

2020 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT¹

1. Introduction

In accordance with Article VII of the Convention, this report is presented by the Secretariat to the Commission to outline its activities during financial year 2020.

2. Contracting Parties and Cooperators to the Convention

2.1 Contracting Parties

At 13 October 2020, the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) comprises the following 53 Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.) Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, The Gambia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

2.2 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

In addition to the Contracting Parties, the Commission can also grant the status of cooperator following the procedure described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20). The following States currently hold this status: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Chinese Taipei and Suriname.

3. ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

Adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions

On 20 December 2019, the Secretariat officially transmitted the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 18 to 25 November, 2019) to the Contracting Parties and to the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that have Atlantic coastlines or that fish tunas in the Convention area, and to the intergovernmental fishery organizations, requesting their cooperation in this regard.

The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2019 were published in the *Report for Biennial Period 2018-2019, Part II (2019), Vol. 1*

Following the six-month grace period after the transmission of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission, the Recommendations entered into force on 20 June 2020, in accordance with Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention.

4. Intersessional meetings, Working Groups and ICCAT training courses

In accordance with Commission decisions in this regard, the following eighteen meetings were held in 2020:

- Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (*Madrid, Spain, from 6 to 7 February 2020*)
- SCRS Meeting on Process and Protocol (*Madrid, Spain, from 20 to 22 February 2020*)

¹ Data at 13 October 2020.

- Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group (*Madrid, Spain, from 24 to 28 February 2020*)
- Meeting of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures (*from 2 to 4 March 2020*).
- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (*Madrid, Spain, from 5 to 6 March 2020*)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (*Online meeting, from 16 to 19 March 2020*)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems (*Online meeting, from 4 to 6 May 2020*)
- Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (*Online meeting, from 7 to 8 May 2020*)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group (*Online meeting, from 14 to 22 May 2020*)
- Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting (*Online meeting, from 25 May to 2 June 2020*)
- Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Sub-group on Growth in Farms (*Online meeting, 3 June 2020*)
- Swordfish MSE Technical Meeting (*Online meeting, from 4 to 5 June 2020*).
- Porbeagle Stock Assessment Meeting (*Online meeting, from 15 to 22 June 2020*)
- Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting (*Online meeting, from 29 June to 8 July 2020*)
- SCRS Species Groups Meeting (BIL, SMT, TROP) (*Online meeting, 13 to 15 July 2020*)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group (including stock assessment update and MSE work) (*Online meeting, from 20 to 28 July 2020*).
- SCRS Species Groups Meeting (SWO, SHK, ALB, BFT, SC-STATS, TROP) (*Online meeting, from 31 August to 9 September 2020*)
- Second Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group (*Online meeting, from 28 to 30 September 2020*)

In addition to the meetings referred to above, three training courses have been held:

- Collaborative Work to Assess Sea Turtle Bycatch in Pelagic Longline Fleets (*Malaga, Spain, from 27 to 31 January 2020*)
- Workshop on Reproductive and Other Life History Aspects of the Porbeagle and Other Pelagic Sharks in the Atlantic Ocean (*Olhao, Portugal, from 3 to 7 February 2020*)
- ICCAT Small Tunas Sampling and Biology Workshop (*Malaga, Spain, from 17 to 21 February 2020*)

5. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

Within the framework of ICCAT's mandate to inform other international organizations of the measures adopted by the Commission, the Secretariat participated in several meetings and technical consultation processes, which included several regional fisheries organizations (see **Annex 1** to this Report (**STF-201/2020-Annex 1**), which summarizes the main issues discussed at these meetings)

- Mission Report on ABNJ Tuna and ABNJ Program Steering Committees (*Rome, Italy, from 27 to 30 January 2020*)
- Meeting of the Latin American Fishing States Authorities regarding the revised draft text on BBNJ (*Panama City, Panama, from 3 to 4 February 2020*)
- IOTC: Third Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG) (*Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 11 February 2020*)
- CITES-FAO Planning Meeting, Next steps to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through fisheries legal frameworks (*Rome, Italy, 17 and 18 February 2020*)
- International Whaling Commission – Sub-Committee on Nondeliberate Human-Induced Mortality of cetaceans, HIM (*Online meeting, from 11 to 24 May 2020*)
- International Workshop on Area-Based Management of Blue Water Fisheries of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (*Online meeting, from 15 to 18 June 2020*)
- GFCM online forum: building fisheries and aquaculture resilience post Covid-19 crisis - webinar 1: the experience of international organizations in response to the Covid-19 crisis (*Online meeting, 25 June 2020*)
- EU Regional Coordination Group on Large Pelagics (RCG-LP) (*Online meeting, from 25 to 26 June 2020*)
- Workshop of fish and vessels (Atlantic Session) (*Online meeting, from 30 to 31 July 2020*).
- 2020 Virtual expert workshop on best practices for compliance in RFMOs (*Online meeting, 7, 8 and 10 September 2020*).

- 17th Liaison (Sub-group of the European Commission expert group on fisheries data collection) meeting between the Chairs of RCGS & PGECON, STECF meetings on DCF, RDB steering groups, key end users, JRC and the Commission (*Online meeting, 24 and 25 September 2020*).
- Mediterranean Advisory Council MEDAC (*Online meeting, 29 September 2020*).

6. Tagging lottery

In 2020 the tuna lottery draw has not taken place due to cancellation of the SCRS plenary meeting.

7. Letters concerning compliance with budgetary obligations

In early 2020, the Executive Secretary notified all the Contracting Parties of the amount of their contributions to the 2020 budget. In July 2020, a reminder was sent to the Contracting Parties that had not made the corresponding payments. At the date of the report, the Virtual Working Group for Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) has prepared a letter which will be submitted to the Commission for approval, in which the ICCAT Chair warns that the situation of non-payment by Contracting Parties makes it impossible to support activities that are crucial to the Commission and gives CPCs in arrears a final opportunity to regularise their situation. The following table summarizes the correspondence sent to the Contracting Parties in arrears as regards their ICCAT and eBCD contributions.

	<i>First reminder Letter of 20 July 2020</i>	<i>First eBCD reminder Letter of 20 July 2020</i>
Algeria	X	X
Angola	X	
Barbados	X	
Brazil	X	
Cabo Verde	X	
China (P.R.)	X	X
Côte d'Ivoire	X	
Curaçao	X	
Egypt	X	X
The Gambia	X	
Ghana	X	
Grenada	X	
Guatemala	X	
Guinea Bissau	X	
Equatorial Guinea	X	
Guinea (Rep.)	X	
Honduras	X	
Iceland	X	
Liberia	X	
Libya	X	X
Mauritania	X	
Mexico	X	X
Namibia	X	
Nigeria	X	
Norway		X
Panama	X	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	X	
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	X	
Senegal	X	
Sierra Leone	X	
Syria (Arab Rep.)	X	X
South Africa	X	
Trinidad and Tobago	X	
Tunisia	X	
United Kingdom (O.T.)	X	X
Uruguay	X	
Vanuatu	X	
Venezuela	X	

8. Publications of the Secretariat - 2020

In 2020, the following publications were issued:

- Report for Biennial Period 2018-19, Part II (2019), Vols. 1 and 2: English (in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2018-19, Part II (2019), Vols. 1 and 2: French (in electronic format only).
- Report for Biennial Period 2018-19, Part II (2019), Vols. 1 and 2: Spanish (in electronic format only).

- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 77, comprising five volumes. The publications are available on the ICCAT web site.
- ICCAT Newsletter (February and September 2020).

9. Organisation and management of the Secretariat staff

9.1 Organisation

The Secretariat is organised as follows:

Executive Secretary

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel. He is responsible for selection and administration of staff of the Commission and oversees execution of the main functions of the Commission, such as:

Coordination of research programmes
Preparation of budget estimates for review by the Commission
Authorising disbursement of funds according to the Commission's budget
Accounting of the Commission's funds
Preparation of coordination with sister organisations
Collecting the necessary fisheries statistics
Preparation of scientific, administrative and other reports

Assistant Executive Secretary

Dr Miguel Neves dos Santos. Reporting directly to the Executive Secretary, he performs all the tasks delegated to him by the Executive Secretary, which include management of the Secretariat and representation of the ICCAT Secretariat at meetings of a technical and/or administrative nature. In addition, he performs the functions of scientific coordinator, carrying out tasks related to the coordination of research programmes, collection of fisheries statistics, preparation of reports and coordination with closely related organisations. He is in charge of the Department of Translation and Publications and coordination of work between the Department of Research and Statistics and the Compliance Department. He is also responsible for coordination between the Secretariat and the SCRS and preparation of SCRS meetings and management of Commission meeting documents. Finally, he has assumed the role of coordinator of the ICCAT/Japan Capacity Building Assistance Project (Phase II) (JCAP-2) since the departure of the previous coordinator (Ms. Mari Mishima) in August 2016.

Department of Research and Statistics

By reason of its mandate to manage and conserve tuna fishery resources, ICCAT members carry out a broad range of scientific research and monitoring activities. The Secretariat is directly involved in the coordination of some of these activities, although a large part of the practical work is carried out by the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat maintains a large number of databases that contain information on fishery statistics which are useful for stock assessments and for compliance-related records. The main tasks that are carried out are requests for data, rules for data transmission, development of databases, user interfaces of the databases, quality control of data, data mining and publication of data, management of the web site, tagging inventory, preparation of reports and coordination with the SCRS and management of information technology.

The research and statistics activities, under the supervision of the Scientific Coordinator, are carried out by the Head of Department and Fisheries Data Analyst, a Population Dynamics Expert, a By-catch Coordinator, a Biostatistician, a Database Programmer, a Programming Technician and a Database Programmer and Webmaster, an Information Technology Manager and two Software Developers (IOMS). Dr Mauricio Ortiz is Head of the Department of Research and Statistics and a Fisheries Data Analyst. He is in charge of the activities relating to the analysis of tuna and tuna-like species data contained in the ICCAT databases. Mr. Carlos Palma is responsible for activities related to the creation and maintenance of databases. Dr Nathan Taylor is the By-catch Coordinator. Dr Ai Kimoto is in charge of the activities related to coordination with the SCRS regarding stock assessments and other scientific matters. Mr. Carlos Mayor performs tasks related to programming and development of databases, Mr. Jesús Fiz is the Information Technology Specialist, Mr.

Juan Carlos Muñoz is the Database Programmer and Webmaster, Mr. Juan Luis Gallego is the Programming Technician and Mr. Manuel Maestre and Mr. José Sanz perform the role of software developers for the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) project.

Compliance Department

In recent years, the Commission has adopted an increasing number of Recommendations and Resolutions that require CPCs to communicate various types of information largely related to Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures. This department compiles and distributes a large volume of information. The Department's main tasks are: preparation of the compliance tables and compliance summaries and management of the associated correspondence; maintenance of the Record of Vessels and other ICCAT records; implementation of the Regional Observer Programmes; VMS management; inventory of vessel chartering and access agreements; port inspection; joint inspection programme; bluefin tuna farming reports; periodic catch reports (weekly, monthly and quarterly), data and validation of the statistical documents and of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme; eBCD management, preparation of the compendium of the management regulations; determination of reporting requirements, management of requests for cooperators status and requests for observer status; compilation of Annual Reports; responses to compliance related queries; as well as tasks related to general correspondence with CPCs, intergovernmental organisations and others. The department is composed of Ms. Jenny Cheatle, Head of Department, Mr. M'Hamed Idrissi and Mr. Alberto Parrilla, as Compliance Coordinators, Dr Valerie Samedy, as VMS Programme Manager and Compliance Technician, Ms. Aldana Vieito, Compliance Assistant and Mr. Javier Martínez as Full Stack Developer (eBCD).

Department of Translation and Publications

The Department of Translation and Publications carries out tasks related to the compilation, adoption, translation and publication of circulars, reports and scientific documents, ASFA and FIRMS entries, in the three official languages of the Commission, the coordination of peer reviews of scientific documents, and publications in electronic format, communications and design of the web site. The department is coordinated by Dr Neves dos Santos and is composed of six translators: Ms. Christine Peyre (French), Ms. María Isabel de Andrés (Spanish), Ms. María José García-Orad (Spanish), Ms. Karen Donovan (English), Ms. Rebecca Campoy (English), and Ms. Dorothée Pinet (French).

Department of Finance and Administration

This Department carries out all the administrative and financial tasks of the Secretariat. Its main tasks are: preparation and control of the budget, accounting, preparation of the administrative and financial reports, organisation of ICCAT meetings, management of special funds, human resources within the Secretariat, purchases, travel, reception, archives, management of contact information, inventory of the library and publications, photocopying, scanning and mail. The department is composed of eight members: Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of Department, who coordinates all the tasks related to the department, Ms. Africa Martín (Accountant), Ms. Ana Martínez (Accounting Assistant), Mr. Juan Angel Moreno (photocopying and mail), Mr. Cristóbal García (photocopying and library), Ms. Esther Peña (Administrative Secretary) and Ms. Gisela Porto (Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary) and Mr. Pablo Herranz (Administrative Assistant).

Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)

The overall aim of the programme, which began in January 2010, is to improve the scientific basis for decision making in relation to management of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The programme includes a list of actions, to be carried out over several years, such as recovery of basic data collections, improvement of knowledge on key biological and ecological processes or improvement of assessment models and provision of scientific advice. The programme is implemented by Dr Francisco Alemany (Coordinator), Ms. Stasa Tensek (Assistant Coordinator) and Mr. Alfonso Pagá (Database Specialist).

Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

The aims of the programme, which began in 2015, are to contribute to data compilation and improve information for tropical tuna stock assessments, in order to provide sound scientific advice on management of these tuna species. The programme will collect, compile and analyse tagging data and tag recovery for the most important tropical tuna species in the Atlantic, such as skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna. The objective is to tag at least 120,000 species over five years with conventional and electronic tags. The

activities carried out include chartering of professional fishing vessels, deployment of tag placement and recovery teams, data collection, scientific interpretation, development and implementation of training courses and promotion of awareness campaigns to promote tag recoveries. The following people have been hired to implement these activities: Mr. Doug Beare (Coordinator), Mr. Jesús García (Database and Website Specialist), Ms. Seynabou Kebe (Administrative and Financial Officer) and Mr. Ricardo Pastor (Accountant).

9.2 New appointments

In June 2020, Mr. Javier Martínez was hired as Full Stack Developer for the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system within the Compliance Department.

Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

In July 2020, before the end of the programme which was scheduled for late November 2020, Dr Lisa Ailloud gave notice of resignation.

10. Other matters

10.1 Management of other programmes

It should be noted that the Financial Report contains detailed information on these programmes and funds.

Since 2005, the United States has contributed to the Special Data Fund established in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* (Res. 03-21), to assist scientists from developing countries in participating in the meetings and work of the Scientific Committee. Contributions were received in 2020 for €76,410.00 and €35,364.00.

In April 2016, the contract was extended with the Consortium MRAG/CapFish for the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for at-sea transshipment, in compliance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment* (Rec. 12-06). This programme was financed in 2020 by voluntary contributions from China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Korea, Senegal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chinese Taipei; the programme continues to be managed by the Secretariat.

To implement the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 08-05), in 2009 the Regional Observer Program for bluefin tuna was established. For this purpose, in April 2020, the contract was extended with the Consortium MRAG/COFREPECHE for hiring and deployment of observers. During this period, vessels, farms and traps have participated, and their operators have financed the programme.

Since 2008, the United States delegation has made numerous contributions to the United States Fund for Capacity Building for developing countries. The contribution received in 2020 amounted to €140,085.00.

At the 16th Special Meeting of the Commission (Marrakesh, Morocco, 17 to 24 November 2008), the Commission endorsed a five-year coordinated Atlantic-wide bluefin tuna research program (known as GBYP-ICCAT). Currently, the programme is in its tenth phase. The European Union is financing 80.00% of this amount, and the remainder is being financed through voluntary contributions from Albania, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Libya, Morocco, United States and Chinese Taipei.

Following the ICCAT-Japan Capacity-building Assistance Project (JCAP), which was implemented from 2014 to 2019, in December 2019, a special new project for capacity-building with a five-year duration began, financed by the Government of Japan, the ICCAT-Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Project - Phase 2 (JCAP-2). Its overriding objective is to assist ICCAT developing CPCs in complying with their obligations related to data compilation and reporting, as well as in implementing efficiently ICCAT measures.

In August 2020, the Secretariat received a contribution of €15,282.00 from China (People's Rep.) for continuation of the activities of the Special Data Fund-People's Republic of China.

Following approval in 2014 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 14-14), the Secretariat, in addition to the 2020 allocation of €72,000.00 from the Commission's budget, received a voluntary contribution from the United States for €16,980.00 and two from the European Union for €48,000.00 and €140,000.00.

In 2013, the Morocco Fund to Support National Capacity for Participation at Commission Meetings was established. For this purpose, in February 2020, Morocco made a voluntary contribution in the amount of €84,399.26.

In 2013, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 13-19) for the purpose of supporting scientists from ICCAT Contracting Parties that are developing States in their need to acquire knowledge and develop skills on issues related to ICCAT. The special Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) was allocated €80,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund. In light of the limited activity of this fund, in 2017, the Commission decided to transfer the balance of this fund to the new Strategic Research Programme. It also decided that this fund should be maintained for future activities, but with no balance.

On 30 June 2015, the Secretariat signed the contract with the European Union for implementation of the Atlantic Ocean Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). The contract has a five-year term, with the possibility of an 18-month extension for data analysis, and a budget of €15,000,000.00, of which the European Union will finance a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%). The remaining 10% must be financed by ICCAT or ICCAT CPCs. The programme was scheduled to end in November 2020, but a 3-month contract extension is currently being finalised, bringing the end date to February 2021. The three-month extension is pending signature. For the fifth year of the programme, voluntary contributions for the programme were received from the United States (€64,326.00), Chinese Taipei (€4,000.00), and Japan (€10,000.000).

In 2017, the Tunisia Fund to Support National Capacity for Participation at Commission Meetings was established.

In 2015, the special Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCSF) was established to support and strengthen development and implementation of efficient in port inspection systems by developing CPCs for the purpose of achieving or surpassing the minimum standards established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to support effective implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT scheme for minimum standards for inspection in port* (Rec. 14-08). In 2020, a voluntary contribution was received from the United States in the amount of €21,225.00.

In 2017, the Commission decided to create for 2018, the Strategic Research Programme, with the objective of grouping and including in the regular Commission budget all ICCAT scientific activities. It also decided to gradually incorporate this new budgetary item over 4 years. For this reason, a contract was entered into in December 2019 with the European Union to finance 79.40% of the Commission's scientific activities in 2020, within the framework of the new Strategic Research Programme, which are not covered by the budget and whose total amount is €1,070,550.00.

In December 2019, a contract was signed with the European Union with a twelve-month duration, to continue to improve the capacity of developing countries, which includes the activities of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 11-26 on the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties*.