

Cover sheet to accompany New Proposals

(New draft proposal from the Panel 1 Chair following the discussions at the
2nd Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 and the following two correspondence periods)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas*

Title of currently in force Recommendation(s) or Resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues: *Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas (Rec. 23-01)*

1. Does it create new **reporting obligation(s)** for CPCs?

Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

- *By 15 February each year, CPCs in Category A and B (or CPCs with catch limits), shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1.*
- *If a CPC in Category C (or a CPC with no catch limits) catches more than 500 t of bigeye tuna in any year, it shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 within two years following the year the catch was made.*
- *With a view to establishing FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin at sustainable levels, national scientists from CPCs with purse seine vessels shall submit analyses of the per vessel catch rates of bigeye and yellowfin on FADs from 2019 to 2023 and present it to the SCRS for their evaluation in 2025.*
- *CPCs with purse seine vessels shall report to the SCRS by 15 July 2025 the required historical FAD set data in the format required by the SCRS.*
- *Each CPC with purse seine fishing vessels is encouraged not to increase its total fishing effort on FADs from its 2018 level. CPCs shall report the difference between the 2018 level and the 2024 level to the Commission at the 2025 annual meeting.*

2. Does it require additional input or **work by the SCRS**?

Yes No

Is this work already included in the current SCRS workplan

Yes No

Brief description of new scientific work required (i.e. stock assessment, analysis, external consultant):

In 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, the SCRS should provide advice to the Commission on the maximum number of FAD sets per vessel or per CPC in the Convention area. To this purpose, the advice from the SCRS shall describe the data set used, the methodology, as well as the objectives set within the context of all tropical tuna fisheries.

- 60 3. Does it involve the creation of a **new working group or intersessional process**?
- 61
- 62 Yes No
- 63
- 64 - *The IMM and SCRS shall review the requirements of paragraphs 35, 36 and 38 and make*
- 65 *recommendations to remove duplication and streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light*
- 66 *of any future FAD registry and associated technology change.*
- 67
- 68 - *The SCRS and the IMM Working Group shall review the information reported by CPCs and will, as*
- 69 *necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for*
- 70 *consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.*
- 71
- 72 - *The IMM Working Group shall explore and shall make recommendations to the Commission on the*
- 73 *possible scope and benefits of ICCAT adopting a regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries*
- 74 *taking into account the need for harmonization and coordination of national observer programs and*
- 75 *the possible use of electronic monitoring systems for tropical tuna fisheries.*
- 76
- 77 - *In 2025, the IMM will discuss control measures relating to:*
- 78
- 79 *the use of FADs, including the feasibility, utility and effectiveness of establishing a FAD registry taking*
- 80 *into account the existence of complete information on active vessels and their VMS operations, as well*
- 81 *as MCS measures.*
- 82
- 83
- 84 4. Does it require a new **programme or additional activities to be managed by the Secretariat**?
- 85
- 86 Yes No
- 87
- 88 Brief description of new Secretariat work required:
- 89
- 90 - *By 1 August [2025], the Secretariat shall provide a report to the Commission on the data received,*
- 91 *including a notification of any CPCs that have not provided the required data and are prohibited from*
- 92 *setting on FADs*
- 93
- 94
- 95 5. What is the proposed timeframe for implementation, and are there different specific timeframes for
- 96 certain CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.?
- 97
- 98 - *In the interim, 2025, 2026 and 2027;*
- 99
- 100 - *15-year rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna started in 2020 and continuing through 2034.*
- 101
- 102
- 103 6. Is there any other relevant information regarding the resource and workload implications of the
- 104 proposal?
- 105
- 106 - *Developing CPCs are to be supported to improve on MCS activities. CPCs are encouraged to share their*
- 107 *experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable materials in drifting FADs. The*
- 108 *proposed measure will streamline reporting requirements. The new proposal applies to the whole*
- 109 *Convention area.*
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119 **Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual**
120 **conservation and management programme for tropical tunas**
121

122 *(New draft proposal from the Panel 1 Chair following the discussions at the 2nd Intersessional Meeting of*
123 *Panel 1 and the following two correspondence periods)*
124

125
126 *RECALLING* the current multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;
127

128 *TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT*
129 *Conservation and Management Measures (Rec. 11-13)* for stocks that are overfished and not subject to
130 overfishing (i.e. stocks in the lower left yellow quadrant of the Kobe diagram) the Commission shall adopt
131 management measures designed to rebuild these stocks in as short period possible, taking into account,
132 *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice.
133

134 *TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT* that it is advisable to continue exploring alternative and more
135 effective systems or regimes for the management of tropical tunas and for this the SCRS' recommendation
136 is required;
137

138 *NOTING* that the stock assessment for bigeye tuna (BET) in 2021 indicated that the stock is overfished
139 but no longer subject to overfishing;
140

141 *RECALLING* the successive reductions of the TAC for bigeye tuna from 85,000 t to 62,000 t and their
142 detrimental socio-economic impacts;
143

144 *CONSIDERING* that the Committee has recommended that effective measures be found to reduce
145 fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna;
146

147 *TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance
148 Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;
149

150 *FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Joint Tuna
151 RFMO FAD Working Group and the third meeting of ICCAT's *Ad hoc* Working Group on FADs, on FAD
152 management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna
153 mortality;
154

155 *NOTING* that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs as well as other fisheries as well as
156 development of new fisheries could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and
157 yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g., reduced yield at MSY);
158

159 *FURTHER NOTING* that support vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse
160 seiner vessels using FADs and that the number of support vessels has increased over the years;
161

162 *RECALLING* the provisions of *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities*
163 *(Res. 15-13)* regarding the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities;
164

165 *RECALLING* the significant body of international law that recognizes the rights and special
166 requirements of developing States, including but not limited to, as applicable, Article 119 of UNCLOS and
167 Article 24 and Part VII of UNFSA;
168

169 *RECOGNISING* the particular interests of developing coastal States to develop their fishing
170 opportunities, and committing to achieve a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities to
171 developing coastal States over time;
172

173 *FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the importance and role of small-scale, artisanal, and subsistence fishers as
174 well as the Global Action Plan of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022;
175
176
177

178 *TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that any increase of fishing capacity should remain commensurate with
179 fishing opportunities to achieve sustainable productive fisheries, while allowing developing coastal States
180 to develop their fishing capacity to take advantage of new fishing opportunities;

181
182 *EMPHASIZING* the importance of preventing an uncontrolled increase of the fishing capacity, and in
183 particular the necessity to control the transfer of capacity from other oceans to the Atlantic;

184
185 *ALSO NOTING* the potential benefits of ICCAT re-activating a Regional Observer Program to strengthen
186 the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of the fleets, and in turn to ensure the appropriate implementation
187 of the management measures adopted by the Commission;

188
189 *ALSO CONSIDERING* that catch limits previously allocated to some CPCs shall not be considered
190 acquired rights;

191
192
193 THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
194 OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

195
196 **Part I**
197 **General Provisions**

198
199 **Conservation and management measures**

- 200
201 1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for
202 the years, 2025, 2026 and 2027, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties,
203 Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) shall apply the following conservation and
204 management measures with the objective of managing fishing mortality of tropical tunas, including
205 small bigeye and yellowfin.

206
207 **Multi-annual Management, Rebuilding and Conservation Programme**

- 208
209 2. CPCs shall continue to implement a 15-year rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna started in 2020 and
210 continuing through 2034, with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} with a probability of more than 50%. CPCs
211 shall also implement conservation and management measures with the objective of ensuring that the
212 stocks of yellowfin and skipjack tuna are exploited sustainably.

213
214 **Part II**
215 **Catch Limits**

216
217 **Total Allowable Catch and Harvest Control Rule for bigeye tuna**

- 218
219 3. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be set at [73,000 t] for 2025. This TAC
220 level shall be continued for 2026 and 2027 if the stock assessment to be conducted in 2025 indicates
221 that the probability of the stock being in the green zone in 2034 in K2SM (hereinafter called “the
222 probability”) is at or more than 65%. If the probability is less than 65%, the Commission shall adopt a
223 TAC with a probability that is at or more than 65%. If the probability of a 2026 TAC of 73,000 t is more
224 than 70%, the Commission shall consider possible increases to the TAC provided that the probability
225 is at least 70%.
- 226
227 3bis The Commission recognizes that the 65% and 70% probabilities are interim figures for establishing
228 the TAC for 2025, 2026 and 2027 and are higher compared to the percentages typically used for other
229 ICCAT stocks; and these do not set a precedent for future discussions of the Commission, which shall
230 only be used if the 2025 assessment exceptionally so determines, in application of paragraph 3 above.
- 231
232 3ter Notwithstanding, these rules shall cease to apply when the Commission establishes a management
233 procedure based on management strategy evaluation (MSE).
- 234
235
236

237 **Catch limits for bigeye tuna and conditions associated with the catch limits**
238

239 4. As an interim measure, the following catch limits for bigeye tuna shall apply for 2025, 2026 and 2027,
240 unless a change in TAC is adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 above:
241

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Catch limit</i>
EU	A	13,488.71
Japan		<u>13,979.84</u>
Chinese Taipei		<u>9,226.41</u>
China (P.R.)		<u>4,462.08</u>
<u>Korea</u>		<u>1,000.00</u>
Brazil	B	6,528.60
Ghana		4,732.53
Curaçao		2,945.87
Senegal		<u>2,288.34</u>
Panama		2,565.36
El Salvador		2,100.00
Belize		2,050.00
Morocco		<u>1,532.18</u>
[...]		[...]
Small harvesters		C

242
243 4bis In implementing the bigeye catch limits in paragraph 4, the following provisions shall apply:
244

- 245 (a) The Sub-total for Category C is a reserve for this group and not a limit.
246
247 (b) CPCs in Category C shall be subject to a 1,575 t trigger threshold. If the annual catches of bigeye
248 tuna by a CPC in Category C exceeds this threshold in two consecutive years (from 2025), Panel 1
249 will [shall] determine a binding catch limit to apply to that CPC in future years. In that situation,
250 50% of the catch limit shall come from the Sub-total for Category C, and the remaining 50% shall
251 come from any reserve which is agreed. If this reserve is unavailable or has less than the remaining
252 50%, the deficit shall come from the unused catch limits for CPCs in Categories A and B and shall
253 be redistributed in accordance with **Annex 1**.
254
255 (c) CPCs in Category C shall not be subject to any underharvest, carry-over or payback provisions,
256 and shall not be eligible to engage in transfers of fishing opportunities pursuant to
257 *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas (Rec. 01-12)*. The
258 provisions on chartering (*Rec. 13-14*) remain unaffected as a mechanism for the development of
259 CPC fisheries in this Category.
260
261 (d) If the combined bigeye tuna catches of all CPCs within Category C exceed the Sub-total for
262 Category C in any given year, Panel 1 shall reconsider the arrangement, including the need to
263 assign catch limits to individual CPCs within Category C.
264
265 (e) If the TAC in 2026 is decreased in accordance with paragraph 3, the catch limits in 2026 will be
266 adjusted pro-rata for CPCs which have catch limits, i.e., if the 2026 TAC decreases according to
267 paragraph 3, the difference between the new TAC and the previous TAC shall be deducted
268 proportionally taking into account the catch limits of Categories A and B, without modification of
269 the limits of other Categories.
270
271
272
273

- 274 (f) If a CPC in Categories A or B underharvests its total catch limit (as adjusted to account for over or
275 under harvests but excluding quota transfers) in any year, it may carry-forward into the next year
276 or the one after that a maximum of 10% of its initial catch limit specified in paragraph 4. Unused
277 catch limits for CPCs in Categories A and B shall be redistributed in accordance with **Annex 1**.
278
- 279 (g) If the TAC in 2026 is increased in accordance with paragraph 3, the positive difference in TAC
280 shall be allocated as follows subject to agreement by the Commission:
281
- 282 i. 40% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category A CPCs, pro rata to their annual
283 catch limits;
 - 284
 - 285 ii. 50% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category B, pro rata to their annual catch
286 limits;
 - 287
 - 288 iii. 10% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to the Category C.]
289
- 290 5. The provisions of paragraphs 4 and 4bis of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and
291 obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention area whose
292 current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing
293 for the species, and that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future.
294 CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation
295 to their capacity and resources. Any limitations that may result from this Recommendation for those
296 CPCs shall be considered interim for the duration of this Recommendation, without prejudice to its
297 reviews and amendments.
298
- 299 6. Small-scale fisheries [in overseas territories and outermost regions] shall be given special
300 consideration to their specificities and needs.
301
- 302 7. The annual catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long-term rights and are
303 without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
304
- 305 8. If the total catch exceeds in any year the annual TAC specified in paragraph 3, adjusted by the carryover
306 of underharvests, when applicable, due to causes other than exceeding of catch limits by a CPC with an
307 allocated catch limit, the Commission shall review these measures.
308

309 **Excess with respect to bigeye tuna catch limits**

- 310
- 311 9. Any overharvest of its total annual catch limit of bigeye tuna for CPCs listed in paragraph 4 shall be
312 deducted from that CPC's catch limit on or before the adjustment year as follows:
313

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2025	2027
2026	2028
2027	2029

- 314
- 315 10. Taking into account paragraph 9, if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:
316
- 317 a) In one year, then the amount deducted on or before the adjustment year shall be determined as
318 100% of the overage; and
319
 - 320 b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission shall recommend appropriate measures,
321 which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the accumulated excess harvest.
322

323 **Monitoring of catch**

- 324
- 325 11. CPCs shall report quarterly to the ICCAT Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas by species caught by
326 vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.
327
328

- 329 12. Notwithstanding paragraph 11, for purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 20m or greater), CPCs
330 shall report on a monthly basis, increasing to weekly when 80% of their bigeye tuna catch limits have
331 been caught.
332
- 333 13. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the bigeye TAC has been caught.
334
- 335 14. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has
336 been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs and will keep
337 it published and updated on the ICCAT website.
338

339 **TAC for yellowfin tuna**

- 340
- 341 15. The annual TAC for 2025 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for
342 yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.
343
- 344 16. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation
345 measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2027 Annual Meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures
346 or allocated catch limits.
347
- 348 17. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 15, the Commission shall consider additional
349 management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall take into account the special
350 requirements of developing coastal CPCs.
351
- 352 18. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the yellowfin TAC has been caught.
353

354 **Fishing, Management and Capacity Plans**

- 355
- 356 19. By 15 February each year, CPCs in Category A and B, as specified in paragraph 4 above, shall submit a
357 fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 on how they will implement their respective catch
358 limit obligations. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20
359 m or \geq 20 m) and support vessels.
360
- 361 20. Each CPC shall demonstrate in the plan that its total capacity is commensurate with its catch limit,
362 taking into account the annual average bigeye catches per vessel in the past and other factors such as
363 dependence of each vessel on bigeye catch. For information purposes, Panel 1 shall annually review
364 these plans.
365
- 366 21. Notwithstanding paragraph 19, if a CPC in Category C catches more than 500 t of bigeye tuna in any
367 year, it shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 within two years following the
368 year the catch was made. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by
369 size (< 20 m or \geq 20 m) as well as any plan to introduce additional fishing vessels in the current or
370 following year. The plans shall be submitted to Panel 1 for information.
371
- 372 22. Any CPCs in Category C that plan to expand capacity in 2025, 2026 or 2027, shall provide a declaration
373 by the 31 January of that year. These declarations should include details of proposed/potential fleet
374 additions, including vessel characteristics and gear type. The declarations shall be submitted to the
375 ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs shall amend their declaration as their
376 situation and opportunities change.
377

378 **Part III**

379 **Capacity Management Measures on Fishing and Support Vessels**

- 380
- 381 23. Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the
382 names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those
383 vessels were active in 2019 in the ICCAT Convention area, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that
384 received the support of each support vessel. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile this information and
385 prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels
386 shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required. Notwithstanding this,
387 CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels from the numbers active in 2019, this does not

388 apply to the new participants in purse seine fisheries, for which a maximum proportion of XX% of
389 support vessels can be allowed per fishing vessel, until the Commission decides based on an SCRS
390 recommendation.

391
392 24. For the purposes of this measure, a support vessel is defined as any vessel that carries out activities in
393 support of purse seine vessels that increases the efficiency of their operations including, but not limited
394 to deploying, servicing and retrieving FADs.

395
396 **Part IV**
397 **Management of FADs**

398
399 **FAD management objectives**

400
401 25. The general objectives for management of FADs and support vessels in the Convention area are defined
402 as follows:

403
404 a) To minimize potential impacts that high FAD density may have on purse seine fishing efficiency,
405 while minimizing disproportionate impacts to the fishing opportunities of fleets that use other
406 gear or other fishing strategies while also targeting tropical tunas;

407
408 b) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin stocks that
409 result from the capture of high numbers of juveniles that aggregate with skipjack on FADs;

410
411 c) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on non-target species, where appropriate, including
412 entanglement of marine species, particularly those of conservation concern;

413
414 d) To minimize the impact of FADs and FAD fishing on pelagic and coastal ecosystems, including by
415 preventing the beaching, stranding or grounding of FADs in sensitive habitats or the alteration of
416 pelagic habitat.

417
418 26. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions shall apply:

419
420 i. Floating object (FOB): Any natural or artificial floating (i.e., surface or subsurface) object with no
421 capability of moving on its own. FADs are those FOBs that are man-made and intentionally
422 deployed and/or tracked. Logs are those FOBs that are accidentally lost from anthropic and natural
423 sources.

424
425 ii. Fish Aggregating Device (FAD): Permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or
426 device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, and used to
427 aggregate fish for subsequent capture. FADs can either be anchored (aFADs) or drifting (dFADs).

428
429 iii. FAD set: Setting a fishing gear around a tuna school associated with a FAD.

430
431 iv. Operational buoy: Any instrumented buoy, previously activated, switched on and deployed at sea,
432 which transmits position and any other available information such as eco-sounder estimates.

433
434 v. Activation: The act of enabling satellite communication services by the buoy supplier company at
435 the request of the buoy owner. The owner then starts paying fees for communication services.
436 The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been manually switched on.

437
438 vi. Biodegradable: means a non-synthetic material¹ and/or bio- based alternatives that are
439 consistent with international standards² for materials that are biodegradable in marine
440 environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be
441 damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their
442 composition.

443

¹ For example, plant-based materials such as cotton, jute, manila hemp (abaca), bamboo, natural rubber, or animal-based such as leather, wool, lard.

² International standards such as ASTM D6691, D7881, TUV Austria, European or any such standards approved by ICCAT.

- 444 vii. "Non- entangling FAD" means: a FAD that does not include any netting materials for any part of
445 the FAD including both the surface structure (e.g., raft) and subsurface structure (e.g., tail).
446

447 **FAD closure**

- 448
449 27. In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, purse seine and baitboat
450 vessels fishing for, or vessels supporting activities to fish for, bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in
451 association with FADs in the Convention area shall be prohibited during a [~~thirty / sixty-five/seventy-~~
452 ~~two~~] day period in 2025 and 2026 from [1 April to 30 April/1 January to 6/13 March], throughout the
453 Convention area. The closure for 2027 shall be reviewed and, if necessary and appropriate, revised
454 based on advice by the SCRS taking into account monthly trends in free school and FAD-associated
455 catches and the monthly variability in the proportion of juvenile tuna in catches. SCRS should provide
456 this advice to the Commission in 2025.
457
458 28. In addition, each CPC shall ensure its vessels do not deploy drifting FADs during a period of 15 days
459 prior to the start of the closure period.
460

461 **FAD limitations**

- 462
463 29. CPCs shall ensure that, for vessels flying their flag, the following limits shall apply on the number of
464 FADs with operational buoys at any one time according to definitions given in paragraph 26. The
465 number of FADs with operational buoys will be verified through the verification of telecommunication
466 bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:
467
468 - 2025-[2026/2027]: [275] FADs per vessel
469
470 30. [With a view to analyzing the establishment of FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile bigeye and
471 yellowfin at sustainable levels, national scientists from CPCs with purse seine vessels shall submit
472 analyses of the per vessel catch rates of bigeye and yellowfin on FADs from 2019 to 2023 and present
473 it to the SCRS for their evaluation in 2025. Also,] CPCs with purse seine vessels shall report to the SCRS
474 by 15 July 2025 the required historical FAD set data [disaggregated by vessel or FAD-associated fishing
475 vessel activity] in the format required by the SCRS (Task 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE)
476 for a minimum of the last five years (2019-2023). For those CPCs who have provided the historical
477 FAD set data, the data of the latest year shall be provided. CPCs that do not report these data in
478 accordance with this paragraph shall be automatically and immediately prohibited from setting on
479 FADs until such data have been received by the Secretariat. By 1 August 2025, the Secretariat shall
480 provide a report to the Commission on the data received, including a notification of any CPCs that have
481 not provided the required data and are prohibited from setting on FADs. When any CPC subject to
482 such prohibition rectifies the situation by submitting its data to the Secretariat for transmission to the
483 SCRS, the Secretariat shall, without delay, so notify the Commission.
484

485 In 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, the SCRS should provide advice to the Commission on the
486 maximum number of FAD sets per vessel or per CPC in the Convention area. To this purpose, the advice
487 from the SCRS shall describe the data set used, the methodology, as well as the objectives set within
488 the context of all tropical tuna fisheries.
489

490 In addition, each CPC with purse seine fishing vessels is encouraged not to increase its total fishing
491 effort on FADs from its 2018 level. CPCs shall report the difference between the 2018 level and the
492 2024 level to the Commission at the 2025 annual meeting.
493

- 494 31. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel
495 has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is consistent with
496 the [Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and programme requirements for the](#)
497 [use of Electronic Monitoring Systems \(EMS\) in ICCAT fisheries \(Rec. 23-18\)](#) and provides to the SCRS
498 information on fishing activities specified in [Rec. 16-14](#) and [Rec. 23-18](#). Each year, by 15 July, CPCs
499 shall notify the Secretariat which of their purse seine vessels that set on floating objects in the previous
500 year complied with the provisions of this paragraph. [The Secretariat shall provide] a summary of the
501 verifications made by the CPCs, to the Compliance Committee for analyses and recommendations [30
502 days ahead of the annual meeting].

503 32. [Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the effect of support vessels on the catches of
504 juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2025.]
505

506 **FAD Management Plans**

507
508 33. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in
509 association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of
510 aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 15 February each year.

511
512 34. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be the following:

513
514 i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including
515 fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and
516 non-target species;

517
518 ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their
519 potential loss;

520
521 iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where
522 appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g., number of
523 deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of
524 support vessels).

525
526 35. The plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as
527 provided in **Annex 2**.

528 **FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs**

529
530
531 36. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including
532 supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction,
533 when fishing in association with or deploying FADs, collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD,
534 each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information
535 and data:

536
537 a) Deployment of any FAD

538 i. Position

539 ii. Date

540 iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)

541 iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID, type of buoy e.g., simple buoy or associated with
542 echo-sounder)

543 v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging
544 structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

545
546 b) Visit on any FAD

547 i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy³, retrieving FAD and/or buoy,
548 strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random
549 encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without
550 fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD⁴)

551 ii. Position

552 iii. Date

553 iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)

554 v. Log description or FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID or any information allowing
555 to identify the owner)

³ Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD's owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FAD's owner).

⁴ A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter with a FAD (opportunistic).

- 556 vi. Buoy ID
557 vii. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch, whether
558 retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g., not
559 enough fish, fish too small, etc.)
560

- 561 c) Loss of any FAD
562 i. Last registered position
563 ii. Date of the last registered position
564 iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID)
565

566 For the purpose of the collection and reporting of the information referred to above and where
567 paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their
568 reporting system or establish FAD logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs should consider
569 using the template laid down in **Annex 3** as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs
570 may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs
571 shall use the minimum standards recommended by the SCRS in **Annex 4**.
572

- 573 37. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 29 keep updated on a monthly basis
574 and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the
575 information as laid down in **Annex 5**.
576
577 38. The IMM and SCRS shall review the requirements of paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 and make
578 recommendations to remove duplication and streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light
579 of any future FAD registry and associated technology change.
580

581 **Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels**

582

- 583 39. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in
584 a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and
585 to the Temporary Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:
586
587 i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD
588 type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to
589 the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective
590 of their Flag;
591 ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g., radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder)
592 deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
593 iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have
594 been followed by each vessel;
595 iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
596 v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
597 vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode
598 (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task 2 data
599 requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
600 vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and
601 effort in line with Task 1 and Task 2 requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats”
602 (PS+BB).
603

604 **Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs**

605

- 606 40. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as
607 of 1 January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be
608 placed in the water) in the ICCAT Convention area shall comply with the following specifications in
609 accordance with **Annex 6**:
610
611 a) the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;
612
613 b) only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used.
614
615

- 616 41. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris:
617
618 a) CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy FADs of biodegradability Categories I, II and
619 III, as defined in **Annex 6**;
620 b) CPCs shall no longer deploy any FADs of Category IV, as defined in **Annex 6**;
621 c) as of 1 January 2026, CPCs shall use only FADs of Categories I and II; as defined in **Annex 6**; and
622 d) as of 1 January 2028, CPCs shall use only FADs of Category I, as defined in **Annex 6**.
623
- 624 42. Notwithstanding paragraph 41, the use of non-biodegradable materials, in particular nylon ropes, can
625 be used exclusively to strengthen the structure of the floating or underwater component of the FAD
626 Categories I and II, as a temporary solution and only provided no biodegradable alternative is available.
627
- 628 43. CPCs are encouraged to share their experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable
629 materials in drifting FADs.
630
- 631 44. CPCs shall ensure to collect and submit to ICCAT detailed information in their FAD management plans
632 on the drifting FAD design used including its conformity with the requirements set out in **Annex 6**
633 prior to the deployment of each drifting FAD.
634
- 635 45. CPCs shall submit in their FAD management plans information concerning the status of
636 implementation of paragraphs 40 and 41, and this information shall be made available for analysis to
637 the SCRS and the IMM Working Group.
638
- 639 46. CPCs are encouraged to continue trialing bioFAD designs in a continued effort of design improvement
640 and to share the results in the FAD management plan. The Secretariat will make this available to the
641 SCRS when provided.
642
- 643 47. The SCRS and the IMM Working Group shall review the information reported by CPCs and will, as
644 necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for
645 consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.
646
- 647 48. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the full implementation
648 of this Recommendation.
649

650 **Part V** 651 **Control Measures**

652 **Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas**

- 653 49. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to
654 fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their
655 flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").
656
657
658

659 **ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels**

- 660 50. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels,
661 including support vessels. Such tropical tuna vessels not entered into this record are deemed not to be
662 authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or
663 yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area or to carry out any kind of support to those
664 activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.
665
666
- 667 51. Notwithstanding paragraph 49, a CPC may allow bycatch of tropical tunas by fishing vessels 20m LOA
668 or greater not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 48, if this CPC establishes a
669 maximum per trip onboard bycatch limit of not more than 5% by species for such vessels and the
670 bycatch is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual
671 Report (a) the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels, (b) the total amount of tropical tuna
672 harvested as bycatch that year, (c) information about how the CPC ensures compliance with the limit
673 and (d) the maximum per trip bycatch limit the CPC will allow per stock for the coming fishing year.
674 The information in item d above shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs
675 by 15 January each year.

- 676 52. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation*
677 *13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater*
678 *authorized to operate in the Convention area (Rec. 21-14)* shall apply mutatis mutandis to the ICCAT
679 record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.
680
- 681 53. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in
682 accordance with the format set in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by*
683 *ICCAT*. For purse seine vessels, the notification shall include data on transport or fishing carrying
684 capacity of the vessels in gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT),
685 aiming ICCAT to monitor the capacity of fleet activity in the Convention area.
686
- 687 54. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT
688 website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.
689
- 690 55. The provisions of paragraphs 49 to 52 do not apply to recreational vessels.
691

692 **Transhipments**

- 693
- 694 56. [Starting in 2025, CPCs whose Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) are transhipping tuna and
695 tuna-like species in the Convention area shall ensure that a minimum of 20% of these transhipments
696 take place in ports.]
697
- 698 57. LSPLVs shall be allowed to tranship at sea only in the presence of a Regional Observer onboard carrier
699 vessels, in accordance with the ICCAT *Recommendation 21-15*.
700

701 **Recording of catch and fishing activities**

- 702
- 703 58. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or
704 skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out
705 in **Annex 7** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the recording of catch by fishing Vessels in*
706 *the ICCAT Convention area (Rec. 03-13)*.
707

708 **Identification of IUU fishing activity**

- 709
- 710 59. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context
711 of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels. If a possible violation is
712 detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall
713 immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect
714 fish aggregation, including FADs, during the period of closure request the vessel to stop fishing and, if
715 necessary, leave the area. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the
716 results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
717
- 718 60. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the
719 Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the
720 VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant
721 measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.
722
- 723 61. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with
724 paragraph 59, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and
725 taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 58, on the ICCAT draft IUU list.
726
727

728 **Observers**

729
730 62. [Observers shall perform tasks to verify compliance with the conservation and management measures
731 adopted by ICCAT and carry out the scientific data collection and tasks required by the SCRS. While on
732 board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas [in the area East of meridian 20°/West
733 longitude and North of parallel 28°/ South latitude] in the Convention area, the following shall apply:

- Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the observer to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the Flag CPC which mandated the observer the information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.]

740
741 63. [Starting in 2026, CPCs shall ensure a minimum of [10%/20%] observer coverage on their longline
742 vessels of 20m LOA or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention Area. This
743 shall be achieved through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 8** or
744 a combination of human observers and EMS consistent with **Rec. 16-14** unless a derogation as outlined
745 in that measure applies, and EMS can be used to cover the required minimum percentage of human
746 observers as advised by the SCRS.

CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or by a combination of observers and EMS from the previous year by [30 April / in accordance with Rec. 23-18 and Rec. 16-14] to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.]

751
752 64. CPCs shall submit all relevant data and administer scientific observer programs for tropical tunas in
753 accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific*
754 *observers (Rec. 16-14)*. In 2025, the SCRS shall provide advice on the improvements to observer
755 programs including how coverage should be stratified across vessels, seasons and areas to achieve
756 maximum effectiveness. The SCRS shall consider available information to recommend, where
757 appropriate, improvements to ICCAT standards.

758
759 65. CPCs shall endeavour to further increase observer coverage rates for longline vessels, including
760 through trials and implementation of electronic monitoring to supplement human observers.

761
762 For purse seine vessels flying their flag and targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the
763 Convention area, CPCs shall ensure 100% observer coverage of fishing effort, through the presence of
764 an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 8** or through implementation of EMS that is consistent
765 with the requirements of **Rec. 23-18**. CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or a
766 combination of observers and EMS from the previous year by 30 April/in accordance with Rec. 23-18
767 and Rec. 16-14 to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS, taking into account CPC confidentiality
768 requirements.

769
770 66. In any case, the purse seine Flag CPC may maintain the coverage of 20% of human observers, provided
771 that it implements the EMS in the remaining 80% of its entire fleet, for a 100% coverage and the EMS
772 information is audited in all its components, informing the Secretariat of the periodic audit reports
773 carried out by whoever the CPC designates for this purpose.

774
775 67. Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under observer and EMS
776 programs, including on the coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the
777 Commission before the annual meeting for further deliberation, taking into account CPC confidentiality
778 requirements.

779
780 68. The IMM Working Group shall explore and shall make recommendations to the Commission on the
781 possible scope and benefits of ICCAT adopting a regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries
782 taking into account the need for harmonization and coordination of national observer programs and
783 the possible use of electronic monitoring systems for tropical tuna fisheries.

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787 69. On the basis of the advice from IMM, the Commission shall consider how to use existing schemes of
788 observers, deployed onboard vessels authorized to fish for tropical tunas in ICCAT. For this purpose,
789 the CPC whose Flag or chartered vessel involved in already existing observers' programs should
790 provide details about these schemes to the Secretariat by 31 March 2025, including the copy of the
791 agreement endorsed by the Flag State and the applicable CPC of the observers.

Port Sampling Programme

793
794
795 70. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or
796 transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported
797 to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species
798 composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for
799 determining life history should be collected as practicable. SCRS shall report each year on the
800 implementation of the port sampling programme broken down by CPCs.

801
802 71. In 2025, the IMM will discuss control measures relating to:

- 803
804 a) the use of FADs, including the feasibility, utility and effectiveness of establishing a FAD registry
805 taking into account the existence of complete information on active vessels and their VMS
806 operations, as well as MCS measures;
807 b) its timely processing for all tropical tuna fisheries in the Convention area, including for FADs, in
808 accordance with the tasks in **Annex 9**;
809 c) the improvement of the quantity and quality of size sampling.

Part VI

Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Candidate Harvest Control Rules

813
814
815
816 72. The SCRS shall refine the MSE process in line with the roadmap adopted by the Commission. Based on
817 input from Panel 1 on interim operational management objectives to be developed starting in 2025,
818 SCRS should continue testing the candidate management procedures. In 2026 or as soon as possible
819 thereafter, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures, including pre-agreed
820 management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. These shall take into account the
821 differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g., purse seine, longline and baitboat) on juvenile mortality
822 and the yield at MSY, as well as other impacts of these fisheries, including impacts on bycatch,
823 ecosystem impacts and socio-economic impacts.

Part VII

Final Provisions

Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists

824
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826
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828
829 73. CPCs shall ensure that:

- 830
831
832 a. Both paper and/or electronic fishing logbooks and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 36,
833 where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
834
835 b. Their Task 1, 2 and 3 data, including catch at size, shall include active vessels, support vessel
836 activity, FADs, observers and summary of port sampling. The information collected from the fishing
837 or/and FAD logbooks, where applicable, is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary,
838 to be made available to the SCRS.

839
840 74. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national
841 industry to analyse data derived from all fisheries, including those related to FADs (e.g., logbooks, buoy
842 data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate
843 making the data available for such collaborative work, consistent with relevant CPC confidentiality
844 requirements.

845

846 **Confidentiality**

847
848 75. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent
849 with Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by ICCAT
850 and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and
851 procedures developed by the Commission.
852

853 **Final Provisions**

- 854
855 76. Actions required from the SCRS and the ICCAT Secretariat:
856
857 a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in
858 PA1-505A/2019⁵ might have to reduce the catches of tropical tunas to the agreed levels; and the
859 potential of such scheme to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in line with
860 recommendations from the SCRS;
861
862 b) The ICCAT Secretariat shall work with the SCRS in preparing an estimate of capacity in the
863 Convention area, to include at least all the fishing units that are large-scale or operate outside the
864 EEZ of the CPC they are registered in. All CPCs shall cooperate with this work, providing estimates
865 of the number of fishing units fishing for tuna and tuna-like species under their Flag, and the species
866 or species groups each fishing unit targets (e.g., tropical tunas, temperate tunas, swordfish, other
867 billfish, small tunas, sharks, etc.); this work shall be presented to the next meeting of the SCRS in
868 2025 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration.
869
870 77. This Recommendation replaces [Rec. 22-01](#) and [Rec. 23-01](#) and shall be reviewed by the Commission
871 in 2026.
872
873 78. Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, all CPCs are strongly
874 encouraged to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2025.

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⁵ Available upon request from the ICCAT Secretariat or on the [2019 Commission meeting documents webpage](https://www.iccat.int/com2019/index.htm#en) (<https://www.iccat.int/com2019/index.htm#en>).

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Scheme for redistribution of unused bigeye catch limits

[From 2026, the bigeye tuna catch limits in paragraph 4 shall be subject to redistribution in accordance with the following:

- a) If a CPC in Category A used less than [90%] of its initial limit for two consecutive years (in year X-2 and X-1), no carry-over shall be allowed, and the average unused amount beyond 10% of its initial limit shall be deducted from its initial limit in year X+1 and thereafter. The deducted amount shall be reserved by the Commission for granting catch limits to CPCs in Category C in accordance with paragraph 4bis(g). If the same CPC in Category A did not use more than 10% of its initial limit in three consecutive years, the third year shall be counted as the first year of the next two-year cycle.
- b) If a CPC in Category B used less than 85% of its initial limit for three consecutive years (in year X-3, X-2 and X-1), no carry-over shall be allowed, and the unused amount beyond 15% of its initial limit shall be deducted from its initial limit in year X+1 and thereafter. The deducted amount shall be reserved by the Commission for granting catch limits to CPCs in Category C in accordance with paragraph 4bis(g). If the same CPC in Category B did not use more than 15% of its initial limit in four consecutive years, the fourth year shall be counted as the first year of the three-year cycle.
- c) If the catch limit for a CPC is changed as a result of the negotiation, either the new catch limit for the CPC or the adjusted catch limit after permanent redistribution shall be used, whichever is lower.]

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Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and baitboat fleets must include the following:

1. Description
 - a) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
 - b) Type of beacon/buoy
 - c) Maximum number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type and active at any one time per vessel
 - d) Minimum distance between AFADs
 - e) Incidental bycatch reduction and utilization policy
 - f) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
 - g) Statement or policy on “FAD ownership”
 - h) Use of support vessels, including from other flag CPCs
2. Institutional arrangements
 - a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD Management Plan
 - b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
 - c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
 - d) FAD replacement policy
 - e) Additional reporting obligations beyond this Recommendation
 - f) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
 - g) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g., territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
3. FAD construction specifications and requirements
 - a) FAD design characteristics (a description)
 - b) Lighting requirements
 - c) Radar reflectors
 - d) Visible distance
 - e) FAD markings and identifier
 - f) Radio buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
 - g) Echo-sounder buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
 - h) Satellite transceivers
 - i) Research undertaken on biodegradable FADs
 - j) Prevention of loss or abandonment of FADs
 - k) Management of FADs recovery
4. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan
5. Means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the FAD Management Plan

FAD logbook

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Buoys ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>Bycatch</i>			<i>Observations</i>	
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>		<i>Specimens released alive</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)		(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...
...

- (1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
- (3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (4) i.e., deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.
- (5) dd/mm/yy
- (6) hh:mm
- (7) N/S/(in degrees and minutes) or E/W/(in degrees and minutes).
- (8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.
- (9) Use a line per taxonomic group.
- (10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.
- (11) Unit used.
- (12) Expressed as number of specimens.
- (13) If no FAD marking or associated beacon ID is available, report all available information in this section which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

Table 1. Codes, names and examples of different types of floating object that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 7).

<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Example</i>
DFAD	Drifting FAD	Bamboo or metal raft
AFAD	Anchored FAD	Very large buoy
FALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (and related to fishing activities)	Nets, wreck, ropes
HALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (not related to fishing activities)	Washing machine, oil tank
ANLOG	Natural log of animal origin	Carcasses, whale shark
VNLOG	Natural log of plant origin	Branches, trunk, palm leaf

Table 2. Names and description of the activities related to floating objects and buoys that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement (codes are not listed here). Table from 2016 SCRS Report (section 18.2, Table 8).

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
FOB	Encounter	Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)
	Visit	Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)
	Deployment	FAD deployed at sea
	Strengthening	Consolidation of a FOB
	Remove FAD	FAD retrieval
BUOY	Fishing	Fishing set on a FOB ¹
	Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB ²
	Remove buoy	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
	Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

¹ A fishing set on a Fishing Object (FOB) includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FOB (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FOB (opportunistic).

² Deploying a buoy on a FOB includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FOB, transferring a buoy (which changes the FOB owner) and changing the buoy on the same FOB (which does not change the FOB owner).

List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD & electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD</i>		<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Associated buoy ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of the associated buoy and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>	<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
...
...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
- (2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (3) E.g., GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.
- (4) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (5) E.g., nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

Principles for non-entangling and biodegradable designs of dFADs

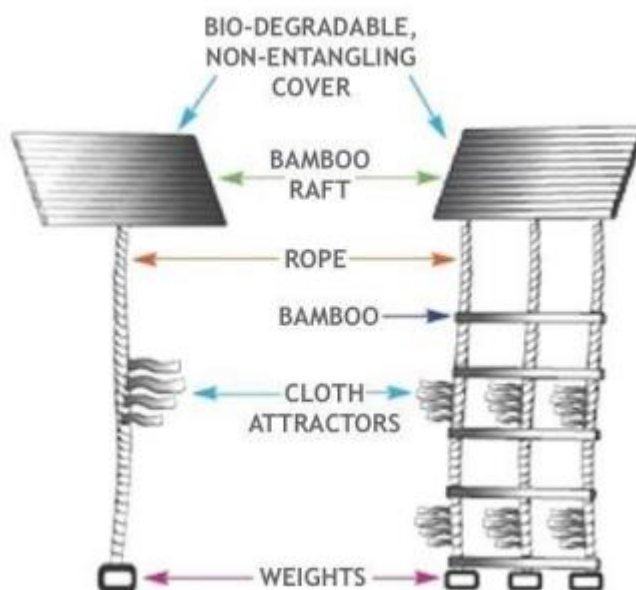


Figure. Example of a non-entangling, biodegradable FAD.

1. Fish aggregating devices shall be constructed with no netting or entangling material in both the surface structure (raft) and the submerged structure.
2. For the purposes of this Recommendation, the following FAD categories are identified, on the basis of their degree of biodegradability (from non-biodegradable to 100% biodegradable), with the understanding that the respective definitions do not apply the electronic buoys that are attached to FADs in order to track them:

Category I. The FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials.

Category II. The FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials except for plastic-based flotation components (e.g., plastic buoys, foam, purse seine corks).

Category III. The subsurface part of the FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials, whereas the surface part and any flotation components contain non-biodegradable materials (e.g., synthetic raffia, metallic frame, plastic floats, nylon ropes).

Category IV. The subsurface part of the FAD contains non-biodegradable materials, whereas the surface part is made of fully biodegradable materials, except for, possibly, flotation components.

Category V. The surface and subsurface parts of the FAD contain non-biodegradable materials.

Requirements for catch recording

Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) and before port arrival
3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches
6. Species identification:
 - a) By FAO code
 - b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
 - c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information in case of landing, transshipments:

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

Observer Programme

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 61-66 of this Recommendation shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - Sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - Satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - The ability to observe and record accurately;
 - The ability to collect biological samples;
 - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.
2. The observers shall not be a crew member of the fishing vessel being observed and shall:
 - a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
 - b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 3 below;
 - c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.
3. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

In particular the observers shall:

 - i. Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - ii. Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iii. Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - iv. Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
 - v. Verify the number of instrumental buoys active at any one time;
 - vi. Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task 2 data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS, observing and recording data on FAD properties in accordance with **Table 1** below.
 - b) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

Obligations of the observers

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
5. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the Flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
6. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 7 of this **Annex**.

Obligations of the Flag States of fishing vessels

7. The responsibilities regarding observers of the Flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
 - a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in point 3 of this **Annex**:
 - i. satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii. radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii. electronic means of communication, including FAD/buoys signals.
 - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
 - e) The Flag States shall ensure that masters, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

Table 1. FOB/FAD information added to observer onboard form to comply with RFMOs recommendations. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 9).

<i>Properties</i>	<i>DFAD</i>	<i>AFAD</i>	<i>HALOG</i>	<i>FALOG</i>	<i>ANLOG</i>	<i>VNLOG</i>
FOB built using biodegradable materials (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
FOB is non-entangling (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
Meshed material (true/false/undefined) in FOB	X	X		X		
Size of largest mesh (in millimeters)	X	X		X		
Distance between the surface and the deepest part of the FOB (in meters)	X	X	X	X		
Approximate surface area of the FOB	X	X	X	X		
Specify the FOB's ID whenever present	X	X	X	X		
Fleet owning the tracking device/echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vessel owning the tracking device/echosounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anchorage type used for mooring (AFAD registry)		X				
Radar reflectors (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Lighting (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Visual range (in nautical miles) (AFAD registry)		X				
Materials used for the floating part of the FOB (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Materials making up the FOB underwater structure (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Tracking device Type+ID if possible, otherwise no or undefined.	X	X	X	X	X	X

IMM tasks relating to FADs

1. The IMM Working Group is tasked to discuss how to establish an ICCAT FADs registry for the purpose of establishing FADs' ownership and improving control measures of fishing activities on FADs.
2. The IMM shall in particular:
 - a) Explore and report on how a FAD registry could contribute to solving the issue of lack of ownership of FADs, contribute to improving the recovery of FADs and reducing beaching events, and provide a scope for improving MCS measures in relation to fishing activities on FADs.
 - b) Identify the feasibility and most effective approach(es) to establish a FAD registry in ICCAT, including by identifying the responsibilities of the CPCs, their operators and the Secretariat, and providing estimates of possible costs.
 - c) Review, in collaboration with Panel 1 as required, the requirements of paragraphs 33-35 and make recommendations to streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light of any future FAD registry and technology change. The objective of this review will be to ensure priority data and reporting needs are met whilst minimizing administrative burden and duplicative reporting requirements.
 - d) Report to, and as appropriate, submit recommendations to the Commission.