

**REPORT OF THE 15TH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE  
WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (IMM)**  
*(Online, 8-10 June 2022)*

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Neil Ansell (EU), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the 15th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) (the “Group”). The ICCAT Executive Secretary introduced the twenty Contracting Parties present at the meeting: Algeria, Belize, Canada, China (P.R.), Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and Uruguay. The Executive Secretary also introduced the following three Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, and Costa Rica, followed by two non-governmental observers: the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and PEW Charitable Trusts (PEW).

## **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Elliott Matthews (USA) was appointed to serve as rapporteur.

## **3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

The Chair summarized the agenda and expectations for the Working Group meeting. He asked delegations for any other topics CPCs would like to include under agenda Item 10, “Other matters”. The Secretariat requested to add a topic under this agenda item to share a brief overview on machine learning and its application for vessel monitoring systems. The Chair recognized the proposal and said it would be covered if time allowed, as noted in the Chair’s annotated agenda. No other matters or additional business points were raised. The agenda was adopted with no changes (**Appendix 1**).

The List of Participants is contained in **Appendix 2**.

## **4. Review of Statistical and Catch Documentation Schemes (SDP/CDS)**

### ***4.1 Review of the progress made by of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme and consideration of any necessary actions by the IMM***

The Chair summarized the recent meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG) that was held 4-5 April 2022. He noted the [“Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme”](#) had been adopted and went on to briefly present the pertinent topics of discussion from that meeting and the agreed work plan. The Chair highlighted that there is a point on information collection and sharing among CPCs. To this end, the CDS WG designed a brief questionnaire that was circulated to CPCs soliciting information related to certain risks of IUU fishing, data gaps, and other factors relevant to the potential development of any future CDS. Following discussion in the CDS WG, the questionnaire has a particular focus on the current purse seine practices in the tropical tuna fishery. The information submitted by CPCs in response to this intersessional questionnaire will be submitted to the CDS WG to inform its next discussions. The requested deadline for CPCs to submit this information is the end of July 2022.

Several CPCs expressed support for the meeting outcomes and ongoing work of the CDS WG and encouraged broad participation from concerned CPCs in completing the questionnaire. Some CPCs noted that internal consultation with other domestic agencies and a sufficient implementation period for domestic legislation would be instrumental were a new scheme(s) to be adopted.

One CPC requested that the Secretariat circulate the CDS questionnaire to all CPCs, including a reminder about the requested deadline for submissions. Lastly, in reflecting on the CDS WG meeting, PEW Charitable Trusts reminded delegations of the EU IUU Fishing Coalition's report on aligning CDS across RFMOs, which was presented at the CDS WG meeting and is still available on the meeting website.

#### ***4.2 Review of the progress made by the eBCD Technical Working Group and consideration of any necessary actions by the IMM***

The Chair summarized the recent eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG) meeting and highlighted that most of the meeting focused on pending issues as well as, several new issues related to the implementation of the eastern bluefin tuna measure, Rec. 21-08. He noted that, overall, the system is being implemented very well with no major issues. He then moved to introduce "Issues referred from eBCD TWG to the IMM" which lists the various policy issues referred to the IMM considered relevant and more pressing.

##### *4.2.1 Transshipments linked with eBCD*

The Chair reminded the Group about the issue of creating a link between transshipment documentation and the eBCD system as required under paragraph 70 of Rec. 21-08. He shared two previously discussed options: including the eBCD number on the transshipment declaration and/or including the number of transshipment declaration in the eBCD system. Several CPCs supported adding the eBCD number to the transshipment declaration. Some CPCs also supported the second option; however, the increased complexity and potential cost of developing this functionality in the system was a concern. One CPC proposed that Tragsa pursue a time cost analysis for this functionality to help the eBCD TWG make an informed decision which was supported by other CPCs. Another CPC noted that the forms under Rec. 21-08 (Annex 3) and Rec. 21-15 (Appendix 1) were different with respect to the requirement to include a document number. The United States noted that inclusion of a document number should be required in Appendix 1 of Rec. 21-15 and that it would discuss the issue with concerned CPCs with the view of submitting a proposal to the annual meeting.

The Chair summarized the discussion and the agreement to ask Tragsa for a time-cost analysis in the meantime for the addition of the transshipment declaration number in the eBCD system.

##### *4.2.2 Develop a read-only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS*

The Chair introduced the point related to access to the eBCD system by inspectors engaged in the eastern bluefin tuna joint inspection scheme (JIS) and summarized previous options proposed and other discussions on this issue.

Several CPCs agreed that it was very important for inspectors to have access to the eBCD system prior to and during inspections. While understanding the technical challenges, the EU proposed that access to the eBCD (read-only mode), should not only be at the time of inspection, but also at any time the patrol vessel(s) is authorised to operate under the scheme. The EU also pointed out that access would only be necessary for the catch and transfer sections of the eBCD. There was general support for this approach. A CPC expressed strong support for moving away from paper documents insofar as they are provided for under ICCAT provisions, and for coming to a resolution on this topic, which has been discussed at several meetings in recent years.

The Chair confirmed that Tragsa would be asked for a time-cost estimate for the development of the functionality as proposed by the EU.

##### *4.2.3 Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the sampling's average weight*

Regarding adding functionality to the eBCD system to cross check the total catch average weight against the average weight derived from sampling, the Chair referenced paragraph 5d of Rec. 21-18 to introduce the topic. The Chair summarized that past eBCD TWG meetings have noted that the eBCD system lacks the capability to cross check average weight of catches and sampling data. Some CPCs have previously expressed interest in this functionality, but others had expressed concern about the costs associated with this proposal.

One CPC requested that this issue be referred back to the eBCD TWG to determine its technical feasibility. The CPC also noted it may be useful to consider if a cross-checking functionality could broadly benefit CPCs in understanding better how effectively various rules in the fishery are working. The EU pointed out that it could be difficult to justify adding this functionality to the eBCD system from a cost/benefit standpoint. The EU noted that they have been looking into cross-checking and its applicability to the derogation in paragraph 5d of Rec. 21-18. The EU proposed that this issue be referred to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) in November 2022. The EU noted that it should be able to provide an update during that meeting, and based on data collected, the PWG could determine whether the derogation and, therefore, any potential eBCD development, continues to be needed.

The Chair noted the points made by all CPCs and considered that the point will be left for discussion at the PWG this fall with a view to determining next steps.

#### *4.2.4 Transport area within trade section to be mandatory and include transport identification and dates of departure and arrival*

The Chair summarized past discussions on the question of what data could be included in the transport area of the eBCD trade section (TD). The Chair also noted that Türkiye had previously expressed a clear view on this topic, but its delegation was not present at the meeting.

One CPC noted that this proposal was originally meant to reduce the possibility that paper copies of eBCDs that are validated for a specific consignment, are used to validate other (non-authorised) consignments with similar amounts of fish. The CPC felt that by introducing further detailed transportation information, such as the use of plate or flight numbers and dates of consignments, might significantly reduce the risk of fraudulent use of the eBCD.

The Chair proposed to refer this question back to the eBCD TWG asking them to follow up with Türkiye about its previous input and, in the meantime, request a cost/time estimate for this functionality.

#### *4.2.5 Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO*

The Chair recounted last year's discussion on the addition of a grouping functionality for eBCDs from the same flag origin or same joint fishing operation (JFO) and its inclusion in Rec. 21-08 and that the eBCD TWG was now requesting feedback on how it would be implemented, in particular how traceability could be ensured as laid down in paragraph 197 of Rec. 21-08.

One CPC indicated that its preliminary review of the analysis from Tragsa at the 14th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (14-17 June 2021) suggested that traceability would be maintained in the eBCD system.

Several CPCs, however, expressed concerns about the uncertainty around how exactly that traceability would be maintained. A number of CPCs emphasized the importance of ensuring traceability and agreed the issue should be referred back to the eBCD TWG for further development to make sure there are no loopholes for illegal fishing in the development of this functionality. One CPC requested further detail on what the new eBCD would look like, including new information and fields.

The Chair noted that the eBCD TWG will continue to work on this point and that the time-cost analysis from Tragsa will be requested.

#### *4.2.6 Inclusion of stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD*

With regard to including stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD, the Chair explained the proposal and noted the debate on the provisions for the use of paper BCDs vs printed eBCDs as specified in Recommendation 21-18.

One CPC emphasized that the information is not currently available in the printed eBCD. It further explained that the idea behind the proposal is that adding the stereoscopic camera results on the printed eBCD can be useful to inspectors when undertaking their duties at sites without internet and access to the eBCD system.

Several CPCs generally supported the proposal. One CPC expressed support while requesting a time/cost estimate to allow for further evaluation. Another CPC shared the view that it was not a problem to have this included provided paper will be used only in those specific cases provided under paragraph 6 of Rec. 21-18. The CPC emphasized that if there are uses of paper BCDs/printed eBCDs in ways not provided for under paragraph 6 of Rec. 21-18, then these issues should be discussed and addressed by the Commission.

The Chair noted there is broad agreement to request a time-cost estimate and that the final decision will be dependent on its results, notwithstanding the implementation of Rec. 21-18, including the specific and limited cases in which use of paper BCDs/printed eBCDs are provided for under paragraph 6.

#### *4.2.7 Mortality during towing voyage*

Regarding fish mortality during a towing voyage, the Chair shared Tragsa's view that it is possible to build this functionality into the eBCD system. He also noted that the eBCD TWG felt it important to explain how this measure would work in reality and then follow up with Tragsa. He then requested additional views on this point.

One CPC noted that mortality during the transport phase is regulated in Annex 11 of Rec. 21-08. Mortalities have to be reported using the template of this Annex and the report has to be handed over to the relevant farm authorities. The CPC suggested that as the farm operator is the owner of the fish and has the information of the fish declared dead by the different towing vessels involved in the transport, he/she could be responsible to report these mortalities at the beginning of the caging section of the eBCD.

Another CPC requested clarification of paragraph 14 of Annex 11 of Rec. 21-08. The Chair noted his understanding is that reporting of dead or lost fish will be done as soon as possible after the development of this functionality within the eBCD system as foreseen at the end of paragraph 14. The Chair also noted that this obligation would not apply until after a time-cost estimate is completed and reported back by Tragsa.

The Chair noted that the eBCD TWG will look into this in more detail and proceed with development of all provisions in paragraph 14 of Annex 11 by requesting a time/cost estimate.

#### *4.2.8 Growth Rates / Question from Japan on obtaining the necessary data for the calculation of growth rates*

Regarding growth rates derived from the eBCD and Japan's question on obtaining the necessary data for the calculation of growth rates, the Chair referred to Rec. 21-08, which directs that farming CPCs shall endeavor to ensure growth rates are aligned with the SCRS growth rate tables. He acknowledged the ongoing discussion about growth rates in Panel 2 and the proposal to build in functionality that would allow importing CPCs to calculate growth rates for the BFT they import. The Chair noted that the eBCD TWG is seeking guidance on the priority of this topic.

Several CPCs expressed support for the calculation of growth rates within eBCD, but opinions varied on the relative priority of the issue. One CPC noted that the SCRS growth rate tables have not yet been updated, and that the Group should wait until next year when updates to the growth tables may be available before making any decisions. The CPC also shared concern over internal data protection and confidentiality restrictions. When asked to clarify what specific information would be difficult to share under domestic confidentiality provisions, the CPC responded that it would not be able to provide entire data sets for individual farms.

Japan, having put forward the request, noted its view that this functionality is a priority and requested the eBCD TWG to explore if immediate implementation was feasible. Japan acknowledged the other CPCs' concerns with confidentiality and clarified that the only required data would be from the caging and harvesting sections, which could be provided on a bilateral basis and exclude specific importer and exporter information.

Another CPC expressed support for Japan's proposal and noted that it would be helpful for the eBCD system to be used as a cross-check on growth rates against the SCRS tables. Another CPC opposed this view. The Chair acknowledged that the eBCD TWG would request the cost-time estimate and related technical aspects and keep the PWG informed of progress. Other CPCs agreed that discussion regarding the data protection and confidentiality points would continue in a bilateral format. The Chair indicated that the group needed to determine the level of priority of this issue and concluded that this functionality was not the highest priority, but nevertheless reiterated that a time/cost estimate would be sought.

#### *4.2.9 eBCD amendments following an inspection that shows an ITD is greater than 10% than what was initially reported*

With regard to amending the eBCD following an inspection where the difference in the number of fish listed in the transfer document was greater than 10% of that initially reported, as noted by paragraph 37 of Rec. 21-08, the Chair posed the question of how the eBCD system should be amended.

Two CPCs agreed this would only be applicable for the relevant first transfers and that the amendment of the transfer document should be done by the catching flag CPC. The Chair acknowledged these points and as a result noted that no change needs to be made to eBCD for this item at the current time.

## **5. Consideration of measures relating to monitoring and inspection and flag State responsibilities**

### ***5.1 Review of the progress made by Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS) and consideration of any necessary actions by the IMM***

The Chair reviewed for the IMM WG the progress made thus far by the WG-EMS in its first two meetings. Regarding the adopted "Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS) (online, 28 February 2022)", the Chair shared that its meeting was focused on sharing information on use of EMS and establishing expectations on the way forward for the development of minimum standards for the use of EMS in ICCAT fisheries. The Chair also recounted that the Second Meeting of the WG-EMS (online, 6-7 June 2022) focused more on the further refinement of minimum standards and noted that CPC input was welcome on the draft minimum standards documents that had been presented by the EU and which were due to continue intersessionally by way of an informal drafting group tentatively agreed to take place on 26 July 2022.

The Chair noted that the "Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS) (online, 6-7 June 2022)" would be circulated and adopted with the prioritization implementation strategy and work plan appended to the report.

### ***5.2 Consideration of future review of specific provisions of Rec. 21-08 and any preliminary discussions***

The Chair explained that Rec. 21-08 contains several new provisions and derogations that have been referred to the IMM for further review and discussion. The provisions, which require review, no later than 2023, include the following:

- paragraph 101, as stipulated in para 102: derogation to allow harvesting from farms of a small amount without an observer
- paragraph 204: percentage referred to as margin of error in carryover assessments
- paragraph 238: assessing the implementation of sealing of bluefin tuna cages

No comments were provided by CPCs on any of the highlighted derogations. The Chair suggested it might be premature to assess the effectiveness of some of these measures and suggested that the Commission and/or the IMM take up these points in November 2022 or 2023, as appropriate.

The EU presented its proposal to monitor first transfers with stereoscopic cameras and use artificial intelligence to analyze the footage. The EU introduced a concept paper "Concept paper for a Pilot Project to test the use of a stereoscopic camera during first transfers and the automation of video footage analysis" (**Appendix 3**) which explains the rationale for the project and a "Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis" that, if agreed, would implement the pilot project. The EU also shared that the motivation behind this proposal is to use technology to help close loopholes in Rec. 21-08.

Japan expressed full support for the EU to conduct trials and requested if participation in the pilot was open to any interested CPCs. The EU noted that participation is open to all CPCs willing to participate and that it would change the draft resolution language to make this clear and thanked Japan for their interest and support. The EU amended and submitted an updated version of the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis” (**Appendix 4**) to make clear that participation in the pilot is open to any interested CPC. The proposal was agreed to be forwarded to the PWG as an IMM-endorsed proposal, though it was noted by the EU that there may be some minor changes to the text of the proposal based on ongoing technical consultations with EU Member States.

The EU presented a proposal to modify Annex 7 of Rec. 21-08 to include specific boarding ladder provisions in the E-BFT Joint Inspection Scheme. The EU noted that contrary to other joint inspection schemes (NAFO, NEAFC, GFCM), the ICCAT scheme for BFT (and also for SWO) does not provide for specific measures for boarding ladders. This CPC also noted that the motivation behind this amendment arose when some fishing vessels were not able to consistently provide ladders to allow ICCAT inspectors to board safely, or not carrying at boarding ladder at all, resulting in an impossibility to perform inspections at sea and the lack of specific regulation complicating the follow-up that can be given to these cases. In many cases, vessels encountered did not carry a ladder at all. The EU’s proposal was drafted to be harmonized with the specifications already required in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which would prevent vessels participating in ICCAT BFT and GFCM fisheries from having to carry two separate boarding ladders. The EU also expressed a desire for any breach of this provision to be considered a serious infringement.

One CPC supported the proposal, but requested more time to investigate what appropriate specifications might be included in this Annex. The CPC also expressed concern regarding using the GFCM ladder specifications since not all ICCAT members are members of GFCM, and asked if the EU might consider simplifying the requirement, citing another example, as outlined in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the western Atlantic” (**Appendix 5**), Canada’s western Atlantic JIS proposal. Another CPC supported the proposal, and it was clarified that this provision would only apply to vessels operating in the eastern bluefin tuna fishery.

In the light of the points raised, the Chair encouraged further discussions on this proposal, and its technical specifications, in advance of the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting.

The EU raised an additional point under agenda item 5.2 regarding the complexity of the modifications made in Rec. 21-08. The EU indicated that, in its early stages of implementation of the new E-BFT measure, its delegation had noted several clerical errors and inconsistencies in the way that the recommendation is written and volunteered to create a repository that other CPCs could contribute to as others may encounter similar errors in implementing the measure during the first fishing season. The EU invited other eastern bluefin harvesting CPCs to contribute to the table, and asked if the Secretariat could maintain the file on the ICCAT share point. The EU confirmed this could be an open document without the need for any password protection or confidentiality concerns. The Chair acknowledged the discussion and suggested that the Chair of Panel 2 be consulted in order to agree on the best way forward and noted the Secretariat will send a circular to inform CPCs on the best way forward.

### ***5.3 Review of the progress made by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG) and consideration of any necessary actions by the IMM***

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG), Ms. Alexa Cole (USA) provided an overview of the first meeting of the LSWG, which was established by Res. 21-23. The Chair of the LSWG noted that the first meeting of the working group was a success. She acknowledged the expertise provided by the participants from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which benefited the overall dialogue. The LSWG Chair reported that the ILO expressed interest in working with ICCAT CPCs and that this collaboration was one of the key elements highlighted in the “Notional initial workplan of the ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Labor Standards” contained in Appendix 4 to the [Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards \(online, 14-15 March 2022\)](#).

The LSWG Chair noted that the adopted work plan also calls for the creation of a voluntary information repository related to labour standards, as well as labour abuses and safety issues affecting fisheries management, and that the repository would include, inter alia, references to relevant international instruments, publicly available guides and training materials, and reports on relevant domestic legislation from CPCs. The LSWG Chair emphasized that there is no requirement to provide information, but encouraged contributions from all CPCs to help facilitate future LSWG discussions.

One CPC emphasized support for improving the enforcement of labour standards and prohibiting labour abuses, but noted that their internal legislation will require harmonization with whatever actions are decided moving forward. Another CPC asked if there was a required format for submissions to the repository and if that has been circulated to the CPCs. The LSWG Chair recalled that there was no required format and that CPCs can provide information in whatever format its own documents may be available in, and that translation of domestic laws was not required.

#### ***5.4 Consideration of requests for clarification in relation to relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures***

The Secretariat introduced “Documents Required Under the Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment”, which outlined several questions related to implementing the new transshipment requirements under Rec. 21-15. In accordance with these requirements, the Secretariat proposed to develop a password protected section of the ICCAT website for entering Transshipment Declarations and proposed a format to publish those data. Additionally, the Secretariat provided an overview of its proposed Supply Declaration form, which it had developed and previously circulated, with some additional changes following its adoption by IOTC.

Two CPCs expressed support for the two proposals put forth by the Secretariat and provided additional comments. With regard to the Supply Declaration form, one CPC suggested putting a check box in the column next to the number or weight of supplies being provided by the carrier/supply donor vessel, as each category of goods provided may not require a specific unit or quantity to be provided. Another CPC noted that the FAO voluntary guidelines for transshipment will go to FAO COFI for endorsement in September and noted that ICCAT should take those into account during future discussions related to transshipment in ICCAT.

The Secretariat introduced “Requests for Clarification on Transshipment”, which outlined several requests for clarification on the new transshipment measure from the Regional Observer Program (ROP) on Transshipment implementing consortium. One CPC agreed with the interpretation of and responses to the questions drafted by the Secretariat. The CPC also asked a clarifying question about a point of concern related to paragraph 18 and the implementation of prior authorization for transshipments. The CPC noted that the question posed by the consortium suggested that some CPCs may be providing year-round approval for vessels, and the CPC was not sure how this was permissible under Rec. 21-15 because the measure requires notification of the date, location of catch, and amount of fish being transhipped, none of which can be reported in advance on a yearly basis.

One CPC voiced concerns about the Secretariat’s responses to the consortium’s question about observers estimating quantities of products when species are offloaded in port for consistency with quantities received during transshipment operations. In particular, the CPC did not agree that an observer would need to disembark and observe offloading if there were cases where only partial portions of fish products were being offloaded and transferred to a distant water port. The CPC considered that this would be something additional beyond the current requirements. The CPC also indicated that it did not view the discharge declaration, as proposed in paragraph (d) of the updated version of “Requests for Clarification on Transshipment”, as necessary. Lastly, in response to a clarification provided to the consortium on paragraph 15 of Rec. 21-15, the CPC shared its view that carrier vessels do not need to show stowage plans to observers while stowage plans need to be shown to an inspector if requested as mentioned in paragraph 15 of Rec. 21-15. The CPC noted that carrier vessels may show stowage plans to observers upon request, however it is not obligatory. A second CPC echoed and supported all of the concerns expressed.

Based on feedback provided by CPCs, the Secretariat agreed to produce a new version of “Requests for Clarification on Transshipment” and to circulate the revision via correspondence before responding to the implementing consortium.

A CPC noted a potential issue concerning the derogation of supply declaration when such supply activity is monitored by observers as mentioned in para 23 of Rec. 21-15 since there might be cases where observers do not physically monitor at-sea supply activities if those supply activities do not accompany at-sea transshipment even though they are onboard carrier vessels. Following a request from the CPC, the IMM WG agreed to request the Consortium to ensure observers would monitor at-sea supply activities whenever they are onboard carrier vessels.

Lastly under this agenda item, the Chair introduced “Requests for Clarification from ROP-BFT Consortium and Responses from Algeria”, which lists responses from Algeria to questions posed by the ROP-BFT consortium. He suggested that, following consultation with the Chair of Panel 2, further opportunity be given to provide direction on these matters given the forthcoming open fishing seasons for E-BFT.

One CPC posed a follow up question related to the release report. In response to the consortium’s question, the CPC noted that it did not consider that the release order and release authorization are the same thing; the release order was granted by the catching flag CPC while the release authorization by the farming CPC.

Another CPC requested further clarification to Algeria’s response regarding the third item of the document related to the towing vessel and cage details and proposed this issue be referred to Panel 2 for further consideration. Following further discussions, a CPC requested that further revision be sought and circulated. The Chair agreed to coordinate continued discussions on this issue via correspondence with the Secretariat and confirmed that he would also alert the Chair of Panel 2 on the views expressed. The views expressed to date were included in a revised document, and it was agreed that that version would be circulated.

## **6. At sea boarding and inspection**

### ***6.1 Canada’s presentation of draft proposal for at-sea boarding and inspection***

Canada presented its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the western Atlantic” (**Appendix 5**). Canada noted this was the same text as was proposed during the last meeting of the Commission and that its delegation was hoping to build consensus by continuing these discussions with the IMM WG. Canada noted the lack of a cooperative enforcement scheme in the western Atlantic compared to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and the potential impact IUU fishing could have in the ICCAT Convention area as a result.

Two CPCs voiced concerns with the proposal. The first CPC indicated that it has a legal conflict with their internal legislation and the ICCAT Convention, specifically with reference to paragraph 11 of the proposal, which directs CPCs to take action to ensure its flagged vessels fulfill their respective duties and requirements under the proposed recommendation. The CPC noted it does not have the authority to ensure vessel masters would fulfill the requirements of this recommendation and that it would be preferable if inspection activities were arranged between Contracting Parties. The second CPC expressed concern over the resource disparity between CPCs, and noted that some CPCs might not have the economic capacity to implement this measure in a way that would allow those CPCs to field inspection vessels. The CPC expressed a preference to move forward with discussions of a non-binding JIS resolution. The CPC also expressed a desire for more time to consider certain aspects of the proposal like the use of force.

Several CPCs voiced support for the proposal and expressed interest in potentially expanding the scope of the measure to include the entire ICCAT Convention area. Those CPCs emphasized that this would harmonize efforts by avoiding the implementation of multiple different types of inspection schemes throughout the Convention area. Regarding the authority that the ICCAT Convention grants, these CPCs emphasized that paragraph 3 of Article 9 of the ICCAT Convention provides sufficient authority for the adoption of this proposed JIS.

Canada acknowledged the legal implementation challenges voiced by the first CPC and welcomed specific points or recommended drafting language for the proposal that would alleviate these concerns. Canada also noted that it would not be opposed to increasing the scope to the entire Convention area as voiced by several other CPCs. Regarding the issue of lack of resources, Canada noted that this point has been voiced in the past and that this could be addressed through participation in ICCAT’s measure providing for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel (Res. 19-17). This measure establishes a programme for inspectors from a CPC that may not have inspection vessels to, upon bilateral agreement, be deployed on inspection vessels from another CPC.



One CPC echoed Canada's response regarding taking advantage of the ICCAT measure providing for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in the conduct of at sea joint inspections and underlined that the necessary authority for ICCAT to establish a JIS is established in Article 9 of the ICCAT Convention. The CPC also proposed a small group meeting to work through this point with other CPCs and noted the importance of finding a path forward. The CPC also reminded other participants of the authority granted by the High Seas Boarding and Inspection scheme established in the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, though its strong preference would be to work within the Commission to adopt an ICCAT recommendation.

The Chair summarized the discussions and positively noted the possibility expressed to continue exploring the language in paragraph 11 of the proposal and encouraged further discussion between CPCs.

## **6.2 Any updates on pilot program on voluntary exchange of inspection personnel and vessel sightings**

Following information received from the Secretariat, the Chair noted there have not been any vessel sightings received under Rec. 19-09 and asked for any updates on the pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT (Res. 19-17).

The United States shared information on the activities it has been supporting in recent years under Res. 19-17. The United States noted that the COVID-19 pandemic prevented some inspection opportunities over the last few years; however, in 2021 the United States participated with inspection partners from four other nations during a joint operation and are scheduled to collaborate with seven additional nations in 2022. The United States also reminded CPCs of the need for Res. 19-17 to be reviewed no later than fall 2022. The US representative recommended continued implementation of the measure and encouraged increased CPC participation in voluntary inspector exchange, urging more CPCs to indicate interest via the ICCAT MCS portal.

Another CPC echoed support for the importance of the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel. The CPC noted with the COVID-19 pandemic becoming more manageable that now may be a good time to relaunch the portion of the scheme related to the exchange of inspectors for the control of BFT farming activities, and emphasized a specific interest in exchanging observers and inspectors for BFT farms and traps. The CPC expressed interest in conducting exchanges and welcomed other CPCs to partner with them if interested.

The Chair noted the importance, relevance, and possibilities for the future facilitation of these exchanges and encouraged further and broad participation. He encouraged CPCs to utilize the Secretariat to help organize such exchanges and noted the need for a review of Res. 19-17.

## **7. Port State measures**

### **7.1 Evaluation of the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (23-25 October 2019, Torremolinos, Spain)**

The Chair introduced the background document (**Appendix 6**<sup>1</sup>) relating to the recommendations and outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (JWG4) held from 23-25 October 2019 in Torremolinos, Spain, and reminded members of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Harmonisation and Improved Observer Safety* (Res. 19-16), which calls on the Commission to evaluate the outcomes of the JWG4 meeting.

Several CPCs expressed support for the ongoing work done by the FAO, IMO, and ILO working group. One CPC emphasized that it was pleased with the JWG's progress and is looking forward to its future work. The CPC also suggested outcomes from the JWG could be considered by future meetings of the Labor Standards Working Group (LSWG) given ICCAT has now established a dedicated body on this subject. Another CPC agreed with the proposal to forward this item to the LSWG and emphasized that it could help support and harmonize ICCAT's work on observer safety. The Chair noted the agreement on referring the outcomes of the JWG to the ICCAT LSWG.

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<sup>1</sup> Document available in original version only.

## 8. Vessel listing measures

### 8.1 Update on developments in IUU cross-listing process

The Chair turned the floor over to the Secretariat to brief the Group on this point.

The Secretariat informed the Group that two vessels have been added to the ICCAT IUU Vessel List: *ABISHAK PUTHA 3* (ICCAT IUU SN 2021009) on 26 November 2021, and *EL SHADDAI* (ICCAT IUU SN 20210010) on 2 November 2021, following cross-listing from SEAFO and CCAMLR respectively. The Secretariat also noted the vessel *EROS DOS* (ICCAT IUU SN 2020002) was removed from the IUU vessel list on 25 January 2021 following information provided by NEAFC. Additional corrections to the IUU vessel list database were made following a request from the EU including updates to the chronological order of listing and suspected previous flags for three IUU vessels, namely *AMORINN* (ICCAT IUU SN 2019003), *BAROON* (ICCAT IUU SN 2019005), and *JINZHAG* (ICCAT IUU SN 2019008). Following another request from the EU, the Secretariat also raised the issue of the IUU vessel *LABIKO* (ICCAT IUU SN 202005), whose name and flag have changed in recent months; furthermore, one of its previous names (*CLAUDE MOINIER*) was removed and (*CHEVALIER d'ASSAS*) added as previous name. Because it is not clear which RFMO made such changes (SIOFA or SEAFO/NEAFC, taking into account that according to Rec. 21-13, ICCAT should not IUU cross-list with SIOFA whose record was kept over that of SEAFO as communicated by IOTC), the Secretariat supported seeking clarification before further changes can be made to this IUU vessel's entries and is looking into the matter, emphasizing the challenging tasks of IUU cross-listing with the other nine RFMOs (Rec. 21-13, para 11) which do cross-list with other RFMOs. Finally, the Secretariat informed about the other three ongoing issues related to ICCAT's IUU List regarding the following: one IUU vessel flagged to Indonesia (*SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18* / ICCAT IUU SN 20130013), one IUU vessel flagged to Namibia (*HALIFAX* / ICCAT IUU SN 2020011), and three IUU vessels flagged to Sultanate of Oman (*ISRARI*, *ISRAR 2*, and *ISRAR 3* / ICCAT IUU SNs 20210006, 20210007, and 20210008, respectively).

One CPC asked why ICCAT cross-lists some RFMOs and not all RFMOs. A CPC clarified that cross listing is determined by paragraph 11 of Rec. 21-13 representing those RFMOs considered most relevant in this regard.

#### 8.1.1 Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) initiatives on cross-listing procedures

The Secretariat presented "Initiatives under TCN to assist with IUU cross listing" which sought to reduce time delays associated with updates, additions, or removals of vessels from RFMO IUU Vessel Lists and also to reduce Secretariat staff workloads. The Secretariat noted that this update was for informational purposes only at this point, and that the Secretariat had begun conversations with the contractor about the feasibility of developing an automatic cross-list database. The Secretariat also highlighted challenges of the project related to obtaining reliable and accurate data that were also easy to manipulate. The Secretariat will provide more updates on this initiative in the future.

## 9. Progress on issues identified through the Performance Review

The Chair noted the "Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review – PWG" (**Appendix 7**) was last updated in 2020 and due to COVID it has been a while since the recommendations have been reviewed. One CPC indicated there has been progress on a variety of the activities listed in the document and that appropriate updates should be made. The CPC offered to provide these updates to the document to the Secretariat in writing. The Chair welcomed this submission and thanked the CPC concerned.

## 10. Other matters

In the context of its VMS system, the Secretariat shared work presented by the company CLS which had been carried out on algorithms involving machine learning that detect fish activities based on the position of fishing vessels. The Secretariat noted that the application provides indicators on vessel behavior and could provide contextualized information which could be used to enhance VMS raw data moving forward. One CPC suggested this be brought to the attention of the WG-EMS. The Chair acknowledged this and suggested that any updates also be brought to the attention of the PWG as and when developed.

## **11. Adoption of report and adjournment**

The CPCs agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. The Chair thanked everyone present for their contributions and closed the meeting.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Review of Statistical and Catch Documentation Schemes (SDP/CDS):
  - a) Review of the progress made by of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme and consideration of any necessary actions by IMM
  - b) Review of the progress made by eBCD Technical Working Group and consideration of any necessary actions by IMM
5. Consideration of measures relating to monitoring and inspection and flag state responsibilities:
  - a) Review of the progress made by Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems and consideration of any necessary actions by IMM
  - b) Consideration of future review of specific provisions of Rec. 21-08 and any preliminary discussions
  - c) Review of the progress made by Working Group on Labour Standards and consideration of any necessary actions by IMM
  - d) Consideration of requests for clarification in relation to relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures
6. At sea boarding and inspection:
  - a) Any updates on pilot program on voluntary exchange of inspection personnel and vessel sightings
7. Port State measures:
  - a) Evaluation of the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters (Torremolinos, Spain, 23-25 October 2019)
8. Vessel listing measures:
  - a) Update on developments in IUU cross-listing process
9. Progress on issues identified through the Performance Review
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

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**Concept paper for a Pilot Project to test the use of a stereoscopic camera during first transfers and the automation of video footage analysis**  
(Submitted by the European Union)

Most of the bluefin tuna (BFT) quota set by ICCAT is intended for caging in fattening farms (live BFT). Due to its special characteristics, the regulation of the live BFT fishery is very complex, and its control is equally *complex, demanding and very expensive*.

The monitoring and control of the live BFT fishery is largely based on *video recordings* of the various transfer and caging operations of live bluefin tuna that take place underwater.

Because it is only possible to obtain live tuna weight through the use of a stereoscopic camera (SC), which is only used at the time of caging, the calculation of the quantities caught and the *closure of the fishery* is based on rough *estimates* made at the time of catching, which are only corrected after the results of the caging operations are available and the eventual release of the fish caught in excess (a few months after the catch took place).

Important provisions, such as *minimum size*, are difficult to implement since it is only possible to determine the size of the tuna at the time of its caging (use of the SC), and an eventual detention of fish below the minimum size once the fish has been caged, makes the segregation of undersized fish and its release difficult in practice. Furthermore, further transfers occurring after the first transfer may mix catches, not allowing to detect whether the maximum percentage of undersized fish allowed per catch has been exceeded.

Every movement of tuna underwater has to be recorded using stereoscopic and/or conventional cameras, including first transfers, further transfers, caging, control transfers, carry-over assessments and intra-farm and inter-farm transfers. All of this means that hundreds of video footages have to be reviewed manually in each fishing campaign, with the consequent huge *workload* that this entails (on average, the analysis of a SC video can take between 6 and 8 hours and a conventional camera video between 3 and 4 hours). Despite the heavy workload, manual counting offers *inherent errors* due to human intervention and does not allow in some cases for high precision in the counting.

In recent years there have been important technological developments that can assist in the control of fisheries. These technologies are promising but need to be tested. A pilot project for the use of these new available technologies to improve the live BFT fishery control would have a double objective:

- to test whether the newly available *stereoscopic cameras* can be used during the *first transfers* from purse seine vessels or traps to towing cages;
- to test the use of available software and artificial intelligence for the *automatic analysis of the video footages*, to automatically determine the number of individuals and its weight.

The potential advantages of these new technologies are:

1. Use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer
  - a) The *quota* consumption could be determined from the outset. Now the closure of the fishery is based only on estimates of the quantities caught, which is not balanced until the SC results are available several months later, with compensations at JFO level and potential releases;
  - b) It would end with potential problems regarding no reporting of *mortalities* during transport and with the current *difficulties in monitoring* and trace the fish during its *transport* and when *further transfers* prior to caging take place;
  - c) It would help the more effective implementation of the *minimum size* provisions, which are now considered to be difficult to implement for live BFT;

- d) It would do away with the *burden* now needed between farm and catching state for the determination of final quotas, investigations for discrepancies between quantities caught and caged, etc; and could significantly simplify control by eliminating some of the control requirements now necessary;
  - e) It would end the need for most of the *releases* that are now taking place. Right now, significant quantities of fish are released to compensate the estimated quantities. It is not clear whether the released fish returns to the stock with the consequent impact on the management of the fishery.
2. Use of artificial intelligence for automatic counting and measurement
- a) The use of automatic counting and measurement (determination of weight) would significantly reduce the *burden* for the authorities and save *money and resources*;
  - b) It would allow the authorities to *analyse all the videos* of the different transfers and further transfers. At the moment due to the heavy workload involved, not all videos are reviewed by the authorities;
  - c) It could also increase *accuracy*. Now only a 20% of the fish in each stereoscopic camera video footage are manually measured. It would also eliminate possible *human bias* (now the specimens that are measured are selected by the officer analysing the video and the measurement is carried out manually).

The EU believes that the introduction of this new technology can make a difference by *modernizing and streamlining* the control system for live BFT. The technology could help to solve important challenges faced by the control of this fishery, improve the accuracy of estimates of fish caught and greatly reduce the workload and cost for the authorities involved in its control. Lastly, if these technologies prove to be reliable and up to the expectations, they would allow to substantially complement the efforts put in closing existing loopholes through the revision 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 \(Rec. 19-04\)](#) in 2021.

**Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis**  
(Submitted by the European Union)

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that ICCAT has adopted the Recommendation [19-04] establishing a multi-annual management plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna;

*NOTING* that at the ICCAT Working Group on bluefin tuna control and traceability measures held in March 2020, the Working Group identified several aspects of the control of live bluefin tuna that would benefit from being strengthened;

*NOTING* that monitoring and control of the live BFT fishery is largely based on video recordings of the various transfer and caging operations of live bluefin tuna that take place underwater and that improved control of this aspect could have an important impact on the overall control of the fishery;

*RECALLING* that new technologies have advanced greatly over the last few years and these technologies can make monitoring more effective and efficient; and,

*CONSIDERING* the establishment of a Pilot Project the use of a stereoscopic camera during first transfers and the automation of video footage analysis, could allow to solve important challenges faced by the control of this fishery, improve the accuracy of estimates of fish caught and greatly reduce the workload and cost for the authorities involved in its control.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

**Pilot Project Objective**

1. The general objective of the Pilot Project is to test available technology and evaluate its added value in improving the monitoring and control on the recording and analysis of videos of transfers and caging operations taking place in the bluefin tuna fishery that is intended for fattening farms.
2. In particular the Pilot Project would have a double objective:
  - a) to test whether the newly available stereoscopic cameras can be used during the first transfers from purse seine vessels or traps to towing cages;
  - b) to test the use of available software and artificial intelligence for the automatic analysis of the video footages, to automatically determine the number of individuals and its weight.
3. The duration of the Pilot Project shall be one year, with the possibility of extending it for a further year.
4. The Pilot Project would be considered as a testing phase and the information collected in it may only be used to achieve the objectives of the project, but in no case for control or enforcement purposes.

**Participation and Points of Contact**

5. Contracting Parties with purse seiner vessels or traps operating under their flag are encouraged to participate in the Pilot Project and facilitate the implementation on selected vessels or traps under their flag. Any other Contracting Party with an interest in the fishery is also welcome to participate in the pilot Project.

6. Contracting Parties participating in the Pilot Project should submit to the Executive Secretary the following information:
  - a) National authority responsible for the purse seine vessel or trap and its monitoring and control, and;
  - b) Designated point(s) of contact within that authority with control responsibilities for liaison on the Project, including name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.
7. A Technical Steering Group should be set up to oversee the implementation of the Pilot Project. The Technical Steering Group should be composed at least, by representative(s) of the ICCAT Secretariat and the flag Contracting Parties of the catching vessels and traps included in the Pilot Project. Any other Contracting Parties with an interest in the fishery may also participate in the Steering Group. The Steering Group should be coordinated by the Chair of the Working Group on bluefin tuna control and traceability measures, set up by ICCAT Resolution 19-15.
8. The Technical Steering Group shall monitor the Project's progress, the fulfilment of its objectives, set out the conclusions of the project and make recommendations based on these conclusions. They shall be available for consultation and on-line meetings. The Steering Group shall regulate its own procedures.
9. Contracting Parties participating in the Pilot Project should communicate and collaborate with each other and with the selected company(ies) in order to facilitate the implementation of the Pilot Project.

#### **Implementation of the Pilot Project**

10. The ICCAT Secretariat, with the assistance of the Technical Steering Group, should identify a company(ies) entrusted to make the technology available and test it in the field. Two different companies can be identified to meet each of the two objectives mentioned in point 2 above. The minimum technical standards in **Annex 1** should be included in the tender specifications when selecting the company(ies).
11. In the selection of the company(ies), consideration will be given at least to the fact that:
  - a) the company(ies) possesses or has access to the technology to complete the assigned objective(s);
  - b) the company's experience in the development and use of such technologies, preferably in the bluefin tuna fishery;
  - c) the user-friendliness of the proposed hardware and software, its operability in real conditions, its accuracy or the functionalities offered in the software that can facilitate and improve the required tasks.
12. The flag CPCs of catching vessels and traps shall identify the purse seine vessels and traps that could participate in the Pilot Project and ensure that they cooperate during the project.
13. For the purposes of the objective mentioned in point 2.a) the selected company should ensure that the system is tested under real conditions. For this purpose, the company must have the availability and capability to embark on some of the patrol vessels that are deployed for the control of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.
14. In the implementation of the Pilot Project the selected company(ies) shall ensure that it follows the requirements and minimum technical standards set out in **Annex 1 to Appendix 4**.



## **Reporting**

15. The company in charge of the implementation of the project objective mentioned in point 2.a) should draw up a report on the tests with stereoscopic cameras, including detailed results of the tests performed, possible challenges encountered and conclusions. The company in charge of the implementation of the project objective mentioned in point 2.b) should draw up a report on the video footage analysed, including comparisons of video analysis using manual and automatic methods, and conclusions. The detailed content of the reports and the reporting period will be developed by the Technical Steering Group.
16. The ICCAT Secretariat should keep all Contracting Parties updated on the progress of the project and shall distribute the progress reports drawn up by the contractor and analyst and the possible evaluations of the Steering Group.
17. The Technical Steering Group should draw up a final report with the conclusions on the functioning of the Pilot Project, its effectiveness and accuracy.

**Annex 1 to Appendix 4****Minimum technical standards for the implementation of the Pilot Project****1. List of minimum tasks and conditions for the implementation of the Pilot Project****1.1 Objective 1. Use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfers**

The tasks to be carried for the implementation of the objective set out in point 2.a of the Resolution will have as their main mission to:

- a) test whether the available stereoscopic cameras allow the successful recording of videos of the first transfers in real conditions;
- b) test the accuracy in determining the number of individuals and their average size and compare it with that obtained by current means.

In the implementation of the objective set out in point 2.a of the Resolution, the following minimum conditions shall be covered by the company in charge of the implementation of the Project:

- be in possession of the necessary hardware and software to be able to record videos of bluefin tuna transfers and determine the number of individuals and their average size;
- have the technology (stereoscopic camera) that meets the necessary operating conditions to record first transfer videos in real conditions.

The tasks to be performed would include at least:

- test the system on at least two transfers in each of the following scenarios:
  - first transfer from a purse seiner to a transport cage in the Mediterranean;
  - first transfer from a trap to a transport cage;
  - first transfer from a purse seiner to a transport cage in the Adriatic;
  - transfer between two farm or transport cages under controlled conditions (i.e., the number of individuals and their average size is known, the operation can be repeated, if necessary, the transfer is recorded with the three types of cameras, conventional camera, stereoscopic camera currently used at caging and, if relevant, the new stereoscopic camera being tested, ...).
- compare the results of the number of individuals with those obtained from recording the transfer with a conventional camera, including assessing the time invested, the ease and accuracy of counting the number of individuals;
- compare the average length results of the transferred individuals with those obtained after the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video of the caged fish (for cases where there are no additional transfers after the first transfer), including assessing the time invested, the ease and accuracy of measure the bluefin tuna individuals.

In the recording of transfer videos, the company should consider the minimum standards set out in Annex 8 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual conservation and management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 21-08\)](#). For the determination of the average size of the transferred bluefin tuna individuals the system has to offer at least the same accuracy as the system currently used according to the specifications in Annex 9 of ICCAT Rec. 21-08;

The list of tasks mentioned above is without prejudice to possible changes that may be introduced as a result of technical discussions between the Technical Steering Group and the company in charge of the implementation of the Project, and provided that these changes do not entail a significant increase in the time or resources to be assumed by the company.

***1.2 Objective 2. Automatic analysis of the video footages, to automatically determine the number of individuals and its weight***

The tasks to be carried for the implementation of the objective set out in point 2b of the Resolution will have as their main mission to:

- a) provide the necessary software to make an automatic analysis (counting of the number of individuals and estimation of the average size) of the video records from both conventional and stereoscopic cameras;
- b) achieve a precision in the counting of the number of individuals and estimation of the average size that is at least as high as that achieved with the current means.

In relation to the implementation of the objective set out in point 2b of the Resolution, the following minimum conditions shall be covered by the company in charge of the implementation of the Project:

- be in possession of the necessary software to be able to automatically determine the number of bluefin tuna individuals and its average size for transfers and caging operations recorded with conventional and stereoscopic camera;
- where possible, ensure that the software provided can be used in situ (i.e., at sea) and without the need for an Internet connection;
- ensure that the result of the automatic video analysis offers an accuracy that is at least as good as that obtained with current means.

For testing the proposed software, three different data sources should be used:

- a) results obtained using the proposed software,
- b) results obtained using conventional means,
- c) results obtained by the authorities when they are available.

The tasks to be performed would include at least:

- analyze, using the proposed software for automatic counting, at least four videos of transfers in the Mediterranean recorded with a conventional camera;
- analyze, using the proposed software for automatic counting, at least four videos of transfers in the Adriatic recorded with a conventional camera;
- analyze (determine the number of individuals and their average size), using the proposed software for automatic counting and measurement, at least four videos of caging operations in the Mediterranean recorded with a stereoscopic camera;
- analyze (determine the number of individuals and their average size), using the proposed software for automatic counting at least four videos of caging operation in the Adriatic recorded with a stereoscopic camera;
- determine, using conventional means, the number of individuals and in the case of stereoscopic camera videos, the average size, of the transfers and caging operations analyzed in the previous cases;

- Use results obtained by the control authorities, in the case of stereoscopic camera videos and in the case of transfers when these are available;
- Make comparisons of the results using the three different sources, report the detailed results and draw conclusions.

The list of tasks mentioned above is without prejudice to possible changes that may be introduced as a result of technical discussions between the Technical Steering Group and the company in charge of the implementation of the project, and provided that these changes do not entail a significant increase in the time or resources to be assumed by the company.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for  
a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the western Atlantic**  
*(Proposal submitted by Canada)*

*RECALLING* Recommendation 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection, Annex 7 of Recommendation 19-04 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, and Annex 1 of Recommendation 16-05 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the Mediterranean Swordfish fishery;

*FURTHER RECALLING* Recommendation 19-09 on Vessel Sightings, and Recommendation 98-11 Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from Non-Contracting Parties Identified as Having Committed a Serious Infringement;

*RECALLING ALSO* the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Doc. 02-31);

*DESIRING* to collaborate in the adoption of a system of joint international enforcement as provided in paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention;

*INTENDING* to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote compliance with the ICCAT Convention and the Recommendations of the Commission by expanding the use of a joint international inspection regime to the western Atlantic; and

*RECOGNIZING* the value of establishing a Scheme of Joint International Inspection for the western Atlantic that reflects current international standards and is available for expansion to other fisheries or areas under the jurisdiction of ICCAT.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS THAT:

A Scheme of Joint International Inspection in the Western Atlantic be established as follows:

**Section I: Definitions**

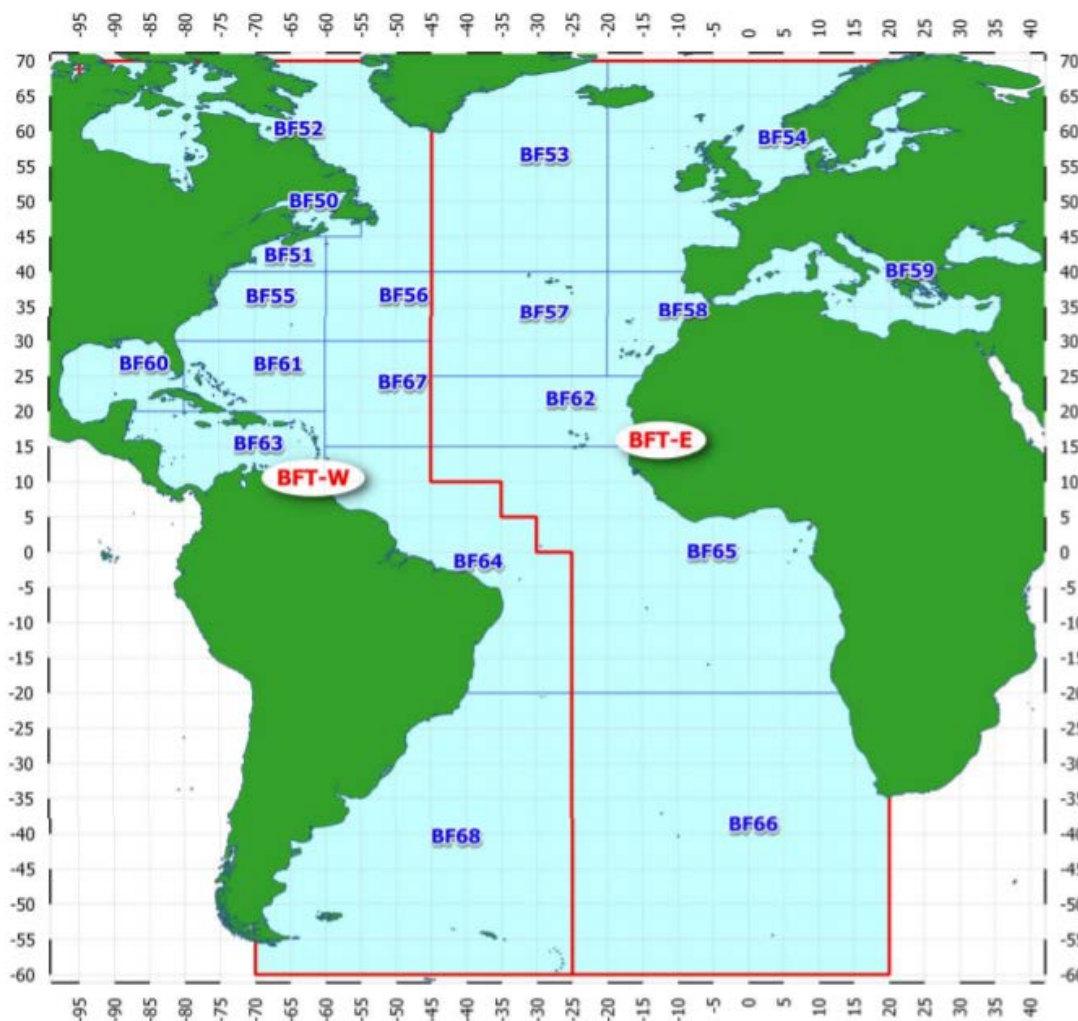
For the purpose of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection:

1. "Fishing" means the catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources under the competence of ICCAT; the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources; or any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources;
2. "Fishing activities" means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transferring fish to or from cages, and transshipment of fish or fish products;
3. "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for fishing activities including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, towing vessels, transport vessels, carrier vessels and any other vessel directly engaged in fishing activities;
4. "Inspection vessel" means any vessel authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to the ICCAT register of inspection vessels under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;
5. "Inspector" means an official designated and authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to conduct boarding and inspections in the ICCAT Convention area under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;

6. "Scheme" means the Joint International Inspection Scheme established by this Recommendation.
7. "IUU fishing" means activities as defined in paragraph 3 of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and as further defined in paragraph 1 of Recommendation 18-08 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activity.

**Section II: Purpose and area of application**

8. International boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this Scheme is intended to monitor compliance with the ICCAT Convention and related Recommendations in force.
9. This Scheme applies in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction in the Western Atlantic and to fishing activities that occurred in that area. [Map below is taken from ICCAT geographical definitions (Version: 2016.02 EN) at [https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT\\_maps.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf); if there is a better way to describe the Western Area in this Recommendation, suggestions are welcome.]



**Section III: General rights and provisions**

9bis. Each Contracting Party may, according to the provisions of this scheme, carry out boarding and inspection of fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction in the Western Atlantic and to fishing activities that occurred in that area.

9ter. These provisions shall also apply in their entirety as between a Contracting Party and a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, subject to a notification to that effect to the Commission from the parties concerned.

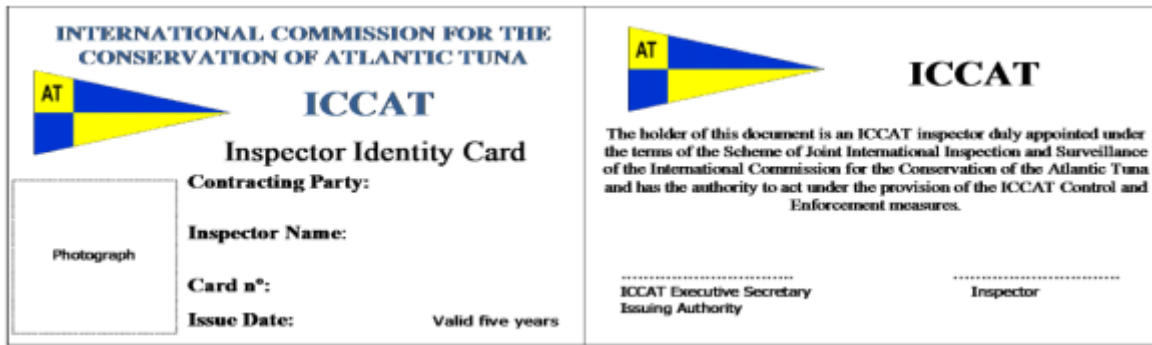
***Duties of the Contracting Parties***

10. All Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide inspectors and inspection vessels according to their capacity to do so, and may begin to participate in conducting inspections under this Scheme at any time.
11. Each Contracting Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters, and its inspection vessels and/or inspectors if applicable, fulfil their respective duties and requirements as described in this Recommendation.
12. Within 30 days of the start date of this Scheme, each Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications, inspection reports and immediate notification of infringements pursuant to this Scheme. It shall notify any changes to this information to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.
13. Boarding and inspections shall be carried out by inspectors and inspection vessels assigned to the Scheme by a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 14, below.

***Notification requirements***

14. A Contracting Party that intends to conduct boarding and inspection under the Scheme, including by deploying inspectors on board the inspection vessel of another Contracting Party pursuant to an agreement under paragraph 15, shall:
  - a) so notify the Executive Secretary, no later than 30 days in advance of the inspection vessel or inspector's deployment, providing the following particulars:
    - (i) its national authority responsible for at-sea inspection, as well as the name and contact details (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) for a point of contact within that authority;
    - (ii) with respect to inspectors it assigns pursuant to these procedures: (A) the names of the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection; (B) notification that such authorities' inspectors are fully familiar with the fishing activities to be inspected and the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures in force; and (C) notification that such authorities' inspectors have received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.;
    - (iii) an example of the credentials issued to inspectors by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, except where a Recommendation requires the following ICCAT-approved credential:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm



and

- (iv) for each inspection vessel designated by a national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, its name, description, image, registration number, port of registry and, if different from the port of registry, the name of the port as marked on the hull, international radio call sign and particulars of any other communication capabilities.
- b) notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information it has provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) above as soon as possible and, in all cases, before a new inspection vessel, or national authority participates in the Scheme;
- c) ensure that each inspection vessel it authorizes to participate in the Scheme is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service, and displays the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Annex 1 to Appendix 5**;
- d) ensure that the inspectors of any inspection vessel authorized and assigned to participate in the Scheme have the authority to inspect the vessel, its license, gear, equipment, records, facilities, fish and fish products and any relevant documents necessary to verify compliance with the recommendations in force pursuant to the Convention; and
- e) ensure that any inspector it authorizes to participate in the Scheme remains under its operational control, is fully familiar with the fishing activities being inspected and has been issued the credentials notified pursuant to this paragraph.

### **Exchange of Inspectors**

15. Consistent with Resolution 19-17 Amending Resolution 18-11 Establishing a Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Management by ICCAT, Contracting Parties are encouraged to enter into standing or *ad hoc* arrangements to allow for an inspector, authorized by a Contracting Party, to be deployed on inspection vessels of another Contracting Party to facilitate communication and coordination for the purpose of implementing the Scheme.
  - a) Such arrangements should establish a process for the timely identification of the authorized inspection vessels involved and include provisions for the cooperative deployment of personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other equipment for fisheries surveillance and law enforcement purposes.
  - b) In addition to the notification requirements of paragraph 14, the Contracting Parties involved shall notify the Executive Secretary of any arrangement reached under this paragraph.
  - c) Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels should, subject to having an agreement as outlined in this paragraph, embark authorized inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Foreign inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the inspection vessel under this Scheme as inspectors or as observing members of the inspection party, as agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties prior to deployment.



### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

16. The Executive Secretary shall,
- a) establish, maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website accessible to all Contracting Parties:
    - i) a register, including the information notified by the Contracting Parties under subparagraph 14.a; and
    - ii) information on the arrangements referred to in paragraph 15.
  - b) issue the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Annex 1 to Appendix 5** of this Recommendation to Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels pursuant to the Scheme.

### **Section IV: Inspections**

#### ***Transparency and equitable treatment***

17. Inspection shall be conducted in a transparent, non-discriminatory manner taking into account, *inter alia*, vessel fishing patterns and compliance records, the presence of observers, the frequency and results of prior inspections, and the full range of measures available to monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

#### ***Priorities for inspections***

18. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a fishing vessel:
- a) entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party that is eligible for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Fishing Vessels, but is not included;
  - b) where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the fishing vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing or in any activity in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - c) included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization; or
  - d) pursuant to a request by a Contracting Party or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question.

#### ***Optimal use of inspection resources***

19. Contracting Parties shall direct their inspection vessels to seek to establish regular contact with other inspection vessels operating in the same area for the purpose of sharing information on sightings, inspections and other operational elements relevant to their activities under the Scheme.

#### ***Non-Contracting Party Fishing Vessels and Vessels of Undetermined Flag***

20. In accordance with the notification requirements of paragraph 2(b) of Recommendation 19-09 on Vessel Sightings and taking into account Recommendation 21-XX on Vessels Without Nationality [currently proposed as PWG-408], an inspecting Contracting Party that sights a fishing vessel without nationality or of indeterminate flag, engaged in fishing activities in the Convention area, shall report the sighting to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties. Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that such a fishing vessel is targeting ICCAT species and is stateless, the inspecting Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law and relevant ICCAT Recommendations.

21. In accordance with paragraph 2(b) of Recommendation 19-09 on Vessel Sightings, an inspection vessel that sights a fishing vessel that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures shall immediately report such sighting to the authorities of the inspecting Contracting Party who shall notify the flag State of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary of such sighting.
22. The inspection vessel shall, if possible, advise the Master of the sighted vessel that they are operating within the ICCAT Convention area and may be fishing contrary to conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. Where practicable, the inspecting Contracting Party shall request permission from the flag State of the fishing vessel to board and inspect the fishing vessel. A report of the encounter and of any ensuing inspection shall be transmitted to the flag State of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

#### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

23. The Executive Secretary shall,
  - a) upon receipt, immediately distribute to the Contracting Parties the reports received pursuant to paragraphs 20, 21, and 22; and
  - b) compile, maintain, and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a list of vessels reported pursuant to paragraphs 20 and 21 and encounters and inspections reported pursuant to paragraph 22.

#### **Section V: Boarding and inspection procedures**

##### ***Conduct of inspections***

24. An inspection vessel that intends to undertake boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party pursuant to the Scheme shall:
  - a) seek to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, using the appropriate International Code of Signals or other internationally accepted means of alerting the vessel;
  - b) identify itself as an inspection vessel by communicating its name, registration number, international radio call sign and frequency;
  - c) advise the vessel of its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to the Scheme;
  - d) initiate notice through its authorities to the flag Contracting Party point of contact of the fishing vessel; and
  - e) display the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Annex 1 to Appendix 5** in a clearly visible fashion.
25. The inspection vessel and the inspectors shall make best efforts to communicate with the Master of the fishing vessel in a language that the Master can understand.
26. The number of inspectors assigned to an inspection party by the inspecting Contracting Party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.
27. Boarding and inspection shall be conducted:
  - a) in accordance with generally accepted international standards, regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the fishing vessel and its crew; and
  - b) to the extent possible, in a manner that avoids:

- i) undue interference with the lawful activity of the fishing vessel;
- ii) actions that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
- iii) harassment of the fishing vessel, its officers or crew.

28. In conducting an inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspectors shall:

- a) upon boarding, present their credentials, in accordance with paragraph 14 (a) (iii), to the Master;
- b) avoid interfering with the Master's ability to communicate with the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel;
- c) inspect and record such images of the fishing vessel's license, gear, equipment, facilities, fish and fish products on board, and logbooks, records and documents as may be necessary to verify compliance with, or establish any suspected infringements of, the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, including relevant information provided by the Observer – if present;
- d) collect, and clearly document in the inspection report, any evidence of a suspected infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- e) record the inspection and any suspected infringement in the fishing vessel's logbook or, where the vessel's logbook is electronic, provide a written record of the inspection and any suspected infringement;
- f) provide the Master with a copy of the inspection report including any objection or statement which the master wishes to include in the report;
- g) complete the inspection within four 4 hours unless evidence of a serious infringement is found, or where a longer time period is required to monitor ongoing fishing operations and obtain related documentation issued by the Master; and
- h) except where they have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement and other action is authorized pursuant to paragraph 41, promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection.

29. Where the inspectors have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, they shall seek to so advise, without delay, any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel that may be present in the vicinity.

#### ***Use of force***

30. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.
31. The inspectors shall promptly report any incident involving the use of force to their national authorities responsible for at-sea inspection, who shall advise the contact point of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel, and to the Executive Secretary.

#### ***Duties of the Master of the fishing vessel***

32. Each Contracting Party shall require that the Master of every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag:
- a) when signalled by an inspection vessel displaying the ICCAT flag or pennant, using the International Code of Signals, accepts and, to the extent compatible with good seamanship, facilitates boarding by the inspectors, unless the vessel is directly engaged in fishing activities, in which case the Master shall manoeuvre to safely facilitate boarding as soon as possible;

- b) provides a standardized boarding ladder that meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) and ensures safety measures are in place to prevent and respond as required to an accident during boarding;
- c) cooperates with and assists in the inspection;
- d) facilitates the inspection of, and provides access to such equipment, catch, gear and documents as the inspectors may consider necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- e) ensures that the crew avoids interfering with, or obstructing the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- f) facilitates the taking of samples of processed fish by inspectors, for the purpose of species identification through DNA analysis;
- g) makes available the use of the vessel's communication equipment and operator, to the extent required by the inspectors;
- h) facilitates communication by the inspectors with the crew and the flag Contracting Party of the inspection vessel;
- i) provides the inspectors with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation;
- j) takes such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by an inspector and of any evidence remaining on board;
- k) where the inspectors have made an entry in the logbooks, provides the inspectors with a copy of each page where such entry appears and, at the request of the inspector, signs each page to confirm that it is a true copy;
- l) refrains from resuming fishing activity until the inspectors have completed the inspection and, in the case of a serious infringement, secured the evidence; and
- m) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the inspectors.

***Refusal of boarding and inspection***

- 33. Where the Master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow boarding and inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately so advise the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary.
- 34. Upon receiving notification under paragraph 33, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:
  - a) except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures or practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the inspection, direct the Master to accept the inspection forthwith; and
  - b) where the Master does not comply with such direction:
    - i) order the Master to justify the refusal;
    - ii) where appropriate, take action in accordance with subparagraphs 42 (a) and (b); and
    - iii) promptly notify the Executive Secretary and the inspecting Contracting Party of the action it has taken.

## **Section VI: Inspection report and follow-up**

### ***Inspection reports***

35. Each Contracting Party shall require that its inspectors:
- a) upon completion of an inspection, complete an inspection report in the form set out in **Annex 2 to Appendix 5**;
  - b) sign the inspection report in the presence of the Master, who shall be given the opportunity to add or have added to the report any observations;
  - c) request the Master to sign the report only as an acknowledgement of receipt; and
  - d) before disembarking, provide a copy of the report to the Master, duly noting any refusal by the Master to acknowledge receipt.

### ***Transmission and dissemination of inspection reports***

36. Upon completion of the inspection, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit the inspection report within 30 days, or sooner if possible, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.
37. Notwithstanding paragraph 36, where inspectors have noted a serious infringement in the inspection report, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit, within 5 days, a copy of the inspection report and all supporting documents, images or audio recordings, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

38. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the inspection report to the secure part of the ICCAT website.

## **Section VII: Procedures relating to serious infringements**

### ***Serious infringements***

39. Each of the following constitutes a serious infringement:
- a) fishing without a valid license, permit or authorization;
  - b) significant failure to maintain accurate records of catch or catch-related data in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, or significant misreporting of catch or catch-related data;
  - c) fishing in a closed area;
  - d) fishing during a closed season;
  - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
  - f) significantly exceeding applicable catch limits or quotas;
  - g) intentional removal of fins and discarding of shark carcasses at sea in contravention of ICCAT Rec. 04-10;
  - h) using prohibited fishing gear;

- i) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel or its gear, or failing to mark fishing gear;
- j) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an inspection or investigation of an infringement, including the breaking or tampering of marks or seals, or accessing sealed areas;
- k) committing multiple infringements which, taken together, constitute a serious disregard of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- l) assaulting, resisting, intimidating, harassing, interfering with, obstructing or unduly delaying inspectors or observers in the performance of their duties;
- m) tampering with, disabling, or interfering with the vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the fishing vessel where VMS is required by ICCAT Recommendations;
- n) operating a fishing vessel without VMS in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- o) presenting falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector so as to prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- p) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- q) failure for the master of a vessel flagged to a Contracting Party to submit to an inspection;
- r) transshipping at sea in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- s) operating a fishing vessel without an observer in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations; and
- t) such other violations identified as a serious infringement in future ICCAT Recommendations.

***Duties of the Inspectors***

40. Each Contracting Party shall require that, where its inspectors have noted a serious infringement in the inspection report, they:
- a) immediately notify their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection of all relevant particulars;
  - b) take all such measures as may be required to ensure the security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, marking or sealing the vessel's hold or gear for further investigation; and
  - c) where feasible, advise any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel they know to be in the vicinity of the serious infringement and of the action they have taken.

***Duties of the inspecting Contracting Party***

41. Where notified by its inspectors of a serious infringement, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately transmit written notification of the serious infringement and a description of the supporting evidence to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

***Duties of the Flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel***

42. Upon receiving notification pursuant to paragraph 41, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:
- a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;
  - b) require that the fishing vessel concerned:

i) ceases all fishing activity until it is satisfied that the infringement will not continue or be repeated and has so notified the Master;

ii) where appropriate to the conduct of a full and thorough investigation, to proceed immediately to a port or other location it designates for investigation under its authority; and

iii) report to the Executive Secretary the measures it has taken pursuant to its laws in relation to the infringement.

43. The flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel may authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take such enforcement action as it may specify with respect to the vessel. It may also authorize an inspector from another Contracting Party to board or remain on board the vessel as it proceeds to port and to participate in the port inspection.

***Failure of the flag Contracting Party to respond***

44. Where the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel fails to take action as required pursuant to paragraph 42, the inspectors shall immediately so advise their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection and record the failure in the inspection report.

45. The inspecting Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of the flag Contracting Party's failure to respond.

46. The flag Contracting Party shall, without delay, provide to the Executive Secretary a written explanation of its failure to respond.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

47. The Executive Secretary shall,

a) upon receipt, post any notifications received pursuant to paragraphs 41 or 44, and any explanation received pursuant to paragraph 44, to the secure part of the ICCAT website;

b) transmit, upon receipt, the justification received pursuant to paragraph 46 to the inspecting Contracting Party; and

c) maintain a record of actions reported by the flag Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 42, post such record to the secure part of the ICCAT website, and refer the information to the Commission for its consideration.

**Section VIII: Follow-up enforcement action**

***Cooperation***

48. Contracting Parties shall cooperate to facilitate judicial or other proceedings initiated as follow-up to a report submitted by an inspector pursuant to the Scheme.

***National treatment***

49. Each Contracting Party shall:

a) without prejudice to their national legislation, treat interference by its fishing vessels, their Masters or crew with an inspector or an inspection vessel of another Contracting Party in the same manner as interference with its own inspectors within areas under its national jurisdiction; and

b) accord treatment to reports of inspections conducted by inspectors of another Contracting Party consistent with that accorded to reports of their own inspectors.

***Duties of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel***

50. A Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:
- a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity or, authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take enforcement action as appropriate under the circumstances;
  - b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;
  - c) if the evidence so warrants, take judicial or administrative action, as appropriate; and
  - d) ensure that any sanctions applied are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and, to the extent possible, depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement, including, *inter alia*:
    - i) fines;
    - ii) seizure of the fishing vessel, illegal fishing gear and/or catches;
    - iii) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish; and
    - iv) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.
  - e) notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken pursuant to this paragraph as soon as possible.

**Section IX: Annual compliance report**

***Reports by the Contracting Parties***

51. Each Contracting Party shall for the period ending on September 30 of that year, include in its annual report to the Commission, a summary of:
- a) the boarding and inspection activities it has conducted pursuant to the Scheme;
  - b) the action it has taken in response to reported infringements by its fishing vessels, including any enforcement procedures and the sanctions it may have applied; and
  - c) an explanation regarding every reported infringement concerning which it has taken no action.

***Report of the Executive Secretary***

52. The Executive Secretary shall submit to the ICCAT Commission before each annual meeting a report setting out a description of:
- a) the boarding and inspection activities and follow-up actions taken, as reported by each Contracting Party, for the period ending September 30;
  - b) the instances where boarding and inspection was refused by a fishing vessel of a Contracting Party, and any follow-up action taken by that Contracting Party in respect of such fishing vessel; and
  - c) the cases where force was used including the reported circumstances thereof.

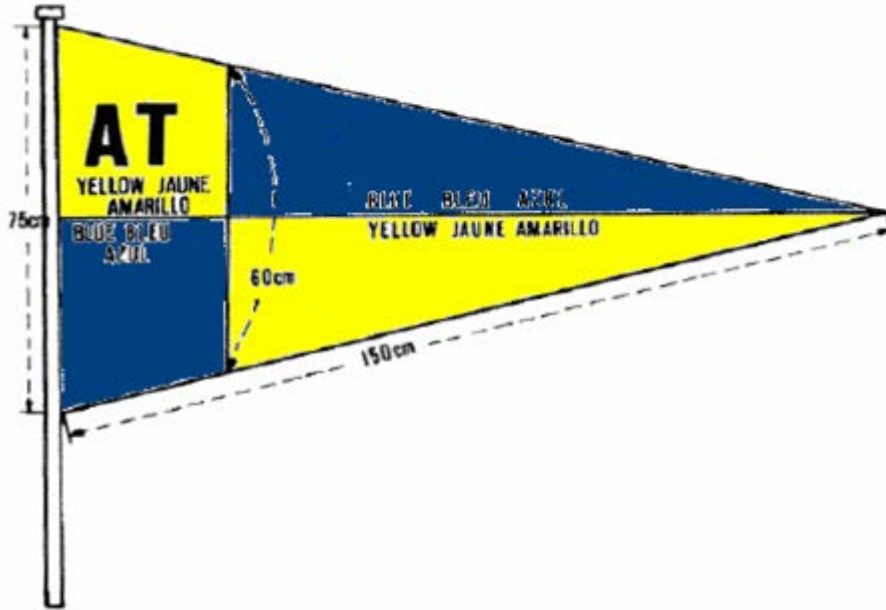
**Section X: Review**

53. This Scheme should be reviewed by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), to identify areas for improvement, no more than 3 years after adoption and at regular intervals thereafter.



ICCAT Inspection Flag or Pennant

ICCAT Pennant



## ICCAT Boarding and Inspection Report Form

1. Inspection report No.		2. Inspection Vessel			
3. Inspecting authority					
4. Name of principal inspector		ID			
5. Location of inspection (as determined by inspecting vessel)	Lat.	Long.			
6. Location of inspection (as determined by fishing vessel)	Lat.	Long.			
7. Commencement of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
8. Completion of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
9. Last port and date of last port call			YYYY	MM	DD
10. Vessel name					
11. Flag State					
12. Type of vessel					
13. International Radio Call Sign					
14. Certificate of registry ID					
15. IMO ship ID, if available					
16. External ID, if available					
17. Port of registry					
18. Vessel owner(s) and address					
19. Vessel beneficial owner(s), (if known and different from vessel owner) and address					
20. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner					
21. Vessel master name and nationality					
22. Fishing master name and nationality					
23. Vessel agent					
24. VMS	Type:				

25. Status in ICCAT and other RFMOs, including any IUU vessel listing					
Vessel identifier	RFMO	Flag State status	Vessel on authorized vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list	
26. Relevant fishing authorization(s)					
Identifier	Issued by	Validity	Fishing area(s)	Species	Gear
27. Catch retained onboard (quantity)					
Species	Product form	Catch area(s)	Quantity declared	Quantity retained (based on inspection)	
28. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation			Yes	No	Comments
29. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)			Yes	No	Comments
30. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)			Yes	No	Comments
31. Type of gear used					
32. Gear examined		Yes	No	Comments	
33. Findings by inspector(s)					

34. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)
35. Comments by the Master
36. Action taken
37. Master's signature*
38. Inspector's signature

\* The Master's signature serves only as acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of the inspection report.

**Background document relating to the recommendations and outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (JWG4) (Torremolinos, Spain, 23-25 October 2019)**

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)**

**FIFTEENTH ROUND OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF STATES PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA OF 10 DECEMBER 1982 RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS, AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS**

**Proposed contribution to the topic on “Implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management” in relation to the work of the Organization on the fight against IUU Fishing and the promotion of the entry into force of the Cape Town Agreement**

**BACKGROUND**

1. Illegal, unreported and unreported (IUU) fishing is an area of cooperation among the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). This cooperative work, as part of the overall long standing cooperative relationships among the Secretariats of the three Organizations, has been done within the context of each organization’s mandate: IMO for safety at sea and protection of the marine environment; ILO for work on labour standards and working conditions in the fishing industry; and FAO for fisheries in general.
2. During the 31st session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), many Members stressed the link between safety at sea and forced labour and the occurrence of IUU fishing activities. In this context, it was pointed out that there are possible links between the level of safety on board fishing vessels and IUU fishing practices.
3. In April 1999, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development highlighted the issues of flag and port State responsibilities and the need for FAO and IMO to cooperate on solving problems relating to IUU Fishing. As a result, the Secretariats of IMO and FAO worked together to facilitate the creation of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters (JWG). Since then, JWG met four times.

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHING VESSEL SAFETY AND IUU FISHING AND JWG 4**

**Cape Town Agreement**

4. The fourth session of JWG (JWG 4) took place after the closure of the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, which was organized by IMO and the Government of Spain, Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain, from 21 to 23 October 2019. with the kind support of the FAO of the United Nations (FAO) and The Pew Charitable Trusts.
5. The Conference promoted the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, the entry into force of which would help deter the proliferation of IUU fishing, by establishing international safety standards for fishing vessels.

6. The Government of Spain called for interested Member States to join them in signing a non-legally binding political declaration to publicly indicate their Government's determination to ratify and promote the Agreement by the tenth anniversary of its adoption (11 October 2022). During the Conference, which is open for further signatures until 21 October 2020, forty-eight countries signed the declaration.
7. As well as taking action to ensure entry into force, States signing the Torremolinos Declaration, pledged to promote the Agreement, recognizing that the ultimate effectiveness of the instrument depends upon the widespread support of States, in their capacities as flag States, port States and coastal States. They also denounced the proliferation of IUU fishing, recognizing that international safety standards for fishing vessels will provide port States with a mandatory instrument to carry out safety inspections of fishing vessels, thereby increasing control and transparency of fishing activities.
8. JWG 4 considered the outcome of the Conference and recommended that IMO consider developing guidance to assist competent authorities in the implementation of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1993 Protocol relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, through the most appropriate process. The process of developing guidance should allow for further discussion on its content and scope and be informed by FAO, ILO, other relevant Organizations and stakeholders.

#### **Joint/global capacity development programmes**

9. WG 4 recommended that the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats, World Maritime University (WMU), World Fisheries University (WFU), International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), ILO International Training Centre, any relevant UN-Agency such as Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), and other interested stakeholders, cooperate in the exchange of information and experience in the context of the scope and content of a potential integrated capacity-building and technical cooperation programme on international instruments relevant to fishing, taking into consideration existing implementing tools and material.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION  
OF IMO INSTRUMENTS  
7th session  
Agenda item 14

III 7/14  
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**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Recommendations of the fourth session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters and recent developments**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides the recommendations of the fourth session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters and recent developments in the context of IUU fishing and related matters
<i>Strategic direction, if applicable:</i>	Other work
<i>Output:</i>	OW 23
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 2
<i>Related documents:</i>	JWG 4/15 and III 7/14/1

**Introduction**

1. The annex to this document contains the recommendations\* of the fourth session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (JWG 4) and recent developments in the context of IUU fishing and related matters.

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

2. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and to take action as appropriate.

\* The full report of JWG 4 will be issued under the symbol III 7/14/1.

**ANNEX  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Agenda item 5            UPDATE BY THE SECRETARIATS ON THE STATUS OF IUU FISHING (RESPONSIBILITIES OF FLAG STATES, PORT STATES, COASTAL STATES, MARKET STATES, FISHING PERSONNEL TRAINING/PROVIDING STATES, AND STATES WITH FLEET MANAGING, FOOD PROCESSING AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES)**

5.1 Noting that States have obligations under instruments covering fisheries, maritime and labour affairs, JWG 4 recommended that FAO, ILO and IMO promote and support the development of ways to increase coordination and information sharing for inspection and control procedures at national level, including through technical assistance to developing countries, thereby increasing efficiency and effectively supporting the implementation of the respective instruments.

**Agenda item 6            GLOBAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

6.1 Further to the consideration of document JWG 4/6 on the *IMO Action Plan on marine litter from ships* and the actions related to fishing vessels, JWG 4 recommended that members and observers of FAO and ILO bring forward relevant comments and viewpoints, following further national and international coordination, to the respective meetings of IMO bodies, where the implementation of the actions contained in the *IMO Action Plan on marine plastic litter from ships* will be further discussed.

6.2 JWG 4 also recommended that IMO consider developing guidance to assist competent authorities in the implementation of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1993 Protocol relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, through the most appropriate process. The process of developing guidance should allow for further discussion on its content and scope and be informed by FAO, ILO, other relevant Organizations and stakeholders.

**Agenda item 7            STATUS OF COMBATING IUU FISHING INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING, FISHERIES-RELATED CRIMES AND CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH FISHERIES**

7.1 JWG 4 recommended that various regional PSC inspection regimes consider opportunities to coordinate their activities and to share information about various inspections under FAO/ILO/IMO instruments.

7.2 JWG 4 also recommended that FAO and IMO, together with ILO and relevant Organizations and regimes, as appropriate, consider developing guidance to facilitate cooperation, coordination and information-sharing between authorities carrying out inspections in ports of the merchant and fishing sectors, in line with relevant international instruments related to fishing vessels, fishing vessel personnel and fishing operations.

7.3 JWG 4 welcomed the initiative of the Indian Ocean MoU on Port State Control (IOMOU) to explore a collaborative programme with the *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)*, pending consideration by the members of the latter. In this context, JWG 4 also recommended further exchange between IOMOU and *IOTC*, as well as potential similar contact opportunities in other regions, for mutual awareness and the consideration of training material, as appropriate.

**Agenda item 8            COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE ON LABOUR ISSUES AND FISHERIES**

8.1 JWG 4 recommended that FAO, ILO and IMO work together on the proposals contained in document JWG 4/8/2, taking into account the discussions on this item, as well as the responsibilities of flag States under UNCLOS; the lessons learned from the ILO SEA Fisheries project and the SEA Forum for Fishers; and the outcome of the EU social partners' initiative to produce guidelines for decent recruitment, placement and posting of (migrant) fishers. JWG 4 recommended that the outcome of this joint work be submitted to JWG 5, as appropriate.



- 8.2 JWG 4 also recommended that the work of ILO and IMO, with respect to the issues of abandonment and fair treatment of seafarers, be extended to include fishers.
- 8.3 JWG 4 further recommended that FAO consider how to promote fisheries observer safety globally, through the most appropriate process. This process should review available information and existing national and regional measures on the safety, security and working and living conditions of fisheries observers under existing observer programmes and be informed by IMO, ILO, other relevant Organizations and stakeholders, while taking into account the views expressed during the discussions on this item.

**Agenda item 9 COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO FISHERIES (E.G. MARINE DEBRIS)**

- 9.1 JWG 4 recommended that the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats consider a joint intervention and/or commitment during the 2020 UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 2-6 June 2020) to raise awareness on its joint work on IUU fishing and related matters.

**Agenda item 10 JOINT/GLOBAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (INCLUDING PSMA/IUU FISHING, MARINE DEBRIS, ALDFG, PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT, REGULATORY ASPECTS OF MARPOL ANNEX V, AND THE LC/LP)**

- 10.1 Following consideration of document JWG 4/10/1, JWG 4 recommended that the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats, World Maritime University (WMU), World Fisheries University (WFU), International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), ILO International Training Centre, any relevant UN- Agency such as Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of *UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)*, and other interested stakeholders, cooperate in the exchange of information and experience in the context of the scope and content of a potential integrated capacity-building and technical cooperation programme on IUU fishing and promotion of international instruments relevant to fishing, taking into consideration existing implementing tools and material.

**Agenda item 11 STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAO'S GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS, REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT VESSELS AND SUPPLY VESSELS AND IMO SHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SCHEME (RESOLUTION A.1078(28))**

- 11.1 JWG 4 recommended that the Member States of FAO, IMO and ILO, as appropriate, and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), consider taking appropriate action for the effective allocation of IMO ship identification numbers to fishing vessels.
- 11.2 JWG 4 also recommended that the FAO Member States consider the application of the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to eligible vessels conducting fishing and fishing-related activities, as per resolution A.1117(30) in the framework of the Global Record.
- 11.3 JWG 4 further recommended that the review of the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme be carried out at IMO, as may be necessary, in cooperation with FAO and ILO, as appropriate.

**Agenda item 12 AGENCIES' REVIEW PROCESSES OF, AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO, THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF JWG 4**

- 12.1 JWG 4 recommended that the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats bring its recommendations to the consideration of their appropriate bodies.

**Agenda item 13 FUTURE COLLABORATION BETWEEN FAO, ILO AND IMO AND PREPARATION OF JWG 5**

- 13.1 Following consideration of document JWG 4/J/3, JWG 4 recommended that relevant FAO, ILO and IMO bodies review the terms of reference of the JWG with a view to providing directions to the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats for the development of draft rules of procedure and revised terms of reference to be considered at, and adopted, as appropriate, by JWG 5.

## Follow up of the ICCAT performance review – PWG

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red – Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
Orange – Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
Green – Completed or significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines.

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>Time-frame</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>Observations / Comments</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Data Collection and Sharing</b>	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC				Has been taken into account in some measures taken by the Panels.		
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS		PWG will review implementation of measures designed to improve collection and reporting of bycatch and discard data (e.g., Recs. 16-14 and 11-10) at 2019 Annual meeting.				See comments SCRS_BIL SG.

<b>Port State Measures</b>	67. Amends Rec 12-07 to ensure more consistency with the PSM Agreement, in particular by including definitions and requiring CPCs to impose key port State measures such as denial or use of port in certain scenarios.	PWG	S	Refer to PWG for consideration and appropriate action.		IMM discussed at the April 2018 meeting; Agenda Item 5.d. Proposal was adopted as Rec. 18-09.	Done	No further action required by PWG.
	68. Closely follows IOTC's efforts to enhance effective implementation of its port State measures through, <i>inter alia</i> , its e-PSM system, and, where appropriate, adopt similar efforts within ICCAT.	PWG	S/M	Refer to Online Reporting Working Group for analysis.	South Africa is already sending Port Inspection Reports to ICCAT through ePSM. IOTC have updated the referential tables to include the necessary ICCAT codes/references, etc.	The Working Group on Online Reporting agreed that exploration of developments in other fora would be appropriate before any decisions were taken, such as the forthcoming FAO workshop which would also give consideration to Port State Measure implementation or the next Kobe meeting. The WG on Online Reporting agreed to await the outcomes of this workshop and to revert to this issue intersessionally during the coming year.		

	69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.	COC	S	Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.		Revised proposal on Port Inspection was adopted as Rec. 18-09.	New measures taken, but compliance assessment will be ongoing.	
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<b>Integrated MCS Measures</b>	70. Gives priority to adopting a modern HSBI scheme - through a Recommendation and not a Resolution - that extends to all key ICCAT fisheries as such, but can be applied in practice to selected fisheries according to the COC's compliance priorities.	PWG	M	Refer to the PWG as work on this matter is ongoing.		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM; Agenda Item 5c. A proposal was accepted for a voluntary measure that promotes the concept of at-sea inspector exchanges, adopted at the 2018 Annual meeting as Rec. 18-11.	Ongoing	Ongoing discussion by PWG.
	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries. IMM will revisit this issue following the 2019 COC discussions and Secretariat analysis on compliance with observer program requirements.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.	Expansion of observer coverage by ICCAT remains under consideration, but has been adopted for tropical tuna fleets. CPC's concerned are also requested to report on their observer coverage by way of their annual report. Request the Compliance Committee to confirm whether CPCs are complying with the requirements contained in Rec. 16-14.		Ongoing discussion by PWG.

	<p>72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda Item 5a. Frequency of reporting increased, but no further centralisation yet considered. In 2018, frequency of reporting further increased through Rec. 18-10.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
	<p>73. Works towards replacing all SDPs with electronic CDPs that are harmonized among tuna RFMOs where appropriate - in particular for bigeye tuna - while taking account of the envisaged FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for further analysis.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes. Not completed, to be further considered by IMM in the future.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>

	74. Considers, in the interest of transparency, incorporating all measures relating to distinct MCS measures - in particular transshipment and on-board observers - in one single ICCAT Recommendation, so that CPCs have only one reference document to consult.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for assessment of the pros and cons of this approach.		Because of the significant administrative burden of this exercise, it is suggested to maintain separate recommendations, to systematically delete obsolete measures to refresh references in the remaining ones.	Separate measures to be maintained, procedure for removal agreed.	No further action required by PWG.
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<b>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</b>	79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.	Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.	Observer and inspection reports are made available to the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5d		
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<p><b>Market-Related Measures</b></p>	<p>84. The Panel, noting Rec. 12-09, commends ICCAT for its initiatives in this area and recommends that catch documents, preferably electronic, be introduced for bigeye and swordfish species.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>See Recommendation 73 above for proposed action.</p>	<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission Annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes. Issue still under consideration.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
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<p><b>Reporting Requirements</b></p>	<p>85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, through its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task 1 and Task 2 data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.</p>	<p>Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate. The Online Reporting Group has also requested that requirements be streamlined and simplified.</p>	<p>Request that, after receiving input from the Online Reporting Working Group by 30 June, the Secretariat circulate to Subsidiary Bodies a list of reporting requirements and how they are used. Work on online reporting currently in progress, and simplification of reporting may be recommended as work progresses.</p>		<p>Ongoing discussion by PWG.</p>
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<p><b>Reporting Requirements</b></p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing</p>	<p>COM - to be considered by all bodies.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>A global standard may not be appropriate. Application should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket coverage for all recommendations.</p>	<p>This may be taken into consideration in specific measures, but no further action currently required by PWG.</p>	
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	<p>new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>							
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<b>Confidentiality</b>	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM - referred to PWG	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		There is merit in the SCRS reviewing data confidentiality rules and consider processes within other RFMOs. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the annual meeting.		
	98. Conducts a review of its Rules and Procedures on Data Confidentiality as envisaged in its paragraph 33, taking into account the need for harmonization among tuna RFMOs consistent with Rec KIII-1. As part of this review, it should adopt an ICCAT's Information Security Policy (ISP), where appropriate.	PWG	M	Refer the issue to the PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		There is merit in an external review of the Secretariat's current security policies. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the annual meeting.		

<p><b>Capacity building - port State measures</b></p>	<p>110 a) Urges developing CPCs to make the necessary efforts to assist the ICCAT Secretariat in identifying their capacity building needs;</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).</p>	<p>The Port Inspection Expert Group had developed a two tier questionnaire which has been circulated to all CPCs and responses have been requested. The report of the Port Inspection Expert Group was adopted and Commission agreed to Call for Tender for ICCAT training module and to start with the needs assessments of the two CPs nominated by the Expert Group. Tender for ICCAT module has been awarded and output will be considered by the Port Inspection Expert Group in early 2020. The Manual has been submitted and almost finalized; translation pending to be followed by final review by Expert Group.</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>
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	<p>110 b) Closely coordinates the operation of Rec. 14-08 with existing and future capacity building initiatives undertaken by other intergovernmental bodies.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).</p>		<p>The Port Inspection Expert Group invited an expert (funded by ABNJ) to its last meeting, in order to better learn of initiatives and developments in that RFMO. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Port Inspection Expert Group taking current initiatives into account.</p>		
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