	ATEU1ESP00002 <sup>11</sup>	A:37°47'36.47"N 00°40'55.56"W B:37°47'36.55"N 01°22'45.30"W C:37°30'15.90"N 01°23'03.02"W D:37°30'24.94"N 01°23'19.63"W		777
Caladeros del Mediterráneo	ATEU1ESP00003	A:37°34'30.40"N 00°49'95.30"W B:37°34'06.60"N 00°50'11.40"W C:67°34'25.80"N 00°50'56.20"W D:37°34'49.60"N 00°50'40.10"W	2,000	2,500
Ensenada de Barbate	ATEU1ESP00004	36°09'13" N 5°55'45" W	900	1,000
Balfegó Tuna, S.L.	ATEU1ESP00005	A: 40° 51,5'N 00° 51,0 'E B:40° 51,95'N 00° 51,17'E C:40° 51,57'N 00° 51,5'E D: 40° 51,9'N 00° 51,61'E	2,200	2,500
Piscifactorias de Levante	ATEU1ESP00006 <sup>11</sup>	A:37°47'36.47"N 00°40'55.06"W B:37°47'35.98"N 00°40'30.55"W C:37°47'19.77"N 00°40'31.06"W D:37°47'20.26"N 00°40'55.57"W		100
Proyecto de Engorde de Atún Rojo en Estructuras Flotantes Desmontables	ATEU1ESP00008 <sup>11</sup>	A:37°34'25"N 00°52'32"W B:37°34'25"N 00°52'12"W C:37°34'13"N 00°52'32"W D:37°34'13"N 00°52'12"W		435
Tuna Graso	ATEU1ESP00011 <sup>11</sup>	37°34'06,341''N; 0°52'39,300''W 37°33'59,998''N ; 0°53'12,358''W		1,080

<sup>8</sup> The total farming capacity of Portugal of 500 tonnes (corresponding to 350 tonnes of input farming capacity) is covered by the unused capacity of the European Union.

<sup>9</sup> Figures provided in the table are provisional, awaiting the end of negotiations among EU Member States on the allocation between farms within the limits set by the wild input and maximum capacity ceiling of the EU. A revised farming management plan will be submitted to ICCAT prior to 1st June as necessary in line with paragraph 24 of Rec. 19-04.

<sup>10</sup> Figures of wild input for inactive farms will be provided in the revised farming plan prior to 1 June in line with paragraph 24 of Rec. 19-04.

<sup>11</sup> Farms currently inactive but subject to be active in the future.

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		37°33'44,272''N ; 0°53'12,802''W 37°33'43,683''N; 0°52'39,943''W			
Nature Pesca S.L.	ATEU1ESP00013 <sup>11</sup>	A: 37° 13,79°N 0001° 44,803 W B:37° 13,1°N 001W C:37° 13,6N 001° 44,5W D:37° 13,2°N 001 45,2 W			500
Mediterraneo	ATEU1ESP00014 <sup>11</sup>	A: 37° 49',6N 000° 40',7 W C: 37° 49',6N 000° 40',4W B: 37° 49',0 N 000° 40',5 W D: 37° 49',0 N 000° 41',0 W"			400
Jadran Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00008	y 5540056,00 5540410,00 5539883,45 5540237,52	x 4854937,00 4854333,00 4854835,87 4854231,75	736.75	1,110
Pelagos Net Farma D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00011	y 5521777,07 5522396,80 5522324,84 5521705,39	x 4865868,10 4865705,51 4865434,70 4865597,28	736.75	900
Sardina D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00006	y 5620531 5620851,14 5620663,29 5620343,141	x 4795026,75 4794700 4794518,74 4794846,83	736.75	1,400
Kali Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00012	y 5514248,71 5514346,2201 5514401,68 5514499,2376	x 4877864,54 4877750,5522 4877993,40 4877879,4528	736.75	4,470
		5515214,66 5514694,4002 5515061,69 5514541,3353	4877043,84 4877651,5991 4876914,98 4877522,6578		
		5517392,279 5517553,927 5517303,667 5517142,018	4868049,255 4867931,485 4867587,981 4867705,751		
		5517801,279 5517962,927 5517712,667 5517551,018	4867662,255 4867544,485 4867200,981 4867318,751		
		5493440,00 5493498,70 5494068,42 5494006,73	4892040,00 4892120,96 4891710,08 4891629,12		
		5494273,27 5494331,97 5494898,70 5494840,00	4891535,88 4891516,84 4891105,96 4891025,00		
		5509116 5509264 5508712 5508860	4875654 4875520 4875211 4875076		
		MFF	ATEU1MLT00004		
Ta Matthew	ATEU1MLT00007	35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E)		356.3	500

Fish & Fish	ATEUMLT00003	35.8640 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8495 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6430 (E)	2,138.0	3,000
Mare Blu	ATEUMLT00008	35.8930 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E)	2,138.0	3,000
MML	ATEUMLT00002	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1,140.3	1,600
AJD	ATEUMLT00001	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1,211.5	1,700
Tuniraise	ATEU1PRT00002	N 37° 01.006' W 07° 42.615' N 37° 00.975' W 07° 42.607' N 37° 01.048' W 07° 42.500' N 37° 01.024' W 07° 42.485'	350.0	500
Kitiana Fisheries Ltd.	ATEU1CYP00002 <sup>11</sup>	South coast of Cyprus (Vasiliko) Coordinates: 33° 14' 95" E; 34° 41' 09" N.	731,66	1,000
Oceanis Aquaculture Ltd	ATEU1CYP00003 <sup>11</sup>	South coast of Cyprus (Vasiliko) Coordinates: 33° 16' 03" E; 34° 40' 79" N.	731,66	1,000
Kimagro Fishfarming Ltd	ATEU1CYP00001 <sup>11</sup>	South coast of Cyprus (Limassol) Coordinates: 33° 02' 40" E 34° 38' 49" N	731,66	1,000
Bluefin Tuna Hellas S.A.	ATEU1GRC00001 <sup>11</sup>			1,000
Poseidon Tuna Hellas S.A.	ATEU1GRC00002 <sup>11</sup>			1,100
New Eurofish S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00001 <sup>11</sup>			1,500
Tuna Fish S.P.A.	ATEU1ITA00004 <sup>11</sup>			700
Pescazzurra S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00005 <sup>11</sup>			1,500
Consorzio Operatori Del Tonno Del Mediterraneo	ATEU1ITA00006 <sup>11</sup>			1,500
Soc. Ittica Trappeto A.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00007 <sup>11</sup>			600
Jonica Pesca S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00008 <sup>11</sup>			2,000
Procida Tuna Farm S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00009 <sup>11</sup>			300
Iorio Gennaro	ATEU1ITA00011 <sup>11</sup>			600
La Favorita Snc	ATEU1ITA00015 <sup>11</sup>			500



Ittica Offshore Del Tirreno S.P.A.	ATEU1ITA00016 <sup>11</sup>			300
De.Mo. Pesca di Pasquale della Monica & C. s.a.s.	ATEU1ITA00017 <sup>11</sup>			600
Soc. Coop. Pescatori San Francesco di Paola	ATEU1ITA00019 <sup>11</sup>			1,200
Orizon Maritimas Italia SARL	ATEU1ITA00020 <sup>11</sup>			1,300

## 5. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

### 5.1 CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under 5.2 below. In addition, the following verification activities are carried out by the European Commission:

#### 5.1.1 European Commission inspections

Whilst different in its powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfilment of their duties and obligations, including those under the Bluefin tuna management plan and associated ICCAT Recommendations concerning BFT.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2020 fishing campaign, European Commission inspectors will once again be very active in 2020.

#### 5.1.2 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor in real time the VMS submissions and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

## 5.2 Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

### 5.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)<sup>12</sup> to monitor and enforce the implementation of the Bluefin tuna management and swordfish recovery plans. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fishery.

<sup>12</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries.

### 5.2.2 *Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, Mediterranean Swordfish from 2017 and Mediterranean Albacore from 2018. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land, traps and farms.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2020 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. EFCA also has its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessel and aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2020 JDP will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to purse seiners, towing vessels, longliners and farming activities. In 2020, the EU will conduct a minimum of 301 days of control and inspection activities at sea and 52 flights of air surveillance, which reflects the number of days committed by MS and EFCA for all species under the JDP.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the IMS (Integrated Maritime System) service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment. Cooperation of EFCA in the context of Coastguard function through sightings reported by FRONTEX assets has allowed identifying serious PNCs in non-EU waters in recent years.

### 5.2.3 *Control of caging operations*

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The specific measures adopted, including those under Annex 9 of Rec. [19-04], are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. As in previous years, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras in 2020.

### 5.2.4 *Member States annual Inspection plans*

Under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2020 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control Action programme for Bluefin tuna. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategies that Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;

d) a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation 19-04. In order to strengthen controls of live fish, additional control measures will be taken to establish a greater control of carry-over operations as well as to establish a level of random controls based on risk assessment to ensure traceability of intra-farms transfers.

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<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>												
<b>Type</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	38	35	23	20	20	20	18	18	21	17	37	43	45
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	91	44	28	18	18	18	25	26	24	29	17	18	20
Purse seiners less than 24m	112	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	4	5
<b>Total Purse Seine Fleet</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>
Longliner over 40m									0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	7	13	15	10	8	6	6	5	5	1	12	12	27
Longliner less than 24m	329	194	191	168	90	89	104	136	142	94	127	164	173
<b>Total Longline Fleet</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>200</b>
Baitboat	68	69	69	68	68	68	22	23	75	62	88	106	76
Handline	101	38	31	31	31	31	101	42	40	42	46	46	60
Trawler	160	72	78	60	60	57	57	57	51	57	57	57	57
Trap	15	15	13	13	12	14	12	14	14	12	12	14	13
Small scale												870	920
Other	253	382	376	222	154	135	253	398	317	465	715	52	61
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>1115</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>1457</b>

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Fishing capacity (t)														
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70,7	2685	2473	1625	1413	1413	1413	1272	1272	1485	1273	2616	3040	3182
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49,78	4530	2190	1394	896	896	896	1245	1294	1195	1394	846	896	996
Purse seiners less than 24m	33,68	3772	269	0	0	0	0	67	34	67	101	135	135	168
<b>Total Purse Seine Fleet</b>		<b>10987</b>	<b>4933</b>	<b>3019</b>	<b>2309</b>	<b>2309</b>	<b>2309</b>	<b>2584</b>	<b>2600</b>	<b>2747</b>	<b>2767</b>	<b>3597</b>	<b>4071</b>	<b>4346</b>
Longliner over 40m	25									0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5,68	40	74	85	57	45	34	34	28	28	6	68	68	153
Longliner less than 24m	5	1645	970	955	840	450	445	520	680	710	470	635	820	865
<b>Total Longline Fleet</b>		<b>1685</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>1040</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>1018</b>
Baitboat	19,8	1343	1363	1363	1343	1343	1343	435	454	1485	1228	1742	2099	1505
Handline	5	505	190	155	155	155	155	505	210	200	210	230	230	300
Trawler	10	1600	720	780	600	600	570	570	570	510	570	570	570	570
Trap	130	1950	1950	1690	1690	1560	1820	1560	1820	1820	1560	1560	1820	1690
Small scale	N/A												4350	4600
Other	5	1265	1910	1880	1110	770	675	1265	1990	1585	2325	3575	260	305
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>19335</b>	<b>12109</b>	<b>9927</b>	<b>8104</b>	<b>7233</b>	<b>7351</b>	<b>7473</b>	<b>8352</b>	<b>9085</b>	<b>9136</b>	<b>11977</b>	<b>14288</b>	<b>14334</b>
<b>Quota</b>		17044	16523	7981	7642	7642	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451	15850	17536	19460
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		16211	12548	7481	6132	6132	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451	15850	17536	19460
<b>Undercapacity (t)</b>		3124	-438	2446	1972	1100	-587	-466	-1021	-2118	-4316	-3873	-3248	-5126

**ICELAND****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

The eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota of Iceland for the year 2020 is 180 t. According to Rec. 18-02 para 5 Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019 and 2020 combined shall not exceed 411 t (84+147+180). The Icelandic quota may therefore be revised accordingly up to 25% of 180 t. The quota will be allocated to two longline vessels, 85 t each and 10 t will be reserved for incidental bycatches of other Icelandic fishing vessels. Icelandic authorities will adjust the quota allocation of the longliners if bycatches exceed 10 t in 2020.

The Icelandic fisheries management system is based on ITQs and all fishing vessels need a general fishing permit and sufficient quota for the expected catch before leaving port for any fishing.

The longliners will each be allocated an individual quota for 85 t each, if needed the quota reserved for incidental bycatches of bluefin tuna of other Icelandic vessel will be adjusted to cover all catches.

Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs and mandatory weighing of all catches at landing. The Directorate keeps records of all allocated quota and all landings, quota uptake by each vessel is updated after landing in an online landing registration to the Directorate. Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board the BFT longliners for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessels need written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MFRI.

The longline fishing season will start on 1 August and end on 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N. The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and therefore be subject to the ICCAT management regime. As soon as the individual quota is fished, the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is fished or the vessels notify an end to fishing operations in 2020.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis.

The list of authorized ports for 2020 has been updated and sent to ICCAT. This list has been uploaded to the ICCAT web site.

In 2015 the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates in 2020 electronically.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	BFT longliner with Electronic Logbook, all landings recorded in online database of the Directorate.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2020.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	1 August – 31 December in NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2020.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Undersized fish to be released alive, discards banned, if dead to be landed and recorded.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2020.	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Discards of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial catches must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in logbooks. In 2020, 10 t of BFT quota will be reserved to account for incidental bycatches of the Icelandic fleet. This quantity, 10 t, is equal to the highest bycatches recorded which was in 2015. This quantity will be adjusted if needed.		
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational or sports fisheries for eastern Atlantic BFT will be allowed in 2020.	Regulation on BFT fisheries 2020.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	No transshipments are allowed.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2020.	
<b>7</b>	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All Icelandic fishing vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on an hourly basis.		
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	There are no observers in Iceland, only inspectors that are full time employees of the Directorate of Fisheries. Inspectors shall be present on board for at least 20% of fishing operations. The vessel needs written	Regulation on BFT fisheries 2020.	

		permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector. The Directorate of Fisheries and the MRFI work intensively together in collecting scientific data and this data collection is important scientific input for the work of the MRFI. The two organisations therefore cooperate closely when assessing and developing skills, qualification and training of inspectors. Icelandic inspectors can carry out scientific tasks as stipulated in para 83 of Rec. 19-04.		
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Only longline fisheries, no RO.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>			

**2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

See table below.

**3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

No farming – not applicable.

**4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

BFT longline vessels need written permission from the Directorate of Fisheries to leave port for bluefin tuna fishing without an inspector onboard from the Directorate. Required coverage is at least 20% of the fishing operations in days. Inspectors from the Directorate are present at all landings of BFT.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Iceland only authorizes longline vessels in the NE Atlantic and is not required to be part of an ICCAT international inspection plan – not applicable.

**5. Others**



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TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)													Fishing capacity													
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																										
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																										
<b>Total Purse Seine Fleet</b>																											
Longliner over 40m	25							1	1	1	1	1	2	2						25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00	50.00	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68			2	1	1	1									11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68								
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
<b>Total Longline Fleet</b>				2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2													
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10	1													10												
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira																											
Other (please specify)	5																										
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	10.00	0.00	11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00	50.00
<b>Quota</b>															51.53	49.72	31.20	29.80	29.82	30.97	30.36	36.57	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																0.72		78.80									170.00
<b>Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)</b>																				2.00	2.00	2.00					
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>															-41.53	-0.72	-19.84	-73.12	-24.14	-23.29	-3.36	-9.57	-18.71	-27.48	-59.00	-97.00	-120.00

**JAPAN****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Japan's initial quota for the 2020 fishing season (from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021) is 2,819 t. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Recommendation 19-04 (Rec. 18-02), Japan requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. The catch of E-BFT in 2019 was 2,523.73 t, which includes 9.25 t of dead discards. Thus, 2,544 t (2019 catch quota) minus 2,523.73 t equals 20.27 t, which may be transferred to the 2020 quota. In addition, reserved quota for dead discard (14 t) as well as bycatch quota for other fishery (1 t) are tentatively set aside, as described in latter part of this section. To conclude, the adjusted quota for 2020 in **Table 1** will be 2,824.27 t accordingly ( $2,819 + 20.27 - 15 = 2,824.27$ ).

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic are large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has introduced the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding management system including individual quotas. The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) is an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan which enforces the Ministerial Ordinance on Japanese fishermen.

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for the 2020 fishing season as soon as those vessels are selected. Although the number of licensed LSTLVs in 2020 is not confirmed at this stage, Japan will adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates, in accordance with paragraph 18 of Rec. 18-02 (19-04). As Japan's BFT quota will be increased, the number of licensed vessels is expected to be slightly higher than in 2019, but well below the capacity calculated in accordance with Rec. 18-02 (19-04) for ensuring compliance. Once the number of vessels is confirmed, the FAJ will inform the ICCAT Secretariat of the vessel name, quantities of individual quotas and other necessary information at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing campaign begins, which starts on August 1 and ends on July 31 in the following year .

The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catches, type of product, individual BFT weights, tag numbers, and number of live releases and dead discards including those under the minimum size. The FAJ monitors the catch of individual vessels based on each vessel's quota and catch report.

If there is a dead discard, it is deducted from Japan's quota. Japan will reserve a portion of the quota to cover dead discards. The amount of the reserved quota will be decided when the Minister issues licenses to fishermen to fish for BFT (cf. the amount of reserved quota for the 2019 fishing season was 14 t).

Regarding by-catch, all Japanese catching vessels targeting fish other than BFT operate around the equator or further south: the possibility of by-catch of BFT is negligible. In fact, there was no by-catch reported in 2019. Given the circumstances, the Minister will set aside 1 t for bycatch for other fisheries for 2020 as a minimum figure.

Landings at overseas ports are prohibited by the Ministerial Ordinance. The Ministerial Ordinance only allows BFT fishermen to land at ten domestic ports designated by the Ordinance. At the ten ports, 100% of landings of BFT by both fishing vessels and carrier vessels will be inspected by FAJ official inspectors who will check the total weight and tags, count the number of BFT and compare the information collected with the data previously reported, including daily reports.

All fishing vessels operate in almost the same period from the end of September to early December every year without entering ports during this period. Therefore, the observers are on board the designated BFT vessels during their entire fishing trips for BFT. This means that temporal representation is secured. In addition, the fishing ground of bluefin tuna is located in a very limited area off the coast of Iceland. There should be little concern about the spatial representation given such condition.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	The Minister requires fishing operators to communicate to the FAJ daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location, the weight and number of BFT caught in eastern Atlantic Ocean (including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size) by the end of the next day. In addition, the Minister also requires the operators to maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operation.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 24.	
2	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from fishing for BFT in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July and in other areas during the period from 1 June to 31 December.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 17.	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from catching for BFT weighing less than 30kg. However, the Minister may authorize the operators to catch incidentally a maximum 5% by number of BFT weighting between 8 and 30 kg. If the percentage of the small BFT catch exceeds 5%, the excess fish must be released and the amount of dead discards will be deducted from the reserved quota.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 17.	
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	The Minister prohibits the vessels without BFT quota from catching, transshipping or landing BFT. Japan will	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and	

		set aside 1 t of the quota for bycatch.	Fisheries, Article 57.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational or sport fishing vessels in the ICCAT area.	N/A	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered on the ICCAT website with prior authorization.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 59.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	The Minister will require fishing vessels to be equipped with a VMS able to automatically transmit a message and to transmit the data every two hours to the FAJ. The FAJ transmits the VMS data from the vessels fishing for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 24-2.	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	FAJ will ensure observer coverage on board of 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas.	N/A	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT are not purse seiner and Japan has no registered farming facilities for BFT.	N/A	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	N/A	N/A	

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV an individual quota of more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40 m) estimated by the SCRS (see **Table 1**). Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation of capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 18-02 (19-04), will ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A.

#### 4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

##### a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

###### (i) Characteristic of Japanese E-BFT Fishery

The Northeast Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of the island is the only E-BFT fishing ground for the Japanese fleet. In recent years, the fishing season has usually started at the end of September and lasted until early December. The E-BFT fishing area is remote from fishing areas of bigeye tuna, which is another primary target fish for the Japanese fleet and caught around the equator. This means that LSTLVs targeting E-BFT are distinguishable from LSTLVs targeting other fish such as bigeye, by their position.

###### (ii) Monitoring the E-BFT fishery in accordance with Rec. 18-02 (19-04) and other ICCAT measures

The FAJ constantly monitors LSTLVs' positions in the entire Atlantic Ocean through the VMS. The agency issues special licences to LSTLVs fishing actively for E-BFT and allocates quotas to those vessels. The FAJ ensures through the VMS that the LSTLVs without a license and quota do not operate in the E-BFT fishing ground. Also, the FAJ requires licensed vessels to transmit daily catch reports to the FAJ during the BFT fishing season. The FAJ closely monitors the accumulated catches to make sure that licensed vessels comply with their quotas.

The FAJ distributes official tags only to LSTLVs having E-BFT quotas. The Ministerial Ordinance requires Japanese fishermen to attach the tag to every BFT caught by them. Landings of any E-BFT without the tag are forbidden.

Reporting requirements regarding transshipment are also established by the Ministerial Ordinance. LSTLVs shall acquire authorization from the FAJ before transshipment at ports. The FAJ also receives transshipment declaration in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation. The FAJ examines such information and checks the consistency with the accumulated catch amount. Such information will be verified through landing inspections by the FAJ inspectors when the BFT is landed in Japan.

###### (iii) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ(1) - Very low capacity of Japanese LSTLVs

Moreover, the FAJ limits the number of catching vessels fishing for BFT well below the limit articulated by the Recommendation 18-02 (19-04). This diminishes the economic incentive of the fishermen to violate regulations since the allocated quota will be enough for each catching vessel to make a profit through BFT fishing. **Table 1** shows that Japan's E-BFT fleet has very low capacity (38 vessels in 2019), compared to the limit calculated in accordance with the Rec. 18-02 (19-04) (2,824.27 t (quota)/25 t (per one LSTLVs over 40 m)=112.97 vessels).

###### (iv) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ(2) - 100% landing inspection by FAJ officials

The Ministerial Ordinance prohibits landing of BFT at any foreign port. All of the BFT caught by Japanese fishermen including those brought by carrier vessels must be landed in 10 designated ports in Japan. Those ports are the final destination of BFT caught by Japanese fishermen; this scheme enables the FAJ to conduct direct landing inspections against the landed E-BFT. In fact, the FAJ has been implementing 100% landing inspections against the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs since 2009. A range of information collected through the MCS measures mentioned above (e.g. weight and number of E-BFT, attachment of plastic tags) are utilized at the landing inspections.

###### (v) Cooperation with port state and importing state

Many of the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs are also subject to port inspection by coastal CPCs. When the LSTLVs exhaust their catch quotas, they usually make transshipments of E-BFT at other CPCs' ports, which may be subjected to inspections by the port State, in accordance with Recommendation 18-09. It is rare that a catching vessel carrying the E-BFT goes back to Japan after the end of the BFT fishing season because, in most cases, Japanese LSTLVs change their target fish to bigeye tuna (moving south) and continue their operation in the ICCAT area.

*(vi) Risk analysis for illegal BFT fishing*

In a hypothetical case that a Japanese LSTLV successfully poaches E-BFT despite the MCS measures described above, the vessel has to sell the fish somewhere in the world. The importing State, especially if an ICCAT member, shall require an eBCD to import the E-BFT. However, the FAJ will never validate an electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document (eBCD) for the export of fish to market States.

In another hypothetical case, if a Japanese LSVTL successfully poaches E-BFT and attempts to bring the fish to Japan, as it is prohibited to land illegally caught E-BFT, it can easily be identified by the landing inspections of the FAJ or business operators in Japan because an official tag is not attached to the fish and the fish is not accompanied by an eBCD. Furthermore, business operators are prohibited from buying such illegal fish by the Ministerial Ordinance.

*(vii) Conclusion*

To conclude, Japan fully implements MCS measures and capacity control as required by the relevant Recommendation of ICCAT. In addition, Japan adopts some additional and very effective MCS measures, including 100% landing inspection. Moreover, compliance of Japanese LSTLVs is further ensured through the assistance of and cooperation with port States and possible market States. Those combined measures are expected to eliminate any possibility of IUU fishing of E-BFT by Japanese vessels. Given the effectiveness of the combined measures, the FAJ is not going to dispatch its inspection vessel for BFT fishing.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Japan will not be part of an ICCAT International Inspection plan, due to its alternative measures described in the previous sub-paragraph.

**5. Others**

N/A.

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TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)													Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40	49.78																										
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																										
<b>Total Purse Seine Fleet</b>																											
Longliner over 40m	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	38	38*	1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	950	950*
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
<b>Total Longline Fleet</b>		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	38	38*	1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	950	950*
Boatboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and boatboats from the Azores	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5																										
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	38	38*	1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	950	950*
<b>Quota</b>		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00	2544.00	2819.00
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00	2529.00	2824.27* <sup>2</sup>
<b>Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)</b>		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	-1,206	-1,046	-598	-547	-597	-590	-590	-690	-808	-1,086	-1,379	-1,579	-1,874

\* The figures are provisional. Once the number of vessels and reserved quota are confirmed, these figures will be revised and be communicated to the Secretariat. (please refer to the main text).

\*2:  $2,819t(2020 \text{ initial quota}) + 20.27t(2019 \text{ carry over}) - 15t(*3) = 2,824.27t$

\*3: Japan tentatively sets aside 14t for dead discards by the BFT fishery and allocates 1t for bycatch by the other fishery. The reserved portion of quota will be fixed and this table will be revised accordingly when the Minister issues licenses to fishermen to fish for BFT.

**KOREA (REP.)****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Korea's bluefin tuna quota for 2020 will be 251.567 t (200 t of initial quota + 50 t of quota transfer from Chinese Taipei + 1.567 t of unused quota carried forward from 2019) subject to the endorsement by Panel 2. Korea hereby requests the carry-over of its unused quota 1.567 t to 2020 in accordance with para 7 of Rec. 18-02.

**a) Quotas allocated to each gear group**

Longline is the only gear type that Korea uses for bluefin tuna fishery. Therefore, the entire quota of 251.567 t will be allocated to longline gear group. However, Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for possible by-catch.

**b) Method used to allocate and manage quotas, and measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas**

Korea's bluefin tuna quota will be allocated to two to four longline vessels of certain fishing companies which have historical records of bluefin tuna fishing. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of Korea will decide the individual quota for each vessel in consultation with those companies. The details of quota allocation will be submitted to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activities in accordance with paragraph 50 of the Recommendation 19-04. Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch report) to MOF by the end of the next day following their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight, number and weight of discarded/released fish (discards will be counted against the quota) and etc. Transfer of quotas among vessels is allowed but vessel operators must seek approval of MOF first. Any over-catch beyond individual quota will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's distant water fisheries.

**c) Open fishing seasons for each gear category**

Longline is the only gear type that Korea uses for bluefin tuna fishery. Open fishing season for longline gear group will be from 1 September to 30 November 2020.

**d) Rules on by-catch**

The Korean government has instructed that Korean vessels that do not target bluefin tuna shall not retain bluefin tuna by-catches in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Recommendation 19-04. In practice, there is almost "zero" possibility that by-catch occurs because all of the Korean tuna fishing vessels other than bluefin tuna catching vessels are operating in the tropical area, i.e. around the equator. Nevertheless, Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for possible by-catch. The amount of any by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Korea and these data will be reported to ICCAT.

**e) VMS, Transshipment, Observer and Tagging Program**

Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall be tracked by and report to the Secretariat as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea every two hours. BFT fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with the prior authorization. MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for 2020 fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.



	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	The masters of authorized longline fishing vessels will keep a bound logbook as well as electronic logbook of their operation and record all necessary information. Weekly and monthly catch reports will be submitted.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
2	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Four or less Korean longline vessels will be scheduled to catch BFT from 1 September 2020 to 30 November 2020 in the area delimited by west of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Korean BFT catching vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna weighting less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. Fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against Korea's BFT quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
4	<b>By-catch (para38)</b>	By-catch is very unlikely and not allowed but it will be deducted from Korea's quota, if any. Korea will set aside 0.5 t of quota for this purpose.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Not applicable. Korea does not have any recreational or sports fisheries.		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	At-sea transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited. Transshipment of bluefin tuna shall take place in the designated ports only.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall be tracked	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2,	

		by and report to the Secretariat as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea every two hours.	15	
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for 2020 fishing season	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1,13-2, 21	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Not applicable.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Since 2017, Korea has been conducting tagging program with archival tags (Mini-PAT) by scientific observers as part of cooperation for GBYP.		

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Korea will operate no more than 4 longline vessels in 2020 although the maximum number of longline vessels (over 40m) it may operate is 10 according to the best catch rate defined by SCRS and the corresponding capacity. Please refer to the detailed information in the last page of this paper.

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### **a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97,99, 103 and 104)**

#### *i) para 73*

Masters of Korean longline vessels must provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the necessary information required by para 73. Also, after each trip, they must submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to the FMC of Korea. Korean fishing vessels are required to report their catch to the FMC of Korea on a daily basis and transshipment/landing activities must be reported, too, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Distant Water Fisheries Development Act. The FMC of Korea analyzes all the relevant information including VMS record and the MOF investigates any suspicious events identified by the FMC. Any infringements or non-compliances will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's distant water fisheries. At least 20% of landings will be inspected but target percentage is 100%.

#### *ii) para 97*

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

#### *iii) para. 99*

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

*iv) para 103 and 104*

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Korea does not have any plan to have an inspection vessel in the Convention area in 2020 for the purpose of Joint International Inspection but its fishing vessels will fully cooperate with the boarding and inspection activities.

**5. Others**

Since 2017, tagging experiments using satellite tags has been conducted on the Korean longline vessels by an observer to actively cooperate with the ICCAT GBYP tagging activities and biological studies. Related data is currently under analysis and will be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat. Korea will continue the tagging research in 2020 in the same way as previous researches.

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Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity												
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																										
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40m	25								2	4	3	3	4										50	100	75	75	100
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
Total longline fleet									2	4	3	3	4										50	100	75	75	100
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5																										
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	4	3	3	4	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	50	100	75	75	100
Quota		335.0	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160	184	200	335.0	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160	184	200
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		335.0	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210	234	250	335.0	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210	234	251.067
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																											
Under/ overcapacity															-301.32	-98.58	-47.46	-43.85	-43.85	-46.85	-46.85	-0.08	-113.66	-81.46	-135	-159	-151.067

## **LIBYA**

### **Fishing Plan Year: 2020**

#### **1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

##### ***1.1 Fishing Vessels***

Fifteen (15) purse-seiners will participate in E-BFT catching for the 2020 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea and shall be allocated individual quotas accordingly.

Longliners and recreational fishing vessels shall not be authorised to participate in the 2020 fishing season.

##### ***1.2 Methodology used for quota allocation and management***

Individual quotas for each of the authorized vessel will be distributed in accordance with national distribution criteria.

Fishing vessels shall have the right to transfer their individual quota to other fishing vessels.

Rec. 18-02 has allocated a Total Allowable Catch of 2,255 t to Libya for 2020 [Rec. 18-02, para. 5]. 2,235 t shall be distributed to the 15 (fifteen) purse-seiners over 24m that shall be authorized to fish for BFT in 2020 and 20 t are to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by-catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse-seiner fleets. The level of 20 t was established based on past records of by-catch for the last few years, which was much lower than the reserved figure (20 t).

##### ***1.3 Fishing groups/ Allocated quota Original Quota Authorized catching vessels***

- i. Fifteen purse seiners: 24-40m  
Allocated quota 2,235 t  
Original quota 2,255 t
- ii. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadline [Rec. 18-02, para 50], and any changes to these vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately.
- iii. Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) between the authorized fishing vessels shall be allowed.
- iv. Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) with vessels of other CPCs are not envisaged for 2020.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Masters of vessels active in the BFT fishery shall maintain a bound/electronic logbook and observe procedures as set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 18-02. In accordance with Para 74 of Rec. 18-02 weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.	Art. 18/ Decree #33/2019	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Purse-seiners are only authorized to catch EBFT in eastern Atlantic and Med. Sea in period (26 May - 1 July) - By derogation purse-seiners fishing in FAO zones 37.3.1 and 37.3.2 shall be authorized to fish in the period 15 May - 1 July. This shall be applicable to a maximum of three vessels selling their catches to farms of CPCs in the abovementioned zones. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 18-02, Libya may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven. Notification of close of season will be sent to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Para 75 of Rec. 18-02.	Decree #33/2019	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or less than 115cm fork length is prohibited as per para 34 of Rec. 18-02. Any incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg and shall be counted on Libyan quota.	Art. 14/ Decree #33/2019	

4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Libyan fishing vessels should, where possible release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Otherwise the amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately. All by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Libya.	Decree #33/2019	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational and sport fisheries are allowed.	Decree #33/2019	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Transshipment at sea is prohibited.  BFT Fishing vessels shall only land BFT catches in ports designated by the Fishery Authority (Al-khoms, Tripoli, Misurata and Tobruk).  All vessels entering any of these ports for landing shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities).  All landings of BFT shall be inspected by Port and Fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report.	Art. 21/ Decree #33/2019	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All fishing vessels active in BFT fishing shall be equipped with a full active VMS; the transmission of data shall start 15 days before their period of authorization and continue 15 days after the Authorization period.  Fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission on basis of at least every hour (1) and any interruption of transmission will be acted upon immediately to investigate and solve the problem; if said problem is not resolved within 24 hrs vessel will be recalled to port.	Decree #33/2019/ Art. 18 (transmission start 15 days before Authorization and continue 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	VMS centers shall regularly transmit the data to ICCAT and authority.
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	National observers shall cover 100% activity of towing and auxiliary vessels (BFT - Other Vessels if any). No national observers onboard of catching vessels. For research purposes local researchers may be appointed on board some of the catching vessels.	Art. 13/Decree #33/2019	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Regional observers shall be placed on board all catching vessels authorized to fish BFT in season 2020 on a full deployment (100%) basis.	Decree #33/2019	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>			

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

In accordance with SCRS recommendations CPC-Libya has endeavoured to keep its fishing capacity at a low level. CPC-Libya shall, in terms of para 22 of Rec. 18-02, adjust its fishing capacity in a manner commensurate with the 'best catch rates' indicated by SCRS and the allocated quota to the particular fishing gear (**Table 1**).

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

In terms of para 26 of Rec. 18-02 Libya has communicated to ICCAT Secretariat three farms with a total capacity of 1,800 t; no activity however will take place in 2020.

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

In accordance with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act. #14/1989, Decree #33/2019, and the Coast Guard and Port Security Act. #229/2005 as modified in 2019.

Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant port authorities, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- i) estimated time of arrival;
- ii) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- iii) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

And Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

Fishing Inspectors from the Fishing Authority/Coast Guard shall be trained to this effect.

Being that the larger part of the quota is caught by the purse seine fleet on the high seas and transferred into cages of farms situated in the areas of competence of other CPCs only a minimal percentage can be inspected on arrival/landing in Libyan ports which will not allow for a reliable risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. However, CPC-Libya will seek cooperation with the farming CPCs receiving fish caught by Libyan catching vessels to obtain further statistics in this regard.

In case of landing in ports of other CPCs Masters of Libyan catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to CPC-Libya.

The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and shall certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

In the case of landings in Libya by catching vessels of other CPCs. CPC-Libya shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

### ***a.1) Measures to compliance with quotas***

The Fishery Authority will set up a Control Unit on a 24 x 7 basis during the fishing season.

Operators and Masters of the authorized fishing vessels shall adhere to Rec. 18-02 para. 63, 65 and 66 and Section A of Annex 2 of said Rec. 18-02 as also para 86-93 (including Annex 4 and Annex 8) where transfers of live fish are concerned.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) and their respective allocation keys will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the stipulated time frame.

Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with ROPs on board fishing vessels.

All vessels or JFOs whose quota is exhausted shall be ordered back to port immediately.

All fishing vessels catching BFT shall adhere to the eBCD system.



Catching vessels shall be authorized to transfer their catches only to farming units in CPCs that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

*a.2) Enforcement of Fishing Plan*

*Regulations*

Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #33/2019 adopting Rec. 18-02 and amending Decree No. 205/2013, transposing Rec. 13-07 as amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Law # 14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.

*Licensing*

Individual fishing permit shall be issued by fishery Authority based upon Decree #33/2019 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2020 specifying the season dates and minimum sizes as per Rec. 18-02.

\* Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Med. Sea, Art. 2/Decree #33/2019).

\* Individual Quota allocated Acc. (Art. 10/Decree #33/2019).

\* Logbook required on board Acc. (Art. 18/Decree #33/2019).

*Imposing Sanction*

Any non-compliance to the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree #33/2019/Art. 16 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of individual quota).

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Libya would be prepared to participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection with one vessel; inspectors shall be trained to ensure correct implementation of inspection and boarding activities for all Libyan vessels active in the 2020 E-BFT catching season. The inspection vessel would then be ready for operation one week prior to the start of the season and terminate operations once all the catches of the Libyan catching fleet have been landed or transferred to the receiving farming facilities and all ITD operations terminated without any further requirement of control transfers.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- Onboard documents; log-books, e-BCDs, ITD documents, authorisation documents;
- Catch activities and transfer to towing vessel cages;
- Video recordings of catch transfer operations;
- Potential infringements of the conservation and management measures of Rec. 19-04;
- Control of fishing gear and any catches on board.

5. Others

CPC-Libya has no other additions.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity												
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	15	15	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	696	696	696	697	747	747
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>747</b>
Longliner over 40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>747</b>
<b>Quota</b>															<b>1237</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>1323</b>	<b>1588</b>	<b>1846</b>	<b>2060</b>	<b>2255</b>
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>	Note: 20 t reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse seine fleets.														<b>1237</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1638</b>	<b>1797</b>	<b>2044</b>	<b>2235</b>
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>															<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>															<b>536</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-67</b>	<b>-67</b>	<b>-461</b>	<b>-677</b>	<b>-942</b>	<b>-1100</b>	<b>-1297</b>	<b>-1488</b>

**MOROCCO****Year of Fishing Plan: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)****a) Introduction**

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its last Annual meeting held in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) in November 2019, the 2020 national quota, which was fixed at 3,284 t, will be distributed among the operational segments, traps, purse seiners targeting bluefin tuna and small coastal vessels and artisanal boats that take bluefin tuna as by-catch.

**b) Details of Fishing plan**

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 18 to 23 of ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 18 traps
- 4 tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m, and
- Small coastal vessels and artisanal boats authorised by the Moroccan administration to take bluefin tuna as by-catch during its migration period, and their catches will be counted, as in the past, against the quota allocated to their segment. The fishing gears used by these small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are longline and line. The catches of these vessels are reported in the logbook as well as in the eBCD system.

The bluefin tuna fishing quota for the 2020 fishing seasons is distributed as follows:

- Traps: 2,424 t
- Tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m: 440 t
- Bluefin tuna bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats (longline and handline (HL and LL)): 400 t, calculated based on historical bycatch statistics and taking into account Morocco's overall quota increase for this year.
- A reserve is set aside for the case of overshoot of the allocated quota and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna: 20 t.

Five bluefin tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year in accordance with conditions and specific methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of the regulatory provisions in force. These five farming facilities are linked to authorised traps and vessels.

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual management plan for the bluefin tuna fishery, which has been updated to take into account the new provisions of the eastern bluefin tuna management plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Morocco undertakes to implement all provisions of Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 during the 2020 fishing campaign which will start in April for the traps segment.

The fishing plan will ensure compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

	ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)	Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)	Note:
1	<b>Communication and reporting of catches (para 63-68)</b>	<p>Tuna purse seine vessels have a logbook.</p> <p>Authorised catches of small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are recorded in the logbook and in the eBCD system.</p> <p>Trap catches are included in fishing logbooks as well as in the eBCD system.</p> <p>For the fifth consecutive year, implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme/eBCD.</p> <p>Transmission of weekly and monthly bluefin tuna catches.</p> <p>Dates of closure of the bluefin tuna fishery are reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/20 of 12 February 2020.	
2	<b>Fishery openings (para 29-32)</b>	<p>Purse seine bluefin tuna fishing will be carried out by four purse seiners that will operate either in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The East Atlantic or Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July; or</li> <li>- The East Mediterranean within the framework of the joint fishing operation from 15 May to 1 July 2020;</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fishing areas of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea limited to the waters under Moroccan sovereignty or jurisdiction from 1 May to 15 June.</li> </ul> <p>Bluefin tuna trap fishing is authorised from 1 April to 31 July.</p>	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/20 of 12 February 2020.	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	<p>It is prohibited to catch, retain onboard, tranship, transfer, land, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm.</p> <p>A 5% maximum by-catch is authorised for bluefin tunas weighing between 8 and 30 kg or 75 cm to 115 cm.</p> <p>All bluefin tuna that is smaller than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco.</p>	<p>Order of the Ministry of Fishing and Merchant Marine No. 1154-88 of 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) which fixes the minimum trade size of individuals caught in Moroccan maritime waters as amended and supplemented by Order No. 4132-19 dated 26 December 2019.</p> <p>This order is also applicable to the high seas in the ICCAT Convention area.</p>	

4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Vessels that take bluefin tuna as by-catch are authorised to retain, at any time, bluefin tuna representing less than 20% of the total annual catch in weight or number of specimens. By-catch (20%) taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats, using longline and handline are calculated on an annual basis, and are counted and deducted from the national quota allocated by ICCAT.	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/20 of 12 February 2020.	
5	<b>Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Currently sport and recreational fishing is not authorised.		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Prohibition on at-sea transshipment.  Transshipment is authorised only at the ports designated to this effect, in accordance with all the provisions of ICCAT Recommendations.	Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 concerned with the promulgation of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing the dahir concerned with Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) forming the regulation on maritime fishing. Decree No. 455.17.2 of 26 April 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing published in the Official Bulletin dated 17 May 2018. Decree No. 2.17.456 of 15 March 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Decree No. 1-73-255 dated 23 November 1973 forming the regulation on maritime fishing.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Obligation to have onboard a functional positioning and tracking device.	Decree No. 2.18.104 dated 2 rabbi II 1440 (10 December 2018) amending and supplementing Decree	

		<p>The transmission of VMS data of fishing vessels of 15 m or more registered in the ICCAT record start at least 5 days before the authorised period and continue 5 days after this period, unless the vessel is deregistered from the list of authorised vessels.</p> <p>The transmission of this VMS data is guaranteed:</p> <p>Every hour for purse seiners. Every two hours for other vessels.</p>	<p>No. 2-09-674 of 30 rabbi I 1431 (17 March 2010) establishing the conditions and methods for installation and use onboard of fishing vessels of a positioning and tracking system which continues to use satellite communications to transmit data. Decree No. 574-19 of 29 jourmada II 1440 (7 March 2019) on the fishing vessel positioning and ongoing tracking device.</p>	
8	<b>CPC Observer programme (para 83)</b>	<p>Presence of onboard observers. Towing vessel: 100% Trap: harvest 100%</p>		
9	<b>Regional Observer programme (para 84)</b>	<p>Presence of onboard observers: Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facilities: 100%. Caging and harvesting in farms: 100%. Tuna purse seiners: 100%.</p>		
	Other requirements, such as tagging programme (para 45).			

## 2. Annual Fishing Capacity Management Plan (para 18-23)

The number of corresponding *fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity* are registered in the attached table.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 14d; 24), if applicable

Live tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year based on the specific conditions and methods that will be determined by the administration in accordance with the regulatory provisions in place and in accordance with the conditions laid down in ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 amending ICCAT Recommendation 18-02.

In addition, it should be signaled that pursuant to the provisions of Recommendation 19-04 amending 18-02 (para 14d; 24), carryover of caged live bluefin tuna is not authorised.

Morocco's farming capacity management plan for 2020 is as follows:

- Authorised farming facilities: 5 farms;
- These five farms are associated to traps and authorised vessels.

Farm name	Nº FFB ICCAT	Geographic coordinates	Wild input (t) *	Capacity (t)
BLUE FARM	AT001MAR00002	Point A: Lat: 35°18'07"N Long: 06°11'19"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'1,5"N Long: 06°11'19"W Point C: Lat: 35°19'1,5"N Long: 06°10'7,9"W Point D: Lat: 35°18'0,7"N Long: 06°10'7,9"W	2,000	2,500
LA LEVANTADA**	AT001MAR00003	Point A: Lat: 35°18'12,26" N Long: 06°09'31,61"W Point B: Lat : 35°18'12,26"N Long :06°08'18,45" W Point C: Lat: 35°17'16,56"N Long: 06°08'18,45"W Point D: Lat: 35°17'16,56"N Long: 06°09'31,61"W	300	1,000
PESBAK FISH**	AT001MAR00004	Point A: Lat: 35°17'48,09" N Long: 06°11'6,20W Point B: Lat: 35°17'48,09" N Long: 06°09'54,27"W Point C: Lat: 35°16'48,23" N Long: 06°09'54,27"W Point D: Lat: 35°16'48,23" N Long: 06°11'6,20"W	306	800
Farm 4**	TBD	Point A: Lat: 35°19'37,20 "N Long: 04°52'30"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'19,20" N Long: 04°51'10,8"W Point C: Lat: 35°18'46,80"N Long: 04°51'25,2"W  Point D: Lat: 35°19'8,4" N Long: 04°52'37,2"W	300	850
Farm 5**	TBD	Point A: Lat: 35°15'46,8 "N	300	800

		Long: 04°46'40,8"W Point B: Lat: 35°14'52,8" N Long: 04°44'27,6"W Point C: Lat: 35°14'9,6"N Long: 04°44'34,8"W Point D: Lat: 35°15'10,8" N Long: 04°46'48"W		
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,206</b>	<b>5,950</b>

\*Approximate and provisional estimation.

\*\*The coordinates of these farms are provisional and susceptible to change.

- Total amount per farm carried over from previous year: 0

This farming capacity management plan may be reviewed and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat on 1 June at the latest, and in compliance with the provisions of para 24, Rec. 19-04 amending Rec. 18-02.

#### 4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

##### *a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)*

Fishery monitoring, control and observation will be carried out in accordance with the national regulation and ICCAT Recommendations in force through the use of the control and surveillance methodology for bluefin tuna fishery activities in 2020.

This methodology is part of the framework for implementation of national maritime fishery control activities. It includes measures for compliance with ICCAT provisions on control and inspection, in particular, those of Recommendation 19-04 amending Rec. 18-02. This methodology therefore includes measures related to the following actions:

- Maintain records for monitoring prior notifications to port entry transmitted by all catch, transformation and support vessels that carry onboard catches equivalent or superior to three fishes or a ton;
- Monitoring and control of fishing operations in traps, and harvested in traps and fattening farms, in particular through the presence of observers;
- Systematic monitoring and control of landings of the coastal and artisanal fleet which must be effectively weighed before first sale. Compliance with the catch documentation system, which is implemented nationally, is also mandatory. This national documentation system enables control through direct systematic cross-checking between the catch declaration on landing and data from first sale, and is an additional tool for verifying validation of documents of the eBCD process;
- Monitoring and control of transfer operations and caging operations in farming facilities are supported in particular by the systematic presence of observers, video records of the transfer operations and caging and the use of stereoscopic camera systems in accordance with the conditions established in Recommendation 19-04 amending 18-02;
- Control of live bluefin tuna in a fattening cage by farm in the period from the end of the caging operations to the first caging operation of the following year. This control also concerns the internal traceability system implemented by the fattening farm.
- VMS surveillance of relevant fishing vessels carried out by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with online real time availability of position data for the regional maritime fisheries administration (Maritime Fisheries Delegations);
- Establishment of a procedure to report and record information regarding catch, transfer and caging, in particular, through implementation of the catch documentation programme (eBCD);
- Compliance with provisions on port inspection measures for foreign vessels, and fulfilment of international commitments by the Kingdom of Morocco with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.



At-sea surveillance is also performed by other authorities upon which powers have been conferred by the national regulation.

***b) Joint International inspection Plan (plan 109-112)***

The Kingdom of Morocco has four vessels that could operate outside the national EEZ. There will not be an inspection vessel.

It should be noted that these four vessels will embark ICCAT observers, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT recommendations.

**5. Others**

Regarding research and in accordance with paragraph 28 of Rec. 19-03, the Kingdom of Morocco intends to continue with its study on growth rates of fattened bluefin tuna in 2020, based on the measures of the stereoscopic cameras and size samples at the start and at the end of the fishing season.

At the beginning of the season wild bluefin tuna size samples will cover an extensive range of sizes. Moreover, it is foreseen that this study is supplemented by a pilot study based on acoustics and coordinated jointly by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and ICCAT GBYP.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch de rates fined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	INTERSESSIONAL PA2 MEETING - MADRID 2020																										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40 m	70,70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	141,4	141,4	141,4	141,4	282,8	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49,78	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	149,4	149,4	0	99,6	0	49,8	49,8	49,8	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33,68	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33,7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total purse seine fleet</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>220,1</b>	<b>253,8</b>	<b>70,7</b>	<b>170,3</b>	<b>70,7</b>	<b>120,5</b>	<b>120,5</b>	<b>120,5</b>	<b>141,4</b>	<b>141,4</b>	<b>141,4</b>	<b>141,4</b>	<b>282,5</b>		
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner between 20 and 40m	5,68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Baitboat	19,8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trap	130	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	15	17	18	1950	2210	1690	1170	1170	1300	1300	1430	1560	1560	1950	2210	2340	
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other (please specify) By-catch by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats.		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	80	30	35	143	160	171	156	170	281	309	359	420*	
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2170,1</b>	<b>2543</b>	<b>1790,7</b>	<b>1375,3</b>	<b>1383,7</b>	<b>1580,5</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>1707</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>2710</b>	<b>3042,8</b>	
<b>Quota</b>		<b>2729</b>	<b>2088,26</b>	<b>1279,96</b>	<b>1223,07</b>	<b>1223,07</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1500,01</b>	<b>1792,98</b>	<b>2152,71</b>	<b>2578</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>3284</b>	<b>2729</b>	<b>2088,26</b>	<b>1279,96</b>	<b>1223,07</b>	<b>1223,07</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1500,01</b>	<b>1792,98</b>	<b>2152,71</b>	<b>2578</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>3284</b>	
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		<b>2729</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>1606,96</b>	<b>1238,33</b>	<b>1223,07</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1500,01</b>	<b>1792,98</b>	<b>2152,71</b>	<b>2578</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>3284</b>	<b>2729</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>1606,96</b>	<b>1238,33</b>	<b>1223,07</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1270,47</b>	<b>1500,01</b>	<b>1792,98</b>	<b>2152,71</b>	<b>2578</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>3284</b>	
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>																<b>-143,8</b>	<b>-183,7</b>	<b>-137</b>	<b>-160,6</b>	<b>-310</b>	<b>-321</b>	<b>-207</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-171</b>	<b>-178</b>	<b>-238</b>	<b>-241,2**</b>	

\* This quantity corresponds to bluefin tuna by-catch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats (as indicated in page 1) (400 t) and a reserve for potential quota overshoot and potential dead discard of bluefin tuna (20 t). The latter amount is deducted from the national quota.

\*\*Under/overcapacity" is calculated by subtracting the figure in "Quota" or "Adjusted quota" from the one in "Total fleet/fishing capacity." If the calculated figure is more than 0, overcapacity exists. If the figure is less than 0, it means undercapacity and use minus (-). For example, if the capacity is 1,000 and the quota is 1050, write "-50" in "Under/overcapacity".

**NORWAY****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

According to Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 5, Norway has initially been allocated a quota of 300 t in 2020. Regarding Recommendation 19-04 Paragraph 7, Norway requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. A total of 49.3 t of the Norwegian catch quota (239 t) was utilised in 2019, and 11.95 t (5% of 239 t) may, according to Paragraph 7, be transferred to 2020. The adjusted quota for 2020 in **Table 1** will be 311.95 t.

Norway has set aside a group quota of 256.95 t for purse seiners, a group quota of 18 t for longliners. Norway will open up for a recreational fishery in 2020, and will set aside 5 t for this fishery. Furthermore, 1 t will be set aside for the purpose of tag and release. Norway will also allocate a quota of 25 t for by-catch, and 6 t for research activities.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Norway intends to authorise eight purse seiners and three longliners to fish for bluefin tuna in 2020. Of the eight purse seiners, six purse seiners will have an overall length between 24 and 40 meters, and two purse seiners will have an overall length over 40 meters. A limited number of vessels will be authorised for a recreational fishery, including tag and release. The vessels which will be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2020 have not been selected yet. Further details are specified in Section 2 below. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 50, Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorised to conduct this fishery to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan will be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 17.

The Norwegian purse seine and longline vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken. The vessels participating in the recreational fishery and in tag and release are required to communicate the same information as the purse seine and longline vessels, as well as to stay in close contact with the Institute of Marine Research. The tag and release fishery will only take place if the masters of the vessels can document that they are able to tag the bluefin tuna with spaghetti marks, and that they have received the necessary licences to do so.

25 t of the Norwegian quota are set aside for unintentional by-catch of bluefin tuna. This is two tonnes less than in 2019 although the Norwegian quota in 2020 is higher than in 2019. By-catch of bluefin tuna in Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of by-catches. The highest level of by-catch of bluefin tuna registered in the Norwegian economic zone in the past years is 8.4 t in 2015. In comparison, the level of by-catch in 2019 was 0.73 t of bluefin tuna. 25 t for by-catch should therefore be more than sufficient to cover by-catch in 2020.

If a vessel has not been allocated a quota, or if the allocated quota has been exhausted, the master of the vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of by-catch of live bluefin tuna. If such bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota.

All by-catch of bluefin tuna shall immediately be reported to the Norwegian FMC. The FMC will alert inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries who will initiate appropriate follow-up action.

The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard has access to the electronic logbooks in real time.

Further information regarding the monitoring and control of the Norwegian quota is included in the table below.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	<p>63. The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to keep an electronic logbook.</p> <p>64. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian towing, auxiliary or processing vessels participating in the BFT fishery.</p> <p>65. The Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken.</p> <p>The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>66. The purse seiners will be required to communicate the daily reports on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including when the catch is zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Norwegian FMC by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p> <p>67. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian traps fishing for bluefin tuna.</p> <p>68. Catching vessels other than purse seiners will be required to transmit to the Norwegian FMC by the latest Tuesday at noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 13 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 13 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	<p>These regulations will be adopted when ICCAT has approved the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p><b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b></p>	<p>29. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 15 November, in accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 29.</p> <p>30. If weather conditions prevent purse seine fishing operations during the authorised fishing period, Norway may, in accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 30, extend the fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days. Whether conditions which may lead to an extension of the fishing period shall correspond to wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p> <p>31. Bluefin tuna fishing with longline catching vessels over 24 m is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 1 August to 31 December in accordance with Rec 19-04 paragraph 31.</p> <p>32. Norway intends to establish a fishing season for longliners under 24 meters in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 13 May to 31 December 2020.</p> <p>The fishing season for the recreational fishery will be from 13 May to 31 December 2020.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 3.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 4.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 4.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 5.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p><b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b></p>	<p>34. The Norwegian vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will only be authorised to fish in Norwegian waters. No bluefin tuna at such low individual size has been registered in Norwegian fisheries. Nevertheless, a minimum size of 30 kilos or 115 cm applies.</p> <p>Nevertheless, for catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorised according to Rec 19-04 paragraph 37.</p> <p>35. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian baitboats or trolling boats authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and no Norwegian vessels are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the</p>	<p>Regulations related to Sea Water Fisheries § 43 and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 2.</p>	

		<p>Mediterranean Sea or the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>36. Not applicable. Reference is made to paragraph 35 above.</p>		
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<p>38. Norway has allocated a quota of 25 tonnes for by-catch of bluefin tuna in other fisheries. This is two tonnes less than in 2019 although the Norwegian quota in 2020 is higher than in 2019.</p> <p>By-catch of bluefin tuna in Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of by-catches. The highest level of by-catch of bluefin tuna registered in the Norwegian economic zone in the past years is 8.4 t in 2015. In comparison, the level of by-catch in 2019 was 0.73 t of bluefin tuna. 25 t for by-catch should therefore be more than sufficient to cover by-catch in 2020.</p> <p>All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota and reported on an annual basis to ICCAT.</p> <p>If no quota has been allocated to the fishing vessel concerned, or if the quota has already been exhausted, the catching vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of live bluefin tuna. If the bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and the appropriate follow-up action shall be taken in accordance with domestic law.</p> <p>For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.</p>	<p>Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 §§ 2 and 7.</p>	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	<p>39. Norway will issue fishing authorisations to a limited number of vessels for the purpose of recreational and tag and release fishery.</p> <p>40. The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by recreational and tag</p>	<p>Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 5.</p> <p>Regulations related to Sea Water Fisheries and Regulations on</p>	

		<p>and release fishery, shall be landed. The Norwegian Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna will contain measures which prohibit recreational and tag and release vessels to land more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day.</p> <p>41. Norway will prohibit the marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and tag and release fishery.</p> <p>42. Data, including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during recreational and tag and release fishery, will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat for the preceding year by 1 July each year.</p> <p>43. Dead catches from recreational and tag and release fishery will be counted against the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>44. Norway will take measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive in recreational fisheries if no quota has been allocated to the vessel or if the quota has been exhausted.</p> <p>45. Norway will open up for a tag and release fishery. Norway will follow the requirements in Rec 19-04 paragraph 45. 1 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover any bluefin tuna which might die during the tag and release fishery.</p> <p>Only vessels with a license issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery. The vessels must also be authorised by the competent authorities to perform the tagging process. The license to participate in the tag and release fishery, and the authorisation to perform the tagging process, will be withdrawn if the vessel does not comply with the terms of the license/authorisation.</p> <p>All vessels participating in the tag and release fishery will be closely monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries.</p>	<p>Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 2.</p>	
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		<p>Norway will in 2021 submit a report on the scientific activities conducted in 2020. The report will be submitted at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting in 2021.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities will be reported and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>46. Norway will, upon request from ICCAT, make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorisation.</p> <p>47. The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in rec 19-04 paragraph 47.</p>		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Not applicable. All transshipments of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone are prohibited.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 14.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	<p>The purse seine and longline vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of VMS signals will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>VMS will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, every two hours for longline vessels, and every hour for purse seine vessels.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>The VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 5 days before the vessel's period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after its period of authorisation.</p>	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 13. Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	<p>83. The longline vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will be required to have a national observer on board during 20 % of the time the vessels are targeting bluefin tuna.</p> <p>The Norwegian fishing vessels will only be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone.</p>	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 12.	



		<p>The observer tasks will be carried out by inspectors from the Norwegian Surveillance Services, which are part of the Directorate of Fisheries.</p> <p>Collecting scientific data are among the main tasks of these inspectors, and they are trained to carry out scientific work as well as monitoring, control and surveillance activities.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will have an observer coverage of the authorised purse seine vessels of at least 5% measured in number of trips.</p> <p>Well in advance of the start of the fishing season, the longline and purse seine vessels will be required to submit a plan including information regarding the scheduled start-up date, area and period for the bluefin tuna fishery. Based on this plan, the Norwegian Surveillance Services and the Institute of Marine Research will organize their observer coverage ensuring representative temporal and spatial coverage to collect adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, in line with Rec. 19-04 and Rec. 16-14.</p> <p>The purse seiners and longliners will be required to keep close contact with the Norwegian Surveillance Services when fishing for bluefin tuna to ensure that the requirements relating to observer coverage are fulfilled.</p> <p>The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour as well as daily reports from the electronic logbooks to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The Surveillance Services have access to this information in real time.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will provide the Norwegian Surveillance Services with relevant training and inform them of which sampling methods that must be used to collect biological data in accordance with Rec. 19-04.</p>		
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		In addition, the longliners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, can be instructed to carry an observer from the Institute of Marine Research or to collect biological data.		
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The eight purse seiners authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to carry an ICCAT Regional Observer 100% of the time they are targeting bluefin tuna, and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 12.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>	Fishing teams that are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery must, before the fishery begins, document that they have been authorised to tag the bluefin tuna by the competent authorities.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2020 § 11.	

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

According to Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2020 is 300 t. In addition to this Norway requests a transfer of 11.95 t from the 2019 quota, which will increase the Norwegian quota for 2020 to 311.95 t. In light of the increase of the Norwegian quota, the fishery in 2020 is planned to take place with eight purse seiners and three longliners.

The best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 are based on catches from the Mediterranean Sea. These catch rates do not reflect the catch rates in the feeding areas in Norwegian waters. When bluefin tunas are feeding in Norwegian waters, they are much less aggregated than when they are spawning in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to this, the weather along the Norwegian coast in September and October often prevents the fishermen from going out to fish for bluefin tuna. As requested from the Chair of Panel 2 at the annual Commission meeting in 2019, Norway will provide a paper to the SCRS in 2020 on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone.

In accordance with Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 22 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 20 does not apply to Norway.

As the vessels have not been selected, information on their length is not yet available. Each purse seine vessel will be allocated an individual vessel quota up to maximum of 32.1 t within the group quota of 256.95 t and each longliner will be allocated an individual vessel quota up to maximum 6 t within the group quota of 18 t. 25 t of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catches in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna, 6 t will be set aside for research, 1 t will be set aside for tag and release fishery, and 5 t will be set aside for recreational fishery. Only vessels licenced for a tag and release fishery will be allowed to participate in the recreational fishery.

Any subsequent modification of these quotas will, in accordance with Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 17, be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not applicable. Norway does not have any bluefin tuna farms.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries, and is committed to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) at the Directorate of Fisheries will monitor the bluefin tuna fishery.

All Norwegian vessels having catches of bluefin tuna, including as by-catch, are required to inform the Norwegian FMC. Furthermore, a minimum of 5% of the landings of bluefin tuna by the vessels targeting this species will be inspected by inspectors from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries. These inspections will be carried out as full inspections, i.e. the inspectors will monitor the entire landing. This includes monitoring the entire weighing of the fish, cross-checking this against the prior notice of port entry, the VMS, the electronic logbook as well as the landing and sales notes. Furthermore, the inspectors shall ensure that there is no fish left on board once the landing is completed and the landing or sales notes are signed.

As the Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be limited to eight purse seiners and three longliners, the requirement of an inspection vessel in paragraph 111 does not apply.

Furthermore, the vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna and the vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 48, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any type of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and Recommendation 18-12 amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system, as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway has issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system since 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2020 in accordance with the recommendations mentioned above.

##### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Participation in the Joint ICCAT Scheme of Inspection is not foreseen in 2020.

#### **5. Others**

Six tonnes of bluefin tuna are in 2020 allocated to a scientific pilot study aimed at possible future short-term live storage of bluefin tuna in cages in Norway, as well as at maintaining the high quality of the fish during and after purse seine catch operations. Norway presented the reasoning behind this research project in document PA2-605 at the annual Commission meeting in 2019.

Norway will report on the results from this study to the SCRS in 2021.

INTERSESSIONAL PA2 MEETING - MADRID 2020

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity											
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t) <sup>1</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7										1	1	2												70,7	141,4	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78						1	1	1	1	1	3	6							49,78	49,78	49,78	49,78	99,56	149,34	298,7	
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																										
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>							<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>							49,78	49,78	49,78	49,78	99,56	<b>220,04</b>	<b>440,1</b>	
Longliner over 40m	25																										
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68							1		1	0										5,68		5,68	0	0	0	
Longliner less than 24m	5											4	3												20	15	
<b>Total longline fleet</b>								<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>								5,68		5,68	0	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5																										
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>							<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>								49,78	55,46	49,78	55,46	99,56	<b>240,04</b>	<b>455,1</b>
<b>Quota</b>							30.97	36,57	43,71	52,48	104	239	300								30.97	36,57	43,71	52,48	104	<b>239</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																										<b>212</b>	<b>280.95<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>												<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>																						18,81				<b>29,04</b>	<b>180.15<sup>3</sup></b>

- <sup>1)</sup> The figures for purse seine capacity correspond to the calculations made by the SCRS for the Mediterranean Sea. At the 2016 ICCAT Annual meeting Norway asked the SCRS whether the figures for the Mediterranean Sea were automatically transferable to the North East Atlantic. The SCRS could not provide an answer to this question. Hence it is questionable whether it is correct to fill the Mediterranean figures in the table. Norway will provide a paper on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels in the Norwegian Economic Zone.
- <sup>2)</sup> 25 t are set aside for by-catch, and 6 t are set aside for research in 2020. 11.95 t are transferred from the 2019 quota.
- <sup>3)</sup> In accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 22 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 20 does not apply to Norway.

## UNISIA

### Year of Fishing Plan: 2020

Tunisia hereby presents its fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT, the quota for Tunisia in 2020 was fixed at 2,655 t.

#### 1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels (para 16-17)

In preparation for the 2020 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT. On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia established a fishing plan and will allocate individual quotas to 50 purse seiners to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2020.

All Tunisian fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna use purse seine nets i.e. tuna purse seiners.

The Tunisian administration will issue fishing authorisations for these vessels for 2020 and these will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

Management of fishing activity will be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02/19-04), and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended and/or supplemented, in particular by Laws No. 2013-34 and No. 2018-30 and their implementing texts, in particular, the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019).

Tunisia's total fishing quota, which is set at 2,655 t for 2020, will be distributed as follows:

- a) 2628.45 t (i.e. 99%) for tuna purse seiners. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be reported to ICCAT by the deadlines for submission set out in paragraph 50 of Rec. 18-02.
- b) 26.55 t (i.e. 1%) for by-catch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 38 of Rec. 18-02/19-04.

**Table 1** below summarizes the actions taken to implement the requirements of the ICCAT recommendation.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 18-02/19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Catch recording and reporting will comply with the provisions of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 63-68). Catching vessel masters will maintain all the onboard documents required including a bound logbook or in electronic format in which the operations performed will be recorded in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (Annex 2).	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	

2	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	The purse seine fishing season is from 26 May to 1 July 2020. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04, Tunisia may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	It is prohibited to catch bluefin tuna with a unit weight less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm calculated from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail. However, exceptionally, by-catch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm may be authorised. By-catch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted from Tunisia's quota.	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	26.55 t (i.e. 1% of the national quota) will be set aside for by-catch. As a precautionary measure, this estimate, which is based on bycatch recorded in previous years, has been increased. If by-catch exceeds the 20% limit tolerated for vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna or if the total level of by-catch is surpassed, these are discarded and deducted from Tunisia's quota.	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Sports and recreational fishing will not be authorised.		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Bluefin tuna fishing vessels can only tranship bluefin tuna catches in the ports registered	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of	

		with ICCAT with prior authorisation in accordance with Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (paragraph 77, 78 and 80).	Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
7.	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All vessels participating in the bluefin tuna campaign with a length of more than 15 m are equipped with a VMS system, in accordance with Recommendation 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 105) and current domestic legislation. Transmission of positions of catching, towing and support vessels starts 5 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until 5 days after the end of the authorisation. The positions will be communicated instantaneously to the ICCAT Secretariat every hour by the purse seiners in accordance with Recommendation 18-10.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as supplemented by Law 2013-34 of 21 September 2013 and Law 2018-30 of 23 May 2018. Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 26 June 2015 establishing the type of instruments for gathering instantaneous information on the positions of vessels fishing at sea and the type of vessels that must be equipped with them.	
8	<b>CPC observer programmes (para 83)</b>	The Tunisian administration will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents on board all towing vessels i.e. 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-02/19-04 (§ 83).	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013.	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The Tunisian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all transfers from one farming facility to another, during all bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities, throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities and during release of bluefin tuna from farming cages in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 84).		
10	<i>Other requirements, such as: Scientific programme</i>	Tunisia has implemented an onboard scientific observer programme, covering more than 10% of purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna. In addition, a periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme is implemented in fattening farms.		

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Adjustment of Tunisian fishing capacity for 2019 (**Table 2**).

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), if appropriate**

In accordance with paragraphs 24 to 27 of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04, the input volume for 2020 of bluefin tuna will be adjusted to 2655 t, i.e. proportional to the quota allocated to Tunisia for 2020.

Seven (7) farms envisage engaging in operations in 2020 (**Table 3**). Any potential modification to the farming plan will be notified to ICCAT within the required timeframe.

It is authorised to carryover live unharvested bluefin tunas that have been caught during the preceding fishing season(s). The live bluefin tunas carried over will be placed into separate cages from the new catches of the 2020 season.

In accordance with Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 8), in addition to the control and inspection provisions set out in paragraphs 54, 103 and 104, additional control measures will be implemented (see paragraph 4).

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### ***a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

In accordance with the domestic legislation in force, at-sea inspections in the fishing areas during the campaign will be carried out by agents authorised to police the fisheries from different corps that operate at sea. They are responsible for monitoring and assessment of compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Requests for entry and use of Tunisian ports by foreign-flagged vessels will be reviewed and granted, if appropriate, by the relevant port and maritime authorities.

In case of authorisation for port entry and use, in-port inspections will be carried out by government officials of the relevant authority.

All landings and harvesting operations will be controlled by government officials of the relevant authority.

In addition, control measures are provided for in Rec. 18-02 (paras 83 and 84) for regional and national observers programmes which ensure coverage of:

- 100% of purse seiners authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna,
- 100% of authorised towing vessels,
- 100% of bluefin tuna transfer operations from purse seiners, from caging on farms, from one farm to another,
- 100% of harvesting operations.

All monitoring, control and surveillance operations will be ensured in accordance with Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 97 and 99).

In accordance with Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 103), random control operations using conventional cameras will be carried out in active farms by government officials of the relevant authority between the end of caging and the first caging of the following year. These control operations will be carried out for at least 10% of fish in farming cages.

In accordance with Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04 (para 9) a systematic in-depth assessment using stereoscopic cameras will be carried out of all the live bluefin tuna carried over to farms, after batch harvesting and prior to first caging in 2020.



***b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 109-112)***

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04, it is envisaged that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Onboard inspectors will ensure implementation of inspection and boarding activities for all authorised Tunisian and foreign vessels. The operations period will last for 2 months (15 May – 15 July 2020) and concerns in particular bluefin tuna fishing, towing and caging activities, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law of the sea. Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- Onboard documents;
- Catch and transfer activities into towing and farming cages;
- Video recordings of catch transfer operations;
- Potential infringements of the conservation and management measures of Rec. 18-02/19-04.

**5. Others*****Designated ports***

12 ports have been designated in accordance with the ICCAT recommendation. The list of ports has been sent together with the fishing plan (cp24) and published on the ICCAT web site.

***Scientific programme***

A periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme is implemented in Tunisian fattening farms. The main data collected concern demographic structures and size weight relations.

In addition, an onboard scientific observers programme, covering more than 10% of purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna is in place. This programme aims to collect fishery data (place, catch, composition...) and bycatch (cetaceans, turtles, sea birds, sharks...).

It should be noted that Tunisia also participates in the GBYP programme (tagging, species biology...) and provision of scientific data to the SCRS. These programmes are implemented by the National Institute of Sea Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) in cooperation with the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) and the profession.

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Table 2.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity												
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70,7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,7	70,7	70,7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49,78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	24	24	29	31	37	1194,72	1194,72	1194,7	945,82	995,6	995,6	995,6	1194,72	1194,72	1194,72	1443,62	1543,18	1841,86
Purse seiner less than 24m	33,68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	3	3	8	13	13	538,88	538,88	538,88	134,72	33,68	33,68	33,68	33,68	101,04	101,04	269,44	437,84	437,84	
<b>Total purse seine fleet</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>50</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5,68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19,8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fleet/ fishing capacity</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1809,3</b>	<b>1809,3</b>	<b>1809,3</b>	<b>1080,5</b>	<b>1029,3</b>	<b>1029,3</b>	<b>1029,3</b>	<b>1228,4</b>	<b>1295,76</b>	<b>1295,76</b>	<b>1713,06</b>	<b>1981,020</b>	<b>2279,700</b>
<b>Fleet quota</b>															2254,48	1735,87	1064,9	1017,6	1017,6	1057	1057	1247,97	1462,17	1755,18	2093,85	2376,00	2628,45
<b>Bycatch</b>																						29,83	35,82	21,15	24	26,55	
<b>Total quota</b>																						1492	1791	2115,00	2400,00	2655,00	
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable) (1)</b>															2364,48	1937,87	1109,5	860,18	1017,6	1057	1057	1247,97	<b>1462,17</b>	<b>1755,18</b>	<b>2093,85</b>	2376,00	2675,4*
<b>Under/ over-capacity (2)</b>															-445,18	73,43	744,4	62,98	11,72	-27,72	-27,72	-19,57	-166,41	-459,42	-380,79	-394,98	-369,15

\* Initial quota 2,655 t (2020 quota) + unused bycatch carryover of 20.4 t (24 t -3.6 t) = 2675.4 t.

Table 3.

<i>Farm name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Management establishmen t</i>	<i>Farm coordinates</i>	<i>Wild input (t)</i>	<i>Farmin g capacity (t)</i>
VMT	AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi sallem	36°00'18"N - 10°34' 36" E	400	750
			36°00'18"N - 10°34' 55" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 0" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 37" E		
TT	AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	35°25'0"N - 11°04' 40" E	500	1000
			35°25'00"N - 11°05' 04" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°04' 40" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°05' 04" E		
SMT	AT001TUN00003	SMT Etat	35°19'00"N - 11°09' 10" E	500	1000
			35°19'00"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°09' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°08' 45" E		
TFT	AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	36°01'49"N - 10°34' 0" E	400	750
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 0" E		
			36°01'49"N - 10°34' 37" E		
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 37" E		
SNB	AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher ben Hmida et Sami Neifer	35°18'10"N - 11°08' 26" E	300	500
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 26" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 10" E		
THC	AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji et mohamed Chiha	35°18'10"N - 11°08' 56" E	300	500
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 40" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 56" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 40" E		
Farm 7	To be determined	To be determined		255	500
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2655</b>	<b>5000</b>

**TURKEY****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Turkey will implement a total catch limit of 2,305 t for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2020 as allocated by ICCAT Recommendation 19-04.

The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 19-04 have been transposed into Turkish domestic law by “Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading”.

Fishing, transfer and farming activities for eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted by an individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel.

The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Notifications and Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.

The MoAF shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2020. All fishing vessels authorized by the MoAF shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

The authorized BFT fishing season will be implemented from 15 May to 1 July in accordance with para 29 of Rec. 19-04.

Fishing permits issued by the MoAF shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2020 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline of April 30, fishing permits are planned to be granted to 36 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by the MoAF. Similarly, it is planned that 70 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) will be authorized by the MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 36 E-BFT catching vessels (if no conceivable changes happen until the April 30 deadline), acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2020 E-BFT fishing season.

The MoAF plans to allocate the total Turkish quota allocated to for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels. Should any E-BFT catching vessel not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carry-over of unused quota is not authorized.

Taking into account the historical BFT catch records, since the artisanal, coastal, recreational and sport fisheries as well as incidental catches in Turkey were less than 50 t/ year, it is decided to allocate a specific quota level of 48 t (reducing from 138 t) for artisanal, coastal, recreational and sport fisheries as well as incidental catches. Likewise, due to reason that by-catch in the previous years was less than 5 t/year, the allocated specific quota for by-catch has been reduced from 50 t to 5 t for 2020.

All by-catch shall be deducted from Turkey’s total dedicated quota.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	<p>Shall be implemented in parallel with para 63-68 of Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>Both bound logbook and electronic logbook shall be used for the recording of catch data.</p>	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	<p>Fishing for E-BFT by purse-seiner is allowed for the period between 15 May - 1 July 2019 in parallel with para 29 of Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 19-04, Turkey may possibly extend its fishing period for the affected vessels, for the equivalent number of lost days, up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the Vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs concerned, evidence of inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	<p>Necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm shall be taken.</p> <p>By-catch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted from Turkey's quota.</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<p>Due to the reason that by-catch in the previous years was less than 5 t/year, the allocated specific quota for by-catch has been reduced from 50 t to 5 t for 2020.</p> <p>The level of by-catch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip.</p> <p>Whether it is retained or not all by-catches shall be deducted from Turkey's total quota.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	<p>Recreational and sport fisheries on E-BFT is subject to authorization for each vessel. Catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one E-BFT individual per vessel per day is prohibited. The marketing of E-BFT caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.</p> <p>Catch data obtained from the recreational fishery shall be submitted to the Ministry, all recreational catches shall be counted against Turkey's total quota dedicated for recreational and sports fisheries.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Amateur &amp; Recreational Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	<p>Transshipment at sea operations of E-BFT shall be prohibited. E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land E-BFT catches in the ports designated for that purposes.</p> <p>In case of dead E-BFT derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.</p> <p>The designated ports shall be open for 24 hours and shall be ready upon request of landing from the BFT fishing vessel, prior to at least 2 hours of estimated time of arrival.</p> <p>The landing ports will be duly inspected by ministerial inspectors on daily basis and upon any request of landing.</p>	<p>Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	

		<p>The following ports have been designated by the MoAF for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adana Province: Karatras fishing port</li> <li>2. Antalya Province: Antalya fishing port Gazipasa fishing port</li> <li>3. Mersin Province: Erdemli fishing port</li> <li>4. Hatay Province: Iskenderun fishing port</li> <li>5. Canakkale Province: Kabatepe fishing port Gulpınar fishing port</li> <li>6. Istanbul Province: Gurpinar fishing port Tuzla fishing port</li> <li>7. Izmir Province: Karaburun fishing port</li> </ol>		
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	<p>Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2020 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by the MoAF.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT shall start at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after their period of authorisation.</p> <p>Position reporting in every one hour shall be required from the authorized fishing vessels.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	<p>Presence of "CPC Observers" on E-BFT towing vessels shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2020.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	<p>100% coverage of "ICCAT Regional Observers" on E-BFT catching vessels and at E-BFT farming facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations) is mandatory.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	

Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).	Usage of stereoscopic cameras in the farms shall be provided.	Ministerial notification regulating commercial fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading
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## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Fishing permits are planned to be granted to 36 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by the MoAF. Similarly, it is planned that 70 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) will to be authorized by the MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 36 E-BFT catching vessels (shown in attached table) (if no conceivable changes occur before the 30 April deadline), acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2020 E-BFT fishing season.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

With reference to Para 8 and 24 to 27, annual farming management plan for the year 2020 has been provided below:

<i>Farming Capacity for the year 2020</i>				
<i>Country</i>	<i>FFB*</i>	<i>Capacity (t)*</i>	<i>Input Capacity(t)*</i>	<i>FFB Coordinates</i>
Turkey	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	800	292,664	38 29 16,73 N, 26 23 23,12 E 38 29 22,41 N, 26 23 23,08 E 38 29 22,37 N, 26 23 15,88 E 38 29 16,69 N, 26 23 15,90 E
Turkey	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	800	292,664	38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E 38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E
Turkey	BASARANLAR ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	900	329,247	38 10 42,97 N, 26 42 18,41 E 38 10 48,53 N, 26 42 24,72 E 38 10 45,27 N, 26 42 29,32 E 38 10 39,72 N, 26 42 23,02 E
Turkey	KILIÇ Orkinos Besiciliği Projesi	1840	673,126	38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E 38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E
Turkey	Sagun Orkinos Besiciliği Projesi	1000	365,829	38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E 38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E
Turkey	AK-TUNA ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	1000	365,829	38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E 38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E
Turkey		500 <sup>(1)</sup>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,840</b>	<b>2,319.36</b>	

\* In case of any changes, the final version of farming capacity plan shall be reported by 1 June.

(1) The total farm capacity of Turkey pertinent to the reference period is 6,840 metric tons. Without any prejudice to the right of utilization at any time, the farm capacity of 500 metric tons shown in the table above that belongs to Turkey will not be used for the year 2020.



#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

###### *Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT fishing activities*

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by the MoAF during 2020 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- will be commissioned by the MoAF to carry out inspections at sea.

Continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoAF inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by the MoAF shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports to check and record any landings of dead E-BFT.

Artisanal, coastal fisheries, recreational and sportive fisheries shall be inspected in scope of the same inspection programme by MoAF inspectors in collaboration with TCGC inspectors.

###### *Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations*

MoAF inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. Modern technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

In accordance with para 97 of Rec. 19-04 the transfers from cages to farm shall be monitored by stereoscopic cameras as well as conventional cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to the MoAF.

Covering 100% of all caging operations; stereoscopic cameras shall be used to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged, in accordance with Parag. 99 of Rec. 19-04. Farm operator shall communicate the results of this programme to MoAF and to the Regional Observer. Those results shall also be communicated to the catching CPC by MOAF.

In accordance with the related provisions of Rec. 19-04; farm authorities shall be allowed to carry-over non-harvested bluefin tuna from 1-30 April each year; through internal transfers of non-harvested live bluefin tunas to another empty cage by using stereoscopic cameras, with the presence of Ministerial inspectors. The carry-over shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Farm authorities shall be instructed to conduct random "control transfers" for an amount corresponding to 10% of total E-BFT caged in one cage/cages in their farms; through transferring to another empty cage, between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. These control transfers shall be video-recorded and the record/records shall be provided to the MoAF in order to communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat.

##### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Turkey plans to continue its longstanding voluntary contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2020, as well. In this respect, Turkish Coast Guard Command schedules to designate 56 inspection boats, 16 air control assets (helicopters / planes) and 281 inspectors on the field during the 2020 bluefin tuna (BFT) fishing campaign. Additionally, Turkish Marine Forces Command intends to join the inspection scheme of 2020 through assigning 47 inspection vessels and 155 inspectors in the field during the 2020 BFT fishing campaign.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- that has been assigned by the MoAF will also contribute to the activities under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during the previous seasons are planned to be focused on in 2020. In this context, bluefin tuna (E-BFT) fishing and transferring activities, as well as, Med-SWO fishing activities will continue to be inspected on a regular throughout the upcoming fishing campaign.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored on the premises of the MoAF and at Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centers of the TCGC.

The TCGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Turkey, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of E-BFT fishing season.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at E-BFT and Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2019's risk assessment data.

## **5. Others**

Turkey is one of the Contracting Parties that financially contributes and supports the ICCAT GBYP programme.

INTERSESSIONAL PA2 MEETING - MADRID 2020

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	16	15	16	11	22	2899	2262	848	919	0	212	0	1131	1131	1061	1131	777	1555
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	3	14	6	18	14	2439	1693	548	199	548	348	647	0	149	697	299	896	697
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5439</b>	<b>3955</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>1131</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1673</b>	<b>2252</b>
Longliner over 40m	25																										
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
<b>Total longline fleet</b>																											
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*												<b>188</b>	<b>48**</b>
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity Quota</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>2305***</b>
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																											<b>2300</b>
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable) (1)</b>																											
<b>Under/ overcapacity (2)</b>															<b>4552</b>	<b>3272</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-92</b>	<b>-136</b>	<b>-17,6</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Number of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional figures based on presumptions. Definite number and breakdown of vessels will add up by April 30.

\*\* Allocated for the purposes of artisanal and coastal, recreational and sport fisheries and incidental catches.

\*\*\* 5 t of this has been set aside for by-catch.

**CHINESE TAIPEI****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

The initial eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT) quota allocated to Chinese Taipei in 2020 is 90 t, of which 50 t will be transferred to Korea pursuant to paragraph 5 of Rec. 19-04. Hence, the adjusted quota will be 40 t.

Chinese Taipei has established regulations to prohibit its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009, and such regulations still remain in force. As a result, no fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain E-BFT in the ICCAT Convention area in 2020. In addition, the domestic regulations have also required fishermen to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook or e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. In case of by-catch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 40 t of adjusted quota.

It should be noted that the E-BFT quota is granted to Chinese Taipei based on its previous catch records, and thus should be deemed the historical right of Chinese Taipei. The prohibition to such fishery is implemented on voluntary basis, and Chinese Taipei reserves the right to resume the E-BFT fishery at any time considered appropriate by the Fisheries Agency.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	<p>1. Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009.</p> <p>2. Any bycatch of E-BFT is required to be immediately discarded, and the amount of discard shall be recorded on the catch logbook or E-logbook for submission to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei.</p>	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. No fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain E-BFT in the ICCAT Convention area in 2020.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement	Not applicable.	

		is not applicable.		
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Fishermen are required to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook or e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. In case of by-catch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 40 t of adjusted quota.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Not applicable. Chinese Taipei does not have recreational and sports fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.	Not applicable.	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All Chinese Taipei's vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention area are installed with the VMS, report vessels positions hourly, and are monitored by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.	Article 33 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	

**2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

The table is filled in as attached.

**3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not applicable.

**4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Even though Chinese Taipei is not a port State bordering the Atlantic Ocean, it has established and implemented port State measures whereby four ports, Keelung Port, Kaohsiung Port, Chen-Pin Fishing Harbour, and Chien-Chen Fishing Harbour, are designated for entry of foreign fishing vessels. Besides, any foreign fishing vessel entering into those ports shall submit prior notification, declare its purpose of port entry, and report its catches onboard. Currently, the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei carries out a minimum of 5% inspection rate in accordance with the National Plan of Control and Inspection. Up to date, no landing of Atlantic E-BFT is reported or found.

Chinese Taipei does not conduct E-BFT farming in the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, paragraphs 97, 99, 103, and 104 are not applicable.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Since Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery, the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection is not applicable.

**5. Others**

INTERSESSIONAL PA2 MEETING - MADRID 2020

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Quota</b>															68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	58.28	69.97	79	84	90
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>															68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	29	34	40
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>																											
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>															-68.71	-66.30	-41.60	-39.75	-39.75	-31.29	-31.29	-38.76	-48.28	-59.97	-29	-34	-40

## Fishing plans for consideration at the 2020 Annual meeting

### NAMIBIA

#### Fishing Plan Year: 2020

#### 1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels (para 16-17)

Namibia, as a member of ICCAT, strives to fully implement all ICCAT Conservation and Management measures. Namibia presents the fishing plan focused on Large Pelagic longline vessels, which includes basically two (2) licensed Large Pelagic vessels and apply for the quota from the Unallocated Reserves for the season 2020 in accordance with Recommendation 19-04.

Namibia will closely monitor the catches to make sure that the authorized vessels comply with the quota conditions. Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels may be authorized if requested by our fishing operators. Information on these operations will be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat as required.

Namibian laws prohibit discarding of any commercial species at sea, does not allow discarding by-catches therefore all by-catches must be landed and reported.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	The operator shall maintain fishing logbook of the fishing operations and observe procedures set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04. The operator shall report BFT catch, including zero catches (para 66).	The Marine Resources Act and Regulations	ICCAT Recommendations, management and control measures shall be adopted in local legislation, when ICCAT has approved the Namibian fishing plan.
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January. Namibia may possibly extend the fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period.		



3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	The minimum size limit is 30 kg or 115 cm.		
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Vessels without specific BFT authorization are not authorized to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna.		
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational or sports fisheries for bluefin tuna are allowed.		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Transshipment of bluefin tuna are allowed.		Ports to be utilized: 1) ICCAT List No.: 1, Port: Las Palmas 2) ICCAT List No.: 11, Port: Mindelo 3) ICCAT List No.: 13, Port: SN Pad 4) ICCAT List Number: 19, Port: Cape Town
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Namibian vessels are required by law to have VMS onboard.		
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Namibia will comply with the CPC Observer program as per Part IV, Section C of the ICCAT Rec. 18-02.		
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	When applicable, Namibia will comply with the Regional Observer program as per Part IV, Section C of the ICCAT Rec. 18-02.		

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Please see the attachment.

The details of the catching vessel for the 2020 fishing campaign will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 19-04.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not applicable. Namibia doesn't operate any bluefin tuna farm.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97,99, 103 and 104)***

Official authorizing documents shall be issued by the Namibian fishing authority for the vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2020. The vessel shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

ICCAT Recommendations, management and control measures as well as Namibian legislation will be enforced for all Bluefin Tuna fishing activities.

##### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Namibia agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in Annex 7. Not applicable. Namibia will not authorize more than 2 BFT fishing vessels.

INTERSESSIONAL PA2 MEETING - MADRID 2020

<i>una vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>															<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m																											0	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m																												0
Purse seiner less than 24m																												0
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>																												0
Longliner over 40m																												2
Longliner between 24 and 40m																												0
Longliner less than 24m																												0
<b>Total longline fleet</b>																												2
Baitboat																												0
Handline																												0
Trawler																												0
Trap																												0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira																												0
Other (please specify)																												0
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>																												500t
<b>Quota</b>																												
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																												
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)<sup>(1)</sup></b>																												0
<b>Under/overcapacity <sup>(2)</sup></b>																												

(1) "Allowance for sports/recreational" must be within the "Quota" or "Adjusted quota".

(2) "Under/overcapacity" is calculated by subtracting the figure in "Quota" or "Adjusted quota" from the one in "Total fleet/fishing capacity." If the calculated figure is more than 0, overcapacity exists. If the figure is less than 0, it means under capacity and use minus (-). For example, if the capacity is 1,000 and the quota is 1050, write "-50" in "Under/overcapacity".

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION****Fishing Plan Year: 2020****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

On the basis of the template provided by ICCAT and in accordance with Recommendation 19-04, Russia presents the fishing plan focused on purse seiners (PS), which includes basically one (1) purse seiner (PS large (> 40 m), and apply for the quota from the Unallocated Reserves for the season 2020.

Russia will closely monitor the catches to make sure that the authorized vessel comply with the quota.

The PS fishing season is set from 26 May to 1 July.

Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels may be authorized if a JFO is requested by our fishing operator. Information on these operations will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the required deadlines (para 60).

Russia does not allow by-catches. All by-catches must be released alive.

Dead discards will be recorded and deducted from the quota.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	The operator shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of the operations and observe procedures set out in Annex 2 of Recommendation 19-04. The operator shall report BFT catch, including zero catches (para 66).		ICCAT Recommendations, management and control measures shall be adopted in local legislation, when ICCAT has approved the Russian fishing plan.
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	The fishing season for purse seiners has been set from 26 May to 1 July. Russia may possibly extend the fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period.		
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	The minimum size limit is 30kg or 115cm.		

4	<b>By-catch (para38)</b>	Vessels without specific BFT authorization are not authorized to catch, retain on board or land Bluefin tuna.		
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational or sports fisheries for bluefin tuna are allowed.		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	All transshipments of bluefin tuna are prohibited.		
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Russia shall implement a VMS for the BFT fishing vessel, the transmission of data shall start at least 5 days before the period of authorization and continue 5 days after the period of authorization.		
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	100% coverage by ICCAT Regional Observer Programme, as requested for PS fishing.		
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The authorized purse seiner fishing vessel will be 100% covered by ICCAT Regional Observer Programme.		

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Please see the attachment.

The details of the catching vessel for the 2020 fishing campaign will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 19-04.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not applicable. Russia doesn't operate any bluefin tuna farm.

## 4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

### a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97,99, 103 and 104)

Fishing permit shall be issued by the Russian authority for the vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2020.

The vessel shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

ICCAT Recommendations, management and control measures shall be adopted in local legislation, when ICCAT has approved the Russian fishing plan.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Not applicable. Russia doesn't operate more than 15 BFT fishing vessels.

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<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>															<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																											70.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																											
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																											
<b>Purse seine total fleet</b>																												<b>70.7</b>
Longliner over 40m	25																											
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																											
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
<b>Total longline fleet</b>																												<b>0</b>
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10																											
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																											
Other (please specify)	5																											
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>																												<b>70.7</b>
<b>Quota</b>																												<b>0</b>
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																												
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>																												<b>0</b>
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>																												<b>70.7</b>

## List of potential non-compliance (PNC) events to be reported by regional observers

<b>Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] Event General</b> (not specific to deployment type)		
<b>PNC Event</b>	<b>Reference</b>	
<b>General events:</b>		
Observer obstructed, intimidated, interfered with, bribed or attempted to bribe in the performance of his/her duties	Rec. 18-02; Annex 6 – Para 11	
Unauthorised transshipment (dead tuna) in port	Rec. 18-02; Para 77 / 78	
Observer prevented from taking size measurements, biological samples or examining tags	Rec. 18-02; Para 85	
Landing in non-designated port	Rec. 18-02; Para 71	
Vessel(s) not on ICCAT record of authorized vessels involved in operations.	Rec. 18-02; Para 49	
<b>Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] Event</b> <b>Fishing Season</b>		
<b>PNC Event</b>	<b>Reference</b>	
<b>Relative to YOUR fishing vessel</b>		
<b>Specific events:</b>		
Transshipment at-sea involving your vessel (dead tuna)	Rec. 18-02; Para 77	
Fishing outside designated season	Rec. 18-02; Para 29	
Fish below minimum size retained, transferred or landed	Rec. 18-02; Para 34	
<b>Problems with the official documentation (Logbook, eBCD, ITD...):</b>		
No electronic BFT Catch document (eBCD) produced	Rec. 11-20	1*
Dead tuna incorrectly recorded in the vessel logbook and/or eBCD	Rec. 18-02; Annex 11	
Information in the eBCD is incorrect or inconsistent (operation dates, vessel/cage details, number and weight of fish transferred)	Rec. 18-13; Annex 1	2*
No logbook entry made for that day (as per requirements of Annex 2 of Rec. 18-02)	Rec. 18-02; Para 63 / Annex 2	
No logbook entry for a fishing operation (successful or not) before 09:00 the following day	Rec. 18-02; Para 66	
Incomplete and/or incorrect logbook information	Rec. 18-02; Para 63 / Annex 2	
ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) not completed in accordance with Para 89 and Annex 4 of Rec. 18-02.	Rec. 18-02; Para 89 Annex 4	
<b>Problems with the transfer:</b>		
Prior-transfer notification not sent (or not sent prior to transfer)	Rec. 18-02; Para 86	
Transfer conducted before receiving transfer authorisation	Rec. 18-02; Para 87	



<b>Problems with the video during a transfer:</b>			
Note, the vessel has the opportunity to carry out a voluntary transfer in order to provide a compliant video record (Rec. 18-02; Para 92). If video record on second transfer is acceptable, no PNCs should be submitted for the first transfer and the ITD can be signed			
Transport cage without a unique identifiable number		Rec. 18-02; Para 86	
Transfer not monitored by video		Rec. 18-02; Para 91	
The electronic storage device not provided to the observer as soon as possible after transfer operation		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 i	3**
Video record of transfer did not show opening and/or closure of door at the start and/or the end of transfer		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vi	
Video record of transfer did not show date and/or time continuously		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 v	
Video record of transfer was not continuous or did not cover the entire transfer operation		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vii	

Video record of transfer did not show the receiving and donor cage to see if they already held / still hold tuna before and after the transfer operation		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vi	
Video record of transfer did not show Transfer Authorisation number at beginning and/or end of the video		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 iv	
Independent observer estimate of transfer amount was not possible due to video quality or clarity		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 viii	
Observer estimate for the transfer more than 10% different than vessel's		Rec. 18-02; Para 92	
Copy of video record of transfer not provided to the observer during deployment		Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 iii	4**
Logbook not completed in line with requirements of Annex 2 of Rec. 18-02 following transfer operation		Rec. 18-02; Para 63; Para 89c / Annex 2	

**Problems during a release during fishing season:**

Release not monitored by video		Rec. 18-02; Para 88 Annex 10	
Copy of video record of release not provided to the observer		Rec. 18-02; Para 88 Annex 10	

**Relative to OTHER vessel(s) / aerial support**

Aerial support used during searching operations (e.g. drone, plane)		Rec. 18-02; Para 48	
Transshipment at-sea (dead tuna) – between other vessels		Rec. 18-02; Para 77	

**Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] Event - Farm**

PNC Event	Reference	
Fish below minimum size landed	Rec. 18-02; Para 34	

**Problems with the official documentation (eBCD):**

Electronic BFT Catch document (eBCD) not produced or incomplete following caging		Rec. 18-13; Annex 1	
Observer observations of caging operation do not agree with those in the eBCD (for example, different dates, cage numbers, numbers of tuna)		Rec. 18-13; Annex 1 Rec. 18-02; Para 85	

A group BCD reference number was allocated to fish from more than one JFO, or from more than one vessel not in the same JFO	Rec. 18-13; Para 6	
A group BCD reference number was allocated to caging operation > 1 day	Rec. 18-13; Para 6	
A group BCD reference number was allocated to more than one farm cage	Rec. 18-13; Para 6	
<b>Problems with the caging:</b>		
Tuna caged before authorisation received	Rec. 18-02; Para 95	
Fish below minimum size caged	Rec. 18-02; Para 34	
Transport cage anchored within 0.5 nm of farming facilities prior to start of caging operations	Rec. 18-02; Para 94	
Caging not covered by stereoscopic video	Rec. 18-02; Para 99	
Tuna caged are not separated by JFO	Rec. 18-13; Para 5	
Tuna caged are not separated by flag of the catching vessel (outside of JFO)	Rec. 18-13; Para 5	
Carried over tuna from previous year/s not placed in separate cages	Rec. 18-13; Para 8	
Unauthorised caging after 22 August, or any caging after 7 September	Rec. 18-02; Para 95	
Independent observer estimate of amount caged was not possible due to video quality	Rec. 18-02; Annex 8 viii	
Observer estimate more than 10% different than farm's (caging)	Rec. 18-02; Para 98	
An accurate copy of the video record of the caging was not provided to the observer on the farm	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 iii	
<b>Internal transfer of bluefin tuna between farm cages not authorized or not in presence of CPC control authorities</b>	Rec. 18-02; Para 100	5"
<b>Problems with the video during a caging:</b>		
Note, the vessel may conduct one additional voluntary transfer after the initial transfer. <i>If video record on second transfer is acceptable, no PNCs should be submitted for the first transfer and the eBCD can be signed</i>		
Caging not monitored by video	Rec. 18-02; Para 97	
The electronic storage device containing the original caging video record was not provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 i	
Video record of caging did not show opening and/or closing of the door at the start and/or end of the operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vi	
Video record of the caging did not show date and/or time continuously	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 v	
Video record of caging was not continuous or did not cover the entire operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vii	
Video record did not show the receiving and donor cage to see if they already held / still hold tuna before and after the caging operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vi	
Video record of transfers did not show Caging Authorisation number at beginning or end of each video	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 iv	
<b>Problems during a harvest deployment:</b>		
Information in the electronic BFT Catch Document (eBCD) not completed following a harvest / Harvested fish not allocated to an eBCD	Rec. 18-13; Annex 1	
Observer observations of harvested tuna do not agree with those in the eBCD (for example, date, cage, number harvested)	Rec. 18-13; Annex 1 Rec. 18-02; Para 85	
Observer observations of number and weight of harvested tuna inconsistent with that in the eBCD	Rec 18-13; Annex 1 Rec. 18-02; Para 85	
<b>Internal transfer of bluefin tuna between farm cages not authorized or not in presence of CPC control authorities</b>	Rec. 18-02; Para 100	6"
<b>No traceability for internal transfers of tuna within a farm</b>	Rec. 18-02; Para 103	7"

Fish below minimum size harvested	Rec. 18-02; Para 34	
Simultaneous harvest occurred with a single observer	Rec. 18-02; Annex 6 b	
<b>Problems during a release</b>		
Release not monitored by video	Rec. 18-02; Para 88 Annex 10	
Tuna not released within 3 weeks (21 days) following completion of caging operations (note this does not apply to tuna released following completion of harvesting operations)	Rec. 18-02; Para 88 Annex 10	explained below
Copy of video record of release not provided to the observer	Rec. 18-02; Para 88 Annex 10	

<b>Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] Event - Trap</b>		
<b>PNC Event</b>	<b>Reference</b>	
<b>Specific events:</b>		
Fish below minimum size transferred or landed	Rec. 18-02; Para 34	
<b>Problems with the transfer:</b>		
Prior transfer notification not sent (or not sent prior to transfer)	Rec. 18-02; Para 86	
Transfer conducted before receiving transfer authorisation	Rec. 18-02; Para 87	
Transport cage without a unique identifiable number	Rec. 18-02; Para 86	
<p><b>Problems with the video during a transfer: (for a control transfer add the letter "C" before the PNC code)</b></p> <p>Note, the trap has the opportunity to carry out a voluntary transfer in order to provide a compliant video record (Rec. 18-02; Para 92). <i>If video record on second transfer is acceptable, no PNCs should be submitted for the first transfer and the ITD can be signed.</i></p>		
Transfer not monitored by video	Rec. 18-02; Para 91	
The electronic storage device not provided to the observer as soon as possible after transfer operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 i	
Video record of transfer did not show opening and/or closure of door at the start and/or the end of transfer	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vi	
Video record of transfer did not show date and/or time continuously	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 v	
Video record of transfer was not continuous or did not cover the entire transfer operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vii	
Video record of transfer did not show the receiving and donor cage to see if they already held / still hold tuna before and after the transfer operation	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 vi	
Video record of transfer did not show Transfer Authorisation number at beginning and/or end of the video	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 iv	
Independent observer estimate of transfer amount was not possible due to video quality or clarity	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 viii	
Observer estimate for the transfer more than 10% different than vessel's	Rec. 18-02; Para 92	
Copy of video record of transfer not provided to the observer during deployment	Rec. 18-02; Para 92 Annex 8 iii	

**Comments from TURKEY:**

1\*,2\*: The Regional Observer does not have an authorization to access the eBCD system, he/she can only get this information if the information has been provided, therefore it is considered that these PNCS could not be effectively implemented.

3\*\*, 4\* \*: These seem repeating each other, so one of them may be sufficient.

5", 6", 7": The Regional Observer may not be charged with these operations, so it is considered that these cannot be implemented.

**Appendix 5**

**Responses to requests for clarifications ROP-BFT**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>USA</b>
<b>Date of release after caging</b>	a) Annex 10 of Rec. 18-02 requires that release operations take place within three weeks of the completion of caging operations. As control operations may occur following the original caging, are we only to consider operations to be complete following the completion of cagings and all control operations?	According to Annex 1 of Rec. 18-02, control operations are complete once caging has taken place and the data contained in the caging declaration and in the BCDs have been verified and certified in accordance with Annex 6 para 7 b i and b ii. However, article 84 of Rec. 18-02 stipulates that the ROP-BFT programme must be implemented including during the release into the sea of bluefin tuna from the farming cage. In addition, article 99 of Rec. 18-02 stipulates that when a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall		To the extent control operations are known or can be foreseen, this seems logical

		request the presence of a national enforcement authority and a ROP-BFT observer to monitor the release. Therefore, we assume that operations are complete once the release has taken place within three weeks of caging.		
	b) While releases following completion of harvest operations are not constrained by the 3-week time limit, we would consider that any tuna released with an associated BCD and from the same year's fishing season should be considered caging releases, while tuna released without a BCD and most likely from the previous year's fishing season would be post-harvest releases. Can we please confirm that this assumption is correct?	The hypothesis is correct, however, we propose contacting the fattening farms to obtain greater insight into the technical nature of the procedure.	A release operation must be completed not later than 21 days after that release order issued.	This assumption seems correct to us.
<b>Unique identifying numbers on towing cages</b>	a) Para 86 of Rec. 18-02 requires a unique number to each transport cage. Para 86 also states, without specifying type of cage, that cage numbers be issued with a unique numbering system. As such, are we to consider that both farm and transport cages require unique numbers, or only transport cages?	Paragraph 86 of Rec. 18-02 provides for a unique number for each transport cage that is not transferable to ensure the traceability and control of BFT transfers. This unique number will ensure the identification of	Farm and Towing cages must have unique ID numbers. To make it clear identical numbers cannot be used for towing and farm cages.	As drafted, the paragraph is ambiguous on this point but we note that paragraph 2 of Rec. 06-07 on BFT farming requires farming CPCs to "adopt the necessary measures to assign an identifiable different number to each cage of its farming facility" among other obligations. In that sense, it seems logical that the obligation in Rec. 19-04 to establish a unique numbering system should be read consistent with the obligation in Rec. 06-07

		<p>each transport cage that is deployed in the fishing area from other cages from different countries engaged in the bluefin tuna fishery.</p> <p>However, an intra-farm transfer between different farming cages must be controlled by the authority of the farm CPC, which must ensure that there is a traceability system in place inside the farm for BFT from that year or BFT carried over from previous years. That said, each farming cage must have an identification number that is not transferable.</p>		<p>and would apply to both types of cages. Panel 2 should discuss this point and may wish to consider language to improve the text of Rec. 19-04.</p>
<p><b>Videoing / photographing of observers</b></p>	<p>One JFO coordinator asked observers to be visible at the start of each transfer operation to prove their presence as a requirement of the flag State. We consider that the vessel's participation in the fishery and the observers signature, and/or name and date as proof of presence onboard. Given that observers were uncomfortable with this request, we respectfully ask that CPCs ensure that ROP</p>	<p>Annex 6, paragraph 9 of Rec. 18-02, stipulates that observers must comply with requirements established in the laws and</p>		<p>We do not necessarily see the need for observers to be filmed in order to prove their presence. We agree that signatures and other written information should suffice. If there is an interest to include a requirement within the eastern bluefin tuna management</p>

	<p>responsibilities outside of those currently specified within the ROP-BFT are stipulated within the recommendation</p>	<p>regulations of the flag or farm State that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned. However, it is not necessary to view the regional observer at the start of each transfer under the video recording requirements for transfers in Rec. 18-02.</p> <p>We consider that it is not necessary to view the observer on the video given that they approve the documents and that their signature appears on the traceability documents.</p>		<p>recommendation to film ICCAT observers at some point while they are working, we would like to understand the rationale for this.</p>
<p><b>Voluntary transfers</b></p>	<p>a) As the recipient cage for the initial transfer may already have tuna, any subsequent voluntary or control transfer will also include these fish as well as those from the transfer monitored. Is it acceptable for the observer to estimate the total amount transferred in the voluntary transfer, and then subtract from that amount the amount of previous transfers as documented by previous ITDs? Would the observer</p>	<p>Yes, the observer can estimate the total amount transferred in a voluntary transfer, and then deduct from this amount the volume of the previous transfers,</p>	<p>It should be acceptable, otherwise voluntary control transfer will not be possible.</p>	<p>This approach seems not only reasonable but necessary to ensure some degree of control and traceability. In that regard, observers should be provided with relevant ITDs for their records.</p>



	<p>have to be presented with copies of these ITDs for their own records?</p>	<p>as documented by previous ITDs and hold copies of these ITDs for their own records to monitor the traceability of the cages.</p>		
	<p>b) As the Prior Transfer Notification requires information on the towing cage and vessel, this would be different from the original transfer's Prior Transfer Notification. Would an entirely new transfer authorisation have to be issued, or can/should the voluntary transfer operate under the original transfer authorisation?</p>	<p>It should operate under the initial transfer authorisation.</p>	<p>The voluntary transfer should be operated under the original transfer authorisation.</p>	<p>If we understand the question well, a new transfer authorization would be needed, but we would appreciate more explanation concerning this request for clarification before taking a firm view, including, if possible, reference to the relevant paragraphs of the recommendation.</p>
	<p>c) During one deployment, an initial transfer was made from fishing net to one transport cage, which was then immediately split into a 2nd cage. As the video record was not of sufficient quality to estimate the amount of tuna transferred from the fishing net, the ITD was not signed. However, as the tuna had been split into 2 separate cages, 2 separate voluntary transfers were required, which was then followed by a release of some of the tuna from one of the cages.</p>	<p>Yes, it is acceptable.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>This seems like a reasonable approach under the circumstances.</p>

	The amount on the ITD summed the amount from each of the voluntary transfers, and subtracted the amount released. As such the observer did the same. Is this acceptable?			
<b>Transfers destined for separate farms</b>	a) In cases where a single transfer is destined to be split and sent to different farms, how should this be documented? Should 2 ITDs be produced for the same transfer, one for each destination farm?	So as to monitor traceability, it is preferable to have two ITDs but with a code for example at the end of the ITD (we put ITD1 and ITD2). Nevertheless, to ensure the traceability of the bluefin tuna, the eBCD must be adapted to this case.		This is one option. If this approach is taken, there should be some linkage between the two ITDs so they can be traced back to the original, single transfer before splitting occurred. This could be accomplished by establishing a specialized numbering protocol for such cases, such as has been done within eBCD in the case of grouping and splitting.
	b) Considering that the transfer to the second cage will likely be from the initial towing cage and therefore not explicitly under the remit of the ROP, how should the ROP monitor this as we would expect the observer to be required to sign both ITDs?	In order to have an estimate of the bluefin tuna, it is proposed that the observer view the two videos and then sign both ITDs.	After the catch and issuing an eBCD live trade should be completed for each different destination, than the procedure may continue with two split eBCD and ITDs.	Generally speaking, if it is decided that two ITDs should be generated to cover the splitting of catch included in one initial transfer and the information on the original transfer and the splits can be confirmed by the observer, it is logical that the observer should sign both ITDs. Overall, however, this matter needs the benefit of discussion by the Panel.
<b>Compensation of fish across BCDs and cages</b>	In 2016, it was clarified that a farm is permitted to balance deficiencies and excess between BCDs and cages, provided that the catches originate from the same CPC/JFO and the same year, and that these		????	We would support corroboration by the observer of the authorization before signing the eBCD if at all possible. How this

	compensations occur with the explicit authorisation of the farming CPC. Can we please confirm if the observer should be corroborating this authorisation before signing the BCD, and if so how?			could be done requires additional discussion.
<b>Incidental mortalities farm deployments</b>	a) As section 6 of the BCD, and the ICD has no section to record dead tuna, it is assumed that any dead tuna resulting from these operations should instead be recorded in section 7 (harvest operations). Is this correct?	Yes.	All harvested fish are dead so what is the difference???	Per Annex 11 of Rec. 09-04, if bluefin tuna die during the first transfer (purse seine vessel to towing cage), all fish are to be accounted for in the eBCD, such that sections 3 (live fish trade) and 4 (transfer, including dead fish) of the eBCD equal the total catch reported in section 2. The original ITD must accompany the eBCD and the quantities in the ITD transferred live must equal the amount reported in Section 3 of the eBCD. The eBCD was developed to allow the trade of the dead tuna using section 8 of the eBCD (Trade section) consistent with paragraphs b and c of Annex 11. If bluefin tuna die during the process of towing them to the farm site for caging or during the caging operation itself, we have understood that they would be recorded in section 7 of the eBCD - although the key point with regard to the trade of bluefin tuna that die at any time before caging is that they can be properly accounted for and tracked. In addition, in reviewing Rec. 06-07, we see that the annex setting forth the ICCAT caging declaration (ICD) does not include a section to record dead tuna, as noted in the question for

				clarification, yet paragraph 2b of that recommendation indicates that losses of bluefin tuna during transportation shall be included in the ICD. Panel 2 may, therefore, wish to consider revisions to the annex of Rec. 06-07 to ensure consistency and greater clarity.
	b) Are there any instances when such tuna does not have to be recorded or assigned to a BCD?	As to traceability, it is proposed that eBCDs should contain the mortalities observed, i.e. for consumption or not. In our view, the objective is to monitor the different movements of the tuna.		We are not aware of any such instances.
	c) Farms, while carrying out maintenance operations and feeding, have reported that dead or dying tuna have been removed from the farm. However, the observer is not always present during these events. In such a case, we would assume that the observer can neither indicate their presence (by inputting date) nor sign the corresponding BCDs. Is that correct?			This is how we understand the process should work
	d) Are farms always required to produce a BCD in such instances?		Yes if any.	The disposition of tuna during fattening operations in farms should always be tracked through the eBCD system.

<p><b>Monitoring releases:</b> The procedure for monitoring releases is specified within annex 10. Notably this states that releases from towing cages are to be monitored by the national observer, NOT the regional observer.</p>	<p>a) In cases where the release occurs immediately after the transfer, such as the example provided in 4c, would the observer be expected to monitor, and report on the release operation?</p>	<p>The observer must only signal the release operation in their report.</p>		<p>This does not appear to be a requirement of the ICCAT observer, but such monitoring and reporting could have utility.</p>
	<p>b) Similarly, releases from farms often involve an initial transfer to a towing cage which is then towed out to sea before the release. In such a case would the observer be expected to monitor, and report on the release operation?</p>	<p>No.</p>		<p>As we understand it, the presence of the ICCAT observer is required for such releases. See, for instance, paragraph 99.</p>
	<p>c) In the case of a farm cage being towed to sea to perform the release, is the towing vessel required to have a national observer onboard?</p>	<p>Yes, a national observer must be on board the towing vessel.</p>	<p>It is clear that any Release operation must be observed by BFT ROP observer Rec. 18-02 item 84, the rest should be observed and reported by CPC observers Rec. 18-02 Annex 10.</p>	<p>Per paragraph 83 of Rec. 19-04, national observers are required on 100% of towing vessels. The Panel could consider, however, whether or not an exception to this requirement could be made in cases where the ICCAT observer is monitoring the release</p>
<p><b>Video records of releases</b></p>	<p>a) The programme has been recording observations on video records for releases. However, as the observer's only responsibility with releases is to observe and submit a report, together with the video records to the Secretariat, we suggest that the observer report only reports on the basic operational information (date, time, location, vessels involved, cage, release order). Is this acceptable?</p>	<p>Yes, that information is sufficient.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>This suggestion is acceptable to us.</p>

<p><b>Video records of intra farm transfers</b></p>	<p>a) Similarly, observers previously have been recording observations on the video records for transfers between different cages within the same farm (intra-farm transfers). There is no requirement under the ROP for the observer to monitor this, but observers are often requested by farm CPC authorities and the farm itself to be present. As such, we suggest that the observer reports on the basic operational information (date, time, location, donor cages, recipient cages, transfer authorization). Is this acceptable?</p>	<p>The flag authorities of the farm are responsible for the control and monitoring of intra-farm transfers. If intra-farm transfer take place, the BCDs should be modified. It is therefore desirable for these transfers to be observed by a regional observer and for the corresponding report to contain any other observations such as video quality, number of fish transferred as provided for in Rec. 18-02.</p>	<p>If any CPC requested BFT ROP Observer for a intra farm transfer, ICCAT Secretariat should reject that request since it is contrary to the recommendation. Therefore BFT ROP observers are not authorised to observe and report any intra farm transfers. not acceptable.</p>	<p>This is acceptable to us.</p>
<p><b>Documentation for inter-farm transfers</b></p>	<p>a) As per the recommendation, inter-farm transfers are defined as transfers. In the case of the donor farm, the observer monitored the operation as a transfer, and signed the corresponding ITD. As the ITD template within Annex 4 of Rec. 18-02 does not have a section specific to this operation, a bespoke ITD was generated with the donor farm details instead of the fishing vessel. Can we confirm this is correct?</p>	<p>As stipulated in Rec. 18-02, inter-farm transfers require authorisation from the CPC and a transfer declaration, although there is no specific ITD template for this</p>		<p>This approach appears to have met the immediate need but the Panel should consider if it is the best way to operate in the future and, in that regard, contemplate the value of altering the ITD template to cover this kind of operation or perhaps developing a new form.</p>

		<p>transfer. Therefore, it is desirable to generate an ITD template, maintaining all the information described in Annex 4 of Rec. 18-02, and replacing the catching vessel with the donor farm. The benefit of this document is ensure that farms implement the conservation measures described, so as to strengthen transfer traceability.</p>		
	<p>b) Furthermore, in the case of the observer at the recipient farm, the observer was provided a BCD with the original caging information, trade information, transfer information and second caging information which he signed. Can we confirm this is correct?</p>	<p>Caging in the receiving farm must be monitored by a regional observer and a video recording be produced in accordance with Annex 8 of Rec. 18-02. If no observation is recorded during the caging, the regional observer is required to sign</p>		<p>As we understand the current rules, this procedure was not incorrect, but the Panel may wish to consider if such movements could create loopholes in traceability and, if so, how to address them.</p>

		the BCD in relation to the farming information.		
<b>Feeding records</b>	a) As monitoring feeding operations is no longer a requirement of the ROP, can we confirm that we no longer need to monitor nor report on these activities?			While this is not an explicit task assigned to ICCAT observers in the recommendation, observers have a general responsibility to monitor farming activities, which include feeding. The Panel should consider if there might be value in the collection of this information, in particular, with respect to determining fattening rates of farmed bluefin tuna.
<b>Minimum deployment length</b>	The minimum length of deployment stipulated in the MoU between the Consortium and operators is five days. Some recent requests have been for a shorter period (as short as one day). While we have accommodated the operator and would continue to try to do so, we are not aware of any exemptions which would allow the farm to request these shorter deployments. Can we please confirm under what circumstances, if any, deployment requests shorter than those set out within the Consortium's MoU with the operator would be permitted?			We are unaware of any exemptions that might exist but look forward to discussing this matter further at the Panel 2 intersessional meeting.



**Statements by Turkey in respect of the  
following possible improvements proposed by the EU**

***Statement A in respect of paragraphs 106 and 107 of Rec. 19-04***

The legal implications of proposed change on Paragraphs 106 & 107 of Recommendation 19-04 and its effects on internal procedures should be further discussed and elaborated. Notwithstanding, Turkey has no principal objection to consideration of alternative options to formulate a list of serious infringements in the relevant subsidiary body of ICCAT. Turkey would like to stress that, as customary and as it should be, the soul and the language of the provisions on enforcement measures should be in line with the language adopted and used in other international instruments. On the other hand, Turkey calls for a further consideration to be given to the fact that adoption and transposition of a list of comprehensive enforcement measures into domestic law will require substantial changes required at domestic law.

***Statement B in respect of 'Other possible measures / eBCD / Proposal of the EU' related to Rec. 19-04***

Domestic consignments of Bluefin tuna products are normally subject to transport through cargo agencies. As for transportation of consignments through trucks or land route, initial information declared for transportation do not change frequently. Turkey manages such consignments through the eBCD system, as required. However, in the case of consignments through air-route, the information to be recorded could be subject to frequent changes.

In case adding information on transport means in the trade section becomes mandatory to eBCD validation, it has the potential to create a big administrative burden due to the following reasons; Once an eBCD is validated the only way to make some changes it is to delete it and create a new eBCD instead. Such an ever-changing situation due to flight delays/cancels would require extra work-load could lead to a situation that will not easily be manageable from an administrative perspective.

Turkey has a strong control system focusing on transportation routes, road / truck controls, as well as checks at airports, ports. There is effective control at wholesale / retail market places. Unlike some other CPCs, Turkey do not faces difficulties that hamper the effectiveness of its monitoring and control on domestic trading and transportation of Bluefin tuna products.

In this respect, Turkey considers that as for the consignments by air cargo, adding information on transport means used as well as the dates for departure and arrival need to be optional to allow for a flexibility to adopt situations of flight departures / arrivals.

**Conclusions of the Panel 2 intersessional meeting on recommendations from the Working Group on Bluefin tuna Control and Traceability measures**

During its March 2020 intersessional meeting, Panel 2 conducted an initial review of the conclusions of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures and endorsed the possible improvements indicated in the table below. A number of suggestions were made by that Working Group, consistent with its terms of reference, aimed at strengthening control and traceability of bluefin tuna fisheries, particularly with respect to eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna destined for farms, to help prevent IUU fishing activities and the trading of illegal bluefin tuna. Notably, the Working Group identified various provisions of Recommendation 19-04 and other relevant ICCAT instruments, in particular Recommendations 06-07, 18-12, and 18-13, that could potentially benefit from being clarified, combined, streamlined, or otherwise improved. The outcomes of the intersessional deliberations of Panel 2 regarding the Working Group recommendations are set forth below. Notwithstanding, these outcomes do not prejudice the position of CPCs on these matters when they are further considered either intersessionally by other ICCAT subsidiary bodies or during the 2020 ICCAT Annual Meeting.

<b>Recommendation 19-04</b>		
<b>General recommendation</b>		To review throughout the whole Rec. 19-04 references to numbers/quantities/and control transfer/voluntary transfer/control caging.
<b>Carryover</b>		
<b>Para</b>	<b>Core Provisions in Rec. 19-04</b>	<b>Possible improvements</b>
8	The carry-over of non-harvested live BFT is not authorized unless a reinforced system of control is implemented. Such reinforced system shall include at least the provisions defined in paragraphs 103 and 107.  Further control measures will be examined in Panel 2.	To redraft paragraph 8 to cover all activities and to ensure that carry over should not be allowed unless a reinforced control system is ensured.  To establish template language for use in farming plans for coordinated actions among farm CPCs regarding carry-over.
9	Prior to the start of the fishing season, the farm CPC must assess the live BFT carried over after "bulk-harvests", by ordering the farm to transfer to other cages and record by stereo camera (or an alternative method): - all the remaining live BFT of the catching year, for cages subject to a bulk-harvest. - based on a risk assessment, samples of live BFT, for cages not subject to bulk-harvest. Full traceability of the carried-over must be ensured at all times. The measures to ensure such traceability shall be fully documented.	To develop a better definition for "alternative method".  To put all carry-over provisions relating to farms from all Recommendations (19-04 and 18-13) together in one single section.  To set definition of "bulk harvest".  To clarify the meaning of "full traceability".  To clarify that in case of carry-over discrepancy, it should be treated on a cage-by-cage basis without applying any compensation.  To decide about the possibility of grouping in carry-over operations fish from different cages and if agreed to refer this issue to IMM/PWG to discuss amendments needed to Rec. 18-12 and 18-13 and functionality to be developed in the

		eBCD system to be discussed in November by Panel 2.
<b>Farming capacity</b>		
24	Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. The plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available.	Possible definitions of farming and input capacity should be drafted to facilitate further discussion on this issue at the annual meeting.
<b>Growth rates</b>		
28	Farm CPCs shall endeavour to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS. If significant discrepancies are found between the SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis.	To refer the discussion to PA2 and to decide if a technical meeting between relevant CPCs' experts is needed under the supervision of PA2.
<b>Observers</b>		
83	<b>CPC Observer Programme</b> A national observer must be present on all towing vessels and harvesting operations from traps.	To ensure that national observers on towing vessels conduct the analysis of the videos corresponding to further transfers after the first transfer and report to the flag CPC of the towing vessels.  To defer the discussion on training of national observers to the IMM.
84	<b>ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)</b> ROP observer must be present: - on all purse seine vessels, - at all transfers from purse seiners, - at all transfers from traps to transport cages, - at all transfers from one farm to another, - at all cagings, - at all harvests from farms, - at all release from farms.  The ICCAT Regional Observer tasks shall: - monitor farming operations, including access to stereoscopic camera footages; - sign the ITD, caging declaration and eBCD, and, if it disagrees, explain why.	To request the IMM and/or next technical meeting with ROP Consortium to ensure further training on interpretation/implementation of ICCAT recommendations by ROP observers.  To discuss whether control transfers conducted near to the farm following the catch and before caging should be monitored by ROP observers.
85	ICCAT Regional Observer tasks are listed. They include "access to stereoscopic camera footage at the time of caging that enables the measuring of length and estimating the corresponding weight".	To continue to discuss the necessity for the review by the ROP observers of SC footages at caging. [This recommendation should take into consideration the second item under para 98 and para 99.]  To encourage CPCs with active BFT farms to participate in trials using AI analysis on SC camera footages in order to eliminate human

		<p>bias. Depending on the outcomes, PA2 may decide whether to revise Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>To ask the ROP Consortium for further training for ROP observers to improve their capacity on SC camera footage at the IMM/Consortium meeting.</p>
<b>Transfers</b>		
86	<p><b>Transfer authorisation</b> All transfers must be pre-notified.</p> <p>Each transport cage is assigned a unique ID number, permanent and not transferable.</p> <p>A single transfer may use different transport cages.</p>	<p>To clarify the obligation for all farm cages used for farming or associated activities to be assigned a unique number while considering existing language in Rec. 06-07 to ensure the consistency.</p> <p>To ensure the unique number for cages is not changed or tampered with and must be visible and legible at any time for purposes of surveillance.</p> <p>To create a space or section in the ITD to record the number of multiple transport cages. [Turkey has submitted a draft for consideration – Annex 1 to WG_CT_02_2.]</p>
87	<p>Within 48 hours, the flag CPC must deliver an authorisation number to each transfer from a catching vessel, a trap or a farm.</p> <p>The BFT died during the transfer from a purse seiner shall be recorded in the LB and counted against the CPC quota.</p>	<p>To edit Annex 11 to include, clarification of CPC responsibilities, procedures and timetable for reporting of dead fish at all steps of the BFT transfers to farms, including importing relevant provisions from Rec. 06-07.</p>
88	<p><b>Refusal of transfer authorisation and release</b> The flag, farm or trap CPC must refuse the transfer if the catch is &gt; quota, the catching vessel is not authorised to fish BFT, the towing vessel is not registered, or the towing vessel is not equipped with VMS (or equivalent).</p> <p>In case of refusal, a release order must be issued.</p> <p>If the VMS system fails, it must be repaired within 72 hours, or the towing vessel can be replaced.</p>	<p>To establish the obligation for all tug vessels to be equipped with VMS system regardless of their length.</p> <p>To regroup all provisions related to VMS in same paragraph/section (88, 94, 105).</p> <p>To defer the following issues for discussion to the next IMM meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing frequency of transmission of VMS positions from 2hrs to 1hr regarding towing vessels.</li> <li>- Increasing the frequency of reporting in case of technical failure of VMS from every 4 hours to 2 hours, while considering general VMS provisions of Rec. 18-10.</li> <li>- Installing tracking of cages/locating system to transport cages.</li> </ul> <p>To develop a reporting template for releases.</p> <p>To strengthen the provisions of paragraph 88 by deleting the phrase “or legitimate operational constraints”.</p>
89	<p><b>Transfer declaration</b> An ITD must be completed at the end of the transfer operation. The original accompanies the transfer and a copy is kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.</p>	<p>To explore how to reflect in this paragraph cases of transfers destined to more than one farm based on the template of ITD proposed by Turkey (Annex 1 to WG_CT_02_2).</p>

	The transfer must appear in the LB of the towing vessel; the farm of destination must be specified.	
91	<p><b>Monitoring by video camera of a transfer</b></p> <p>The first transfer must be recorded by a conventional camera to determine the number of BFT transferred. The original video remains with the donor vessel or trap.</p> <p>If the video quality is insufficient to count the number of BFT, a control transfer must be ordered by "the control authorities".</p>	<p>To confirm that the transfer operation is concluded when the video complies with the requirements of Annex 8 concerning the quality of the footage.</p> <p>To redraft paragraphs 91 and 92 to clarify the roles of ROP and the CPC authorities, taking the following issues into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ROP should stay until video is clear or until some benchmark on the number of control transfers which may be requested by ROP is reached (requires determination by PA2).</li> <li>- If an investigation is launched (discrepancy is more than 10%), the video must be reviewed by the flag State as part of the investigation.</li> <li>- Check consistency with provisions related to validations of Recs. 18-12 and 18-13.</li> </ul> <p>When redrafting 91 and 92 link also with 93 and annex 8, and the draft ITD template provided by Turkey (Annex 1 to WG_CT_02_2) extend the concept in paragraph 91 and 92 to all transfers. To delete from the last sentence of paragraph 92 "control caging" and replace "quantities" by "number".</p>
92	<p><b>Verification by ROP and launching and conduct of investigation</b></p> <p>An investigation must be launched by the flag CPC if the number of BFT at first transfer diverges by &gt; 10% between estimations.</p> <p>The investigation must be concluded prior to the time of caging and 96h after initiation.</p> <p>Caging and eBCD validation shall not occur before the investigation is closed.</p> <p>A voluntary transfer may be requested by the operator in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations; if its result is not satisfactory, the flag CPC shall initiate an investigation.</p>	
93	The ROP signs the ITD, or explains in case of disagreement.	See para 91.
<b>Caging operations</b>		
Section E Farming Activities		To transfer relevant provisions on farms of Rec. 06-07 to Rec. 19-04. Some provisions of Rec. 06-07 might be also transferred to the Rec. 18-13.

94	<p><b>Caging authorisations and possible refusal</b> Transport cages cannot be anchored &lt; 0.5 miles from the farm.</p>	<p>To revise paragraphs 88, 94 and 105 to improve monitoring of towing vessels and transport cages approaching to the farm.</p> <p>To move relevant provisions of Rec. 18-12 and 18-13 to 19-04 when considering revisions of paragraph 88, 94 and 105.</p>
95	<p>Before caging, the farm CPC informs the flag or trap CPC about the quantities to be caged.</p> <p>In case of refusal, the flag or trap CPC issues a release order. The release must be recorded by conventional video and occur within 3 weeks after the caging is completed.</p> <p>Caging cannot begin without prior authorisation by the flag or trap CPC, or the farm CPC if no answer &lt; 24 hours.</p> <p>All caging must be completed by 22 August, except force majeure, and anyway before 7 September.</p>	<p>To ensure same actions (e.g. seizure of the catch or the release of the fish) to be taken by farm CPC in case that flag CPC does not respond within 24 hours.</p> <p>To add reference to the text regarding sharing of information with other CPCs through ICCAT Secretariat in cases where a farm CPC refuses a caging operation. In case of refusal, after one month in the transport cage, fish should be released.</p>
96	<p><b>BFT catch documentation</b> BFT cannot be caged in the absence of relevant documents and eBCD validated by the flag or trap CPC.</p>	
97	<p><b>Monitoring by video camera</b> Transfer activities "from cages to the farm" must be monitored by enforcement authorities by video camera. Annex 8 for details.</p>	<p>To insert the word "transport" before cages to add clarity.</p> <p>To refine the text to request farm CPCs to collect all the relevant information brought by the towing vessel before the conclusion of the caging operation.</p> <p>To incorporate provisions to require farm CPCs to keep such information for at least five years to keep evidence of caging operation.</p>
98	<p><b>Launching and conduct investigations</b> An investigation must be launched by the farm CPC, in cooperation with the flag or trap CPC, if the number of BFT at caging diverges by &gt; 10% between estimations of the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or farm operator.</p>	<p>To redraft paragraphs 98, 99 and 101 to bring consistency and clarity in the flow of investigation and information sharing, including the term 10% difference, and to review and make clear the roles of each party, including text from Rec. 06-07.</p> <p>To clarify the role of the ROP related to SC camera footages (see also paragraph 85).</p> <p>To review the protocol/methodology for release.</p>
99	<p><b>Measures and programmes to estimate the number and weight of BFT</b> Each caging operation must be recorded by stereoscopic camera (or alternative method), to verify the number and weight of the fish.</p>	<p>To request the SCRS at its 2020 meeting to consider length-weight conversion formula specific for seasons/areas.</p> <p>To clarify responsibilities of farm CPC at caging including monitoring by SC cameras.</p>

	<p>The farm CPC communicates the results to the flag or trap CPC.</p> <p>An investigation must be launched if the quantities of BFT differ from quantities caught and transferred at a single caging operation, or all cagings related to a JFO.</p> <p>In case of tuna in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag or trap CPC must issue a release order. The figures in the caging declaration and the eBCD must be corrected accordingly.</p> <p>The release operation must be done in the presence of an enforcement authority and ICCAT observer.</p>	<p>Regarding verification by a third party (such as ROP) and the encouragement of trials for the AI system, see conclusion on paragraph 85.</p>
100	<p>Intra-farm transfers must be authorised by the farm CPC, and done with the presence of an enforcement authority</p> <p>Each intra-farm transfer must be recorded to monitor the number of specimens and recorded in the eBCD.</p>	<p>- To continue discussion on grouping of fish from different flag origins / different JFOs and refer to IMM meeting to amend provision of Rec. 18-12/18-13 if appropriate. Ask the eBCD TWG to develop functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO and ask the IMM Working Group to reflect the relevant grouping of eBCDs in Rec. 18-12 / 18-13.</p>
101	<p>A difference of &gt; 10% between the quantities reported caught by the vessel/trap and at caging constitute a PNC and must be investigated.</p>	<p>Please see conclusions for paragraphs 98-99.</p>
102	<p><b>Caging report</b></p> <p>After completion of caging, the farm CPC must submit a caging report.</p>	
103	<p><b>Intra-farms transfers and random controls</b></p> <p>A traceability system in farms must be implemented, and include the video-recording of intra-farm transfers.</p> <p>Based on a risk analysis, random controls must be conducted by the farm CPC between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year.</p> <p>The farm CPC must fix a minimum % of fish to be controlled. This percentage shall be reflected in their inspection plan transmitted under paragraph 14.</p> <p>Results of those checks shall be communicated to ICCAT.</p>	<p>To develop an Annex to outline procedures for random controls, including cooperation of operators, and to follow up in case of discrepancies.</p> <p>To request the eBCD TWG/IMM to look into data extraction including intra-farm data.</p>

104	<p><b>Access to and requirements for video records</b> Video records of caging (para 97 and 99) must be made available to national and ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and national observers on request.</p>	
<b>Control measures</b>		
105	<p>VMS CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m, following Rec. 18-10.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT shall start at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after their period of authorisation, unless the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC authorities.</p> <p>For control purposes, the transmission of VMS shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.</p>	See paragraph 88.
106	<p><b>Enforcement</b> The flag CPC must sanction its non-compliant vessels, commensurate with the gravity of the offense and ensure that they effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit derived from the infringement. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.</p>	No agreement to amend the paragraph. Refer for future discussion the definition/list of serious violations regarding live BFT activities, including those relating to trade. [Turkey reserves position, see statement in <b>Appendix 6</b> ]. EU will present a first version for discussion at IMM / PWG.
107	The farm CPC must sanction any offense linked to farm operations, commensurate with the gravity of the offense; this includes the suspension or withdrawal of the farm authorisation.	No agreement to amend the paragraph.



<b>Other possible measures</b>		
<b>eBCD</b>	<b>Proposal of the EU</b>	
	Paper copies of the eBCD are used during transportation and in marketing places with the risk that same eBCD is duplicated.	To consider whether to use, on a mandatory basis, the section for transport means in the trade section of the eBCD to add information on transport mean used as well as to consider adding the dates for departure and arrival. [Turkey reserves position.]  To discuss the possibility to access the eBCD system on the basis of further explanations from the EU about the scope of the enlarged access proposed.
	<b>Proposals of Morocco</b>	
	On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04 and Annex 3 of Rec. 18-13 regarding clarification in section 6 "FARMING INFORMATION" in the EBCD system.	To modify Rec. 18-13 to mirror the two headings of section 6 of the eBCD system to ensure clarity and consistency.
	On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04 link to paragraph 13 b) of Rec. 18-13.	To add a footnote after the word "accurate" in paragraph 13 of Rec. 18-13 to reflect that insofar as the CPC applies Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04, the number and weight would be considered accurate.
	On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04, point iii. (Section 2)	Clarify section 2 of Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04 para iii regarding the determination of the percentage range.
	On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04, point v (Section 2)	Clarify that, for section 2 of Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04 'in case of compensation' means to deal with the difference between stereoscopic camera and catch. It is possible for JFOs/ traps to use iii or v.
	On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04, point i (Section 2)	To add clarity to point i to better explain the methodology to be followed.
	<b>US proposal</b>	
	On Rec. 18-12 regarding the derogations (in paragraph 5b and paragraph 5d) of the EU to expire by 31/12/2020.	To encourage the EU to present a robust report on these derogations in the PWG meeting in 2020.

<b>BFT Processing vessels</b>	<b>EU proposal</b>	
	Effective control and traceability of the BFT transported by processing vessels is not easy to achieve with the available means, therefore explore control measures for this activity.	To open discussions on this particular issue at the Panel 2 at the annual meeting on the basis of a working paper to be prepared by the EU (all CPCs invited to participate in the drafting).

**Draft protocol exceptional circumstances northern albacore***(proposed by the Chair of Panel 2)**(as per Circular 094/2020)***Background**

1. Rec. 17-04, paragraph 12 stipulates:
  12. *The SCRS is requested to develop in 2018 criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances, taking into account, inter alia, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary.*
2. Rec. 17-04, paragraphs 13 and 14 also stipulate:
  13. *The Commission, through the Standing Working Group of Scientists and Managers, shall develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should those exceptional circumstances be found to occur.*
  14. *If exceptional circumstances occur (such as stock trajectories out of the ranges tested by the MSE, extreme environmental regime shift, inability to update the stock status, etc.), the Commission shall review and consider possible revision of the HCR. The SCRS is requested to incorporate these exceptional circumstances in future developments of the MSE framework in order to provide further advice to the Commission.*
3. The SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) as well as the Dialogue Group developed and discussed a set of potential principles that could inform the development of criteria for exceptional circumstances. These groups identified two general principles that would signal the possibility of exceptional circumstances:
  - (1) When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE; and/or;
  - (2) When there is evidence that the data required to apply the HCR are not available or are no longer appropriate.
4. These principles are general in nature and can be modified for use with any stock. In the case of North Atlantic albacore tuna, the SCRS adopted the following table that identifies the list of indicators that could be used to judge whether exceptional circumstances exist.

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Frequency of estimation</i>	<i>Normal range criterion</i>	<i>Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances</i>
System state	Stock biomass	Each full assessment	As defined by full range of values in the OMs used in the MSE	Each full assessment
	Fishing mortality			
	Growth	After completion of new study	After completion of new study	
	Maturity			
Natural mortality				
Application of the HCR	CPUE	Potentially annually	As defined by full range of values in the OMs used in the MSE	Each time MP is to be applied
	Catch	Annually		

There is a question, however, on whether the principle in 3. (2) above is really covered by this table.

5. Rec. 17-04, paragraph 17 says, *The Commission shall review the interim HCR in 2020 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure*. A protocol for exceptional circumstances is an integral part of the management procedure. In general, such a protocol consists of: (1) What constitutes exceptional circumstances including indicators; (2) What to do in exceptional circumstances; and (3) A process for identifying exceptional circumstances and deciding actions to be taken. Now that the SCRS has done (1), the Commission shall establish (2) and (3).
6. The NAFO Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (as found in PA2-610/2019 submitted by Canada) consists of two parts: (1) The criteria for judging whether exceptional circumstances exist; and (2) A decision tree that includes what to do in exceptional circumstances. The CCSBT has a similar one called “Metarule Process”, which is a part of the CCSBT Management Procedure (see **Addendum 2 to Appendix 8**). The Metarule Process consists of: (1) Process to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist; (2) Process for Action; (3) Principles for Action; and (4) Flowchart for Metarule Process.
7. The CCSBT Metarule Process has “Principles for Action” that specifies what to do about TAC while the NAFO Protocol describes a process for deciding actions and three general options: (1) Apply the management procedure; (2) Apply the management procedure with adjustment; and (3) Do not apply the management procedure.
8. Considering these two rules, the Chair proposes a draft protocol for North Atlantic albacore (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 8**).

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 8***The ICCAT Exceptional Circumstances Protocol for North Atlantic Albacore****1. What constitutes exceptional circumstances**

The following two general principles should be considered as a signal indicating the possibility of exceptional circumstances:

- (1) When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the management strategy evaluation (MSE); and/or,
- (2) When there is evidence that the data required to apply the harvest control rules (HCRs) are not available or are no longer appropriate.

**2. Indicators for exceptional circumstances**

The SCRS should use the following indicators to judge whether exceptional circumstances exist:

**(1) Indicators for Principle 1. (1)**

Principle	Indicator	Frequency of estimation	Normal range criterion	Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances
System state	Stock biomass	Each full assessment	As defined by full range of values in the operating models (OMs) used in the MSE	Each full assessment
	Fishing mortality			
	Growth	After completion of new study		After completion of new study
	Maturity			
Natural mortality				
Application of the HCR	CPUE	Potentially annually	As defined by full range of values in the OMs used in the MSE	Each time management procedure (MP) is to be applied
	Catch	Annually		

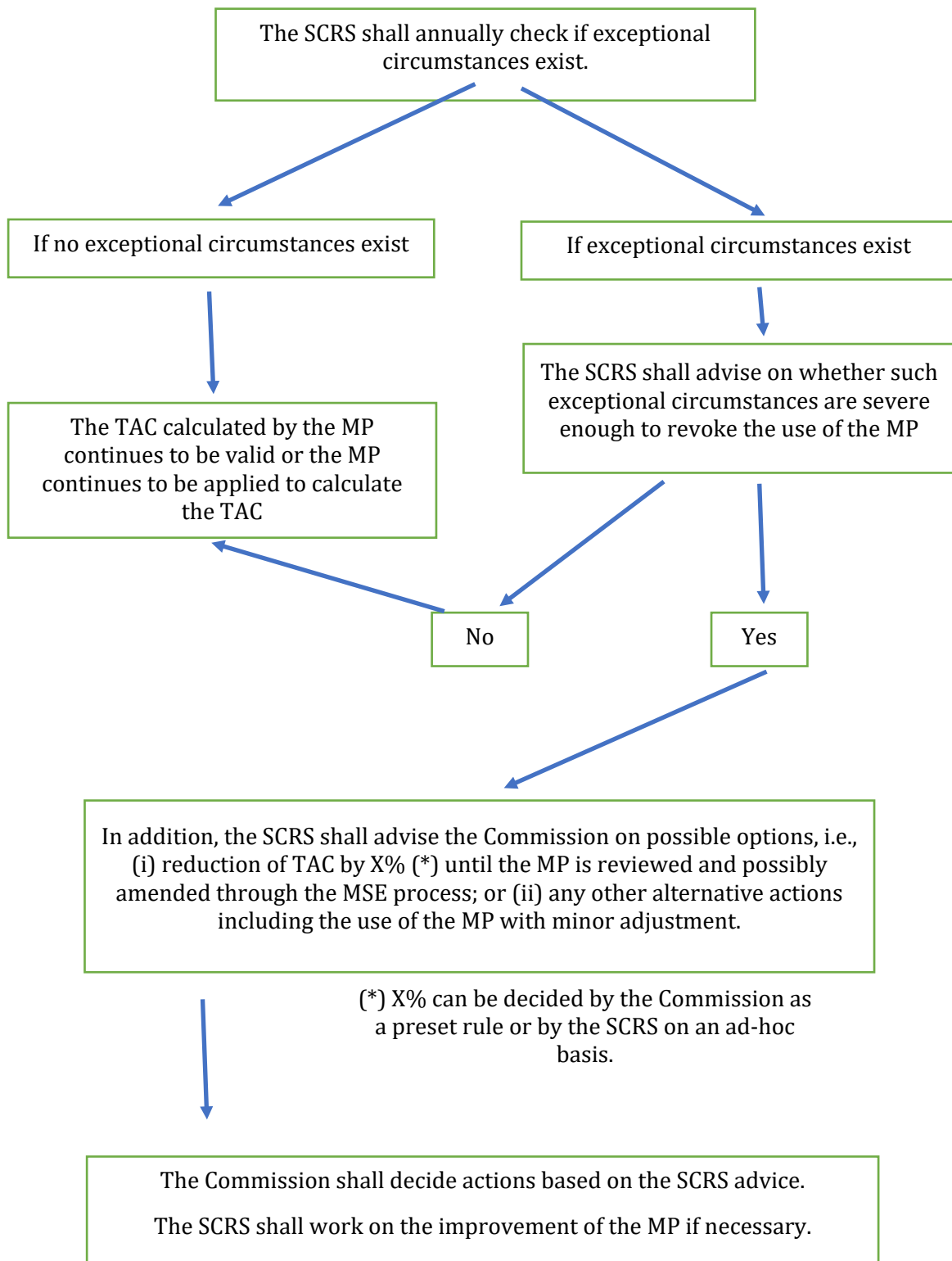
**(2) Indicators for Principle 1. (2)**

Any data set essentially required in running the MPs is missing or no longer available.

**3. What the Commission shall do in exceptional circumstances**

See the decision tree (**Attachment to Addendum 1 to Appendix 8**).

Attachment to Addendum 1 to Appendix 8



**Addendum 2 to Appendix 8****Metarule Process*****Preamble***

Metarules can be thought of as “rules” which prespecify what should happen in unlikely, exceptional circumstances when application of the total allowable catch (TAC) generated by the management procedure (MP) is considered to be highly risky or highly inappropriate. Metarules are not a mechanism for making small adjustments, or ‘tinkering’ with the TAC from the MP. It is difficult to provide firm definitions of, and be sure of including all possible, exceptional circumstances. Instead, a process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist is described below. The need for invoking a metarule should only be evaluated at the ESC based on information presented and reviewed at the ESC.

All examples given in this document are meant to be illustrative, and NOT meant as complete or exhaustive lists.

***Process to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist***

Every year the ESC will:

- Review stock and fishery indicators, and any other relevant data or information on the stock and fishery; and
- On the basis of this, determine whether there is evidence for exceptional circumstances.

Examples of what might constitute an exceptional circumstance include, but are not limited to:

- Recruitment, or a series of recruitment values outside the range<sup>51</sup> for which the MP was tested;
- A scientific aerial survey or CPUE result outside the range<sup>1</sup> for which the MP was tested;
- Substantial improvements in knowledge, or new knowledge, concerning the dynamics of the population which would have an appreciable effect on the operating models used to test the existing MP; and
- Missing input data for the MP, resulting in an inability to calculate a TAC from the MP.

Every three years (not coinciding with years when a new TAC is calculated from the MP) the ESC will:

- Conduct an in depth stock assessment; and
- On the basis of the assessment, indicators and any other relevant information, determine whether there is evidence for exceptional circumstances (an example of exceptional circumstances would be if the stock assessment was substantially outside the range of simulated stock trajectories considered in MP evaluations, calculated under the reference set of operating models).

Every six years (not coinciding with years when a new TAC is calculated from the MP) the ESC will:

- Review the performance of the MP; and
- On the basis of the review determine whether the MP is on track or a new MP is required.

If the ESC concludes that there is no or insufficient evidence for exceptional circumstances, the ESC will:

- Report to the Extended Commission that exceptional circumstances do not exist.

If the ESC has agreed that exceptional circumstances exist, the ESC will:

- Determine the severity of the exceptional circumstances; and
- Follow the “Process for Action”.

***Process for Action***

Having determined that there is evidence of exceptional circumstances, the ESC will in the same year:

- Consider the severity of the exceptional circumstances (for example, how severely “out of bounds” is the CPUE or recruitment);

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<sup>51</sup> The “range” refers to 95% probability intervals for projections for the index in question made using the reference set of the operating models during the testing of the MP.

- Follow the Principles for Action (see below);
- Formulate advice on the action required (for example, there may be occasions, if there appears to be 'exceptional circumstances', but the severity is deemed to be low, when the advice is not for an immediate change in TAC, but rather a trigger for a review of the MP or collection of ancillary data to be reviewed at the next ESC); and
- Report to the Extended Commission that exceptional circumstances exist and provide advice on the action to take.

The Extended Commission will:

- Consider the advice from the ESC; and
- Decide on the action to take.

***Principles for Action***

If the risk is to the stock, principles may be:

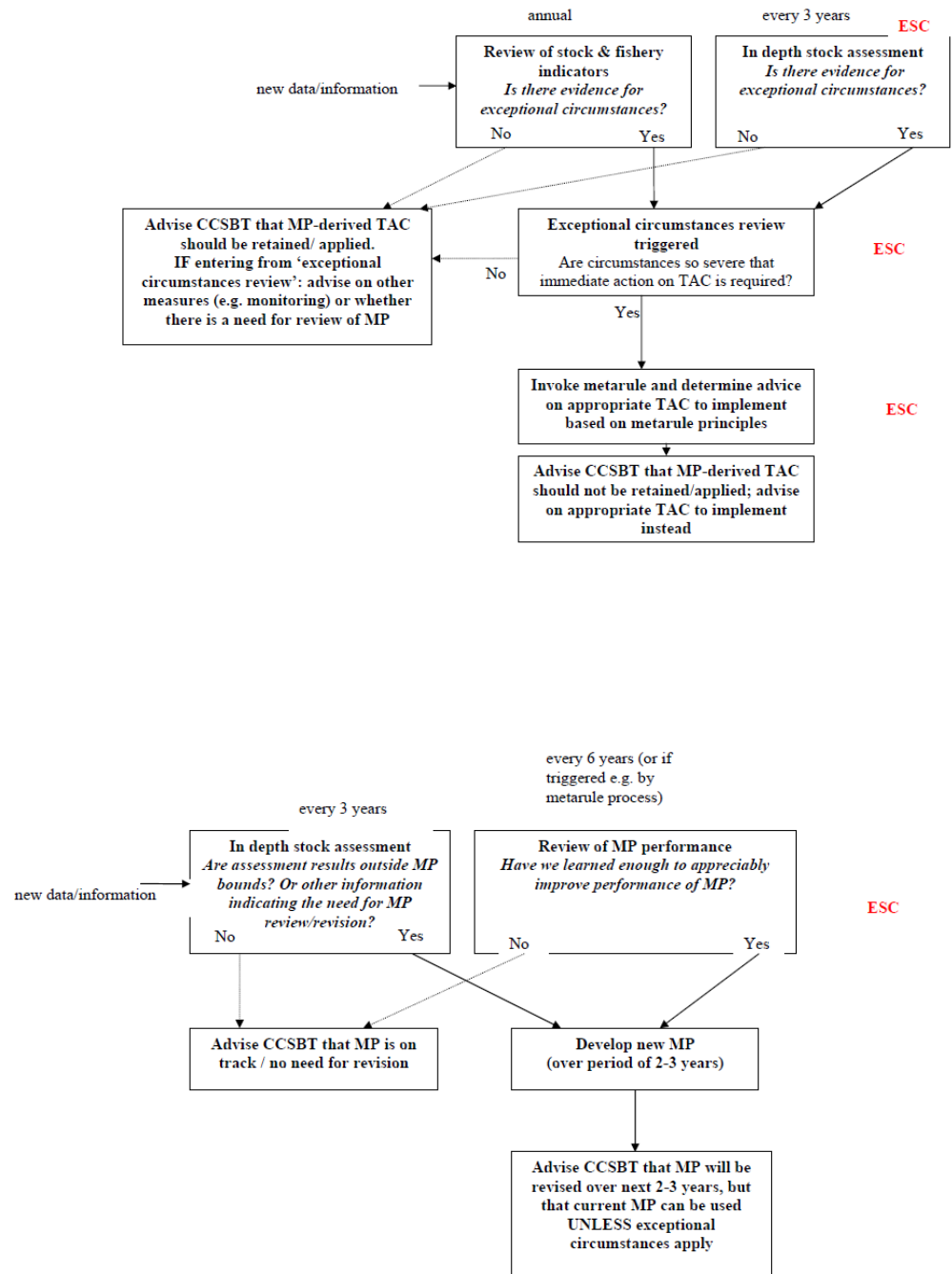
- a) The MP-derived TAC should be an upper bound;
- b) Action should be at least an x% change to the TAC, depending on severity.

If the risk is to the fishery, principles may be:

- a) The MP-derived TAC could be a minimum;
- b) Action should be at least an x% change to the TAC, depending on severity.

An urgent updated assessment and review of indicators will take place, with projections from that assessment providing the basis to select the value of the x% referred to above.

Figure 1: Flowchart for Metarules process





**Comments from USA on draft exceptional circumstances protocol for north Atlantic albacore**

The United States would like to thank the Panel 2 Chair for his work in drafting a proposal to establish an Exceptional Circumstances Protocol for North Atlantic Albacore. Our understanding of the task before Panel 2 is to provide guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur. The upcoming Panel 2 intersessional meeting is an opportunity to make progress on this important issue. We appreciate the approach taken in the draft Protocol suggesting a combination of text and a flow chart, which reflects inspiration from similar work done by CCSBT and NAFO. We are eager to advance this issue and believe the draft Protocol provides an excellent starting point for discussions in March.

Whatever working document emerges from the March 2020 Panel 2 meeting, it will be important to seek SCRS review and input, including to address any questions Panel 2 may have or clarifications it might need. As currently drafted, there are important aspects of the Protocol where SCRS input is clearly needed. Further development of the table of general criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances created by the SCRS in 2018, potentially with information specific to northern albacore, is one key area. The timing for seeking such input may be opportune given that the SCRS will be conducting the northern albacore stock assessment this year. It will also be important for scientists and managers to have a common understanding of the projected timing for the various steps outlined in the flowchart as well as to consider how to ensure an appropriate dialogue can take place as needed, including when evaluating potential next steps should exceptional circumstances occur.

We note that, although ICCAT has not yet adopted a management procedure for northern albacore, doing so is essential to an effective management strategy evaluation process. Given that, we suggest that the Protocol should be framed in these terms, referring to the evaluation of a management procedure rather than a harvest control rule throughout. Such an approach, furthermore, would be in line with the intent of the Commission, as reflected in Rec. 17-04, to adopt a management procedure for northern albacore in 2020, if possible, based on scientific advice.

Finally, we note that it is important for ICCAT to proceed on this matter with care, bearing in mind that the Commission's decisions in this case may set a precedent for other stocks.

We hope this initial feedback on the Chair's draft Protocol is helpful. We look forward to considering the input provided by other CPCs on this important issue and to advancing this work at the Panel 2 intersessional meeting next month. We kindly ask that this message be translated and made available to Panel 2 prior to the start of that meeting.

**Comments from Canada on draft exceptional circumstances protocol  
for north Atlantic albacore**

**Background**

1. Rec. 17-04, paragraph 12 stipulates:

*12. The SCRS is requested to develop in 2018 criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances, taking into account, inter alia, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary.*

2. Rec. 17-04, paragraphs 13 and 14 also stipulate:

*13. The Commission, through the Standing Working Group of Scientists and Managers, shall develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should those exceptional circumstances be found to occur.*

*14. If exceptional circumstances occur (such as stock trajectories out of the ranges tested by the MSE, extreme environmental regime shift, inability to update the stock status, etc.), the Commission shall review and consider possible revision of the HCR. The SCRS is requested to incorporate these exceptional circumstances in future developments of the MSE framework in order to provide further advice to the Commission.*

3. The SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) as well as the Dialogue Group developed and discussed a set of potential principles that could inform the development of criteria for exceptional circumstances. These groups identified two general principles that would signal the possibility of exceptional circumstances:

(1) When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE; and/or;

(2) When there is evidence that the data required to apply the HCR are not available or are no longer appropriate.

4. These principles are general in nature and can be modified for use with any stock. In the case of North Atlantic albacore tuna, the SCRS adopted the following table that identifies the list of indicators that could be used to judge whether exceptional circumstances exist.

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Frequency of estimation</i>	<i>Normal range criterion</i>	<i>Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances</i>
System State	Stock biomass	Each full assessment	As defined by full range of values in the OMs used in the MSE	Each full assessment
	Fishing mortality			
	Growth	After completion of new study		After completion of new study
	Maturity			
Natural mortality				
Application of the HCR	CPUE	Potentially annually	As defined by full range of values in the OMs used in the MSE	Each time MP is to be applied
	Catch	Annually		

There is a question, however, on whether the principle in 3. (2) above is really covered by this table.

5. Rec. 17-04, paragraph 17 says, *The Commission shall review the interim HCR in 2020 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure*. A protocol for exceptional circumstances is an integral part of the management procedure. In general, such a protocol consists of: (1) What constitutes exceptional circumstances including indicators; (2) What to do in exceptional circumstances; and (3) A process for identifying exceptional circumstances and deciding actions to be taken. Now that the SCRS has done (1), the Commission shall establish (2) and (3).
6. The NAFO Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (as found in PA2-610/2019 submitted by Canada) consists of two parts: (1) The criteria for judging whether exceptional circumstances exist; and (2) A decision tree that includes what to do in exceptional circumstances. The CCSBT has a similar one called “Metarule Process”, which is a part of the CCSBT Management Procedure (see **Appendix 2 above**). The Metarule Process consists of: (1) Process to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist; (2) Process for Action; (3) Principles for Action; and (4) Flowchart for Metarule Process.
7. The CCSBT Metarule Process has “Principles for Action” that specifies what to do about TAC while the NAFO Protocol describes a process for deciding actions and three general options: (1) Apply the management procedure; (2) Apply the management procedure with adjustment; and (3) Do not apply the management procedure.
8. Considering these two rules, the Chair proposes a draft protocol for North Atlantic albacore (**amended Addendum 1 to Appendix 8**).

***Amended Addendum 1 to Appendix 8***

The edits below are suggestions to clearly outline what exceptional circumstances the Commission wants evaluated and when these evaluations should be taking place in the course of using a management procedure (MP). Although we do understand that currently the albacore management measure (16-06 and 17-04) only use a HCR to calculate the TAC we feel it is highly important that the Commission reviews and accepts a full MP this coming year in the new nALB rec. In light of this the below edits are framed with a final MP being passed at the 2020 Commission meeting along with this Exceptional Circumstance protocol.

The decision tree now has set evaluations that will occur in each year of the 3-year cycle of the MP, also a cycle for a more in-depth full stock assessment has been suggested for every 6 years (of course this is a suggested cycle for the full stock assessment and Panel 2 should consider the workload associated with the full assessment and benefits of doing such an assessment to set a period they are comfortable with; 6 years, 9 years, 5 years, etc.). One of the benefits of conducting an MSE is a reduction in the interval of full stock assessments, allowing the SCRS to collect more research data, analyse this data and improve our understanding of the biology and stock dynamics of the albacore population. The suggestion here to have full stock assessments every 6 years aims to find a balance between allowing the SCRS Alb working group time to conduct and review new biological and stock dynamics research while also not extending too much time between a full stock assessment review of the stock. This 6-year timeframe also provide 2 full cycles of the MP being used to set the TAC. Alternatively the interval could be every 5 or 7 years to off-set the work of the full stock assessment with the re-running of the MP (as is done in the CCSBT example in Appendix 2).

A third category of exceptional circumstance was also added to part 1. The addition of the “extreme environmental regime shift” is an important exceptional circumstance that needs to be considered (see above pre-amble). Some ideas on indicators for this category has also been added to 2.3.

Finally we think it is important to re-iterate that the below protocol outlines the process in determining if exceptional circumstances are triggered. But they do not outline the severity of the ECs and if they are something that is concerning for the stock status or if they have negative impacts on yield. Once an EC has been triggered the SCRS will need to review the case and indicate to the Commission the likely impact and provide advice to the Commission on its recommendation on how to proceed (continued use of MP, reduction in TAC while SCRS review/reanalyzes MP, earlier full stock assessment, etc.).

### **The ICCAT Exceptional Circumstances Protocol for North Atlantic Albacore**

- 1. Categories of exceptional circumstances:** The following three general categories should be considered as a signal indicating the possibility of exceptional circumstances:
  - 1.1 When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the management strategy evaluation (MSE);
  - 1.2 When there is evidence that the data required to apply the management procedure (MP) are not available or are no longer appropriate; and/or,
  - 1.3 When the SCRS has determined there has been an extreme environmental regime shift or significant impact on habitat that sustains part of the life cycle invalidating key assumptions in the MSE.

### **2. Indicators for exceptional circumstances**

The SCRS should use the following indicators to judge whether exceptional circumstances exist:

2.1 Indicators for category 1.1

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Normal range criterion</i>	<i>Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances</i>
Operating model output	Stock biomass	Defined as the full range of values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested.	Every 6 years when a full stock assessment occurs
	Fishing mortality		
Operating model input	Growth	Defined as the full range of values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested.	After completion, presentation, and acceptance by SCRS of new study
	Maturity		
	Natural mortality		
MP inputs	CPUE	Defined as the full range of values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested.	Annually evaluated
MP outputs	TAC	Defined as the full range of values produced by the accepted MP's production model during MSE testing.	Every 3 years when MP is re-run
	Stock Biomass		
	Fishing mortality		
Adherence to TAC	Catch	Defined as (1) total catch being above the TAC <sup>1</sup> set using the MP and (2) total catch being less than 75% of the TAC.	Annually evaluated

<sup>1</sup> In the northern Albacore Rec 16-06 25% carry-overs are permitted, therefore in this normal range criterion TAC shall equal the total of the adjusted catch limits of the CPCs with allocations in Table 8 plus 8.5744% of the TAC (this represents the allocation made to other CPCs not in Table 8).

2.2 Indicators for category 1.2

Any data set essential to running the MPs is missing or no longer available.

2.3 Indicators for category 1.3

Examples:

Any evidence of catastrophic release of pollutants in an area which Albacore using for spawning or juvenile rearing.

Any evidence of significant declines or increases in prey abundance.

Any evidence of a significant decrease or increase in the amount of suitable Albacore habitat and/or change in the distribution of suitable habitat.

Any evidence of a change in the phase or magnitude of a climatic or oceanographic indicator that is believed to affect Albacore reproduction, growth or survival.

**3. What the Commission shall do in exceptional circumstances**

If any of the indicators signal exceptional circumstance, this require the SCRS to indicate if the exceptional circumstances are severe enough to revoke the use of the MP and trigger a full stock assessment and/or re-running of the MSE. If the exceptional circumstances are severe enough to revoke the use of the MP the SCRS will endeavour to provide the commission with options for the coming fishing year.

The Commission shall then decide on actions based on the SCRS advice and confirm their desire for the SCRS to begin working on re-running the MSE to provide advice on candidate MPs as soon as possible.

See the decision tree (**amended attachment to Addendum 1 to Appendix 8**).

**Amended Attachment to Addendum 1**

The SCRS shall annually check if exceptional circumstances exist.

Year 1 & 2 (see 2.1 above):

check for new studies of growth, maturity, and natural mortality;

update CPUE indices;

update catch.

- checking that all three of these are within the full range of values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested. For catch check that there were no overages or underages beyond the normal range criterion.

Year 3 (see 2.1 and 2.2 above):

check that all datasets required in running the MP are available

re-run MP and check stock biomass and fishing mortality resulting from the MP's production model is within the full range of values that occurred in the production model results when the accepted MP was tested by MSE;

check MP's resulting TAC is within the full range of values that resulted from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested;

same checks done in Year 1 & 2.

Any year:

if a full stock assessment has been conducted by SCRS check that the stock biomass and fishing mortality resulting from the full stock assessment are within the full range of values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested.

Check for signs of extreme environmental regime changes that could invalidate OM results (see 2.3 above)

If no exceptional circumstances exist

If exceptional circumstances exist

The TAC calculated by the MP continues to be valid (in year 1 and 2) or the MP continues to be applied to calculate the TAC (in year 3).

The SCRS shall advise on whether such exceptional circumstances are severe enough to revoke the use of the MP

NO

YES

The SCRS shall advise the Commission on options for the coming year(s).

i.e. (i) reduction of TAC by X% (\*) until the MP is reviewed and possibly amended through the MSE process; (ii) the use of the MP with minor adjustment; or, (iii) any other alternative actions.

The Commission shall then decide actions based on the SCRS advice and confirm their desire for the SCRS to begin working on re-running the MSE to provide advice on candidate MPs as soon as possible.

(\*) X% can be decided by the Commission as a preset rule or by the SCRS on an ad-hoc basis.

**Specific comments on the Draft Exceptional Circumstances  
Protocol for North Atlantic Albacore**

*(SCRS Chair)*

**“What constitutes exceptional circumstances”**

The following two general principles should be considered as a signal indicating the possibility of exceptional circumstances:

1. When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the management strategy evaluation (MSE); and/or,
2. When there is evidence that the data required to apply the harvest control rules (HCRs) are not available or are no longer appropriate” or the indices are outside the bounds previously seen before.

**“Indicators for Principle 1”**

1. Perhaps a new column could be included to indicate the type of actions that could be imposed.