

**Statement from Albania regarding a request
for an increase in the bluefin tuna quota**

Albania is a member of the ICCAT since 2008 and during this period has sought to fulfil all the obligations that membership in ICCAT brings. Let me assure you that in the future the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in this direction will be the maximum in order that the bluefin tuna fishing activity to continue to be in a sustainable way and in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendations and relevant international instruments.

The existing quota is too small and as such does not promote investment in the sector, either for the catch or for tuna farming. Albania has the smallest quota of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. Such existing quota do not allow our tuna farm to be effective and efficient one.

On behalf of the Albanian Government, I have the honor to submit a request for the significant increase of the quota of bluefin tuna for Albania. Today under the conditions when the successful management measures taken by ICCAT have led to a tendency to revise the TAC, we hope and wish that our demand will have a positive response and a strong support by the ICCAT and the other CPCs

Taking into consideration the economic dimension of bluefin tuna fishing and farming, Albania, as a developing country, considers this activity as a field that can create prosperity and employment, contributing to growth of the national economy.