

**Annual report updates received after first publication /
Actualisations des rapports annuels reçus après la première publication /
Actualizaciones de los informes anuales recibidos después de la primera publicación**

This addendum contains the updates of the annual reports received after the first publication.
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- **European Union** – Section 2.1.

Section 2: Information on conservation and management measures

2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

There are nine EU Member states holding fishing opportunities of ICCAT managed stocks. These member States are individually listed in each reporting obligation and information detailed accordingly. In addition to those Member States, four others are providing scientific information to ICCAT under Task 1 and Task 2 reporting, which are derived from fishing logbooks and pertain to by-catch of ICCAT species in any one of non ICCAT pelagic fisheries these MS operate in the Atlantic.

M:GEN 002: Report on implementation of reporting obligations for all ICCAT fisheries, including shark species

In 2023 the EU has complied with all ICCAT reporting obligations.

M:GEN17 Information of bilateral arrangement for Port Inspection

The EU had no bilateral arrangements for Port Inspection in 2023.

M:GEN19 Summary of activities carried out pursuant to access agreements, including all catches

The EU has submitted for 2023 the activity form CP39- Form B for ten access agreements, these are: Cape-vert; Cote d'Ivoire, EU-UK; Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Morocco, Mauritania, S Tome e Principe and Senegal. The forms have been filled adhering to the same criteria as in previous years, which has been discussed and agreed upon too at the IMM meeting held in Portugal in 2024. (IMM_03A/i2024)

Over the year of 2024 the EU has not engaged in any new access agreement.

CP 39 Forms A and B have been submitted alongside with the report.

M:GEN 23: Techniques used to manage sport and recreational fisheries

Croatia	<p>In 2024 Croatia allocated a total of 12.5t for big game recreational fishing and 5t for sport fishing.</p> <p>In sport fishery, quota is utilised within the authorised competitions organized by Croatian Sport Fishing Association. During the event, a fisheries inspector is always present, while the sampling of tuna (size, weight, etc.) is conducted by IOF (Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries).</p> <p>Public tender for allocation of individual recreational quota was published on 5 June 2024 and a total of 25 vessels are authorised to catch BFT. Each authorised vessel is allocated with a 500 kg quota and is allowed to land one single specimen per day, not smaller than 30 kg of 115cm. All vessels are equipped with VMS and are obliged to pre-notify landing and electronically report their catches.</p>
Cyprus	<p>Sport and Recreational fisheries for BFT and Med_SWO are prohibited in Cyprus.</p> <p>Recreational fisheries for Med_ABL is allowed. Following the implementation of Recommendation 2022-05 a specific quota of 10.99 tonnes was dedicated in 2023 for recreational fisheries of Med_ALB. Furthermore, a licencing system has been put in place and special authorizations are issued for vessels engaged in recreational fisheries of this species. All relevant vessel information is collected through an online platform created for the licencing of the vessels.</p> <p>Acatch documentation scheme has been put in place for recreational fisheries (both electronic and paper) to report and monitor the catches.</p> <p>All obligations (i.e daily catch limit) are clearly indicated in the terms accompanying the recreational licences.</p>
France	<p>Recreational fisheries only for EBFT and Med-SWO. These Information was transmitted to ICCAT integrated in the context of BFT and SWO fishing, capacity and management plan.</p>
Greece	<p>No quota allocated to sport & recreational fisheries.</p>

Ireland	<p>Ireland's Tuna CHART 2023 report, submitted in April 2024, outlines the methods and protocols used in the bluefin tuna tagging program. The report highlights the importance of tuna welfare, detailing strict guidelines for capturing, tagging, and releasing fish. A technical group manages skipper authorizations, data collection, and observer programs. In 2023, 19 experienced skippers were authorized, with two new additions. Skippers undergo mandatory training, which includes guidelines on gear specifications, bluefin welfare, and angling techniques. Online and live training sessions, emphasizing fish recovery and handling, were conducted to ensure best practices.</p> <p>The program, operational from July to November, enforces regulations such as prohibiting surface trolling and mandates equipment standards. Monitoring and enforcement are handled jointly by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA), including RIB patrols and port inspections. Data is collected via vessel monitoring systems and reported digitally, with the final data submitted to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for integration into global tagging databases.</p>
Italy	<p>Implementing bluefin tuna sport fishing in Italy involves adhering to specific regulations and seasonal guidelines. Every year with MASAF ministerial decree assigns a fishing quota (22,665 Kg in 2023).</p> <p>The sport fishing season for bluefin tuna in Italy opens on 16 June and usually ends on 14 October, but if the quota ends early the sport fishing is possible do it only practices of catch and release.</p> <p>Sport fishing for bluefin tuna requires a specific license. These permits are issued by the relevant authority.</p>
Malta	<p>In 2023, 3.5T of the national quota was allocated to recreational fishing vessels and vessels were limited to catch one fish per day. Inspections were carried out by the Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture at designated and non-designated ports to ensure that no landing of illegal Bluefin tuna takes place. Any relevant infringements were reported to the European Commission through Malta's interim and final reports on the implementation of the national control action programme.</p> <p>BFT recreational data concerning any catches were reported in the ICCAT forms for Task 1 and Task 2 data.</p> <p>No recreational vessels were licensed to participate in the Mediterranean swordfish sport and recreational fisheries in 2023.</p>
Portugal	<p>Recreational and sport fishing in Portugal is regulated by various laws: Decree-Law 101/2013 and Ordinance 14/2014 for mainland Portugal, and Decreto Legislativo Regional 19/2016 and Portaria 484/2016 for Madeira. In Madeira, fishing tournaments must adhere to strict regulations, including catch-and-release practices for migratory species, to minimize environmental impact. Licenses are required, and non-compliance can result in penalties. Bluefin tuna and Blue Marlin fishing have specific rules, including size limits and mandatory reporting. Since 2016, Madeira has been part of a pilot project under Portugal's Data Collection Program to enhance data gathering on sport fishing activities.</p>
Spain	<p>España cuenta con normativa propia que regula la pesca de recreo: Real Decreto 347/2011, de 11 de marzo, por el que se regula la pesca marítima de recreo en aguas exteriores. En concreto, el artículo 10, establece que para la pesca desde embarcación se necesita una autorización específica para las capturas de estas especies, sometidas a medidas de protección diferenciada, que son las siguientes, tal y como se detalla en el anexo II (“Especies sometidas a medidas de protección diferenciada en la pesca marítima de recreo”):</p> <p>Código FAO Atún rojo (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) (1) BFT Atún blanco (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) ALB Patudo (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) BET Pez espada (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) SWO Marlines (<i>Makaira</i> spp.) BUM Agujas (<i>Tetrapturus</i> spp.) Marlín del Mediterráneo-Aguja blanca del Atlántico Aguja Picuda-Marlín peto MSP – WHM SPF – RSP, Pez vela (<i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) SAI.</p> <p>Por otra parte, en cumplimiento del Reglamento TAC y cuotas anual, el Real Decreto 46/2019, de 8 de febrero, por el que se regula la pesquería de atún rojo en el Atlántico Oriental y Mediterráneo, reserva un 0,5577 % de la cuota asignada al Reino de España para la retención de eventuales de eventuales ejemplares muertos de atún rojo en la actividad recreativa.</p>

	Resolución de 28 de abril de 2023, de la Secretaría General de Pesca, por la que se establecen las disposiciones de aplicación del plan de ordenación plurianual del atún rojo en el océano Atlántico oriental y el mar Mediterráneo para 2023, prohíbe expresamente la captura dirigida a la muerte de ejemplares de atún rojo, obligando a la liberación de ejemplares vivos. La cuota sólo se contabiliza en caso de muerte accidental de ejemplares, que no pueden destinarse a la comercialización.
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M: GEN42 Annual reporting on Port inspection activity

CP58-AnnRepPIs for the EU Member States were submitted alongside with the report.

M: GEN43 Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) domestic programmes implementation report

The EU has not implemented any EMS domestic program in 2023.

M: BFT 25 Report on steps taken to encourage tag and release of all fish less than 30 kg/115 cm

Not relevant for the EU.

M: TRO 17 Maximum on board by-catch limit for tropical tunas

Croatia	Not relevant
Cyprus	Not relevant
France	According to Annex II of the French National order of 25 February 2013, by-catches of bigeye tuna are allowed within the limit of 3 tonnes per vessel and trip, only for vessels holding the Northern albacore tuna RFMOs fishing license in the ICCAT area with pelagic trawl gear in the Atlantic Ocean, North of 5 ° N.
Greece	Not relevant
Italy	Not relevant
Malta	Not relevant
Portugal	Portugal allocates 85% of its BET quota to artisanal vessels from the outermost regions. Mainland longliners have allocated 15% of the national quota to safeguard against possible accidental catches of these tunas, which happen rarely.
Spain	Durante 2023 no se estableció límite de captura para buques no autorizados a la pesca de túnidos tropicales. Todos los buques de 20m de eslora o mayores que pesquen túnidos tropicales deben estar autorizados.

M:TRO 18 measures taken to ensure compliance with M:TRO 3017

Croatia	Not relevant
Cyprus	Not relevant
France	
Greece	Not relevant
Italy	Not relevant
Malta	Not relevant
Portugal	These measures apply to the mainland longline fishery, namely vessels targeting SWO. As soon as the national quota reaches the 80% uptake, we inform all relevant services and stakeholders, by email, including fisheries associations and organisations. Moreover, this information, of all relevant stocks, is updated and available on the DGRM website, for consultation.
Spain	Los buques de apoyo a los atuneros cerqueros deben llevar una autorización emitida por la Autoridad Nacional (Autorizaciones expedidas para la Flota Pesquera Exterior (AFPE)) y comunicar a qué atunero cerquero facilitan apoyo.

M:SWO 17. Maximum onboard by-catch limit of N. SWO

Croatia	Not relevant
Cyprus	Not relevant
France	In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-03, France has adopted a maximum by-catch limit for vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish. The catching and landing of North Atlantic swordfish with a live weight of less than 25 kg or a lower jaw length of less than 125 cm is prohibited, except for by-catches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels.
Greece	Not relevant
Italy	Not relevant
Malta	Not relevant
Portugal	Swordfish quota is allocated by vessel. According with the national ordinance, namely Ordinance n.º 237/2022, of 14th of September, Portuguese vessels without an allocated SWO quota are authorized to fish as bycatch up to 5% of the weight of the catch retained on board, or one specimen if its weight exceeds this percentage.
Spain	España no permite capturas accesorias de pez espada a su flota.

M:SWO 18. Maximum onboard by-catch limit of S. SWO

Croatia	Not relevant
Cyprus	Not relevant
France	Not applicable: France has not put in place a dedicated bycatch limit on S. SWO.
Greece	Not relevant
Italy	Not relevant
Malta	Not relevant
Portugal	Swordfish quota is allocated by vessel. According with the national ordinance, namely Ordinance n.º 237/2022, of 14th of September, Portuguese vessels without an allocated SWO quota are authorized to fish as bycatch up to 5% of the weight of the catch retained on board, or one specimen if its weight exceeds this percentage.
Spain	España no permite capturas accesorias de pez espada a su flota.

M:ALB 06. Maximum onboard by-catch limit of Northern Albacore

Croatia	Not relevant
Cyprus	Not relevant
France	In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-03, France has adopted a maximum by-catch limit for vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish. The catching and landing of North Atlantic swordfish with a live weight of less than 25 kg or a lower jaw length of less than 125 cm is prohibited, except for by-catches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels.
Greece	Not relevant
Ireland	Bycatch of Albacore tuna is rare in Irish Fisheries. An onboard bycatch limit of 10% is in place to cover any such instances. Any Albacore caught are deducted from Ireland's Albacore Quota for the year.
Italy	Not relevant
Malta	Not relevant
Portugal	Portugal allocates 85% of its N-ALB quota to artisanal vessels from the outermost regions. Mainland longliners have 15% of the national quota to safeguard against accidental catches of these tunas, which are rare.
Spain	España no permite capturas accesorias de atún blanco a su flota en el Atlántico Norte.

M:ALB 07. Maximum onboard by-catch limit of S. ALB

Croatia	Not relevant
Cyprus	Not relevant
France	France has not put in place a dedicated bycatch limit on S. ALB.
Greece	Not relevant
Italy	Not relevant
Malta	Not relevant
Portugal	The uptake of the Portuguese quota is very low (<1%) as such until this moment the management of this quota does not requires the establishment of bycatch provisions.
Spain	España permite capturas accesorias de atún blanco a la flota de palangre de superficie que captura al sur del paralelo 5ºN. El límite máximo de captura es de un 5% del total de las capturas. En la práctica las capturas accesorias de esta flota son muy reducidas, menores del 1% de la captura total.

M: BYC01 Report on implementation of Rec. 22-12, paras 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8, and relevant actions taken to implement the FAO guidelines

Croatia	HR fleets operate exclusively in the Adriatic Sea. Therefore, paragraph 6b applies to HR. No targeted research trials aimed at mitigating bycatch and reducing bycatch mortality and increasing post release survival of sea turtles took place in 2024.
Cyprus	Regarding ICCAT Recommendation 22-12, Cyprus is already implementing several provisions (see below), through the terms that accompany the fishing licenses, which according to the Fisheries legislation is a legal document. Time-area fishing restrictions are included in National Fisheries Law and Regulations in Turtle Protected Areas. There are area/time closures in place that help reduce bycatch of sea turtles. The area of "Lara – Toxeftra" includes the most important nesting beaches for <i>Chelonia mydas</i> and <i>Caretta caretta</i> in Cyprus. The management regulations for this area that are spelled out in the Consolidated Fisheries Regulations (273/90 attached), prohibit during the nesting season, which is from the 1st of June up to the 30th of September, any kind of fishing (except with a rod and line from the shore)." Paragraphs 2. b, c d and e are also already implemented and relevant wording is included in the terms of licenses for commercial fisheries. Regarding scientific observer coverage (paragraph 3), the Cyprus Work Plan on Data Collection, prepared in accordance with EU Data Collection Framework (Regulation (EU) 2017/1004), includes a scientific observer programme covering the Cyprus fleet fishing activity for large pelagic (ICCAT fisheries species) using surface longlines. The programme includes sampling both at landing sites and on-board fishing vessels. During the last years, more emphasis is given on the collection of data on PETS incidental catches, while increasing sampling effort and coverage. It is worth mentioning that in 2023, for the first time, the Cyprus Work Plan on Data Collection included an on-board sampling program of Small-Scale Fishery (SSF) vessels which delivered insights on bycatch of PETs species to finetune a higher coverage program for 2024. The design includes a probabilistic sampling scheme and covers all areas under the effective control of Cyprus Republic.
France	The vessels fishing in water likely to encounter sea turtles or fishing with drifting FADs are putting live entangled turtles at sea. Incidental catches of sea turtles and seabirds are recorded in the observed fisheries, and reported as part of the observer reports. These incidental catches are regularly declared by France in the context of Task 1/2.
Greece	Data collection regarding dead or injured individuals of sea turtles are recorded by the relevant authorities of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy but no connection to large pelagic fisheries is concluded so far. A relevant circular has been sent to all regional authorities, to collect data regarding incidental catches of sea turtles, as reported by fishermen. It is an obligation for all fishermen engaged in large pelagic fisheries to record and submit data for incidental catches of protected species through ERS. Moreover, authorities continuously inform fishermen for the need of protection of protected species and the importance of preserving their populations.

Ireland	Ireland does not operate any longlining vessels, only pair trawlers targeting Northern Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in the Bay of Biscay. Additionally, there were no reports of interactions with sea turtles during the 2023 seasons. Therefore, this does not apply to the Irish Northern Albacore fishing fleet.
Italy	Italy has made progress in implementing ICCAT Recommendation 22-12 concerning sea turtles, focusing on bycatch reduction, monitoring and observer programs. Additionally, Italy has taken relevant actions to align with FAO guidelines by adopting an ecosystem-based management approach, employing precautionary measures and involving stakeholders. In 2023 we have had 7 capture of sea turtles, one on Tyrrhenian Sea and six on Adriatic Sea. All sea turtles were release alive.
Malta	<p>Any potential by-catches of sea turtle are returned to the sea unharmed to the extent possible. Information on By-catches of sea turtles are reported in ST09 annually, “Information on interactions of its fleet with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries by gear type”</p> <p>Furthermore, Malta has notified the Commission that it qualifies for an exemption as set out in paragraph 6 b) of ICCAT Rec 22-12.</p> <p>Various sea turtle species are recognised for their conservation importance and subject to management measures under national law by Legal Notice 311 of 2006 under Schedule VI and VIII. Among others, these include the following species: Caretta caretta, Chelonia mydas</p> <p>The national legislative framework governing fisheries management is established under Chapter 425 of the Laws of Malta.</p>
Portugal	<p>Concerning mitigation measures to avoid incidental by-catches of sea turtles, Portuguese industry received and receives guidance provided by IPMA, including the dissemination of manuals specifically elaborated by IPMA for this purpose. Some of the elements that are considered by the industry consist in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – use of circle hooks in areas/seasons with high concentration of marine turtles; – use of fish bait instead of squid in areas/seasons with high concentration of marine turtles; – adopt handling methods as to ensure higher survival rates by reducing post-release mortality, including the use of line cutters and de-hooker sticks; – have on board adequate equipment for the disentanglement of turtles and given guidance (manuals and instructions) for a proper use of this equipment and for identification of the various species of sea turtles.
Spain	<p>En cuanto a la implementación de la Recomendación ICCAT 22-12, durante el año 2022, tal como obliga la Rec. 22-12, los buques palangreros de superficie en el Atlántico deben utilizar al menos un método de entre los siguientes dos para reducir la captura fortuita y aumentar la supervivencia posterior a la liberación de tortugas marinas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Uso de anzuelos circulares grandes 2) Uso de peces de aleta como cebo <p>Esta información deben indicarla de forma obligatoria anualmente en una ficha cumplimentada y firmada.</p> <p>Por su parte, el Instituto Español de Oceanografía, en el marco de varios proyectos de investigación, ha continuado observaciones con fines científicos relacionadas con la interacción entre las actividades pesqueras del ámbito ICCAT y las tortugas marinas.</p> <p>Para dar cumplimiento a lo establecido en esta Recomendación, la Administración española cuenta con normativa específica donde se contemplan medidas para evitar la captura de tortugas marinas (Artículo 19 de la Orden AAA/658/2014).</p> <p>Asimismo, previamente a la emisión del Permiso Temporal de Pesca, las embarcaciones (palangreros de superficie) deben presentar junto a su solicitud, un anexo donde se relacionen los dispositivos de liberación de tortugas. Del mismo modo, el anexo al Permiso Temporal de Pesca contempla entre las condiciones de concesión y obligaciones a cumplir por la empresa armadora o capitanes de los buques, instrucciones generales para la correcta anotación de información de las interacciones ocurridas con tortugas marinas.</p>

BYC 03. Report on steps taken to mitigate by-catch & reduce discards and any relevant research in this field

Croatia	In 2024 HR published a new guide for recognising sensitive species and safe handling practices and held a number of trainings for fishermen in order to contribute to reducing bycatch mortality and increasing post release survival for marine mammals, sea birds, sea turtles and sharks and rays. The training programme is envisaged to be continued.
Cyprus	Cyprus National Legislation has been protecting sea turtles by banning capturing or harming sea turtles in any way (since 1978) and by setting closed fishing areas, especially sensitive nesting areas (since 1990). In addition, the National Legislation has been harmonized with the provisions of the Habitat Directive where sea turtles are a priority species, as well as the Biodiversity Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. Based on scientific observations all sea turtles that were captured by surface longlines in 2022 were alive in relatively active state and released safely into the sea. Recognizing the importance of correct handling from vessel crew in increasing the chances of sea turtles post release survival, the Department of Fisheries devotes in fishing licences terms a section regarding safe handling of vulnerable and information regarding the FAO Good practice guides on reducing the incidental catch of vulnerable species. Moreover, the fleet information campaign on safe handling practises of PET species, by scientific personnel of DFMR, is a priority.
France	Report included in Section I of the present report (ICCAT Annual report 2023)
Greece	No interactions
Ireland	Ireland collects and reports data on by-catch and discards through the existing observer programs (joint venture between Marine Institute and Fisheries Improvement Programme) as well as logbook programs. Ireland's bycatch from the albacore pair trawling fishery; <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> (Bluefin tuna) and <i>Xiphias gladius</i> (Swordfish) were reported in this year's annual data reports (ST02 and ST03) to ICCAT. No other species have been reported as bycatch in this fishery in 2023. Mitigation measures for the Irish pair trawling fleet targeting albacore include exclusively fishing at night, a practice shown to significantly reduce interactions with cetaceans, marine mammals, and seabirds. Since this fishery does not target bait balls, which only form during daylight hours, the bycatch of cetaceans, sea turtles, and seabirds was reported as zero for both 2022 and 2023. The fleet has unanimously adopted night fishing as their primary bycatch avoidance measure since 2012, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to minimizing bycatch.
Italy	Italy has taken significant steps to mitigate bycatch and reduce discards in line with ICCAT Recommendation 11-10, with European and GFCM regulation. Additionally with ministerial decree on 21 May 1980 n. 156 is regulated the capture of cetaceans.
Malta	The measures employed by Maltese fisheries for the reduction of discards and by-catches include provisions foreseen under ICCAT Recommendations 17-07, 18-02, 19-04, 22-08 and 16-05, with regards to limitations on quotas, fishing seasons, minimum sizes and type of gear utilized for BFT and SWO longline fisheries.
Portugal	The Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere (IPMA), together with the industry, developed experimental fishing trials to assess the impact of the use of circle hooks, different gangion line materials and different types of bait on the catches of by-catch and target species. The results of these studies that took place in the North-eastern, Equatorial and South Atlantic were reported to the SCRS. As for sharks the PRT fleet is encouraged to use best-handling practices to release sharks unharmed. When scientific IPMA observers are onboard, general handling practices are transmitted to the skipper and crew, focusing on the importance to use such practices to promote the survivorship of those vulnerable species. This is also done for the marine turtles and cetaceans.
Spain	Para dar cumplimiento a lo establecido en la Recomendación ICCAT 11-10, la Administración española cuenta con normativa específica donde se contemplan medidas de mitigación para evitar la captura de aves y tortugas marinas. Además, previo a la emisión del Permiso Temporal de Pesca, las embarcaciones deben cumplimentar una ficha específica sobre medidas de mitigación de aves y tortugas; cumpliendo asimismo con las Recomendaciones ICCAT 07-07 y 10-09. Del mismo modo, el anexo al Permiso Temporal de Pesca contempla entre las condiciones de concesión y obligaciones a cumplir por la empresa armadora o capitanes de los buques, instrucciones generales para la correcta anotación de información de las interacciones ocurridas con tortugas marinas.

M:BYC04 Report on the implementation of Res. 23-15

Croatia	All cetaceans are strictly protected species. Safe handling practices in case of unintentional interaction with fishing gears are defined and fishermen are continuously trained. In case of interaction of cetaceans with purse seine nets, specimens are to be immediately released unharmed. No event that a cetacean was unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net used for tuna fishing in 2023 has been recorded.
Cyprus	Cyprus-flagged vessels are advised to refrain from using purse seine nets on tuna schools within the ICCAT Convention area if cetaceans are observed in or near the school. Furthermore, under the conditions of Cypriot fishing licenses, vessels must not intentionally pursue or catch cetaceans, and all necessary steps must be taken to ensure their safe release with minimal stress in the event of accidental capture. In 2023, all Cypriot purse seine operations occurred exclusively under Joint Fishing Operations, and no such events were recorded.
France	
Greece	<u>Although not described in the Greek 2024 Annual Report, Greece already implements mitigation measures for further protecting the cetaceans, similar to the ones of Res. 23-15, such as the issuance of specific guidelines to fishermen for the safe handling and safe release techniques of cetaceans possibly caught or encircled, and also the recent ratification of the ACCOBAMS agreement for the protection of cetaceans (Law 5011/2023), as well as the establishment, monitoring and management of a stranding response network for cetaceans (M.D.55417/1958/2023 – G.G. B/3376).</u>
Ireland	Irish albacore fleets are exclusively pair trawling for Northern Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>). The Irish fleet does not purse seine for Northern Albacore. This does not apply to the Irish Northern Albacore pair trawling fleet. There has been no report of cetacean encirclement by the fleet in 2023.
Italy	Italy has made progress in implementing Resolution 23-15, focusing on bycatch reduction, improved fishing practices. Anyway in 2023 Italy has not had any such events.
Malta	The measures employed by Maltese fisheries for the reduction of discards and by-catches include provisions foreseen under ICCAT Recommendations 17-07, 18-02, 19-04, 22-08 and 16-05, with regards to limitations on quotas, fishing seasons, minimum sizes and type of gear utilized for BFT and SWO longline fisheries.
Portugal	Recognising the risks of interactions between cetaceans and ICCAT fisheries, Portugal has strengthened dialogue between the sector, the scientific community and the fisheries and marine biodiversity conservation authorities, and a Working Group is being set up to ensure that there is a greater technical and scientific presence on the ground to characterise cetacean populations.
Spain	En conformidad con la Res. 23-15 sobre cercamiento de cetáceos se ha procedido a dar instrucciones concretas tanto a la flota española como a los servicios de inspección de la necesidad de prohibir el lance intencionado de redes de cerco en un banco de túnidos en la zona del Convenio de ICCAT si se avista un cetáceo dentro o por encima del banco, así como las actuaciones a llevar a cabo conforme a la Resolución anteriormente citada cuando se rodee involuntariamente en la red de cerco a un cetáceo. Cabe destacar además que en las autorizaciones para la flota pesquera exterior expedidas a los cerqueros españoles que faenan en el Atlántico se les indica específicamente que deberán anotar en el diario de pesca mediante la realización de una declaración de “Incidencia” eligiendo el motivo de “interacción con cetáceos” a través de la cual proporcionarán con información detallada a las autoridades españolas de este suceso y las actuaciones llevadas a cabo.

M:SDP01 Description of pilot electronic statistical document systems

EU MS comply with the Statistical catch documentation and electronic BCD for bluefin tuna. No other pilot has been in place in the course of 2023.