

**Explanatory note on a Draft Resolution by ICCAT for
the Establishment of a Working Group on the Support to the Implementation of
ICCAT Recommendation 23-Xx Establishing a Joint International Inspection Scheme**

(proposal submitted by the EU)

The European Union is pleased to table a proposal for the creation of a new Working Group whose purpose will be to facilitate the implementation of the High Seas Boarding Scheme that is proposed for adoption at the 2023 ICCAT Annual Meeting 2023 (IMM_11C/i2023).

The present proposal follows up on the discussions that took place during the Seminar on High Seas Boarding Schemes in the ICCAT context held on 13 and 14 September 2023 in Vigo, Spain. During the Seminar the need for inclusiveness of such schemes and of capacity building opportunities came out strongly. One of the key tasks of this new Working Group will be to explore ways to ensure the participation of all interested Contracting Parties, notwithstanding their capacity and means, and to identify capacity building needs and ways to address them, including through trainings. The Working Group will also discuss more operational matters such as risk analysis, planning, and inspection priority setting. Lastly, the Working Group will discuss completed campaigns and the lessons learnt from these.

**Draft Resolution by ICCAT for the establishment of
a Working Group on the Support to the Implementation of ICCAT Recommendation 23-XX
Establishing a Joint International Inspection Scheme**

(Proposal submitted by the EU)

RECALLING the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection (Ref. 75-02), Annex 7 of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08), establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery and Annex 1 of the Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a Multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish (Rec. 16-05), establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the Mediterranean Swordfish fishery;

[FURTHER RECALLING the adoption of the Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the Convention Area in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Rec. 23-XX)];

NOTING the outcome of the Seminar on High Seas Boarding Schemes in the ICCAT context held on 13 and 14 September 2023 in Vigo, Spain, in particular in terms of the importance of inclusiveness of such schemes and of capacity building opportunities in this context;

RECOGNIZING that the existing differences in capacity and resources between the ICCAT Contracting Parties call for establishing mechanisms to facilitate the participation of all interested Contracting Parties in the implementation of Rec. 23-XX, according to their means;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the implementation of Rec. 23-XX might bring to light capacity gaps that could be addressed through capacity building initiatives, including training.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. An ad hoc Working Group for the implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the Convention Area in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (Rec. 23-XX) is established. The objective of the ad hoc Working Group is to support the implementation of the Joint International Inspection Scheme (JIS), including by ensuring the inclusiveness of the scheme through facilitating participation of interested Contracting Parties and by identifying and discussing possible capacity building needs, notably for those Contracting Parties that have limited experience and capacity.
2. The ad hoc Working Group will perform the following activities:
 - a) Allow for exchanges of general information between the ad hoc Working Group participants about JIS patrol activities related to boarding and at sea inspection and surveillance activities;
 - b) Allow for sharing data and information that can be used for risk analysis for feeding into the planning of ongoing and future inspection patrol activities;
 - c) Develop general recommendations on priorities for inspection patrol activities for dissemination to Contracting Parties;
 - d) Share information on best practices, including on the use of compliance tools, technology, inspector training, and inspection methodologies;
 - e) Identify and discuss capacity building needs and available resources in connection with the preparation and implementation of the JIS;
 - f) Allow for sharing of capacity building and initiatives between Contracting Parties;

- g) Ensure that the work carried out under the ad hoc Working Group does not duplicate but instead complements initiatives carried out by other current Working Groups such as the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance;
 - h) In accordance with paragraph [17] of Recommendation 23-XX, discuss Contracting Parties interest and plan for inspector exchanges between Contracting Parties consistent with the *Resolution by ICCAT amending Resolution 18-11 by ICCAT establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT* (Res. 19-17) and provide related recommendations to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), as appropriate;
 - i) Allow for Contracting Parties to exchange about completed JIS campaigns and, as appropriate, draw conclusions and lessons-learned for future campaigns;
 - j) Advise the PWG on how implementation of Recommendation 23-XX can be improved.
3. The ad hoc Working Group should meet for the first time as soon as practically possible after the adoption of Recommendation 23-XX and meet at least once a year for three consecutive years, or as otherwise agreed by the Commission, preferably in conjunction with the meeting of the Working Group on IMM.
 4. The ad hoc Working Group should be open to all Contracting Parties.
 5. The ad hoc Working Group will be assisted by the ICCAT Secretariat. To facilitate immediate work, the first meeting of the ad hoc Working Group will be chaired by the PWG Chair. By the end of its first meeting, the ad hoc Working Group will elect its own Chair.
 6. The ICCAT Secretariat will arrange for simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, Spanish and French) during all ad hoc Working Group meetings.
 7. The ad hoc Working Group will provide a report of its activities to the Commission. The PWG will consider this report as part of its annual review of the implementation of Rec 23-XX.