

Original: English

**LETTER FROM PANEL 2 CHAIR ON REVISED PLAN FOR
PANEL 2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN EARLY MARCH 2021**

November 25, 2020

Dear colleagues:

I hope this letter finds you as well as your colleagues and family fine under such difficult time.

I would like to thank CPCs for providing comments on my letter as well as the draft plan contained in ICCAT Circular #7749/20 - PA2-618. Based on these comments, I have revised for your further review the draft plan and the schedule as well as provide some clarifications and explanations.

1. Agenda

No opposition was expressed to my proposal that the meeting should discuss not only fishing and farming plans but also other issues (Item (6) to (8) in the annotated agenda).

Regarding Item (4), I would like to clarify that only plans submitted by CPCs having allocation will be reviewed and endorsed, as appropriate. However, if other CPCs having no allocation consider that submission of plans will facilitate discussion on their allocation request at the 2021 Commission meeting, they can submit them, but in any case, they will not be subject to review or endorsement.

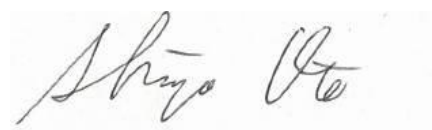
Regarding Item (8), as a result of consultation with several concerned people, I suggest that the first sentence be replaced with "The Chair of the Working Group for BFT Control will submit a working paper for the development and further strengthening of the control related measures contained in Rec. 19-04, in connection with Rec. 06-07 and Rec. 18-13." The last sentence will remain the same.

2. Preparatory work

One CPC told me that para 14 of Rec. 19-04 stipulates that plans shall be submitted by 15 February and even though the Commission is under extraordinary circumstances, changing the deadline from 15 February to 22 January is too drastic and will cause problems. After consulting with the CPC and Secretariat, I would like to propose the following:

- The deadline for submitting fishing and farming plans is February 8th, one week earlier than February 15th. Consequently, other dates including the starting date of the meeting itself have been changed (please see the revised plan and schedule as attached). My initial idea was to have the second round for further revision of plans and submission of comments thereon prior to the meeting. However, this may not be required because there has been no substantive change in control measures and some CPCs may not have to change the plan so much or even at all.
- When submitting plans, CPCs are requested to indicate which part of the 2020 plan has been changed using the track change mode of Word. This will facilitate translation as well as review by other CPCs.

Best regards,



Shingo Ota
Panel 2 Chair