

Original: Spanish

STATEMENT BY GUATEMALA TO PLENARY ON PANEL 1

The Republic of Guatemala wishes to extend its greetings to you, and also to refer to ICCAT Circular #8575/2020, as well as to Doc. No. PA1_525/2019 (sic), of 16 December 2020, in the context of the Panel 1 decision making process by correspondence, given the obvious and regrettable impossibility of adopting decisions by consensus within this important Panel.

My Delegation recognises that, as stated by the Chair of Panel 1 in Doc. No. PA1_525/2019 (sic), the adoption of substantive decisions is now the Commission's responsibility, under your honourable chairmanship, and for this reason I refer these observations to you, with the aim of expressing the interest and commitment in continuing to advance with the adoption of inclusive, transparent and non discriminatory decisions, inspired by the Convention and the Commission's effort.

In light of what has been expressed by the Chair of Panel 1, my country recognises that the document PA1_502B is not adopted, and therefore, the figures contained therein do not restrict the rights of CPCs. However, Guatemala would like to express that, following the entry into force of Rec. 19-02, it has complied with its obligation in 2020 not to exceed its bigeye tuna catch limit of 1.827 t. Recognising the exceptional circumstances that have prevented the building of a robust and non discriminatory system to allocate the relevant catch limits, and without renouncing its right to catch no less than 3,500 tons of bigeye tuna in the medium term, Guatemala also expresses that it could support the establishment of provisional catch limits for 2021, provided that they are accurate and clearly established, and in the case of my country, this limit must not be less than its current limit of 1.827 t. The obligations and commitments for 2020 are transferred to 2021, and these could be modified on the basis of a scientific recommendation resulting from scientific analyses of the impact of the 2 month closure implemented in 2020 and FAD limitation in the same year. These are to be viewed as sufficient precautionary measures which, except for analysis to the contrary, do not warrant amendment. This package of actions, consistent with the Commission objectives, could facilitate consensus and responsible building of the plurianual management programme that we have proposed.

I respectfully request that this statement be circulated to all CPCs.