

**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)*

**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*  
123 *the discussions at the 2nd Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1)*  
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 limits</i>
EU	A	<u>13,704.25</u>
Japan		<u>13,894.21</u>
Chinese Taipei		<u>9,169.89</u>
China (P.R.)		<u>4,633.52</u>
<u>Korea</u>		<u>1,093.26</u>
Brazil		B
Ghana	<u>4,504.77</u>	
Senegal	<u>2,721.57</u>	
<u>Curacao</u>	<u>Total OSPESCA =</u> <u>9,204.50</u>	
Panama		
El Salvador		
Belize		
Morocco	<u>1,622.18</u>	
Small harvesters	C	<u>5,963.25</u>

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

- 245 (a) The Sub-total for Category C is a [reserve/allowance/threshold] 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, and  
256 shall not be eligible to engage in transfers of fishing opportunities pursuant to *Recommendation by*  
257 *ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas (Rec. 01-12)*. The provisions on chartering  
258 (*Rec. 13-14*) remain unaffected as a mechanism for the development of CPC fisheries in this  
259 Category.  
260  
261 (d) If the combined bigeye tuna catches of all CPCs within Category C exceed the Sub-total for Category  
262 C in any given year, Panel 1 shall reconsider the arrangement, including the need to assign catch  
263 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 (f) If a CPC in Categories A or B underharvests its total catch limit (as adjusted to account for over or  
272 under harvests but excluding quota transfers) in any year, it may carry-forward into the next year  
273 or the one after that a maximum of 10% of its initial catch limit specified in paragraph 4. Unused  
274 catch limits for CPCs in Categories A and B shall be redistributed in accordance with [**Annex 1**].

275 (g) If the TAC in 2026 is increased in accordance with paragraph 3, the positive difference in TAC shall  
276 be allocated as follows subject to agreement by the Commission:

- 277
- 278 i. 40% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category A CPCs, pro rata to their annual  
279 catch limits;
- 280
- 281 ii. 50% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category B, pro rata to their annual catch  
282 limits;
- 283
- 284 iii. 10% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to the Category C.]

- 285
- 286 5. The provisions of paragraphs 4 and 4bis of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and  
287 obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention area whose  
288 current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing  
289 for the species, and that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future.  
290 CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation  
291 to their capacity and resources. Any limitations that may result from this Recommendation for those  
292 CPCs shall be considered interim for the duration of this Recommendation, without prejudice to its  
293 reviews and amendments.
- 294
- 295 6. Small-scale fisheries [in overseas territories and outermost regions] shall be given special  
296 consideration to their specificities and needs.
- 297
- 298 7. The annual catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long-term rights and are  
299 without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
- 300
- 301 8. If the total catch exceeds in any year the annual TAC specified in paragraph 3, adjusted by the carryover  
302 of underharvests, when applicable, due to causes other than exceeding of catch limits by a CPC with an  
303 allocated catch limit, the Commission shall review these measures.

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

- 305
- 306
- 307 9. Any overharvest of its total annual catch limit of bigeye tuna for CPCs listed in paragraph 4 shall be  
308 deducted from that CPC's catch limit on or before the adjustment year as follows:

309

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

- 310
- 311 10. Taking into account paragraph 9, if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:
- 312
- 313 a) In one year, then the amount deducted on or before the adjustment year shall be determined as  
314 100% of the overage; and
- 315
- 316 b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission shall recommend appropriate measures,  
317 which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the accumulated excess harvest.

318 **Monitoring of catch**

- 319
- 320
- 321 11. CPCs shall report quarterly to the ICCAT Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas by species caught by  
322 vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.
- 323
- 324
- 325 12. Notwithstanding paragraph 11, for purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 20m or greater), CPCs  
326 shall report on a monthly basis, increasing to weekly when 80% of their bigeye tuna catch limits have  
327 been caught.
- 328
- 329 13. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the bigeye TAC has been caught.

330 14. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has  
331 been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs and will keep  
332 it published and updated on the ICCAT website.  
333

#### 334 **TAC for yellowfin tuna**

335  
336 15. The annual TAC for 2025 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for  
337 yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.  
338

339 16. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation  
340 measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2027 Annual Meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures  
341 or allocated catch limits.  
342

343 17. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 15, the Commission shall consider additional  
344 management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall take into account the special  
345 requirements of developing coastal CPCs.  
346

347 18. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the yellowfin TAC has been caught.  
348

#### 349 **Fishing, Management and Capacity Plans**

350  
351 19. By 15 February each year, CPCs in Category A and B, as specified in paragraph 4 above, shall submit a  
352 fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 on how they will implement their respective catch  
353 limit obligations. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20  
354 m or  $\geq$  20 m) and support vessels.  
355

356 20. Each CPC shall demonstrate in the plan that its total capacity is commensurate with its catch limit,  
357 taking into account the annual average bigeye catches per vessel in the past and other factors such as  
358 dependence of each vessel on bigeye catch. For information purposes, Panel 1 shall annually review  
359 these plans.  
360

361 21. Notwithstanding paragraph 19, if a CPC in Category C catches more than 500 t of bigeye tuna in any  
362 year, it shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 within two years following the  
363 year the catch was made. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by  
364 size (< 20 m or  $\geq$  20 m) as well as any plan to introduce additional fishing vessels in the current or  
365 following year. The plans shall be submitted to Panel 1 for information.  
366

367 22. Any CPCs in Category C that plan to expand capacity in 2025, 2026 or 2027, shall provide a declaration  
368 by the 31 January of that year. These declarations should include details of proposed/potential fleet  
369 additions, including vessel characteristics and gear type. The declarations shall be submitted to the  
370 ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs shall amend their declaration as their  
371 situation and opportunities change.  
372

### 373 **Part III**

#### 374 **Capacity Management Measures on Fishing and Support Vessels**

375  
376 23. Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the  
377 names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those  
378 vessels were active in 2019 in the ICCAT Convention area, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that  
379 received the support of each support vessel. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile this information and  
380 prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels  
381 shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required. Notwithstanding this,  
382 CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels from the numbers active in 2019, this does not  
383 apply to the new participants in purse seine fisheries, for which a maximum proportion of XX% of  
384 support vessels can be allowed per fishing vessel, until the Commission decides based on an SCRS  
385 recommendation.  
386  
387  
388

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

393 **Part IV**  
394 **Management of FADs**  
395

396 **FAD management objectives**  
397

- 398 25. The general objectives for management of FADs and support vessels in the Convention area are defined  
399 as follows:  
400
- 401 a) To minimize potential impacts that high FAD density may have on purse seine fishing efficiency,  
402 while minimizing disproportionate impacts to the fishing opportunities of fleets that use other  
403 gear or other fishing strategies while also targeting tropical tunas;  
404
  - 405 b) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin stocks that  
406 result from the capture of high numbers of juveniles that aggregate with skipjack on FADs;  
407
  - 408 c) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on non-target species, where appropriate, including  
409 entanglement of marine species, particularly those of conservation concern;  
410
  - 411 d) To minimize the impact of FADs and FAD fishing on pelagic and coastal ecosystems, including by  
412 preventing the beaching, stranding or grounding of FADs in sensitive habitats or the alteration of  
413 pelagic habitat.  
414
- 415 26. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions shall apply:  
416
- 417 i. Floating object (FOB): Any natural or artificial floating (i.e., surface or subsurface) object with no  
418 capability of moving on its own. FADs are those FOBs that are man-made and intentionally  
419 deployed and/or tracked. Logs are those FOBs that are accidentally lost from anthropic and natural  
420 sources.  
421
  - 422 ii. Fish Aggregating Device (FAD): Permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or  
423 device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, and used to  
424 aggregate fish for subsequent capture. FADs can either be anchored (aFADs) or drifting (dFADs).  
425
  - 426 iii. FAD set: Setting a fishing gear around a tuna school associated with a FAD.  
427
  - 428 iv. Operational buoy: Any instrumented buoy, previously activated, switched on and deployed at sea,  
429 which transmits position and any other available information such as eco-sounder estimates.  
430
  - 431 v. Activation: The act of enabling satellite communication services by the buoy supplier company at  
432 the request of the buoy owner. The owner then starts paying fees for communication services.  
433 The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been manually switched on.  
434
  - 435 vi. Biodegradable: means a non-synthetic material<sup>1</sup> and/or bio- based alternatives that are  
436 consistent with international standards<sup>2</sup> for materials that are biodegradable in marine  
437 environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be  
438 damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their  
439 composition.  
440
  - 441 vii. "Non- entangling FAD" means: a FAD that does not include any netting materials for any part of  
442 the FAD including both the surface structure (e.g., raft) and subsurface structure (e.g., tail).  
443  
444

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

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



445 **FAD closure**

- 446
- 447 27. In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, purse seine and baitboat
- 448 vessels fishing for, or vessels supporting activities to fish for, bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in
- 449 association with FADs in the Convention area shall be prohibited during a [thirty/~~thirty-six~~/~~forty-five~~/~~sixty-five~~/~~seventy-two~~] day period in 2025 and 2026 from [1 April to 30 April/~~1 April to 6 May~~/~~1 April to 15 May~~/1 January to 6/13 March], throughout the Convention area. The closure for 2027
- 450 shall be reviewed and, if necessary and appropriate, revised based on advice by the SCRS taking into
- 451 account monthly trends in free school and FAD-associated catches and the monthly variability in the
- 452 proportion of juvenile tuna in catches. SCRS should provide this advice to the Commission in 2025.
- 453
- 454
- 455
- 456 28. In addition, each CPC shall ensure its vessels do not deploy drifting FADs during a period of 15 days
- 457 prior to the start of the closure period.
- 458

459 **FAD limitations**

- 460
- 461 29. CPCs shall ensure that, for vessels flying their flag, the following limits shall apply on the number of
- 462 FADs with operational buoys at any one time according to definitions given in paragraph 26. The
- 463 number of FADs with operational buoys will be verified through the verification of telecommunication
- 464 bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:
- 465

466 - 2025-[2026/2027]: [~~250~~/~~275~~/~~300~~] FADs per vessel

467

- 468 30. [With a view to analyzing the establishment of FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile bigeye and
- 469 yellowfin at sustainable levels, national scientists from CPCs with purse seine vessels shall submit
- 470 analyses of the per vessel catch rates of bigeye and yellowfin on FADs from 2019 to 2023 and present
- 471 it to the SCRS for their evaluation in 2025. Also,] CPCs with purse seine vessels shall report to the SCRS
- 472 by 15 July 2025 the required historical FAD set data [disaggregated by vessel or FAD-associated fishing
- 473 vessel activity] in the format required by the SCRS (Task 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE)
- 474 for a minimum of the last five years (2019-2023). For those CPCs who have provided the historical
- 475 FAD set data, the data of the latest year shall be provided. CPCs that do not report these data in
- 476 accordance with this paragraph shall be automatically and immediately prohibited from setting on
- 477 FADs until such data have been received by the Secretariat. By 1 August 2025, the Secretariat shall
- 478 provide a report to the Commission on the data received, including a notification of any CPCs that have
- 479 not provided the required data and are prohibited from setting on FADs. When any CPC subject to
- 480 such prohibition rectifies the situation by submitting its data to the Secretariat for transmission to the
- 481 SCRS, the Secretariat shall, without delay, so notify the Commission.
- 482

483 In 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, the SCRS should provide advice to the Commission on the

484 maximum number of FAD sets per vessel or per CPC in the Convention area. To this purpose, the advice

485 from the SCRS shall describe the data set used, the methodology, as well as the objectives set within

486 the context of all tropical tuna fisheries.

487

488 In addition, each CPC with purse seine fishing vessels is encouraged not to increase its total fishing

489 effort on FADs from its 2018 level. CPCs shall report the difference between the 2018 level and the

490 2024 level to the Commission at the 2025 annual meeting.

491

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

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

504 **FAD Management Plans**

- 505
- 506 33. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in  
507 association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of  
508 aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 15 February each year.
- 509
- 510 34. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be the following:
- 511
- 512 i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including  
513 fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and  
514 non-target species;
- 515
- 516 ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their  
517 potential loss;
- 518
- 519 iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where  
520 appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g., number of  
521 deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of  
522 support vessels).
- 523
- 524 35. The plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as  
525 provided in **Annex 2**.
- 526

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

- 528
- 529 36. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including  
530 supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction,  
531 when fishing in association with or deploying FADs, collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD,  
532 each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information  
533 and data:
- 534
- 535 a) Deployment of any FAD
- 536 i. Position
- 537 ii. Date
- 538 iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
- 539 iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID, type of buoy e.g., simple buoy or associated with  
540 echo-sounder)
- 541 v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging  
542 structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)
- 543
- 544 b) Visit on any FAD
- 545 i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy<sup>3</sup>, retrieving FAD and/or buoy,  
546 strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random  
547 encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without  
548 fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD<sup>4</sup>)
- 549 ii. Position
- 550 iii. Date
- 551 iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
- 552 v. Log description or FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID or any information allowing  
553 to identify the owner)
- 554 vi. Buoy ID
- 555
- 556

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<sup>3</sup> 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 FADs owner).

<sup>4</sup> 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).

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

c) Loss of any FAD

- i. Last registered position
- ii. Date of the last registered position
- iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID)

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

37. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 29 keep updated on a monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the information as laid down in **Annex 5**.

38. The IMM and SCRS shall review the requirements of paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 and make recommendations to remove duplication and streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light of any future FAD registry and associated technology change.

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

39. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the Temporary Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:

- i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their Flag;
- ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g., radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
- iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
- iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
- v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
- vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task 2 data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
- vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line with Task 1 and Task 2 requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

**Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs**

40. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as of 1 January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be placed in the water) in the ICCAT Convention area shall comply with the following specifications in accordance with **Annex 6**:

- a) the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;
- b) only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used.

- 617 41. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris:  
618  
619 a) CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy FADs of biodegradability Categories I, II and  
620 III, as defined in **Annex 6**;  
621 b) CPCs shall no longer deploy any FADs of Category IV, as defined in **Annex 6**;  
622 c) as of 1 January 2026, CPCs shall use only FADs of Categories I and II; as defined in **Annex 6**; and  
623 d) as of 1 January 2028, CPCs shall use only FADs of Category I, as defined in **Annex 6**.  
624
- 625 42. Notwithstanding paragraph 41, the use of non-biodegradable materials, in particular nylon ropes, can  
626 be used exclusively to strengthen the structure of the floating or underwater component of the FAD  
627 Categories I and II, as a temporary solution and only provided no biodegradable alternative is available.  
628
- 629 43. CPCs are encouraged to share their experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable  
630 materials in drifting FADs.  
631
- 632 44. CPCs shall ensure to collect and submit to ICCAT detailed information in their FAD management plans  
633 on the drifting FAD design used including its conformity with the requirements set out in **Annex 6**  
634 prior to the deployment of each drifting FAD.  
635
- 636 45. CPCs shall submit in their FAD management plans information concerning the status of  
637 implementation of paragraphs 40 and 41, and this information shall be made available for analysis to  
638 the SCRS and the IMM Working Group.  
639
- 640 46. CPCs are encouraged to continue trialing bioFAD designs in a continued effort of design improvement  
641 and to share the results in the FAD management plan. The Secretariat will make this available to the  
642 SCRS when provided.  
643
- 644 47. The SCRS and the IMM Working Group shall review the information reported by CPCs and will, as  
645 necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for  
646 consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.  
647
- 648 48. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the full implementation  
649 of this Recommendation.  
650

651 **Part V**  
652 **Control Measures**  
653

654 **Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas**  
655

- 656 49. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to  
657 fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their  
658 flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").  
659

660 **ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels**  
661

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

- 677 52. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation*  
678 *13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater*  
679 *authorized to operate in the Convention area (Rec. 21-14)* shall apply mutatis mutandis to the ICCAT  
680 record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.  
681
- 682 53. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in  
683 accordance with the format set in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by*  
684 *ICCAT*. For purse seine vessels, the notification shall include data on transport or fishing carrying  
685 capacity of the vessels in gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT),  
686 aiming ICCAT to monitor the capacity of fleet activity in the Convention area.  
687
- 688 54. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT  
689 website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.  
690
- 691 55. The provisions of paragraphs 49 to 52 do not apply to recreational vessels.  
692

#### 693 **Transhipments**

- 694
- 695 56. [Starting in 2025, CPCs whose Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) are transhipping tuna and  
696 tuna-like species in the Convention area shall ensure that a minimum of 20% of these transhipments  
697 take place in ports.]  
698
- 699 57. LSPLVs shall be allowed to tranship at sea only in the presence of a Regional Observer onboard carrier  
700 vessels, in accordance with the ICCAT *Recommendation 21-15*.  
701

#### 702 **Recording of catch and fishing activities**

- 703
- 704 58. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or  
705 skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out  
706 in **Annex 7** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the recording of catch by fishing Vessels in*  
707 *the ICCAT Convention area (Rec. 03-13)*.  
708

#### 709 **Identification of IUU fishing activity**

- 710
- 711 59. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context  
712 of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels. If a possible violation is  
713 detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall  
714 immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect  
715 fish aggregation, including FADs, during the period of closure request the vessel to stop fishing and, if  
716 necessary, leave the area. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the  
717 results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.  
718
- 719 60. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the  
720 Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the  
721 VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant  
722 measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.  
723
- 724 61. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with  
725 paragraph 59, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and  
726 taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 58, on the ICCAT draft IUU list.  
727  
728

729 **Observers**

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

735  
736 - Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the observer  
737 to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The  
738 coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the Flag CPC which mandated the observer the  
739 information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their  
740 EEZ.]

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

748  
749 CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or by a combination of observers and EMS  
750 from the previous year by [30 April / in accordance with Rec. 23-18 and Rec. 16-14] to the ICCAT  
751 Secretariat and to SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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786  
787

788 69. On the basis of the advice from IMM, the Commission shall consider how to use existing schemes of  
789 observers, deployed onboard vessels authorized to fish for tropical tunas in ICCAT. For this purpose,  
790 the CPC whose Flag or chartered vessel involved in already existing observers' programs should  
791 provide details about these schemes to the Secretariat by 31 March 2025, including the copy of the  
792 agreement endorsed by the Flag State and the applicable CPC of the observers.  
793

#### 794 **Port Sampling Programme**

796 70. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or  
797 transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported  
798 to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species  
799 composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for  
800 determining life history should be collected as practicable. SCRS shall report each year on the  
801 implementation of the port sampling programme broken down by CPCs.  
802

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

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

#### 812 **Part VI**

#### 813 **Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)**

#### 814 **Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Candidate Harvest Control Rules**

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

#### 826 **Part VII**

#### 827 **Final Provisions**

#### 829 **Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists**

831 73. CPCs shall ensure that:

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

841 74. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national  
842 industry to analyse data derived from all fisheries, including those related to FADs (e.g., logbooks, buoy  
843 data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate  
844 making the data available for such collaborative work, consistent with relevant CPC confidentiality  
845 requirements.  
846

847 **Confidentiality**

848  
849 75. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent  
850 with Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by ICCAT  
851 and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and  
852 procedures developed by the Commission.  
853

854 **Final Provisions**

- 855  
856 76. Actions required from the SCRS and the ICCAT Secretariat:
- 857  
858 a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in  
859 PA1-505A/2019<sup>5</sup> might have to reduce the catches of tropical tunas to the agreed levels; and the  
860 potential of such scheme to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in line with  
861 recommendations from the SCRS;
  - 862  
863 b) The ICCAT Secretariat shall work with the SCRS in preparing an estimate of capacity in the  
864 Convention area, to include at least all the fishing units that are large-scale or operate outside the  
865 EEZ of the CPC they are registered in. All CPCs shall cooperate with this work, providing estimates  
866 of the number of fishing units fishing for tuna and tuna-like species under their Flag, and the species  
867 or species groups each fishing unit targets (e.g., tropical tunas, temperate tunas, swordfish, other  
868 billfish, small tunas, sharks, etc.); this work shall be presented to the next meeting of the SCRS in  
869 2025 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration.
- 870  
871 77. This Recommendation replaces [Rec. 22-01](#) and [Rec. 23-01](#) and shall be reviewed by the Commission  
872 in 2026.  
873
- 874 78. Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, all CPCs are strongly  
875 encouraged to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2025.  
876  
877

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<sup>5</sup> 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)
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- (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 <sup>1</sup>
	Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB <sup>2</sup>
	Remove buoy	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
	Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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).

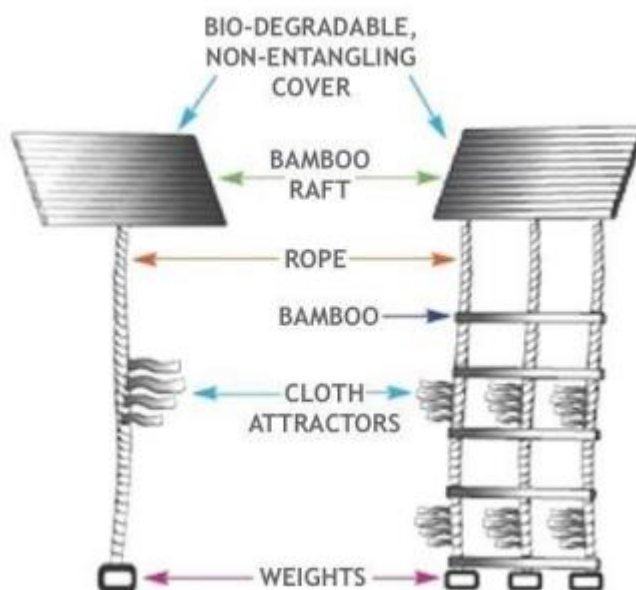
**List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis**

**Month:**

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD &amp; 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.