

Extracts of section 5 from Annual Reports

ALBANIA

No technical difficulties encountered in implementation and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

BFT farming activities were initiated in 2021 – Albania had adopted all pertinent ICCAT Recommendations into its local legislation mechanism and CPC Albania applied its best efforts to ensure correct governance in this new sector in the knowledge that, where necessary, it will have the support of the Secretariat

Thanks to the help and readiness of Secretariat and Compliance Committee, Albania has realized in appropriate time the reporting requirements to ICCAT.

This year, regarding the data of the tables Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3 and seeing the limit time remain, we exported from IOMS the specific templates to complete the tables offline and to submit them to the Secretariat for import into IOMS.

We hope with the support of Secretariat, we will be able to transmit the data online through IOMS next year. It was a particular year 2022 for us in Albania in having internet access and checking email due to a cyber terrorist attack in the government servers by middle of July 2022.

ALGERIA

Pour mettre en œuvre et répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT, l'Algérie a mis en place des systèmes et des programmes de suivi, d'observation, d'inspection et de collecte pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences et transmettre toutes les informations sollicitées par l'ICCAT.

Les insuffisances mineures constatées en matière de maîtrise de l'application des exigences de l'ICCAT en matière de renseignement du journal de pêche ont pris une nette amélioration, par le programme de l'administration de la pêche qui a procédé au perfectionnement des capitaines de pêche pour améliorer cette maîtrise.

Aussi, la difficulté réside dans l'obligation de soumettre des données exigées par l'ICCAT, or dans certains cas, l'exigence ne peut s'appliquer, pour une raison ou une autre comme pour le groupe des Isthiophoridés comme mentionner, et pour laquelle l'Algérie a demandé une exemption justifiée par l'inexistence de ce groupe d'espèces dans les eaux Algériennes, et aussi le fait qu'aucune flottille nationale n'est autorisée à aller pêcher les makaires dans les eaux de pays tiers.

Il y a aussi, la difficulté à embarquer des observateurs scientifiques à bord des navires palangriers ciblant l'espadon, de par l'étroitesse des embarcations artisanales non pontées.

BARBADOS

A number of the difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures have been related to inadequate legislation. Once enacted, the 2021 draft Fisheries Management Regulations and other subsidiary legislation will facilitate by force of law the implementation of a number of measures that will markedly improve Barbados compliance with ICCAT recommendations and generally improve the management of local fisheries. This includes inter alia improved mandatory reporting of catch, effort and other relevant fishing trip information, as well as any live discards, protection of incidentally caught sensitive species such as turtles through mandating their safe release, protection of all species of sharks from finning and the implementation of observer programmes including EMS-based.

BELIZE

As a small developing country with a distant water fishing fleet, Belize has been able to ensure satisfactory compliance with majority of the important measures adopted by the Commission. However, there are a few measures that have posed significant challenges to fully implement. This is because of several factors, including but not limited to, restrictions in human and institutional capacity and changes in our management and government regime and interagency communication and collaboration. Nonetheless, the adoption of our amended Act and subsidiary Regulations has allowed us to easily adopt and implement relevant conservation and management measures. Despite our minor limitations with compliance obligations, the Government of Belize is fully committed and invested in making certain that the relevant steps are taken to ensure compliance with all relevant and important conservation and management measures to which we are obligated.

BRAZIL

Brazil has taken necessary efforts and steps to collect and report data to the extent possible to ensure ICCAT's compliance requirements. It must be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a longer than expected effect over the Brazilian society and forced restrictions to the Public Service and public in general since March/20, reaching the worst health safety period from January to June/21 in Brazil, and due to it increased substantially the challenges to deploy an observer in 2021. New arrangements were made through scientific and government projects such as Protuna Project, Ecopescatum Project and Blue Shark Project to address the necessary needs with support of the fishing sector.

Brazil commends ICCAT Secretary and extends the recognition to the contracting parties for being flexible during the pandemic period which all members leveraged efforts to hold virtual and hybrid meetings, which made possible to move forward with important discussions for tuna and tuna-like species management in the Commission.

CABO VERDE

El principal problema que enfrenta nuestro sistema de gestión e de investigación en su desarrollo es la disponibilidad insuficiente de recursos financieros para todos los costos operativos. La implementación de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT requiere un seguimiento permanente y sería útil contar con el apoyo de ICCAT mediante acciones de formación con respecto a las diversas obligaciones en términos de conservación. notificación de datos a ICCAT. Los principales problemas encontrados son los siguientes:

- Existe una gran dificultad en la coordinación entre los diferentes actores, en particular la administración, vigilancia, investigación y operadores. Esto crea enormes problemas para obtener datos e información que cumplan positivamente con las obligaciones de ICCAT.
- Los recursos financieros son limitados para apoyar y mejorar la recopilación de datos, así como para fortalecer el sistema de vigilancia, el plan de muestreo estadístico y los datos biológicos.
- El apoyo técnico y financiero de ICCAT sería muy importante y bienvenido para apoyar y mejorar los programas estadísticos y el plan de muestreo biológico debido al aumento de desembarques locales y barcos extranjeros, que, por desembarques, también transbordo de especies de ICCAT en Cabo Verde.

CANADA

Canada did not have any difficulty submitting the annual report for the 2021-2022 reporting year.

CHINA

Currently no such case. China will record and advise in a timely manner in future once encountered.

CHINESE TAPEI

To meet the reporting requirements established by ICCAT for species encountered as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries and "Recommendation on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries" (Rec. 11-10) which requires CPCs to provide bycatch and discard data, Chinese Taipei has taken necessary steps to collect and report these data to the extent possible. However, it should be noted that since some of bycatches are required to be released alive or discarded dead without being taken onboard, measuring weight and length of them turns out to be difficult. Therefore, the crews or observer on board could only record the number of the bycatch.

COSTA RICA

Al tener Costa Rica embarcaciones de menos de 20 m de eslora se le ha dificultado llegar a implementar un programa de observadores a bordo que podría brindar información más detallada de las faenas de pesca, pero el tamaño de las embarcaciones por limitado espacio para albergar más personas a bordo aparte de la tripulación, además de las condiciones de seguridad representan una limitación importante para su implementación. Está en proceso de diseño un programa de observadores a bordo para el país, que incluye tanto observadores a bordo como seguimiento electrónico. Se planea mejorar la información pesquera mediante el uso de formularios para toma de datos durante las faenas de pesca (registro de lances, libro de registro de operaciones de pesca, registro de transbordo).

Se presentó en el informe anual de 2020 entregado en el año 2021 un Plan de Enmienda del 2022 al 2025 para las pesquerías de atunes y especies afines, en aguas jurisdiccionales del Mar Caribe costarricense.

La falta de personal para atender la pesquería del Atlántico de Costa Rica ha sido también una limitación importante. Para solventar este problema, el INCOPESCA ha contratado en el 2022 a dos biólogos que han sido designados a la Regional Huetar Caribe, que es la oficina institucional que ve los temas de la pesca en el Atlántico. Se tiene planeado realizar muestreos biológicos en desembarques de la flota comercial de mediana escala de manera frecuente, para obtener información sobre esta pesquería.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- La Côte d'Ivoire dispose d'une petite unité de pêche sportive et récréative, cependant elle ne fait pas de suivi statistique et biologique à cause de l'irrégularité des activités mais aussi à cause de l'insuffisance de personnel technique.
- La Côte d'Ivoire ne dispose pas encore de plan de gestion sur les DCP car les travaux encourent nécessitent une logistique additionnelle.

Les difficultés rencontrées en matière de déclaration sont dues à la charge de travail.

CURAÇAO

5.1 Requirements for vessels larger than 24 metres in length

The fishing vessels under the flag of Curaçao larger than 24 metres in length must fulfil the following obligations in order to fish in the ICCAT convention area:

- Be fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System, by satellite tracking system
- To follow strictly all the recommendations issued by ICCAT for their fishery.
- To submit a monthly report of catches to the fishing Authorities.
- To submit a "Transshipment Declaration" each time a transshipment is carried out.
- To submit a "Discharge Declaration" each time a discharge is carried out.
- Every year, to submit a list of "Fishing Licenses" those are issued to the vessel by third countries, in order to fish in the EEZ of different countries.
- Inform us as soon as a fishing licence is renewed.
- To apply for an International Fishing Permit issued by the Government of Curaçao that allows the vessel to operate in the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean and in the ICCAT Convention Area.

5.2 Artisanal fisheries

- Background and former situation

The Government of Curaçao created a system of management shared between the Ministry of Economic Development (MED, formerly the Ministry of Economic and Labor Affairs) and the Ministry of Health, Environment, and Nature (GMN). MED manages high seas fishing and would manage large-scale domestic fishing in Curaçao waters if such fisheries were to exist, with the advice and consultation with the Fisheries Commission, International Fisheries Commission, and Minister of Traffic, Transportation, and Spatial Planning (VVRP). GMN's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Management (AVB), formerly the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries (LVV), separately manages small-scale fishing in the Curaçao territorial sea. All of it may complicate fishery data recording and reporting when it comes to ICCAT species. In the case of industrial fisheries (surface fleets is clear, but when it comes to ICCAT species caught by artisanal fisheries, the data is not reported to the appropriate authorities, and is not shown in FAO or in ICCAT data bases. A monitoring system for artisanal fisheries is being developed by the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature in consultation with the Ministry of Economic Development.

During the on-site visit to Curaçao, Dr. Arocha talks with officers at the Department of Fisheries Agriculture and Fisheries Management (AVB) (which falls under the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature) contributed to clarify the limitation on data collection and reporting of large pelagic species caught by artisanal fisheries. Although they recognized the need for it, most of their effort is directed towards managing reef fisheries. Officers at the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature indicated that they recorded data on catches of large pelagic species but were substantially impaired due to lack of financial support to monitor landings of large pelagic species, in addition to deficiencies in trained personnel at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature for data recording and reporting on species-specific catch. The last year of available catch data from large pelagic is 2006, however is not reported to ICCAT. Officials at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature presented a new report (yet to be published) on historical changes on fishery practices in Curaçao from 1950 to present, focusing mostly on reef fisheries, but with information on changes in large pelagic fisheries. It appears that the over-exploitation of inshore resources lead them to target costal pelagic fishes, mainly dolphinfish-DOL, and what they call blue marlin; later (recent times) when fishers became experienced and technology increased, fishers started to use oil-tankers as fish aggregating devises (oil-tanker FADs) targeting yellowfin tuna and blackfin tuna, as well as wahoo. It seems that they also catch billfishes and sharks, but due to the low price of those species in the local markets, fishers avoid them. Unfortunately, not data is consistently recorded. Due to the fact that the tankers came from Venezuela this type of fisheries is almost nihil, because of the Venezuelan situation there are no tankers coming to Curacao.

Dr. Arocha talks with Fishery officers of MED, who are responsible for reporting Task 1 and Task 2 data to ICCAT, further explained their limitations to record, collect, and report catches of ICCAT species from artisanal fisheries due to the fact that this data is lacking at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature.

- Areas of potential strategic investment

Curaçao has the basis for data collection but is very limited on trained personnel At the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature. Thus, capacity building in the fishery collection of data from the large pelagic artisanal fishery could prove beneficial for ICCAT. Therefore, potential investment could be directed at a data collection program on large pelagic species of interest to ICCAT. Initially, the focus would be one of the two main ports where ICCAT species are landed, by training fishery data collectors for large pelagic species (specifically ICCAT species of interest), most specifically in species ID and effort data collection, particularly in the use of oil-tankers as FADs, as well as the design of port sampling schemes for artisanal fisheries. To improve data collection the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Development are working on a protocol of cooperation between the two Ministries to improve also monitoring control and surveillance on local fisheries. This protocol will be signed in 2020.

- New fisheries ordinance

A new fisheries ordinance has been developed by Curacao in 2015 which comprises a setup of a body of a fisheries authority. This new ordinance has been approved by the Government and has to be treated by the Parliament. The Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Health is consulting with each other how the part of artisanal fisheries can be further developed. Curaçao fisheries laws that govern now include national and island ordinances and subsidiary legislation, which predate 2010, continue to apply until this new fisheries ordinance of 2015 is approved by the Parliament of Curacao.

- Reporting of sharks and billfishes

The National Nature Policy Ordinance (landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en -bescherming (PB 1998, No. 49) and the Council Decision of 21st September 2018, no. 18/2870, establishing the consolidated text of the National Ordinance Foundations for Nature Management and Protection of the Nature Policy Ordinance of the former Netherlands Antilles does provide legal protection for all species listed in Appendix I of the CMS (art. 8c), Appendix I of CITES (Art. 6 ,7) appendices I and II of the SPAW protocol (Art. 8a en 8b). The available legislation provides the scope for implementing effective protection of sharks.

As reference to improve the sharks reporting a shark protection plan has been written which is now in implementation in Curacao and the different other islands of the former Netherlands Antilles.

With regard to the billfish reporting a Decree hereto is currently being formulated. The Fishing Authority un the meantime circulars are formulated to give instructions to the vessel owners to comply with the ICCAT recommendations and Regulations. The Fishing Authority has 100% monitoring, control and surveillance on those instructions. Curaçao has 100% observer coverage and the crew of the vessels have been trained to ensure the safe release of bycatch, in the shortest possible time.

EGYPT

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) that was belonged to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation is changed to be Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) under the supervision of Prime Minister Office by the law no. 146/2021 which resulted in many administrative difficulties that currently facing us till issuing the executive regulations that will in turn strengthen our management measures for all the sector.

Moreover, as a new team manages the tuna file, we try to attend all meetings to understand and manage the file well and to obtain as much information as possible to maximize the benefit to Egypt in cooperation with ICCAT and with the assistance of its helpful and cooperative staff. Also, on the other hand, a parallel working group was established in cooperation with the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of scientific experts to help managing the scientific part of the file and giving the scientific advice. The scientific program for the trainees nominated to carry out the tasks of the scientific observer will be implemented within few months. However, we still in need for the technical and financial support of ICCAT in capacity building for the scientific observer program, data entry and tagging for BFT.

Egypt confirms its commitment to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures, and work hardly to provide the fisheries data at the appropriate time as much as possible.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and support

EL SALVADOR

No se encontró dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento, no obstante lo cual se desarrollan programas constantes de fortalecimiento institucional. La pandemia de COVID-19 ciertamente impuso retos especiales sobre todo en el procesamiento de la información y remisión de reportes, sin embargo, a través de un plan de acción ejecutado institucionalmente se minimizaron las demoras y se desarrolló un esquema de evaluación constante para implementación de mejoras a nuestro sistema interno.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- Falta de un sistema estadístico fiable, ya que Guinea Ecuatorial no dispone de una flota atunera nacional, la poca captura de los Túnidos y especies afines que declaramos, procede de las pesquerías que realizan los pescadores artesanales de la Isla de Annobón,
- Falta de Formación de Recursos Humanos en la estadística pesquera y en los temas relacionados con ICCAT,
- La declaración tardía de las capturas por parte de los pescadores, hace que la Célula esté enviando datos con un poco de retraso.

EUROPEAN UNION

The fact that the Netherlands does not have any tuna fisheries active in the Atlantic Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea makes the contribution of the Netherlands to the implementation and compliance of these ICCAT management measures limited.

FRANCE SPM

- Il n'y a pas eu de difficultés rencontrées dans la mise en œuvre ni dans le respect des mesures de conservation et de gestion de la CICTA pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon en 2021.
- Il n'y a eu aucun débarquement de thonidés à SPM en 2021.
- Aucune infraction à la réglementation n'a été constatée en 2021.

GABON

L'année 2021 a été marquée au même titre que l'année 2020 par la pandémie de la COVID-19. Les effets ont eu un impact dans le secteur de la pêche en générale. Les activités de pêche ont été perturbées en début d'année. Par ailleurs, les observations en mer ont repris timidement au cours de l'ouverture de la saison de pêche thonière, de même pour le suivi des débarquements de la flottille nationale sur l'étendue du territoire.

GHANA

Tropical

The Ghanaian processing software for her catch data is still not available to streamline Task 2 after a decade of revisions. Within the complexities of our fishery, we do hope that that the new software will be finalized by ICCAT/IRD which will yield fruitful results. Ghana has stated her willingness to co-operate in all spheres for a suitable programme which would stand the test of time. In the interim all raw data from all our individual vessels have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat and impartially incorporated into the ICCAT database since 2006.

It is very difficult to collate weekly data on Big Eye tuna and other important species as vessels arrive after months of leaving port and more so have no real-time electronic monitoring systems to desermine the information such as electronic logbook.

In integrating data collected in the field especially FAD deployed among others, over a set by set basis for monthly analysis for all segments of surface fishing fleets has become cumbersome and a unified system and software is envisaged.

Sharks & By-Catch Issues

There is the need for more training in this field as the fishery is becoming more important especially in areas of endangered species becoming extinct. Manuals are few and general and presently we are able to work closely on a few sharks grouping such as silky and blue sharks as we encounter them a lot. The others are termed others or as "shark NEI". We don't have the expertise in the field of shark taxonomy hence we often don't fill out the forms to the best of ICCAT's requirements; this has been a concern to us.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala, realiza diferentes acciones para mejorar y fortalecer el cumplimiento de las medidas aplicables en el marco de la Comisión o aquellas que puedan contribuir a ésta. En lo concerniente a los DCP, buques de apoyo y cuadernos de pesca, la flota atunera nacional, es parte de un programa de observadores independiente que cumple con los estándares internacionales en cuanto a registro y seguimiento de las actividades pesqueras. Este proveedor de servicio comunica con regularidad los informes y datos a la Comisión, con lo cual se busca fortalecer las medidas de conservación a futuro.

Guatemala ha reportado las capturas de los túnidos tropicales según las recomendaciones de la Comisión y de acuerdo al porcentaje en los límites de captura según reportes del año 2021, se alcanzó un 84% del límite de captura en la última semana de diciembre del año en mención.

Con relación a los tiburones y otras especies de captura fortuita, existen una serie de instrumentos nacionales e internacionales adoptados para el ordenamiento, regulación y manejo de estas especies, como: Protocolo de liberación de tiburones y rayas, el reglamento regional OSP-05-11 para desalentar el aleteo del tiburón (a pesar que en Guatemala no se realiza dicha práctica), entre otros. Por lo cual, nuestros armadores atuneros que operan en la zona del Convenio conscientes de la importancia de estos recursos y en cumplimiento diferentes regulaciones o iniciativas se esfuerzan en implementar las acciones posibles para liberar los organismos vivos al mar. Importante mencionar, en caso se llegase a capturar de forma fortuita algunas especies asociadas a la pesquería objetivo en ningún caso se comercializan y son descargados localmente en puertos africanos donde representan una fuente adicional de proteína y contribuyen a la seguridad alimentaria local. En el año 2021 no se reportaron capturas fortuitas de ninguna especie asociadas a la pesquería objetivo.

El constante cambio de personal técnico y profesional en las instituciones se ve reflejado en continuos talleres de capacitación y con curvas de aprendizajes muy rápidas, en las cuales la adaptación a las diferentes medidas de ordenación se mira un poco restringidas, debido a esto en algunas ocasiones existen vacíos de información respecto al cumplimiento de algunas normas. Sin embargo, como País y parte de la Comisión, busca constantemente capacitar a nuestro personal, por lo cual, reiteramos el esfuerzo de nuestro país para mejorar año con año el cumplimiento y así atender responsablemente nuestras competencias.

REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE

Les contraintes qui s'imposent à la république de Guinée sont :

- l'insuffisance des moyens techniques ;
- le faible niveau de qualification des agents ;
- l'inadaptation des programmes scientifiques nationaux aux pêcheries suivies par l'ICCAT ;
- le faible niveau d'appropriation des mesures de gestion et de conservation de l'ICCAT ;
- l'inadaptation du système de collecte, de traitement, d'analyse et d'interprétation des données existant par rapport à celui exigé par l'ICCAT.

GUYANA

SHK 01: At the artisanal level, the majority of sharks are consumed at the local level, and identifying the species remains challenging. In addition to the NPOAS, other policies may be needed to support the specific ICCAT management guidelines for shark species. Despite these difficulties, the CPC is dedicated to following the ICCAT's recommendations, and the FD is committed to working with that fishery to assure compliance until the necessary legislation and the NPOAS are implemented.

BYC 8002-8003: During the reporting period, there were few records of turtle interactions with fishing gear or seabird entanglement. As a result, there is a need for laws and regulations that educate fishermen and reduce any possible detrimental environmental effects.

Other: While tuna data are reported to species level, there are some cases where the data is aggregated (Table A1). This can prove problematic in some cases (Table A2).

Please be aware that the FD remains dedicated to ensuring that all ICCAT conservation and management measures, including accurate data reporting and timely submission, are implemented and adhered to. However, the FD has its share of difficulties. This includes, but is not limited to, inexperienced personnel in ICCAT-related affairs. Thus, capacity building in this area continues to be a focus.

HONDURAS

No se encontró dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento, no obstante lo cual se desarrollan programas constantes de fortalecimiento institucional. La pandemia de COVID-19 ciertamente impuso retos especiales sobre todo en el procesamiento de la información y remisión de reportes, sin embargo, a través de un plan de acción ejecutado institucionalmente se minimizaron las demoras y se desarrolló un esquema de evaluación constante para implementación de mejoras a nuestro sistema interno. Respecto de la información y cumplimiento en los plazos para ser proveída, en el año 2022 con ocasión de la reorganización interna en el marco de un proceso de mejora, se enfrentó dificultades para la compilación de toda la información, pero ello no significó un impedimento para cumplir sustantivamente con las disposiciones de ICCAT.

Como consecuencia del proceso de mejora en curso, se reitera la previsión de que Honduras requiera de cooperación de CICAA y de los países contratantes para la eficiente implementación de las medidas cuando se active la flota, como resultado de sus necesidades de construcción de capacidades, de manera consecuente con los retos de efectivo cumplimiento, de satisfacción cualitativa de los requerimientos de la nueva Ley, y de la decisión del Gobierno de asegurar el mayor estándar de cumplimiento en la gestión pesquera del país.

ICELAND

No difficulties to report

JAPAN

Observers could not be deployed for Japanese vessels in the ICCAT area for the 2021 fishing year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

KOREA

None

LIBERIA

Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures is a priority to the fisheries management of Liberia; as such Liberia is making every effort to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures. In 2021, there were 33 licensed tuna fishing vessels through Access Agreement to fish in the EEZ of Liberia and two flag purse seiners. Liberia in an effort to ensure that it tracks the implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, has staff delegated with specific responsibilities to the execution of adopted recommendations of ICCAT.

LIBYA

Due to the unstable situation prevailing since 2011 there were some difficulties encountered in the embarkation of ROPs

- therefore one reverted to the use of alternative ports such as Mehdiya and Sfa) in Tunis, Antalya in Turkey and Marsaxlokk and Valetta in Malta for the embarkation and disembarkation of the Regional Observers

MAURITANIE

A partir de 2015, la Mauritanie a élaboré et mis en œuvre une nouvelle réforme de son secteur des pêches ; introduisant ainsi le paradigme du système de gestion par quota. Ce système repose sur les connaissances scientifiques les plus récentes et fiables disponibles, permettant de définir un TAC global, puis par groupes d'espèces ou espèces qui sont ensuite répartis par opérateur.

D'ores et déjà, au niveau de la pêcherie des thons un gap d'information existe quant au suivi du niveau de l'exploitation des différents groupes de la pêcherie thonière aussi bien en termes d'espèces capturées accessoirement par les opérateurs non minus de concession sur le thon (licence thon) qu'en termes de quantité (données agrégées au niveau du journal de pêche et autre déclarations de débarquement).

Cette situation constatée et signalée par nos services de gestion chargés du suivi régulier de l'exploitation des concessions de droit d'usage allouées dans le cadre de la nouvelle réforme du système de gestion, constitue une insuffisance qui pourrait impacter la durabilité de la pêcherie des thon.

MAROC

Au cours de l'année 2021 et suite aux restrictions sanitaires et sécuritaires liées à la Pandémie COVID-19, le programme d'observateur scientifique a été temporairement interrompu pour certaines pêcheries. Toutefois, les quelques embarquements réalisés complétés avec des enquêtes ont permis de collecter les données.

MEXICO

No aplica.

NAMIBIA

Rec. 16-14: Implementation of Scientific Observer Programmes

Namibia do have a National Observer Program. The Fisheries Observer Agency's (FOA) mandate is to observe the harvesting, processing and handling of marine resources and to collect biological data onboard commercial fishing vessels. Fisheries observers were also tasked to observe the activities of fishing vessels at sea and report any violations for possible action to be taken against the culprits. Furthermore, Namibia had deployed Fisheries Inspectors both at sea onboard Fisheries Patrol vessels and in the harbours, to ensure strict compliance with the country's rules and regulations related to the exploitation of marine living resources, including those adopted by Namibia as part of its obligations to RFMO's and International Organisations.

One of the challenges is the limited availability of trained Observers and scientists to collect and analyse the much needed biological and research scientific data from commercial fishing activities, especially from the shark fisheries. There is also limited capacity, both in terms of availability of resources and research vessels, to carry out dedicated scientific research on sharks and other ICCAT managed species and this is complicated by the fact that these species are highly migratory and trans-boundary.

NICARAGUA

Ausencia de dificultades sustantivas para la implementación y cumplimiento.

Nicaragua no ha tenido dificultades para la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación del ICCAT, haremos todos los esfuerzos para evitar incumplimientos en las medidas establecidas por la Comisión.

NORWAY

The Norwegian fishing season in 2021 was heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries was in close contact with the ICCAT Secretariat due to the gravity of the pandemic, and constantly changing travelling restriction regulations in Norway and the rest of Europe. The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries made a risk assessment for national inspectors/observers, concluding that they would not be allowed on board vessels. The risk assessment concluded that it would be nearly impossible to keep a sufficient distance between the inspector/observer and the rest of the crew. Consequently, having an inspector or observer on board would increase the risk of transmitting Covid-19 to/from the crew on the vessel, and the severe risk of potential life-threatening outcome. In this risk assessment, travelling to the vessel was also considered a high threat, even if the travelling was within Norway. When it came to an international observer, the risk of catching Covid-19 while travelling to/from the destination was also considered as a high threat.

The Directorate of Fisheries stayed in close contact with the ICCAT Secretariat and the ROP. It was arranged for each vessel to have a designated crew member to take the role as observer and fill out weekly report. These designated crew members participated in a one-day online briefing/training by the ROP, clarifying the procedures and data requirements. The reports from the designated crew members were sent to the Directorate of Fisheries for control, before forwarded to the ROP. The vessels participating in the fishery were monitored electronically by the Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As long as the vessel was active in the BFT fishery, the vessel sent daily catch report to the FMC through the electronic reporting system. These reports were sent even if the vessel had zero catches. The data from these catch reports were compared to the catch landed in port. Any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks were immediately followed up by the FMC. The Norwegian Coastguard did also have access to the electronic logbooks in real-time and did control the fishing vessels to the extent possible.

PANAMA

1. Al trabajarse sobre un documento en inglés, el entendimiento de la traducción en español de las recomendaciones genera cierto nivel de interpretación sobre las regulaciones de las acciones de las CPC.
2. Incompatibilidad de término entre el cierre de la plataforma al 15 de septiembre, cuando hay medidas de cumplimiento pueden estregarse posteriormente. Ejemplo: 1 de octubre

PHILIPPINES

None as of the moment, as the Philippines has no active fleet in the ICCAT Area of Convention from 2015 to the present.

RUSSIA

In 2021, Russia did not carry out the specialized fishery for tunas in the Atlantic Ocean. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). In 2021, the catch of tunas was 1433 tons.

Difficulties are encountered in collecting of scientific materials by observers on board fishing trawlers.

1. In 2021-2022, Russia did not have specialized tuna fishing vessels (purse seine, longline, pole and line) engaged in harvesting the ICCAT species (tunas, swordfishes, sharks and sea turtles). In this regard, the quantity of the ICCAT species in the total catch is extremely limited, since trawls conditionally suitable for catching large fish, served as a fishing gear. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other small species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). The catch of tunas from the group "Tropical Tunas" is represented by a small number of skipjack as a by-catch. Large tunas from this group were absent, as well as tunas of the group "Temperate Waters". Swordfishes and sharks are presented in by-catch of trawlers in single specimens.

2. In the absence of specialized fishing for tunas and with periodic by-catch of tunas and in small quantities (sometimes singly) difficulties are encountered in collecting materials on fish length and their biological parameters. At certain periods, it is not possible to provide monthly data for some tuna species.
3. In the case of the low by-catch of tunas, difficulties are encountered in assessing the proportion of by-catch in the total catch by trawl. Observers periodically carry out work in the vessel's hold on a conveyor feeding the catch for processing, and it caused some difficulties with by-catch per day assessment.

In order to more fully collect by-catch materials, two observers per vessel are sent to Russian fishing vessels. The work schedule of observers at sea is optimized for a more complete and efficient use of working time.

SENEGAL

None

SIERRA LEONE

Not applicable. Sierra Leone is not a flag state country and does not have vessel flying her flag. Tuna species are caught as a bycatch by the pelagic trawlers or by semi-industrial and artisanal canoes.

SOUTH AFRICA

Noting serious capacity human resources capacity constraints, South Africa complied with all its data and reporting requirements to ICCAT.

ST VINCENT & GRENADINE

As an island state, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes the contributions which the fisheries sector makes to the economy and the food and nutritional security of developing states. With an increased demand for fish and the increased efforts from fishers to meet this demand, globally fishing pressure on the marine capture fisheries has led to the degradation of some fish stocks. The key constraint faced in the implementation of conservation and management measures is a lack of capital to finance relevant initiatives, however St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to implement activities towards the improvement of legislation, policies and procedures involving the marine space.

SURINAME

Because of several factors such as, limited financial and human capacity, an outdated fisheries legislation we are not in a position yet to ensure full compliance with all the conservation and management measures adopted by the ICCAT Commission.

Suriname also acts as a port state, however, it has been found that Surinamese inspectors are currently not well trained to inspect foreign tuna vessels. Therefore, in 2012 Suriname asked ICCAT to assist Suriname in training these inspectors in order to comply with the obligations towards ICCAT (Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)).

Our National fishing legislation is outdated (dated from 1980) and needs to be updated in order to be able to comply with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures. With the support of FAO, a draft for a new Fisheries Act has been drawn up. The draft Fisheries Act provides for a broad institutional setting with the aim of ensuring a transparent and efficient management and decision-making process within the fisheries sector. It also provides for the establishment of a Fisheries Development Fund that aims to promote the ecological and socio-economic sustainable development of the fisheries and fisheries sector in the Republic of Suriname. The law contains provisions on the management and conservation of fish stocks, including the requirement to establish fishing management plans. The law also lays down rules regarding the licenses issued to Surinamese fishing vessels within the waters of Suriname, attaching great importance to transparency and legal certainty. A new part of fisheries legislation is the regulation of fishing and related activities on the high seas. Suriname is currently unable to issue fishing licenses for international waters.

The development of a new fisheries law is currently at a very advanced stage. Once this process has been completed, Suriname will also have their own tuna fleet.

To ensure full compliance with Recommendation 13-13 by ICCAT, Suriname is in need for some clarification on this recommendation. After sending a letter to the PWG on the 7th May 2021 requesting some clarification on this matter it is still not entirely clear for the government of Suriname whether it is an obligation to register a non-tuna vessel longer than 20 meters, targeting demersal finfish in our waters (Exclusive Economic zone) under our national law as the main catch and catches some King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Cavalla*), Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (*scomberomorus maculatus*), and sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp.) as by-catch.

SYRIA

General Commission for Fisheries Resources as fish authority in Syria doing all available means to improve fisheries management and statistical data collection under the difficult conditions in Syria, it encourage fishermen to develop their fishing gear and extend fishing activities to EEZ to meet the high demand for marine products due to overexploitation of coastal fisheries resources, but because of circumstances in Syria and illegal sanctions since 2011 there is less interest of investing in fishing activities, in addition to the fact that many fishermen moved for another alternative works. We hope that with the end of the crisis in Syria, more new vessels will be operated and conduct to fishing activities.

General Commission for Fisheries Resources request for technical support for developing landing centers and training programs of at least two officers regarding resource management to insure more cooperation and best implementation of ICCAT recommendations in future to come.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Outdated legislation

The matter of Trinidad and Tobago's outdated fisheries legislation continues to be addressed. The Fisheries Management Bill (FMB) was laid in Parliament in August 2020 and subsequently in October 2020, following the general elections and consequent reconstitution of the Parliament. It is currently being reviewed by a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee. Draft Regulations were developed to facilitate implementation of the registration and licensing system, and monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.

The draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the PSMA and the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Review (including Port Assessment) (see Section 4 State obligations, para 3) identified enactment of the FMB and re-establishment of the fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement capability within the Fisheries Division to be the most significant interventions required for Trinidad and Tobago's advancement with respect to compliance with its international obligations. In this regard an action plan to address the deficiencies in Trinidad and Tobago's legal, administrative and MCS frameworks was submitted to the Cabinet for consideration. In addition, the Fisheries Division has been implementing, since October 2017, an Action Plan to address IUU Fishing in the Ports and Waters under the Jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago (see Section 4 Proposed plans, projects and programmes for October 2022 to September 2023 (fiscal 2023), para 1).

Human resource capacity constraints

It is a challenge for Trinidad and Tobago, and the Fisheries Division in particular, to keep abreast with the implementation and compliance of ICCAT conservation and management measures as well as the increasing national, regional and other international fisheries management and related commitments. This results from the strong commitment of the Division to fulfil its obligations even with its limited human resource capacity. To give some context to the matter, the complement of Fisheries Division staff members working directly on ICCAT-related initiatives includes two ancillary personnel and 11 MCS and enforcement, scientific, and management personnel; nine of which straddle multiple portfolios. Additionally, three of the four most senior staff members work directly on advancement of the FMB and comprise the Chair and senior secretariat personnel of the MOU Oversight Committee (see Section 4 State obligations, paras 3 and 4). Between 1 October 2021 and 9 September 2022 the Fisheries Division, as well as other national regulatory agencies, participated in 36 regional and international fisheries management and related

initiatives, meetings and negotiations. Twelve of these meetings addressed issues relating to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime, port State measures and fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, including risk assessment in implementing the Port State Measures Agreement, guidelines for transshipment and catch documentation schemes while 15 of the meetings were of relevance to the scientific, technical, policy and conservation and management decision-making work of ICCAT, WECAFC and the CRFM. More recently the Division participated in the 35th Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries from 5 to 9 September 2023.

Added to the above, over the years there has been a decrease in the complement of scientific and technical staff on the establishment of the Fisheries Division. Further, at present the Division is relying on scientists to conduct MCS activities. It is expected that provision for recruitment of the required staffing capacity will be made upon enactment of the Fisheries Management Bill.

Effect of Covid-19

Covid-19 continued to inhibit the pace of delivery of output of the Fisheries Division as key staff members were affected by the virus or were required to be quarantined over differing periods between December 2021 and September 2022.

TUNISIA

Difficulté de répondre à tous les communiqués des données requises. A cet effet, il est souhaitable de réduire certaines d'entre elles ayant le même objet en une seule exigence de déclaration et l'élimination d'autres formulaires dont l'information est saisie par le biais de l'application eBCD, déclarations destinées au SCRS et déclarations destinées au COM.

TÜRKİYE

No particular difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures within the reporting period.

UNITED KINGDOM

5.1 Metropolitan UK

Met UK legislation requires that when fish mortality occurs that those fish are landed. This landing obligation came into force in January 2019. Within ICCAT Recommendation 21-04 by ICCAT ('Recommendation 21-04 by ICCAT on Conservation and Management Measures, including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic albacore'), paragraph 13 requires that a maximum vessel onboard bycatch limit is set. The implementation of the maximum onboard bycatch limit established under ICCAT Recommendation 21-04 contradicts the Met UK domestic legislation which requires all dead fish to be landed. This is because if the Met UK set an onboard vessel bycatch limit and a fishing vessel not authorised to catch North Atlantic albacore caught over that limit they would still be obliged to land the fish, in contravention of the vessel limit. The Met UK is considering how to address this issue.

In 2021 the Met UK did not meet the 5% observer coverage requirement for UK vessels fishing for North Atlantic albacore. Being aware that we did not meet the minimum ICCAT standard for observer coverage, we have taken steps to ensure sufficient levels of coverage in 2022, including making embarkation of an observer for at least 5% of fishing activity a condition of being issued with a licence to fish North Atlantic albacore.

The UKOTs

Structured development of sustainable fisheries is a core component of the UK Government's environmental strategies for its Overseas Territories. The UK is working closely with its territories to achieve these objectives, focusing on a range of areas. In 2016 the UK Government announced its 'Blue Belt' initiative which will continue through to 2025, providing technical advice to support improvements in institutional arrangements in the UKOTs and effective ecosystem-based management of marine resources,

including compliance with ICCAT measures and Recommendations. Whilst legislative changes are being considered in many of the territories, implementation can take time and is impacted by the amount of outstanding legislation in other areas.

5.2 Bermuda

As a result of upgrades to the Bermuda Customs Department's system a few years ago, there is better itemisation of imported tuna and tuna-like species. However, a fair amount of tuna is still being characterised as 'other tunas'. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will work with the Customs Department to continue to improve reporting in this area. In addition, work still needs to be done to ensure that checks on the documentation of consignments of bigeye tuna and swordfish imported into Bermuda are implemented in line with all import requirements (GEN 0026; TRO 2006; SWO 3001).

5.3 St Helena

For St Helena, capacity and capital restrictions are still an issue in complying with ICCAT measures. However, St Helena is committed in its endeavour to improve fisheries management and established a fisheries science programme, including a tuna tagging programme. This programme has facilitated improved data collection and submission of relevant information to ICCAT, aiding in the compliance with certain ICCAT measures.

The Fisheries Section of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning (ENRP) is still in the final stages of reviewing the licensing system for commercial, recreational and sports fishing activities within St Helena waters. Relevant ICCAT recommendations are being fully considered within this process and provisions to meet them will be incorporated.

St Helena has been successful in introducing a local observer program and meeting the 5% observer coverage required for a bait boat fishery for 2021. St Helena does not currently undertake any fishing activities involving the use of FADs. With the expected expansion of the fishery over the next 3-5 years FAD use may increase. Saint Helena's tuna fishery exclusively uses 'one by one' fishing methods. The use of these fishing methods mitigate against the majority of negative effects of FAD fishing. The deployment of FADs in Saint Helena's EEZ is regulated and any FAD deployment requires a licence, which will be used to regulate FAD construction and location.

5.4 Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

The Turks and Caicos Islands, as mentioned in previous sections, is not presently targeting ICCAT species commercially, although the interest to pursue some has risen over recent months. The TCI is also in the process of amending regulations, to enhance the protection of sharks and other elasmobranchs in over 70% of the fishery limits. Hence from a conservation standpoint, the TCI is proactively making strides to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures, in the hope of developing a targeted commercial fishery in the future.

5.5 British Virgin Islands (BVI)

The British Virgin Islands experienced two major (Category 5) hurricanes during September 2017, which devastated the island's infrastructure, had a major effect on fishing activity and fisheries data collection and the Territory's ability to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States has no difficulties to report regarding the implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures.

URUGUAY

No se encontraron dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT.

Todas las Recomendaciones de ICCAT aprobadas durante la Reunión de la Comisión en el año 2021 han sido internalizadas en Uruguay.

VENEZUELA

La Administración Pesquera del país; a través del seguimiento y control de las pesquerías atuneras, emprenden acciones constantes para subsanar cualquier dificultad en el cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación en las pesquerías objetivo de ICCAT; en tal sentido durante el año 2021 no fueron necesarias las medidas de descartes para el atún albacora (T.alalunga) y la aguja blanca (T. Albidus). Sin embargo, sigue haciéndose un seguimiento a las capturas de ambas especies, por si es necesario la reimplementación de dicha medida.