

**Letter from the Chair of Panel 1 on the new Chair's  
proposal for the management of tropical tunas**

Dear Panel 1 Members,

It gives me great pleasure to communicate with you today on the upcoming Third Intersessional meeting of Panel 1 and Commission sessions in Cyprus. I am happy that CPCs have shown great magnanimity in the current bilateral and multilateral engagements. This gives me fervent hope that we can conclude on a new agreement next month.

The five rounds of consultation and the Second Intersessional meeting of Panel 1 in Natal (Brazil) have enabled me to produce a Chair's text that I believe will be acceptable to most, if not all CPCs. We have received comments from CPCs on both the proposed catch limits table and other comments on a few paragraphs in the Chair's text. We have incorporated the relevant comments into the combined new Chair proposal "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas" [PA1-505/2024]. I have had extensive consultations and discussions with CPCs and this has greatly given me insight on the way forward to reaching an agreement. I have accordingly cleaned the text as much as possible, and removed as many brackets as possible, based on my understanding in both formal and informal discussions with CPCs.

At the moment, two major hurdles remain: acceptance of the adjustments to the catch limits of a few CPCs and a consensus on the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) closure period. While adjusting the catch limits of few CPCs, three CPCs (Korea Rep., Cabo Verde and Guatemala) are out of the table and can greatly benefit as small harvesters. This has allowed some developing CPCs (Category B) to obtain desired catch limits, whilst at the same time being able to increase the reserve (Category C) from 5,000 t to 6,000 t, and redistributing the rest among Category A. With the increase in reserve, it is now possible to increase the threshold beyond 1,050 t to either 1,300 t or 1,575 t. On the FAD closure period, whilst we are still digesting the SCRS advice on the tropical tunas, I have attempted to narrow the gap by removing the extreme options in bracket.

I encourage CPCs to prepare adequately for the upcoming meeting. This will allow us to focus on relevant discussions that will enable us to reach consensus on the new agreement.

I look forward to meeting you all for a fruitful deliberation in Cyprus.

*Chair of Panel 1*



Emmanuel Kwame Dovlo