

**EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR A JOINT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION SCHEME IN THE CONVENTION AREA IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION**  
*(proposed by Canada and Senegal)*

In November 2021, Canada submitted a proposal to the PWG at the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission to create a Scheme of Joint Inspection that would apply to all fishing occurring in the western Atlantic portion of the ICCAT Convention area in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Canada was pleased with the high level of support that other Contracting Parties expressed for the proposal, but recognizes that not all Contracting parties were prepared to support it.

We are interested to continue to build consensus on this issue, especially in view of the current lack of a cooperative enforcement scheme in the western Atlantic, in contrast to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean where schemes are in place for eastern bluefin and Mediterranean swordfish. We remain concerned about illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity in the Convention area in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and its negative impacts on the sustainability of ICCAT stocks and the fishing opportunities of CPCs.

Canada recognizes that multiple Schemes of Joint Inspection in the ICCAT Convention area could lead to inconsistencies in application. In order to bring a whole-of-Convention-area approach, Canada is pleased to submit this proposal for a single Scheme of Joint Inspection for the ICCAT Convention area in areas beyond national jurisdiction based on text presented in document PWG-419A in November 2021 (the last version considered by the PWG) for CPCs' consideration. New text is shown underlined.

This Scheme of Joint Inspection would incorporate all terms and conditions of the existing inspection schemes for eastern bluefin and Mediterranean swordfish and would include all areas under the jurisdiction of ICCAT in areas beyond national jurisdiction. However, these existing inspection schemes would remain in effect until a single Scheme of Joint Inspection for ICCAT receives final approval.

Canada invites responses and comments from all CPCs on this draft Recommendation in the hopes that it can be adopted to begin implementation in 2023.

Version A includes some edits to numbering errors and references to now-replaced measures that were not updated from the 2021 proposal, adds paragraphs 11bis and 13bis, edits to reflect that a vessel may be "sighted or identified" depending on the means of detection used, and a reference to ICCAT inspection vessels cooperating with coastal state fisheries enforcement operations where relevant. It adds the transition period to new boarding ladder standards. It removes the reference to posting inspection reports to a secure part of the ICCAT website until that concept can be discussed further in WG-IMM. It also changes "believe" to "suspect" in two places for consistency throughout the document. Finally, it sets a transition period of one year for Eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and Mediterranean swordfish, from their existing inspection schemes to the one set out in this proposal.

Version B removes paragraphs 11 and 11bis, and modifies paragraphs 10 and 16 to be phrased the same, 54bis to delay coming into force until 1 January 2024, and paragraph 55 call for future review of the measure to be conducted by PWG rather than WG-IMM.

Version C clarifies in paragraphs 9 and 10 that the Scheme would apply to Contracting Parties, and clarifies that paragraphs 22, 23 and 24 apply to vessels without nationality or of undetermined flag.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR A JOINT INTERNATIONAL  
INSPECTION SCHEME IN THE CONVENTION AREA IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION**  
*(proposed by Canada and Senegal)*

*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 entire Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

*RECOGNIZING* the value of establishing a Scheme of Joint International Inspection for the Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction that reflects current international standards and is available to all 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 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 beyond areas of national jurisdiction 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 by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-08 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activity* (Rec. 21-13).

## **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, and to the fishing activities by Contracting Parties that occurred in that area.

## **Section III: General rights and provisions**

10. Each Contracting Party may, according to the provisions of this Recommendation, participate in this Scheme by conducting boarding and inspection of Contracting Parties' fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction and to fishing activities that occurred in that area.
11. [Deleted]

### ***Duties of the Contracting Parties***



12. 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.
13. 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.
- 13bis. The arrangements set out in this Recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Parties unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the Executive Secretary. However, that implementation of the Scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Parties if they have notified the Executive Secretary to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
14. 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.
15. Boarding and inspections shall be carried out by inspectors and inspection vessels assigned to the Scheme by a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 18 below.

### ***Notification requirements***

16. A Contracting Party that intends to participate in this Scheme by conducting 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 17, 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 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*

<p><b>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</b></p>  <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Identity Card</b></p> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card n°:</b></p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b> Valid five years</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 60px; margin: 10px 0; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 8px;">Photograph</span> </div>	 <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%; font-size: 8px;"> <span>ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority</span> <span>Inspector</span> </div>
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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 **Appendix 1**;
- 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***

17. 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 16, 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 such inspectors are 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***

18. 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 16.a; and
  - ii. information on the arrangements referred to in paragraph 17.
- b) issue the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Appendix 1** of this Recommendation to Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels pursuant to the Scheme.

#### **Section IV: Inspection**

19. 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***

20. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a fishing vessel:

- a) that does not have an observer deployed on the vessel;
- b) that is considered to be large-scale fishing vessel as per Rec. 21-14;
- c) 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;
- d) 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;
- e) included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization;
- f) 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; or
- g) with a known history of violating conservation measures adopted by international agreement or any country's national laws and regulations.

***Optimal Use of inspection resources***

21. Contracting Parties shall direct their inspection vessels to seek to establish regular contact with other inspection vessels or coastal States conducting monitoring, control, and surveillance operating in the same area for the purpose of sharing information, as appropriate, on sightings, inspections and other operational elements relevant to their activities under the Scheme.

***Fishing Vessels Without Nationality and Vessels of Undetermined Flag***

22. In accordance with the notification requirements of paragraph 2(b) of *Recommendation 19-09 on Vessel Sightings* and taking into account *Recommendation 21-12 on Vessels Without Nationality*, an inspecting Contracting Party that sights or identifies a fishing vessel without nationality or of indeterminate flag, engaged in fishing activities in the Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction, shall report the sighting or identification to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties. Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect 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.
23. In accordance with paragraph 2(b) of *Recommendation 19-09 on Vessel Sightings*, an inspection vessel that sights or identifies 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.
24. The inspection vessel shall, if possible, advise the Master of the sighted vessel that they are operating within the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction and may be fishing contrary to conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. 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***

25. The Executive Secretary shall,
  - a) upon receipt, immediately distribute to the Contracting Parties the reports received pursuant to paragraphs 22, 23, and 24; and
  - b) compile, maintain, and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a list of vessels reported pursuant to paragraphs 22 and 23.

**Section V: Boarding and inspection procedures*****Conduct of inspections***

26. 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 **Appendix 1** in a clearly visible fashion.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. In conducting an inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspectors shall:
- a) upon boarding, present their credentials, in accordance with paragraph 16 (a) (iii), to the Master;
  - b) present a copy of the text of the relevant measure in force pursuant to the Convention in the relevant area of the high seas;
  - c) avoid interfering with the Master's ability to communicate with the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel;
  - d) 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;
  - e) collect, and clearly document in the inspection report, any evidence of a suspected infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - f) 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;
  - g) affix an identification mark approved by ICCAT to fishing gear which contravene ICCAT Recommendations and shall record this fact in his/her report;
  - h) provide the Master with a copy of the inspection report including any objection or statement which the master wishes to include in the report;
  - i) limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned;
  - j) 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

- k) except where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement and other action is authorized pursuant to paragraph 43, promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection.
31. Where the inspectors have reasonable grounds to suspect 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***

32. 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.
33. 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***

34. Each Contracting Party shall require that the Master of every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag:
- a) when signaled 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 maneuver to safely facilitate boarding as soon as possible;
  - b) provides a standardized boarding ladder and ensures safety measures are in place to prevent and respond as required to an accident during boarding, and from January 2024 ensures that the boarding ladder meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21);
  - 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***

- 35. 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.
- 36. Upon receiving notification under paragraph 35, 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 44 (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***

- 37. Each Contracting Party shall require that its inspectors:
  - a) upon completion of an inspection, complete an inspection report in the form set out in **Appendix 2**;
  - 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***

- 38. Upon completion of the inspection, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit the inspection report, including a copy of all photographs taken, 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.
- 39. Notwithstanding paragraph 38, 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.
- 40. [Deleted]

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

41. 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***

42. 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***

43. 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***

44. Upon receiving notification pursuant to paragraph 43, 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.
45. 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***

46. Where the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel fails to take action as required pursuant to paragraph 44, the inspectors shall immediately so advise their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection and record the failure in the inspection report.
47. The inspecting Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of the flag Contracting Party's failure to respond.
48. 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***

49. The Executive Secretary shall,
- a) upon receipt, post any notifications received pursuant to paragraphs 43 or 46, 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 48 to the inspecting Contracting Party;
  - c) maintain a record of actions reported by the flag Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 44, post such record to the secure part of the ICCAT website, and refer the information to the Commission for its consideration; and
  - d) review a serious violation under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-08 on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 21-13), taking into account any response actions and other follow-up.

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

50. 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***

51. 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***

52. 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***

53. 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***

54. 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 30 September;
  - 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: Coming into force, transition from existing schemes, and review**

54bis. This Recommendation shall become effective as of 1 January 2024, except that application of this Scheme in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and Mediterranean swordfish fisheries may be further delayed until such time as the Commission agrees that the specificities of the inspection schemes included in the relevant Recommendations for those fisheries have been fully incorporated into the Scheme in this Recommendation.

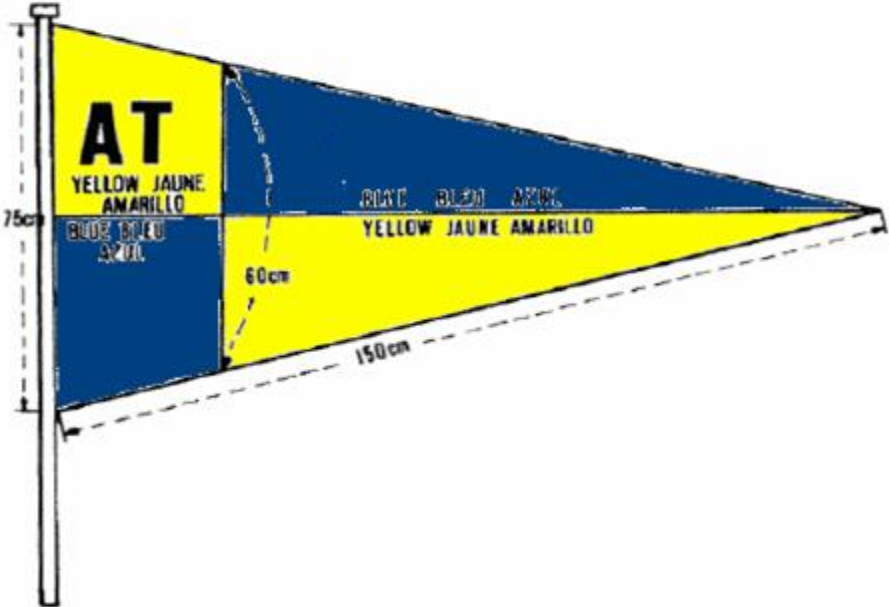
54ter. The 2023 meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group shall discuss implementation of the Scheme to prepare for the coming into force in 2024.

55. This Scheme shall be reviewed by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), to identify areas for improvement, no more than 2 years after adoption and at regular intervals thereafter.

55bis. An ad hoc working group shall be established, to begin meeting regularly in 2023 to discuss implementation of the Scheme, develop recommendations on priorities for patrol activities and, once the Scheme has become effective, share information on best practices (including on uses of technology) and develop recommendations on how the measure can be improved. The reports of the working group will be circulated to the Commission and submitted to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), for consideration during its annual review of this Recommendation.

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

<b>26. Relevant fishing authorization(s)</b>						
<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Issued by</i>	<i>Validity</i>	<i>Fishing area(s)</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>	
<b>27. Catch retained onboard (quantity)</b>						
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity declared</i>	<i>Quantity retained (based on inspection)</i>		
<b>28. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>29. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>30. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>31. Type of gear used</b>						
<b>32. Gear examined</b>			<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>	
<b>33. Findings by inspector(s)</b>						
<b>34. Description of photographs taken</b>						



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

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