

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCAT REGIONAL
OBSERVER PROGRAMME FOR EAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA**

(ICCAT Secretariat)

The Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (ROP-BFT) was carried out under the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 Establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* [Rec. 19-04] and of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation 19-04 amending recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* [Rec 21-08]. The provisions of these Recommendations stipulate that observers are to be placed by the Secretariat to ensure observer coverage of 100% of purse seine vessels during all the annual fishing season. In this respect, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation; and during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage; and during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages.

Implementation in 2022

The Secretariat is pleased to report that ICCAT Regional Observers have been embarked on all vessels (197) for which requests for observer deployment were received and confirmed. For this reason, the Secretariat's did not circulate any interim reports during the season, as the special procedures agreed by the Commission in 2020 were not invoked. The only observers of same nationality deployed on vessels were on Turkish vessels, which is due to the language issue and not due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

No sharing of observers for caging operations took place with the exception of the Turkish farm which has three licences, and hence three ICCAT numbers, but operates as one farm in the same location, as has been the case since the inception of the programme.

The list of vessels flagged to the ten CPCs participating in the programme is attached as **Table 1**.

Since 2009, 731¹ farm deployments and 25 trap deployments have been requested, as shown in **Table 2**. The list of farms participating in the programme is attached as **Table 3**, and a list of traps which were observed by regional observers contained in **Table 4**.

All observer reports have been made available to CPCs as Annex 1 and 2 to **COC-305/2022**. The lists of potential non-compliance issues detected by observers on vessels, farms and traps are contained in the appendices to **COC-305/2021**, together with the responses received.

The Consortium MRAG/COFREPECH continues to implement the Programme. The Report of this Consortium, available as **Annex 1** (Executive Summary attached as **Appendix 1**), contains more details on the implementation of the programme.

Failure to follow the procedures for requesting deployments on farms and extensions to approved deployments continues to cause difficulties in the implementation, e.g., requests after 96 hours – in some cases one day before or even the same day; or requests for observers are not accompanied by proof of payment. It should be noted that the Secretariat cannot process any requests for which payment has not been made. In addition, a number of requests for deployment on vessels are sent in advance but later cancelled, which creates problems for logistics as the port of embarkation is often not known (or is changed) very near the start of the campaign.

In 2022, Regional Observers were issued for the first time with ICCAT seals for use on transport cages where voluntary transfers were not of sufficient quality to allow the correct count of the fish, in accordance with paragraph 128 of Rec. 21-08.

¹ At 1 October 2022.

Future implementation

At present, no significant change is envisaged in the implementation of the ROP-BFT, unless required by any new measures adopted by the Commission. In the short term, early requests for deployment will facilitate timely deployment.

Table 1. List of the 197 purse seiner vessels which operated in 2022.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>VESSEL NAME</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>
Albania	Rozafa 15	AT000ALB00010
Albania	Rozafa 23	AT000ALB00011
Algerie	SIDI SLIMANE	AT000DZA00001
Algerie	NEPTUNE V	AT000DZA00005
Algerie	NEPTUNE VI	AT000DZA00006
Algerie	Younes 1	AT000DZA00007
Algerie	CHAHID HASNI SAIDI	AT000DZA00009
Algerie	Al Majed	AT000DZA00011
Algerie	El Kader	AT000DZA00012
Algerie	BRAHAM	AT000DZA00014
Algerie	BENI LOUMA	AT000DZA00015
Algerie	ECHAHID MUSTAPHA BENBOULAI	AT000DZA00017
Algerie	SIDI MAAMAR	AT000DZA00018
Algerie	EL MAJD[E]	AT000DZA00332
Algerie	BORHANE I	AT000DZA00384
Algerie	SID - AHMED	AT000DZA00549
Algerie	Sidi Slimane II	AT000DZA00792
Algerie	AHMED ROBAINÉ	AT000DZA00816
Algerie	LALLA MANOUN	AT000DZA00817
Algerie	Habib Allah 1	AT000DZA00818
Algerie	FEL ABDELKADER	AT000DZA00819
Algerie	EL CHOUROUK	AT000DZA00820
Algerie	Ahmed Robaine II	AT000DZA00976
Algerie	SERAJ	AT000DZA00977
Algerie	HADJ SAID	AT000DZA00978
Algerie	Meftahi	AT000DZA00099
Algerie	El Hadj Omar	AT000DZA00998
Algerie	El Bachir	AT000DZA00997
Algerie	LES FRERES BENAMANE	AT000DZA00999
Algerie	RIADH	AT000DZA00995
Algerie	Marwa 1	AT000DZA01000
EU-Croatia	KALI	ATEU0HRV00037
EU-Croatia	TULJAN DVA	ATEU0HRV00155
EU-Croatia	PELAGOS II	ATEU0HRV00017
EU-Croatia	KORNAT	ATEU0HRV00153
EU-Croatia	CARICA	ATEU0HRV00163
EU-Croatia	TACOMA	ATEU0HRV00164
EU-Croatia	EVA	ATEU0HRV00049
EU-Croatia	SARDINA II	ATEU0HRV00161
EU-Croatia	SARDINA I	ATEU0HRV00133
EU-Croatia	PREKO	ATEU0HRV00021
EU-Croatia	MARLIN	ATEU0HRV00156
EU-Croatia	HRVATSKI USPJEH	ATEU0HRV00007
EU-Croatia	NEPTUN I	ATEU0HRV00134
EU-Croatia	NEPTUN II	ATEU0HRV00140
EU-Croatia	SIN KALI I	ATEU0HRV00152
EU-Croatia	OSLJAK DVA	ATEU0HRV00020
EU-Croatia	PONOS	ATEU0HRV00058
EU-Cyprus	ALKYA	ATEU0CYP00103
EU-España	NUEVO ELORZ	ATEU0ESP00250

EU-España	NUEVO PANCHILLETA	ATEU0ESP00276
EU-España	LEONARDO BRULL SEGON	ATEU0ESP00173
EU-España	LA FRAU DOS	ATEU0ESP00172
EU-España	TIO GEL SEGON	ATEU0ESP00394
EU-España	GEPUS	ATEU0ESP00119
EU-France	ANNE ANTOINE 2	ATEU0FRA00003
EU-France	CHRISDERIC II	ATEU0FRA00019
EU-France	CISBERLANDE 5	ATEU0FRA00021
EU-France	GERALD JEAN III	ATEU0FRA00026
EU-France	GERARD LUC IV	ATEU0FRA00028
EU-France	JANVIER GIORDANO	ATEU0FRA00037
EU-France	JEAN LOUIS RAPHAEL 2	ATEU0FRA00038
EU-France	JEANMARIE CHRISTIAN 3	ATEU0FRA00040
EU-France	JEAN MARIE CHRISTIAN 4	ATEU0FRA00041
EU-France	JEAN MARIE CHRISTIAN 6	ATEU0FRA00043
EU-France	JEAN MARIE CHRISTIAN 7	ATEU0FRA00078
EU-France	SAINT SOPHIE FRANCOIS 2	ATEU0FRA00064
EU-France	SAINT SOPHIE FRANCOIS 3	ATEU0FRA00065
EU-France	CAP HORIZON	ATEU0FRA00013
EU-France	JANVIER LOUIS RAPHAEL	ATEU0FRA00083
EU-France	ERIC MARIN	ATEU0FRA00087
EU-France	PIERRE JOSEPH SALVADOR	ATEU0FRA00088
EU-France	VILLE D'AGDE IV	ATEU0FRA00089
EU-France	VENT DU NORD II	ATEU0FRA00090
EU-France	GERALD JEAN IV	ATEU0FRA00093
EU-France	CHRISDERIC V	ATEU0FRA14500
EU-Italy	ANGELO CATANIA	ATEU0ITA00636
EU-Italy	GENEVIEVE PRIMA	ATEU0ITA00654
EU-Italy	PADRE PIO P	ATEU0ITA00470
EU-Italy	SPARVIERO UNO	ATEU0ITA00565
EU-Italy	VERGINE DE ROSARIO	ATEU0ITA00617
EU-Italy	ONDA	ATEU0ITA00459
EU-Italy	ATLANTE	ATEU0ITA00065
EU-Italy	ALTO MARE PRIMO	ATEU0ITA00631
EU-Italy	GAETANO PADRE	ATEU0ITA00693
EU-Italy	MICHELANGELO	ATEU0ITA00671
EU-Italy	MARIA ANTONIETTA	ATEU0ITA00368
EU-Italy	ANGELA MADRE	ATEU0ITA00635
EU-Italy	ENZA MADRE	ATEU0ITA00188
EU-Italy	GIUSEPPE PADRE SECONDO	ATEU0ITA00289
EU-Italy	LUCIA MADRE	ATEU0ITA00664
EU-Italy	MADONNA DI FATIMA	ATEU0ITA00348
EU-Italy	MARIA GRAZIA	ATEU0ITA00694
EU-Italy	FUTURA PRIMA	ATEU0ITA00651
EU-Italy	MATTEO NOVELLA	ATEU0ITA00623
EU-Italy	ANGELA ARCELLA	ATEU0ITA00639
EU-Malta	TA MATTEW	ATEU0MLT00001
Egypt	Safinat Nooh	AT000EGY00010
Libya	TAKNES	AT000LBY00092
Libya	MALITA	AT000LBY00099
Libya	AL HILAL	AT000LBY00016
Libya	ALAMWAJE ALHADERE	AT000LBY00078
Libya	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077
Libya	ALHARES 2	AT000LBY00074
Libya	AL-MUSTAKBEL	AT000LBY00085
Libya	ALNOGOM ALMODIAA 1	AT000LBY00072
Libya	NASEEP	AT000LBY00093
Libya	NAWASI AL KIR 1	AT000LBY00015
Libya	OEA	AT000LBY00026

Libya	RAS ETIN	AT000LBY00022
Libya	SALAM	AT000LBY00100
Libya	MEAJILLAN 1	AT000LBY00096
Libya	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037
Maroc	SAAD ALLAH	AT000MAR04759
Maroc	MEDIOUNA	AT000MAR01418
Maroc	AZROU 1	AT000MAR00081
Maroc	SONS	AT000MAR04760
Norway	Orfjord	AT000NOR00012
Norway	M/S Sjarmør	AT000NOR00030
Norway	M/S Sjarmør II	AT000NOR00019
Norway	Hillersøy	AT000NOR00001
Norway	Spjæringen	AT000NOR00018
Syria	Fesal	AT000SYR00019
Tunisia	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047
Tunisia	Amir	AT000TUN00506
Tunisia	Assil	AT000TUN01048
Tunisia	El Behi	AT000TUN00985
Tunisia	El Haj Salem	AT000TUN01051
Tunisia	El Horchani	AT000TUN00009
Tunisia	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049
Tunisia	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014
Tunisia	El Kods	AT000TUN00978
Tunisia	Ghali	AT000TUN00036
Tunisia	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070
Tunisia	Hadj Ali III	AT000TUN00988
Tunisia	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025
Tunisia	Imen	AT000TUN00010
Tunisia	Jamel	AT000TUN00011
Tunisia	Jawhar (or Jaouhar)	AT000TUN00046
Tunisia	Mabrouka	AT000TUN00980
Tunisia	Mohamed Ali	AT000TUN00973
Tunisia	Mohamed Essadok	AT000TUN00051
Tunisia	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045
Tunisia	Montaçar	AT000TUN00974
Tunisia	Oueled Hammali	AT000TUN00979
Tunisia	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024
Tunisia	Wassim	AT000TUN01050
Tunisia	Yosri II	AT000TUN00981
Tunisia	Abou Chamma (Abouchema)	AT000TUN00002
Tunisia	Awled Sahbi (Aoeled Essahbi)	AT000TUN00977
Tunisia	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479
Tunisia	EL HADJ ABDELWAHEB (ex Essaida Jannet)	AT000TUN00050
Tunisia	Fakhreddine Rrazi II	AT000TUN00975
Tunisia	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065
Tunisia	Ghedir El Gholla	AT000TUN00030
Tunisia	Hadj Sadok	AT000TUN01049
Tunisia	Haj hedi	AT000TUN00007
Tunisia	Haj Issaoui	AT000TUN00987
Tunisia	Hassen	AT000TUN00008
Tunisia	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037
Tunisia	Jannet 2	AT000TUN00044
Tunisia	Mabrouk	AT000TUN00015
Tunisia	Mohamed Adem	AT000TUN00012
Tunisia	Mohamed Salim II	AT000TUN00983
Tunisia	Mohamed Zied II	AT000TUN00986
Tunisia	Riadh	AT000TUN00495
Tunisia	Sallem	AT000TUN00023
Tunisia	Tijani	AT000TUN00026

Tunisia	ABDERRAHIM	AT000TUN01166
Tunisia	Dou Allah	AT000TUN00976
Tunisia	El Beji	AT000TUN00984
Türkiye	MUZAFFER KARDEŞLER 3	AT000TUR00062
Türkiye	BILGICLER BALIKÇILIK	AT000TUR00060
Türkiye	ERGUN BASARAN	AT000TUR00248
Türkiye	KASIRGA-2	AT000TUR07906
Türkiye	MEHMET KAPTAN-7	AT000TUR00034
Türkiye	HACI MUSTAFA KULOGLU	AT000TUR00024
Türkiye	DENİZER	AT000TUR00501
Türkiye	TUNCAY SAGUN 2	AT000TUR00455
Türkiye	BURAK YAGIZ	AT000TUR07828
Türkiye	TUNCAY SAGUN-7	AT000TUR07658
Türkiye	BOZOĞLU KARDEŞLER 2	AT000TUR07941
Türkiye	BURHAN REİS-5	AT000TUR00155
Türkiye	AKTAŞLAR B 2	AT000TUR00058
Türkiye	BEDEVI REIS	AT000TUR00011
Türkiye	EYÜP DEDE	AT000TUR00019
Türkiye	MAMULİ REİS III	AT000TUR00033
Türkiye	SÜRSAN-1	AT000TUR00407
Türkiye	GÖRENLER-4	AT000TUR00506
Türkiye	DURSUN ÇINAROĞLU	AT000TUR00131
Türkiye	KÖROĞLU BALIKÇILIK A	AT000TUR07932
Türkiye	DENİZ ALP	AT000TUR07984
Türkiye	AKGUN BALIKÇILIK-3	AT000TUR00296
Türkiye	AZİZLER - II	AT000TUR00004
Türkiye	GEÇİCİLER BALIKÇILIK	AT000TUR00496
Türkiye	GEÇİCİLER BALIKÇILIK II	AT000TUR07907
Türkiye	MARGO HÜSEYİN	AT000TUR07934

Table 2. Number of farm/trap deployments by year*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of farm deployments</i>	<i>Number of trap deployments</i>
2009	3	
2010	41	
2011	53	
2012	51	
2013	50	2
2014	45	3
2015	52	3
2016	53	2
2017	49	2
2018	56	4
2019	69	4
2020	67	3
2021	61	1
2022	81	3

* At 1st October 2022.

Table 3. Farming facilities on which ICCAT Regional Observers were deployed in 2020 - 2022.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
Albania		AT001ALB00001	AT001ALB00001
EU-Croatia	ATEU1HRV00006	ATEU1HRV00006	ATEU1HRV00006
EU-Croatia	ATEU1HRV00008	ATEU1HRV00008	ATEU1HRV00008
EU-Croatia	ATEU1HRV00011	ATEU1HRV00011	ATEU1HRV00011
EU-Croatia	ATEU1HRV00012	ATEU1HRV00012	ATEU1HRV00012
EU-Croatia			
EU-Croatia			
EU-Malta	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001
EU-Malta	ATEU1MLT00002	ATEU1MLT00002	ATEU1MLT00002
EU-Malta	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003
EU-Malta	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004
EU-Malta	ATEU1MLT00007	ATEU1MLT00007	ATEU1MLT00007
EU-Malta	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008
EU-Portugal	ATEU1PRT00002	ATEU1PRT00002	ATEU1PRT00002
EU-Portugal			ATEU1PRT00003
EU-Spain	ATEU1ESP00001	ATEU1ESP00001	ATEU1ESP00001
EU-Spain	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003
EU-Spain	ATEU1ESP00004		
EU-Spain	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005
Morocco		AT001MAR00002	AT001MAR00002
Morocco		AT001MAR00003	AT001MAR00003
Morocco			AT001MAR00004
Tunisia	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001
Tunisia	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002
Tunisia	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004
Türkiye	AT001TUR00004*	AT001TUR00004*	AT001TUR00004*
Türkiye	AT001TUR00005*	AT001TUR00005*	AT001TUR00005*
Türkiye	AT001TUR00010	AT001TUR00010	AT001TUR00010
Türkiye	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011
Türkiye	AT001TUR00013*	AT001TUR00013*	AT001TUR00013*
Türkiye	AT001TUR00014	AT001TUR00014	AT001TUR00014

*These constitute one farm with three licences

Table 4. Traps observed under the ICCAT Regional Observers Programme in 2020-2022.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
EU-Italy	ATEU2ITA00003	ATEU2ITA00003	ATEU2ITA00003
EU-Italy			ATEU2ITA00008
EU-Italy	ATEU2ITA00009		ATEU2ITA00009
EU-Portugal			ATEU2PRT00001
Morocco			AT002MAR00001
Morocco	AT002MAR00002	AT002MAR00002	AT002MAR00002
Morocco	AT002MAR00003	AT002MAR00003	AT002MAR00003
Morocco	AT002MAR00004	AT002MAR00004	AT002MAR00004
Morocco	AT002MAR00005	AT002MAR00005	AT002MAR00005
Morocco	AT002MAR00006		AT002MAR00006
Morocco	AT002MAR00007		AT002MAR00007
Morocco			AT002MAR00008
Morocco	AT002MAR00009		AT002MAR00009
Morocco	AT002MAR00010	AT002MAR00010	AT002MAR00010
Morocco	AT002MAR00011	AT002MAR00011	AT002MAR00011
Morocco	AT002MAR00012	AT002MAR00012	AT002MAR00012
Morocco	AT002MAR00013	AT002MAR00013	AT002MAR00013
Morocco	AT002MAR00014	AT002MAR00014	AT002MAR00014
Morocco	AT002MAR00015	AT002MAR00015	AT002MAR00015
Morocco	AT002MAR00016	AT002MAR00016	AT002MAR00016
Morocco	AT002MAR00017	AT002MAR00017	AT002MAR00017
Morocco	AT002MAR00018	AT002MAR00018	AT002MAR00018

Consortium's report on the implementation of the ROP-BFT

Executive Summary

The service provider for implementing year thirteen (April 2022 / March 2023) of the ICCAT ROP-BFT (hereafter the Programme) comprises of a Consortium led by MRAG based in London and COFREPECHE in Paris, assisted by regional partners located around the Mediterranean (hereafter the Consortium).

The Programme allows the Commission to assess compliance with the regulatory framework. This report summarises the 192 deployments on authorised purse seiners during the 2022 fishing season, as well as the 37 farm deployments and 3 trap deployments completed to date since the start of the current contract. In addition, 42 farm deployments are included from the previous season following the submission of the last annual report and the start of the current contract.

One hundred percent observer coverage has been achieved on all authorised purse seiners, farms and traps within the remit of the Programme, which included monitoring all fishing, transfer, caging and harvesting activities, apart from the Norwegian fleet in 2021, which, as was the case in 2020, the Norwegian Authorities did not permit the deployment of ROP observers due to health and safety concerns relating to COVID-19.

This report describes the key issues and developments in implementing the Programme in year thirteen in line with the requirements. These are divided into operational and technical categories and provide perspective on issues that affected the observer role during deployments. The ability of observers to estimate numbers of tuna and comparisons with official estimates during transfer and caging operations are reviewed. Potential non-compliance events recorded by observers are summarised, including both those reported for transfer and caging operations as well as for general events.

This year the COVID-19 pandemic had a far reduced impact than in 2020 and 2021, and regional travel of observers was less restricted, allowing observers of other nationalities to embark vessels across all CPCs with the exception of Türkiye.