

Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee

NOTE: This report is based on information received by the ICCAT Secretariat by **11 October 2024**, unless otherwise stated. Any information received after that date will be brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair. Such additional information will not be translated.

This report contains only those measures for which review by the Compliance Committee is warranted. In some cases, measures may have expired but were in force for the review period under consideration (2023).

TRO – TROPICAL - BET - BIGEYE TUNA (*Thunnus obesus*); YFT – YELLOWFIN (*Thunnus albacares*); SKJ - SKIPJACK (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

[22-01] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas

(as amended by [23-01] Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas)

Tropical Tuna Fishing Management Plans and FAD Management Plans: The fishing plans received were submitted to the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 1.

Quarterly/Monthly catches of tropical tuna: Table 1 shows the catches of tropical tuna in 2023 reported quarterly and monthly. The requirements are somewhat conflicting, with some CPCs obliged to make both quarterly and monthly, and in some cases, weekly reports. It is very difficult to collect and extract data in any meaningful way, due to the duplications involved. Paragraph 13 requires reporting of tropical tuna species, while paragraph 14 requires monthly reporting for purse seiners or longliners, increasing to weekly “when 80% of their catch limits have been caught”, although catch limits only apply to bigeye tuna and not to all tropical tuna species.

Paragraph 13 stipulates that “CPCs shall report quarterly to the ICCAT Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas (by species) caught by vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made”. The ICCAT Secretariat understands that this refers to all CPCs catching tropical tuna species.

Task 1 data for 2023 indicates that the following CPCs fished for tropical tunas, but no corresponding quarterly (or monthly) catch reports were received:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Total tropical catches (t)</i>
Barbados	265
Cabo Verde	1,044
Costa Rica	53
Curaçao	1,574
Grenada	2,195
Liberia	15
São Tomé e Príncipe	12
Senegal	45,370
St Vincent and Grenadines	10
Türkiye	418

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024”).

Request from the ICCAT Secretariat: Some CPCs has raised concerns on the variation to the catch limits from 2020 onwards. This variation is proportional to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) value fluctuations in the same period. If possible, this issue should be discussed during the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 and clarified for the next meeting of the Commission

List of authorised tropical vessels: Please see www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp. Annex 5 contains the list of vessels having fished the previous year.

At the time of writing, the ICCAT Record of Vessels contained 1295 vessels (an increase of **141** vessels from the 2023 level) in its Tropical Vessel Registry List, with vessels from 27 CPCs. It should be noted that the ICCAT Record is a dynamic list and may vary daily.

Capacity management: Capacity management plans and declarations on expansion of capacity are included in the fishing plans.

FAD management plans and steps undertaken to use non-entangling FAD: FAD management plans received in 2024 are available on the intersessional meeting document site, included in the fishing plans submitted.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>FAD Management Plan (2024) sent</i>	<i>ST-08 - FAD Data (2023) sent</i>
Belize	✓	✓
Canada	No	✓
Costa Rica	✓	✓
Curaçao	✓	✓
El Salvador	✓	✓
EU	✓	✓
France (SPM)	No	✓
Ghana	✓	✓
Guatemala	✓	✓
Korea	No	✓
Mexico	No	✓
Morocco	✓	✓
Nicaragua	✓	N/A - No FADs in 2023
Panama	✓	✓
Philippines	No	✓
Senegal	✓	✓
Sta Lucia	No	✓

See the “2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics” [PLE_105/2024], Appendix 2 for more details on FAD data received.

Data and information collected from sampling programme: Information from Port sampling as required by paragraph 61 of Rec. 22-01 has been submitted by Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, EU-France, France (St-Pierre et Miquelon), United Kingdom, Guatemala, Korea, Morocco, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Sta Lucia, UK-Bermuda, UK-Turks and Caicos.

Observer Programme: No difficulties in embarking observers in accordance with the Recommendation were reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.

SWO - SWORDFISH (*Xiphias gladius*)

[03-04] Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish

No specific reporting to the ICCAT Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports. The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report.

[16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

ICCAT Record of Mediterranean Swordfish Vessels: Authorised lists, received from six CPCs (Algeria, Egypt, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye), have been published on the [ICCAT website](#). The list of vessels having fished the previous year is contained in **Annex 5**.

List of Authorised Vessels for Mediterranean Albacore: At the time of writing, four CPCs (Egypt, European Union, Morocco and Türkiye) had submitted lists of authorised vessels in accordance with this Recommendation. There was a retroactive registry of 156 BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Malta, one BFT-E catching vessels from EU-France, 432 BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Italy and four BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Cyprus (“Draft Compliance Summary Tables” COC_308/2024).

This list is published on the [ICCAT website](#).

ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports: A total of 1421 ports, from a total of thirty-seven CPCs are published on the [ICCAT website](#). Albania, Algeria, Belize, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, France (St-Pierre et Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.

Inspection agencies, inspectors and ships: Information has been received from Algeria, European Union, Tunisia and Türkiye. Lists of agencies, means and inspectors are reported in **Annex 4**. A list of inspection vessels has been published on the ICCAT website. A summary of the inspection reports received has been included in **Table 2**. A summary of reports with infringements, as well as their responses where available, are contained in **Appendix 4** and copies of reports with infringements are included in **Annex 3**.

SWO-MED fishing plans: Plans were received in 2024 from the following CPCs: Algeria, Egypt, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye. These plans were circulated to CPCs and have been made available as “Mediterranean swordfish fishing plans submitted in 2024 (Rec. 16-05)” [PA4_802/2024].

Closures: Reports on the implementation of closure periods have been received from Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye and are contained in **Appendix 1** of this report. Algeria indicated that the information can be found in its Annual Report (“Annual Reports of CPCs” COC_301/2024).

Quarterly reports: The quarterly reports received from CPCs for 2023 are shown below, together with the totals from Task 1 and Compliance Tables. In most cases, totals are the same or differences are very minor, except in the case of the European Union, where totals differ slightly more substantially.

CPC	2023 quota (t)	Catches in 1st quarter	Catches in 2nd quarter	Catches in 3rd quarter	Catches in 4th quarter	Total 2023	Task 1 2023	Compliance Tables
Algeria	472.33	29.45	170.10	238.40	33.80	471.75	471.75	471.75
European Union	6363.63	0.00	951.60	2622.23	1035.50	4609.34	4738.40	4614.95
Morocco	896.47	76.77	651.80	18.31	149.59	896.47	896.47	896.47
Tunisie	865.33	0.00	124.93	459.35	148.93	733.22	733.22	733.22
Türkiye	378.70	33.95	161.40	140.79	43.95	380.09	378.70	378.69
Other CPCs								
Egypt							73.00	75.00
Libya							250.00	250.00
Total	8976.46	140.17	2059.84	3479.09	1411.78	7090.87	7541.54	7420.08

[17-02] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03 as amended by [22-03] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish

(replaced by [23-04] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish)

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see "2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024" [COC_304/2024].

In accordance with paragraph 14 of Rec. 17-02, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of SWO-N:

CPC	Response
Belize	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this species exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessels that have reported any southern swordfish taken as bycatch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting SWO-N and SWO-S, all the SWO are caught as bycatch and every tropical longliner can bycatch SWO. In 2023, China had 115 t quotas of SWO-N and 344.3 t of SWO-S. China set a SWO-N and SWO-S catch limit for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to SWO-N and SWO-S Recommendations. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
Chinese Taipei	Part of our longliners are authorized to fish SWO-N. For the BET group, the individual vessel quota for SWO-N is 4.5 tons. For the ALB-N group, such quota is 5 tons. The ALB-S group shall not retain SWO-N and no bycatch limit is granted.
Curaçao	Curaçao came to an agreement with the vessels on 10 tons maximum of bycatch.
EU	In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Rec. 16-03, EU-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 bycatches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels. Swordfish quota is allocated by vessel. According with the national ordinance, namely Ordinance n.º 237/2022, of 14 September, EU-Portugal 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.
Senegal	5%

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or by-catch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum bycatch limits are irrelevant, e.g., there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species.

SWO-N fishery management/development plans: Updated versions received are contained in "Development or fishing/management plans for North Atlantic swordfish" [PA4_801/2024]. Re-submission is no longer required if there have been no changes to previous plans.

Specific authorisation for SWO-N vessels: The authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for SWO-N can be found in the [ICCAT Record of Vessels](#).

Seven CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20 m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch SWO-N: Barbados, Brazil, France (SPM), Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, UK, Venezuela.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see "2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024" [COC_304/2024].

[17-03] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-04

[22-04] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish

Specific authorisation for SWO-S vessels: The authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for SWO S. can be found in the [ICCAT Record of Vessels](#).

Five CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20 m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch SWO-S: Ghana, São Tomé e Príncipe, United Kingdom, Uruguay and USA.

In accordance with Rec. 17-03, paragraph 9, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board bycatch limit of SWO-S:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
Belize	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any southern swordfish taken as bycatch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting SWO-N and SWO-S. All SWO are caught as bycatch and every tropical longliner can bycatch SWO. In 2023, China had 115 t quotas of SWO-N and 344.3 t of SWO-S, we set catch limit for SWO-N and SWO-S for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to Recommendations on SWO-N and SWO-S. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
Chinese Taipei	Part of our longliners are authorized to fish SWO-S. For BET group, the individual vessel quota for SWO-S is 7 tons. For the ALB-S group, such quota is 2.5 tons. The ALB-N group shall not retain SWO-S and no bycatch limit is granted.
Curaçao	Curaçao came to an agreement with the vessels on 10 tons maximum of bycatch.
European Union	Swordfish quota is allocated by vessel. According with the national ordinance, namely Ordinance n.º 237/2022, of 14 September, EU-Portugal 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.

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or bycatch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum bycatch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up or totally irrelevant answers are given, e.g., there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

ALB - ALBACORE (*Thunnus alalunga*)

[21-04] Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation and Management Measures, including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic Albacore

(as amended by [Rec. 23-05] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore)

No specific reporting to the ICCAT Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

In accordance with Rec. 21-04, the authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for ALB-N can be found in the [ICCAT Record of Vessels](#).

One CPC with quota currently has no vessels (of 20 m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch ALB-N: Venezuela.

In accordance with Rec. 21-04, paragraph 13, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of ALB-N:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
Belize	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern albacore. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any northern albacore taken as bycatch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting ALB-N and ALB-S, all the ALB are caught as bycatch and every tropical longliner can by-catch ALB. In 2023, China had 246.43 t of ALB-N and 290 t of ALB-S. China set a catch limit for ALB-N and ALB-S for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to Recommendations on ALB-N and ALB-S. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
Chinese Taipei	Part of our longliners are authorized to fish ALB-N. For the BET group, the individual vessel quota for ALB-N is 10 tons. For ALB-N group, such quota is 550 tons. The ALB-S group shall not retain ALB-N and no bycatch limit is granted.
Curaçao	Res. 16-06 Limit bycatch on ALB-N. Curaçao agreed with the vessels on 200 t limit.
EU	Depending on the EU-Member State, bycatch limits may differ. Additional details are included in the Section 2 of the Annual Report.

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or by-catch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum by-catch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up (and include even Mediterranean) or totally irrelevant answers are given, e.g., there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species

[22-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the period 2023-2026

List of authorised vessels: The authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for ALB-S can be found in the [ICCAT Record of Vessels](#).

Five CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20 m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch ALB-S: Curaçao, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, The Philippines, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

In accordance with Rec. 22-06, paragraph 11, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board bycatch limit of ALB-S:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
Belize	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern albacore. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any southern albacore taken as bycatch
China	China does not have vessels targeting ALB-N and ALB-S, all the ALB are caught as bycatch and every tropical longliner can by-catch ALB. In 2023, China has 246.43 t of ALB-N and 290 t of ALB-S, we set catch limit for ALB-N and ALB-S for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to Recommendations on ALB-N and ALB-S. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
Chinese Taipei	Part of our longliners are authorized to fish ALB-S. For BET group, the individual vessel quota for ALB-S is 10 tons. For ALB-S group, such quota is 450 tons. ALB-N group shall not retain ALB-S and no bycatch limit is granted.
Curaçao	Res. 16-06 limit bycatch on ALB-S. Curaçao agreed with the vessels on 50 ton limit.
European Union	Spain allows bycatches of albacore tuna by the surface longline fleet catching South of 5°N. The maximum catch limit is 5% of the total catch. In practice bycatches by this fleet are very small, less than 1% of the total catch.
Trinidad and Tobago	A maximum per trip on-board bycatch limit for the non-artisanal longline fleet was set at 100kg.

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or bycatch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum bycatch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up (and include even Mediterranean) or totally irrelevant answers are given, e.g., there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species.

[22-05] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

List of Authorised Vessels for Mediterranean Albacore: At the time of writing, four CPCs (Egypt, European Union, Morocco and Türkiye) had submitted lists of authorised vessels in accordance with this Recommendation. There was a retroactive registry of 156 BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Malta, one BFT-E catching vessels from EU-France, 432 BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Italy and four BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Cyprus (“Draft Compliance Summary Tables”, COC_308/2024).

This list is published on the [ICCAT website](#).

BFT - BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)

[22-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

(as amended by [Rec. 23-06] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean)

ICCAT Record of FFBS: The ICCAT Record of farms, currently containing 70 farms, is published on the [ICCAT website](#). Annual lists/authorisations are not required. Many of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT website do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT).

[16-24] Guidelines for preparing the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans

Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans were received within the deadline and following the adopted Guidelines, from all CPCs with a quota for BFT-E. All plans were endorsed and can be found attached to the "Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2" [PA2_602/2024].

[22-10] Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

Monthly catch reports: Please see **Table 7** for a summary of reports received during the year. The reported amounts continue to be published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see "2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024" [COC_304/2024].

[22-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

(as amended by [Rec. 23-06] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean)

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see "2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024" [COC_304/2024].

Fishing Plans: Plans were received within the deadline and, following requests for clarification, were all endorsed by Panel 2 (see Ref. 16-24 above).

Joint fishing operations: 33 Joint fishing operations (JFO) were reported for 2024. The ICCAT Secretariat received, in most cases, the necessary information five days before the JFOs. The information has been posted on the [ICCAT webpage](#). The short deadline continues making it difficult to get full information entered into the ICCAT data bases and synchronised with the eBCD System and to get it to the ROP-BFT observers in time for their deployments. In addition, the current procedure does not allow for any JFOs to be entered without information on farming destination, and some difficulties were encountered when changes were required, as once eBCDs are associated with a JFO the information cannot be updated unless all eBCDs are reissued. Further difficulties have been encountered as a result of last-minute quota transfers which can change both the individual quotas and the relative allocation shares of a given vessel in a specific JFO. If eBCDs have already been associated, any change involves the reissuing of every eBCD which is associated with that JFO.

This year, two vessels started an additional JFO due to *force majeure* and the inoperability of three vessels in a JFO previously reported. This necessitated their individual quotas being increased, and hence paragraph 70 of Rec. 22-08 could not be applied, as it was not possible to allocate two separate quotas for the two different periods to the two vessels in the eBCD System. Later, the Flag state requested the ICCAT Secretariat to make a series of modifications to the already existing JFOs. These changes not only affected the JFOs but also the vessels involved, their assigned individual quotas, the eBCDs issued for those operations, and the subsequent actions related to them. Given the complexity of such a request, the ICCAT Secretariat sought advice from the Chairs of Panel 2 and PWG on how to proceed, considering its

extraordinary nature, its implications, and the possibility that it might contravene some provisions of Rec. 22-08, as well as potentially compromise the traceability of many elements within the eBCD System and the ICCAT Record of vessels. At the time of writing this document, the ICCAT Secretariat is still awaiting precise instructions on how to proceed.

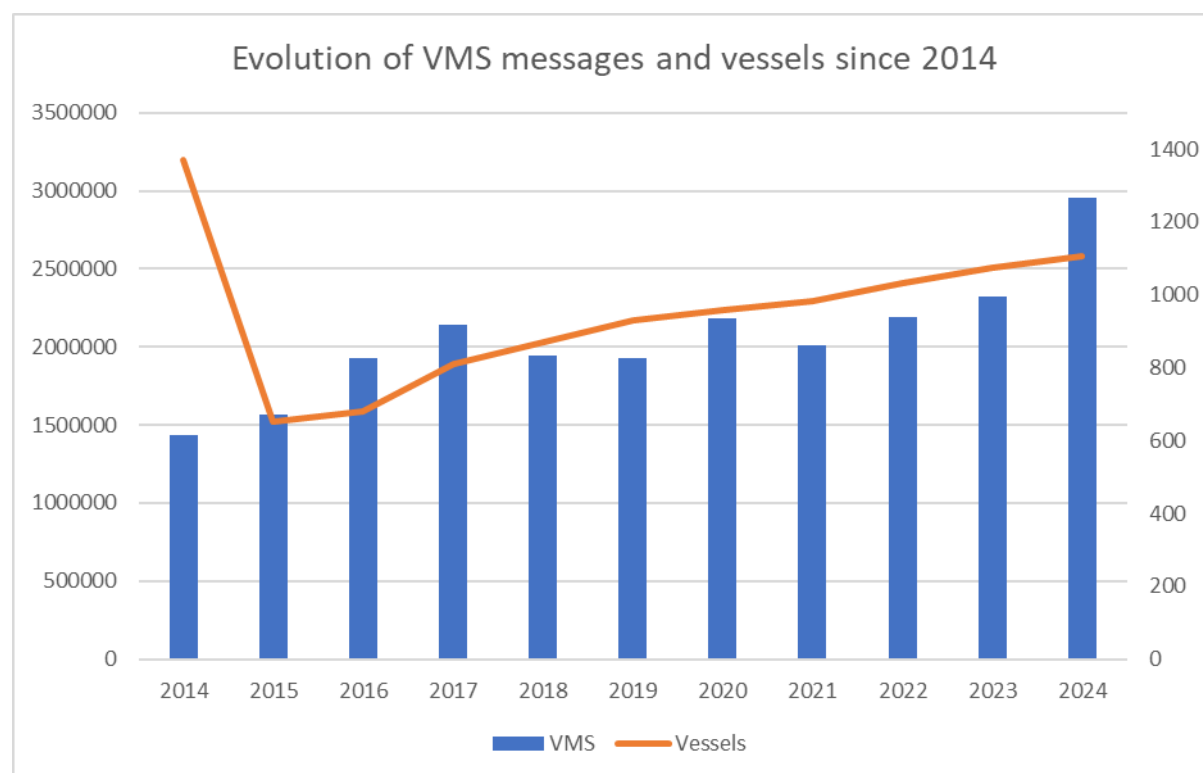
Request from the ICCAT Secretariat: Although such practices may be permitted by the Recommendation in force, the ICCAT Secretariat would like to request all CPCs to make every effort to finalise any quota transfers before the start of the fishing season and before the submission of JFOs in order to avoid the problems reported above which are extremely complex to resolve.

The ICCAT Secretariat also requests a review of the provisions of Rec. 22-08 related to JFOs to establish a clear protocol for handling cases similar to those described in the previous points, i.e., when retroactive modifications are requested for these operations, which have implications for all entities involved, e.g. authorisations and individual quotas for vessels that have made the catches, ROP-BFT observers, eBCDs, and subsequent actions related to them.

Vessel Monitoring system (VMS): This year, up to 11 October 2024, a total of 2,952,956 VMS messages have been received (in calculating this total, the messages that the system identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). In comparison with the same period last year, 633,459 more messages have been received or approximately an increase of over 27%. Over the same period this year, 1107 vessels have been active (as in the criterion for messages, active vessels are considered to be those that have transmitted at least one message with an out of port position), which is 32 vessels more than last year, i.e. an increase of almost 3%.

For more details regarding VMS messages transmitted, please see **Tables 4, 5 and 6**.

Since 2014, the number of VMS messages received has increased by 106% approximately.



Bi-Weekly catch reports: Please see **Table 8**.

Farming reports/caging declarations/carry over of caged fish: According to the declarations received at the ICCAT Secretariat, no caging took place after 22 August 2024. Carry-over of caged fish was reported by EU, Tunisia and Türkiye, as shown in **Table 9**. Morocco and Albania reported that no fish were carried over from 2023 to 2024.

ICCAT Record of BFT Catching / BFT Other vessels: Authorised lists were published on the [ICCAT website](#). There was a retroactive registry of 252 BFT-E catching vessels from EU-France and 86 BFT-E catching vessels from EU-Portugal. The latter due to some problems they had with their computer systems in the past, where some emails were not properly delivered on time to their recipients and others were “disappearing” from their inbox (“Draft Compliance Summary Tables” COC_308/2024).

Information on the list of vessels having fished the previous year is contained in **Annex 5**.

Authorised Port lists: There are currently 889 ports (23 more than in 2023) on the ICCAT Record of ports authorised for landing and/or transshipment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, published on the [ICCAT website](#).

Trap lists: There are currently 33 traps on the [ICCAT Record of traps authorised to catch eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna](#).

Fishery closure: In accordance with paragraph 87 (Rec. 22-08), CPCs have informed of their date of quota utilisation as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Date on which entire quota of BFT-E has been utilized</i>
Albania	5 June 2024
Algeria	29 June 2024
China	N/A: quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Egypt	N/A: quota fully transferred to Türkiye but 1% allocated to bycatch.
European Union	N/A: quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
EU-Croatia	
EU-Cyprus	
EU-France	
EU-Italy	
EU-Spain	
Iceland	N/A: no Icelandic vessels will be conducting targeted fisheries for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2024, due to unforeseen circumstances.
Japan	30 April 2024 (2023 quota)
Korea	N/A: quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Libya	11 June 2024
Morocco	N/A: quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Norway	N/A: quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Syria	N/A: quota fully transferred to Türkiye but 0.8% allocated to bycatch.
Tunisia	1 July 2024
Türkiye	30 June 2024
Chinese Taipei	N/A: no BFT fishery.

Inspection reports under Joint Inspection Scheme and list of agencies and inspectors' names: Please refer to **Table 2** for the list of BFT inspection reports submitted by Algeria, EU and Türkiye. Copies of reports submitted with infringements are available as **Annex 3** and **Annex 4** contains the list of agencies, means and the inspectors' names received from Algeria, EU, Tunisia and Türkiye. A list of inspection vessels has been published on the ICCAT website. A summary of reports with infringements, as well as their responses where available, are contained in **Appendix 4**.

Implementation Reports: In accordance with paragraph 235 of Rec. 22-08, the ICCAT Secretariat is mandated to prepare a report on the implementation of this Recommendation. As the report is required biennially, the ICCAT Secretariat has requested information in 2024 and it will be compiled in "Regulations and other related documents adopted by all concerned Contracting Parties to implement Rec. 22-08" [PA2_603/2024].

Observer Programmes: As the requirements and procedures for the submission of information was not developed by the Commission by 2009, as required by Recommendations, information from national observer programmes is included in regular scientific submissions. For information on the Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, please see "Implementation of ROP-BFT" [PA2_601/2024] and "Issues of potential non-compliance arising from ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes and responses" [COC_305/2024].

Intra-farm transfers and random controls: In accordance with paragraph 215 of Rec. 22-08, 26 farms flagged to four CPCs communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat the results of the random controls carried in their bluefin farm facilities. As summarised in **Table 11**, a total of 13 reports were submitted during the period from 9 April to 16 September 2024 for the years 2023 and 2024. In order to clarify the information presented, a new column "Year" has been added to indicate the year to which the report refers. As this table did not include this column in 2022 and 2023, last year's data (shaded in orange) has been added with the additional information relating to the reporting year.

BIL - BILLFISHES: Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*), Spearfish (*Tetrapturus pfluegeri* and *T. belone*)

[19-05] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see "2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024" [COC_304/2024]. For other information, please refer to Rec. 18-05 below.

[16-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish

If the total catch of either stock of Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the level corresponding to 67% of the average estimate of their Maximum Sustainable Yield (i.e. 1,271 t for the eastern stock and 1,030 t for the western stock), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this Recommendation. The total catches, are shown below:

Task 1 data (including SCRS estimates):

Sailfish	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ATE	1631	942	2266	1211	1730	1176	1293
ATW	1428	1684	1475	1323	878	1067	1253

Task 1 data (reported data only):

Sailfish	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ATE	1631	657	1921	1208	1730	1164	969
ATW	1428	1428	1247	1323	878	1067	1166

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2017, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. These reports are included in the Billfish Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-05 below).

[18-05] Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area

Revised/updated Billfish Check Sheets were received this year from 40 CPCs, with 12 submissions made after the deadline. Thirteen (13) CPCs have not sent any updates to the previous versions of last year (2023) with 8 confirming that their check sheets were kept unchanged and 5 re-used for this year (Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Iceland, Nigeria, São Tomé e Príncipe). Four (4) CPCs have never submitted any Billfish Check Sheets (The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania). These are contained in the "Billfish Check Sheets received in accordance with Rec. 18-05" [COC_315/2024]. The content of the Billfish Check Sheets is summarized in Annex 1 of COC_315/2024.

SHK - SHARKS: Thresher Sharks (genus *Alopias* spp), shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae), silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)

[04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning sharks

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[15-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[19-07] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (as amended by Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-07 amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries [21-10])

(as replaced by [Rec. 23-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries)

An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 39,102 t for North Atlantic blue shark was established, until and including the year 2023. A new Annual TAC of 30,000 t was established by the Commission in the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT from 2024 onwards.

If in any year the total catches of the North Atlantic blue shark exceed the TAC, the Commission shall review the implementation of these measures.

The total catches, are shown below from which it can be seen that the stock has not been overharvested in 2023:

Task 1 data (reported data only):

<i>Blue shark</i>	2020	2021	2022	2023
ATN	20949	21631	21998	24439

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2020, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. These reports are included in the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-06 below).

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

Please see “Shark Check Sheets received in accordance with Rec. 18-06” [COC_314/2024] for implementation of these measures.

[19-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (as amended by Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries [21-11])

(as replaced by [Rec. 23-11] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of the South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries)

An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,923 t for South Atlantic blue shark was established, until and including the year 2023. A new Annual TAC of 27,711 t was established by the Commission in the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT from 2024 onwards.

The Annual TAC may be revised subject to a decision of the Commission based on the outcomes of the next stock assessment of the South Atlantic blue shark by the SCRS.

The total catches, are shown below from which it can be seen that the stock has been overharvested in 2023:

Task 1 data (reported data only):

<i>Blue shark</i>	2020	2021	2022	2023
ATS	33688	33367	31641	30461

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2020, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. These reports are included in the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-06 below).

[21-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

The total fishing mortality for North Atlantic shortfin mako shall be no more than 250 tonnes until new SCRS advice is provided to the Commission.

Monthly reports: The total amount for the monthly reports received from CPCs for 2023 are shown below, together with the totals from Task 1, from which it can be seen that the stock has been overharvested in 2023. There is a substantial difference between the amount reported monthly and in Task 1 since just two CPC submitted these monthly reports in 2023.

<i>Shortfin mako</i>	<i>2023 total fishing mortality (t)</i>	<i>Total 2023 catches reported monthly (t)</i>	<i>Task 1 2023 (t)</i>
ATN	250	0.6	1108

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2020, to provide information in their Annual Reports on how this Recommendation is being implemented. These reports are included in the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-06 below).

[22-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

A total retention allowance of 1,295 t for South Atlantic shortfin mako was established for 2023 and 2024. The objective being that this retention allowance combined with the sum of estimated dead discards and post release mortality, results in a total mortality that is below the SCRS advice. At its 2024 Annual meeting, the Commission shall review this measure considering advice received from the SCRS, as well as discussions at Panel 4.

Monthly reports: The total amount for the monthly reports received from CPCs for 2023 are shown below, together with the totals from Task 1, from which it can be seen that the stock has not been overharvested in 2023. There is a substantial difference between the amount reported monthly and in Task 1 since just five CPC submitted these monthly reports in 2023.

<i>Shortfin mako</i>	<i>Total 2023 retention allowance (t)</i>	<i>Total 2023 catches reported monthly (t)</i>	<i>Task 1 2023 (t)</i>
ATS	1,295	107.3	929

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2020, to provide information in their Annual Reports on how this Recommendation is being implemented. These reports are included in the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-06 below).

[18-06] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

Revised/updated Shark Check Sheets were received this year from 47 CPCs, with 14 submissions made after the deadline. Three (3) CPCs have not sent any updates to the previous versions of last year (2023) (Equatorial Guinea, Iceland and Nigeria). Six (6) CPCs have never submitted any Shark Check Sheets (Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and São Tomé e Príncipe). These are contained in the "Shark Check Sheets received in accordance with Rec. 18-06" [COC_314/2024]. The content of the Shark Check Sheets received is summarized in Annex 1 of COC_314/2024.

BYC - BYCATCH SPECIES

[07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries

Please see Rec. 11-09 below. The ICCAT Secretariat reiterates its suggestion that these two Recommendations be combined.

[22-12] Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)

(as amended by [Rec. 23-13] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries)

In 2021, the ICCAT Secretariat recommended that CPCs cite their legislation in their Annual Reports given that noted that the applicability of the requirements relating to the maximisation of survival of sea-turtles is not dependent on the extent of interactions, i.e. this should be implemented by all those with purse seine and/or longline fishery. Some, but not all, CPCs have followed this Recommendation. The full extract of responses entered into the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) system for M: BYC01 has been made available as **Annex 9**.

[11-09] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries

Seabird incidental by-catch is included in the “2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics” [PLE_105/2024]. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs for 2023 through form CP44 in 2024 are shown below:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Belize	Yes	Yes	Yes	NPOA Seabirds was adopted in 2016	A legally binding Circular was issued in accordance with this requirement. Vessels must utilize one or more of these three measures on board their vessels. These requirements are also captured in our NPOA for Seabirds
Chinese Taipei	Yes	Yes	Yes	In 2006, we adopted the first edition of NPOA-Seabirds, within which the three mitigation measures (night setting, tori lines and line weighting) required by ICCAT were included. In 2014, we further revised the NPOA-Seabirds to fulfill the objective of reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	We encourage our fishing vessels fishing in the area south of 20°S to adopt the measure of night setting with minimum deck lighting. As stipulated in our domestic regulations, any fishing vessel fishing in the area south of 20°S is required to use tori lines during fishing and carry onboard at least one spare set. As stipulated in our domestic regulations, any fishing vessel fishing in the area south of 25°S is required to use, in addition to tori lines, weighted branch lines during fishing. As shown in the appendix of our domestic regulations, we specify the requirements for tori lines and weighted branch lines in accordance with ICCAT minimum technical standards
Costa Rica	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	In place – update provided – see Annex 10 to COC_303/2024.	Required by Ministerial order No 57
Korea	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Republic of Korea developed its National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) in 2014 and ensures that Korean-flagged longliners are compliant with the NPOA-Seabirds. The NPOA can be found in the FAO website	In accordance with the requirements of Table 1 of Rec. 11-09, Korean longliners use line weighting and either tori lines or setting at night.
South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Published in 2008 and is currently under review	Part of Permit Conditions (section 22.2)
Türkiye	Partly Implemented	No legal obligation exists, implemented on voluntary basis	No legal obligation exists, implemented on voluntary basis	<p>There are project initiatives undertaken by various bodies aiming to create the basis for an inventory of Marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and to train staff and volunteers on seabird research and conservation methods.</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture) has initiated a far-reaching programme aiming to take out the outspread “ghost nets” and ghost fishing at the principal coastal water sites of Turkey.</p> <p>During the implementation phase of the Project of “Cleansing of Seas from</p>	In accordance with Article 14 and Article 15 of the Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries (2024-2028), Longlines, gill nets and entangling nets to be set (anchored) at sea must be marked with signal flag / float in daytime and with illuminated-buoy in night-time.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
				<p>Abandoned Fishing Nets", 103.077.618 m² inland water and marine areas have been dredged and a total of 747.890 m² fishnets and 34.817 pieces of pots and similar fishing gears have been extracted from inland water and marine areas within the period 2014-2023.</p> <p>The project named "Understanding multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation a collaborative approach" has been implemented with the project's partners ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN Med, MEDASSET, RAC/SPA in the Mediterranean Basin. Project duration is from September-2017 to October 2022.</p> <p>Project objectives are to develop a standard data collection method to determine the capture rates of non-target species by widely used fishing gear (demersal trawl, gillnets, longlines) in the Mediterranean Basin, to contribute to the development of good practice examples that will reduce the rates of bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles</p>	

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
				<p>and cartilaginous fish with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>In the scope the project sensitive species bycatch data collection and bycatch mitigations methods test studies are done. In addition, good practice guide for the handling of seabirds and identification guide of vulnerable species caught incidentally in Mediterranean have been prepared for the fisherman and inspection officers.</p> <p>“Effects of PAL Pingers to Reduce Bycatch of Marine Mammals (Cetaceans) in Turbot Gill Nets in the Black Sea” was completed in June 2022. It was observed the PAL devices reduced the amount of catching of the Black-throated loon (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) by 89.2% compared to the control group.</p> <p>Article 18 of the Ministerial Notification on Regulation of Commercial Fisheries (No. 2024/20), entered into force on 11 August 2024 and covering the period 2024-2028, requires that in case of any prohibited species and seabirds being</p>	

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
				<p>caught incidentally during commercial fishing operations, it shall be mandatory that these species are returned to the water alive and unharmed.</p> <p>Handling, treatment and release of incidentally caught species on this scope shall be made in accordance with "Vulnerable Species Protection Guidelines" published by the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.</p> <p>The above-mentioned guidelines on practical implementation for handling, release and protection of vulnerable species in cases of by-catch have been prepared and put into practice based on the relevant FAO guidelines, outputs of the Med bycatch Project, and related ICCAT Recommendations.</p>	

In addition, some CPCs which do not fish south of 20° S or in the Mediterranean have indicated in their Annual Reports that an NPOA for seabirds is in place.

[11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on information collection and harmonization of data on by-catch and discards in ICCAT fisheries

Please see Rec. 16-14 and the “2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics” [PLE_105/2024] for information relating to this Recommendation.

[22-12] Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT Fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)

(as amended by *[Rec. 23-13] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*)

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

GEN - GENERAL ISSUES

[96-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

[96-15] Resolution by ICCAT on large-scale pelagic driftnets

Please see Rec. 08-09 for more information.

[97-01] Recommendation by ICCAT to improve compliance with minimum size regulations

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

[97-08] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[98-11] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ban on landings and transshipments of vessels from non-Contracting Parties identified as having committed a serious infringement

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[00-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits

CPCs have implemented Rec. 00-14, and through the form CP13 have reported their underages/overages for the species under quota/catch limit management. These are presented in the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

[01-12] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas

Authorised adjustments are contained in various Recommendations and reflected in the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

[01-18] Resolution by ICCAT further defining the scope of IUU fishing

See the “Draft 2024 List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities” [PWG_405/2024].

[03-12] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in relation to their vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-16] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt additional measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[04-12] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt measures concerning sport and recreational fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea

The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures

Completed forms containing information on imports and landings were submitted in accordance with this measure within the deadline by China, Chinese Taipei, El Salvador, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye and United Kingdom. The information submitted by CPCs is contained in **Annex 1**.

[22-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 06-14 to promote compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with ICCAT conservation and management measures

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[21-16] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 07-08 concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[08-09] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a process for the review and reporting of compliance information

The information submitted by CPCs and NGOs, together with the responses to date, is available in COC_312/2024.

[11-11] Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex

Compliance Tables are contained in the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” [COC_304/2024].

[11-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations

Following the 2023 Commission meeting, prohibition was imposed on Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé e Príncipe and Sierra Leone. The ICCAT Secretariat is pleased to report that the prohibition has since been lifted from São Tomé e Príncipe as they have submitted the missing data during 2024.

No Task 1 statistics for 2023 were received during 2024 from The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria (as of 11 October 2024), as shown in **Appendix 3**. In addition, some data or confirmation of zero catches (white cells in **Appendix 3**) are missing from Algeria, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Republic of Guinea, Mauritania, Namibia, São Tomé e Príncipe and St Vincent and Grenadines.

A history of prohibitions applied is contained in **Annex 8**.

[21-13] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities

(replaced by *[Rec. 23-16] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities*)

The information gathered by the ICCAT Secretariat since the 2023 Commission meeting is presented in "Draft 2024 List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities" [PWG_405/2024]. It should be noted that the current system of cross listing poses some serious challenges to ensure accuracy of information, as there is no standard presentation for the information from the RFMOs involved.

[18-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

(as amended by *[Rec. 23-17] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on Port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing*)

Information on contact points for AREP and receipt of reports is published on the password protected area of the [ICCAT website](#), as well as any infringements reported, and the actions taken. In some cases, it is not clear from the reports if infringements have taken place, and if/when these infringements relate to ICCAT requirements:

Request from the ICCAT Secretariat: In order to ensure correct implementation of the requirement for CPCs to submit inspection reports which contain ICCAT infringements for inclusion on the ICCAT website, it would be helpful if the CPCs submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the Flag State.

Two Port Inspections Reports containing infractions were submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat since November 2023.

Rec. 18-09 provides that the submission of inspection reports in which no infraction has been found is voluntary. A summary of reports received is contained **Table 3**. In many cases, reports are received late, and the ICCAT Secretariat has noted that copies of the reports have not been made available to the flag States in all cases.

Reporting of designated ports under Rec. 18-09: The ICCAT Record of Ports into which foreign vessels may enter is published on the [ICCAT website](#).

[21-14] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area

See also Rec. 21-14 reference below for issues of retroactive reporting. As of the time of writing, IMO numbers are missing for four Cabo Verdean and two Algerian-flagged vessels of 20 m or greater, excluding those exempt (e.g., wooden or non-commercial vessels).

Updates to internal action reports (presented in the form CP10) were received from Belize and Ghana. These are contained in **Annex 2**.

[13-14] Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel chartering

The chartering summary reports are contained in **Appendix 2** (only chartered by Namibia for the year 2023) and the table summarizing the chartering arrangements reported in **Table 10**. Although the CP53 form introduced in 2021 has been correctly integrated by the parties involved in the chartering agreements improving the coordination and the processing of data, some difficulties remain in terms of deadlines to receive the information in a timely manner.

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements

Updates relating to ongoing Access Agreements were received from Angola, the European Union, Morocco, Senegal, Suriname and United Kingdom since the last Commission meeting. Some of the agreements reported in previous years were multi-annual and are still ongoing. The full list of Access Agreements is contained in **Annex 6**.

In order to avoid any confusion with Task 1 reporting, the ICCAT Secretariat published a revised reporting form for submitting information on Access Agreements; both for the Agreement itself and for the catches made under such agreement (see CP39) in 2020, but this section on catch reporting is not currently being used by CPCs.

Extracts from other CPC Annual Reports (IOMS) in relation to Access Agreements are shown below.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
Angola	Statistical information of foreign vessels fishing in Angolan waters is reported by their respective countries to avoid data duplication.
European Union	15 September 2024: See Annual Report
Gabon	Still the same information as the one in 2022 (remains in force). The agreements have not been modified in 2023.
Liberia	There were 31 tuna vessels under access arrangements during the reporting period, they conducted fishing activities with the Liberia EEZ. Liberia has no flag tuna vessels. Annual production per species in tons: BET - 245 t, SKJ- 2,396 t, YFT -1,091 t, LTA - 56 t, and others 218.1 t.
Morocco	Summary sent on 4 July 2024
Senegal	Summary sent on 15 September 2024.
United Kingdom	The Met UK submitted CP39-AccAgr (Form B) on 5 September 2024 containing the summary of activities and catches for the 2023 reciprocal access agreement for northern Atlantic albacore with the European Union. Updated information was sent on 9 September 2024.
Suriname	Summary sent on 24 July 2024

Request from Secretariat: The Secretariat received information from Angola regarding a Belize-flagged vessel authorized to operate within its waters. Consequently, the Secretariat requested Angola to submit an Access Agreement form (CP39) duly filled in. Similarly, the Secretariat contacted Belize regarding the same matter.

Belize stated that: "There is no agreement between Belize and Angola for chartering or access. While a Belize flagged fishing vessel was authorized by Angola to operate in waters under its jurisdiction, it cannot be inferred that an agreement exists between the coastal and flag States in question. An agreement requires the expressed consent of all Parties involved to, individually and/or collectively, perform the undertakings to which they assented. Angola acted unilaterally in authorizing, in this case, a Belize flagged vessel to operate within its waters and this is an activity that is permitted under Belizean law as provided by international law."

Therefore, the Secretariat would be grateful to receive some guidance as to whether any information should be provided by the flag CPC in such circumstances.

[18-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning minimum standards for vessel monitoring systems in the ICCAT Convention area

The current Recommendation does not contain any direct reporting requirements. For compliance issues with the implementation of VMS, please refer to Rec. 19-04.

[21-14] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area

Retroactive submissions were noted above in the SWO-N vessel list (United States), ALB-N vessel list (United States), TROP vessel list (United States), ALB-MD vessel list (European Union), and the BFT-E Catching List (European Union).

[15-09] Resolution by ICCAT establishing Guidelines for the implementation of the Recommendation 11-15 by ICCAT on penalties applicable in the case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations

Please see Rec. 11-15 above.

[16-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program

Several CPCs have indicated difficulties in implementing scientific observer programmes. A summary of CPC's observer programmes can be found in the "2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics" [PLE_105/2024] and the "Information on implementation of Scientific Observer Programs as reported by CPCs" [COC_318/2024].

[21-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment

Carrier vessels and associated LPLVs are published on the ICCAT website in the [ICCAT Record of Vessels](#).

The "Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for transshipment 2023/2024" [PWG_402/2024] contains more information. PNCs reported by observers and responses from CPCs are contained in "Issues of potential non-compliance arising from ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes and Responses" [COC_305/2024]. The reports of the observers have been published on the [ICCAT website](#) as required by the Recommendation.

In recent years, several transshipment declarations have been submitted without being in accordance with a specific requirement. This has made it very challenging for the ICCAT Secretariat to determine which documents are in line with ICCAT Recommendations. The issue is compounded by a few CPCs continuing to submit non-required information, creating a significant additional burden on the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of registering and reviewing irrelevant submissions. This also severely impedes the proper processing of relevant information. Often, this is because the ICCAT Secretariat is unnecessarily copied on this type of communication, which could clearly be avoided

Request from ICCAT Secretariat: CPCs limit themselves to submitting to the ICCAT Secretariat only the documentation required by the Recommendation and use the ICCAT approved formats where applicable.
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[19-17] Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution (18-11) by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

Contact points have been published on the [ICCAT website](#).

[19-09] Recommendation by ICCAT vessel sightings

Twenty-eight (28) vessel sightings were reported by European Union flagged from Libya (1) and Tunisia (4), and by Algeria, flagged from Algeria (3), EU-Italy (2), EU-Malta (5), Tunisia (12) and Türkiye (1). These details are contained in **Annex 11**. The ICCAT Secretariat did not receive responses from the CPC with suspected infringements (Libya, Tunisia).

[19-10] *Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs*

To date, [17 Emergency Action Plans](#) have been received and published.

[19-11] *Recommendation by ICCAT on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear*

No information has been submitted to date.

[23-18] *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and programme requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries*

No information has been submitted to date.

SANC - SANCTIONS, TRADE-RELATED MEASURES

No measures currently active.

SDP - STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS

[01-21] *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program*

Information can be found in the "ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)" [PWG_401/2024] and the "2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics" [PLE_105/2024].

[01-22] *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program*

Imports and re-exports of both bigeye and swordfish from unknown flag and/or unknown area continue to be reported by one CPC.

More information can be found in the "ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)" [PWG_401/2024] and the "2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics" [PLE_105/2024].

[Rec. 18-13] *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program as amended by [Rec. 21-19] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program*

(replaced by [Rec. 23-21] *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation programme*)

Please see the "Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)" [PWG_401/2024] for information on the implementation of Rec. 18-13 under the eBCD system. Refer also to Rec. 22-16 below.

Request from ICCAT Secretariat: CPCs limit themselves to submitting to the ICCAT Secretariat only the documentation required by the Recommendation and use the ICCAT approved formats where applicable.

CPCs limit themselves to submitting to the ICCAT Secretariat information on Validation seals and signatures for the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna/Swordfish Statistical Document and ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programs, using the ICCAT approved formats.

[22-16] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System

In accordance with Annex 3 of Rec. 22-16, outside the ICCAT Secretariat's office hours and the technical assistance' hours contracted with the Consortium, any CPC can self-register an incident on the [ICCAT web page](#) to inform all CPCs of its temporary use of the paper BCD. More information on the eBCD systems can be found in the "Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)" [PWG_401/2024] and the "Report of the First CDS Working Group" [PWG_403/2024].

The report on the derogation allowed under paragraph 5b) is available as "Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2023 (paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16)" [PWG_410/2024].

TOR - TERMS OF REFERENCE

[16-19] Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System

Information on progress to date can be found in the "Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Online Reporting" [COC_302/2024], and Ref. 23-24 below.

MISC - MISCELLANEOUS

[99-07] Resolution by ICCAT on improving recreational fishery statistics

Information is included in the "Annual Reports of CPCs" (COC_301/2024) and in Task 1 statistics. Given that the wording of the Resolution is vague ("each CPC provide specific data to SCRS to allow the Commission to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish"), the Commission may wish to better define the information required.

[21-24] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 03-20 by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname currently enjoy Cooperating status. Review of compliance by Cooperating parties, Entities and Fishing Entities is included in the "Draft Compliance Summary Tables" [COC_308/2024].

[05-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations

Please see the "2024 Secretariat's Report on Research and Statistics" [PLE_105/2024] for more details on statistical reporting, as well as Rec. 11-15 above. The following non-Contracting Parties have provided data this year: Gibraltar and Sta Lucia.

[05-11] Resolution by ICCAT on pelagic Sargassum

The ICCAT Secretariat has nothing to report at this time. Barbados has included some information in their Annual Reports.

[23-24] Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports

As in previous years, when submitting information in the IOMS and the Microsoft Word segments of the Annual Reports, many CPCs do not read the questions and requirements thoroughly. Furthermore, many CPCs do not reply to the requirement requested as in the original Recommendations in their responses. CPCs should always refer to the "[Submit Information](#)" page for Compliance on the ICCAT website. Here, CPCs can reference applicable requirements, corresponding recommendation and paragraph numbers, and submission deadlines. This page is also the source for downloading the most recent versions of all compliance reporting forms.

Since 2023, CPCs are required to enter the information contained in the tables for the scientific requirements and the management requirements directly into the IOMS. Despite several directives (Ref. 23-22, ICCAT Circulars #01048, #08774, [Guidelines](#) and ICCAT webpage), some CPCs are still submitted outdated Microsoft Excel versions of the scientific and management tables, or CPCs completed the IOMS sections directly in the previous version of Microsoft Word document (Summary, Section 1, and Section 2) to complete the written and online segments of the full report.

To avoid confusion in the field “Not applicable”, as in previous years, the nomenclature has been changed to “Applicable”, as well as its functionality. As such it is more intuitive for the user when to select it (if the requirement in question applies to the CPC) and provide the relevant explanations.

The following examples highlight frequently occurring types of incorrect Annual Report responses:

Example 1:

M:SHK05 Details of implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures

Note that this requirement is mandatory for all CPCs

Answers provided cannot be:

- XXX does not have sharks catches

Example 2:

M:SWO17 Maximum onboard by-catch limit of N. SWO [Rec. 17-02; para 14]:

Note that this requirement is applicable to northern swordfish

Answers provided cannot be:

- XXX does not fish for the SWO-Med
- XXX doesn't have vessels targeting SWO-Med
- All XXX vessels authorized to operate in the Convention are authorized to catch and retain SWO-S.

As another reminder, CPCs are requested to refrain from responding, in the IOMS, by giving simple answers that include “See above”, “See Annual Report”, “Same as last year”, “No change”, etc.

To provide the Compliance Committee with accurate reporting information specific to each requirement, the IOMS is designed to extract all answers given in response to a specific requirement. For this reason, a full answer to each question is required to export clear, consistent information.

On a total of 57 CPCs/CPs, 44 of them completed the IOMS at 100%. Among them that submitted their reports through the System, only 12 have used some of the standard responses.

For the others 13 CPCs/CPs, the information is still pending:

- Six CPCs have started to fill in, did not finish the completion or submitted one of the two required reports through the IOMS, either the Statistics or the Compliance Report: Côte d'Ivoire, Venezuela, Guinea, Angola, Guinea Equatorial and The Gambia.
- Seven CPC did not submit in 2024 either report through the system: São Tomé e Príncipe, Honduras, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau and Grenada.

“Information submitted by some CPCs in Section 2 - Part 2.2 of their Annual Report” [COC_311/2024], contains a summary of section 2.2 of the Annual Reports (“Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures”) that presents the main difficulties some CPCs have experienced. This section also provides the opportunity to raise the possible need for technical assistance.

ICCAT Secretariat Request: To encourage CPCs to devote greater emphasis on responding to the questions and requirements of the Annual Reports, they are invited to participate in forthcoming meetings of the IOMS to suggest improvements to the standard responses. This feedback will be used to enhance these types of responses and thus develop a set of standard responses that sufficiently meet the needs of CPCs.

Additionally, the ICCAT Secretariat encourages all CPCs to take full advantage of utilising Section 2.2 of the Annual Report to express concerns and make the Commission aware of challenges encountered throughout the year. We urge all CPCs to report any difficulties on an ongoing basis as concerns occur versus one time each year when annual reports are due. This will provide adequate time for addressing and resolving CPC concerns in a timely manner. Finally, Section 2.2 should be regarded as a tool for improved communication and troubleshooting that serves to inform the ICCAT Secretariat and allow it to work in a more proactive and responsive way.

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