

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

126  
127 *TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT*  
128 *Conservation and Management Measures (Rec. 11-13)* for stocks that are overfished and not subject to  
129 overfishing (i.e. stocks in the lower left yellow quadrant of the Kobe diagram) the Commission shall adopt  
130 management measures designed to rebuild these stocks in as short period possible, taking into account,  
131 *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice.

132  
133 *TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT* that it is advisable to continue exploring alternative and more  
134 effective systems or regimes for the management of tropical tunas and for this the SCRS' recommendation  
135 is required;

136  
137 *NOTING* that the stock assessment for bigeye tuna (BET) in 2021 indicated that the stock is overfished  
138 but no longer subject to overfishing;

139  
140 *RECALLING* the successive reductions of the TAC for bigeye tuna from 85,000 t to 62,000 t and their  
141 detrimental socio-economic impacts;

142  
143 *CONSIDERING* that the Committee has recommended that effective measures be found to reduce  
144 fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

145  
146 *TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance  
147 Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;

148  
149 *FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Joint Tuna  
150 RFMO FAD Working Group and the third meeting of ICCAT's *Ad hoc* Working Group on FADs, on FAD  
151 management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna  
152 mortality;

153  
154 *NOTING* that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs as well as other fisheries as well as  
155 development of new fisheries could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and  
156 yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g., reduced yield at MSY);

157  
158 *FURTHER NOTING* that support vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse  
159 seiner vessels using FADs and that the number of support vessels has increased over the years;

160  
161 *RECALLING* the provisions of *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities*  
162 *(Res. 15-13)* regarding the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities;

163  
164 *RECALLING* the significant body of international law that recognizes the rights and special  
165 requirements of developing States, including but not limited to, as applicable, Article 119 of UNCLOS and  
166 Article 24 and Part VII of UNFSA;

167  
168 *RECOGNISING* the particular interests of developing coastal States to develop their fishing  
169 opportunities, and committing to achieve a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities to  
170 developing coastal States over time;

171  
172 *FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the importance and role of small-scale, artisanal, and subsistence fishers as  
173 well as the Global Action Plan of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022;

174  
175 *TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that any increase of fishing capacity should remain commensurate with  
176 fishing opportunities to achieve sustainable productive fisheries, while allowing developing coastal States  
177 to develop their fishing capacity to take advantage of new fishing opportunities;

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

180  
181 *ALSO NOTING* the potential benefits of ICCAT re-activating a Regional Observer Program to strengthen  
182 the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of the fleets, and in turn to ensure the appropriate implementation  
183 of the management measures adopted by the Commission;

184  
185 *ALSO CONSIDERING* that catch limits previously allocated to some CPCs shall not be considered  
186 acquired rights;

187  
188 THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
189 OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

190  
191 **Part I**  
192 **General Provisions**

193  
194 **Conservation and management measures**

- 195  
196 1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for  
197 the years, 2025, 2026 and 2027, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties,  
198 Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) shall apply the following conservation and  
199 management measures with the objective of managing fishing mortality of tropical tunas, including  
200 small bigeye and yellowfin.

201  
202 **Multi-annual Management, Rebuilding and Conservation Programme**

- 203  
204 2. CPCs shall continue to implement a 15-year rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna started in 2020 and  
205 continuing through 2034, with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$  with a probability of more than 50%. CPCs  
206 shall also implement conservation and management measures with the objective of ensuring that the  
207 stocks of yellowfin and skipjack tuna are exploited sustainably.

208  
209 **Part II**  
210 **Catch Limits**

211  
212 **Total Allowable Catch and Harvest Control Rule for bigeye tuna**

- 213  
214 3. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be set at 73,000 t for 2025. This TAC level  
215 shall be continued for 2026 and 2027 if the stock assessment to be conducted in 2025 indicates that  
216 the probability of the stock being in the green zone in 2034 in K2SM (hereinafter called “the  
217 probability”) is at or more than 65%. If the probability is less than 65%, the Commission shall adopt a  
218 TAC with a probability that is at or more than 65%. If the probability of a 2026 TAC of 73,000 t is more  
219 than 70%, the Commission shall consider possible increases to the TAC provided that the probability  
220 is at least 70%.

221  
222 3bis The Commission recognizes that the 65% and 70% probabilities are interim figures for establishing  
223 the TAC for 2025, 2026 and 2027 and are higher compared to the percentages typically used for other  
224 ICCAT stocks; and these do not set a precedent for future discussions of the Commission, which shall  
225 only be used if the 2025 assessment exceptionally so determines, in application of paragraph 3 above.

226  
227 3ter Notwithstanding, these rules shall cease to apply when the Commission establishes a management  
228 procedure based on management strategy evaluation (MSE).

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	<b>A</b>	13,576.29
Japan		13,865.86
Chinese Taipei		9,151.19
China (P.R.)		4,624.07
Korea		1,091.03
Brazil	<b>B</b>	6,825.37
Ghana		4,445.85
Senegal		2,546.01
Curaçao		9,176.33
Panama		
El Salvador		
Belize		
Morocco	1,600.00	
Small harvesters	<b>C</b>	6,100.00

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 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.  
250  
251 (c) CPCs in Category C shall not be subject to any underharvest, carry-over or payback provisions, and  
252 shall not be eligible to engage in transfers of fishing opportunities pursuant to *Recommendation by*  
253 *ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas (Rec. 01-12)*. The provisions on chartering  
254 (*Rec. 13-14*) remain unaffected as a mechanism for the development of CPC fisheries in this  
255 Category.  
256  
257 (d) If the combined bigeye tuna catches of all CPCs within Category C exceed the Sub-total for Category  
258 C in any given year, Panel 1 shall reconsider the arrangement, including the need to assign catch  
259 limits to individual CPCs within Category C.  
260  
261 (e) If the TAC in 2026 is decreased in accordance with paragraph 3, the reserve for Category C will  
262 remain unchanged.  
263  
264 (f) If a CPC in Categories A or B underharvests its total catch limit (as adjusted to account for over or  
265 under harvests but excluding quota transfers) in any year, it may carry-forward into the next year  
266 or the one after that a maximum of 10% of its initial catch limit specified in paragraph 4.  
267  
268 (g) [If the TAC in 2026 is increased in accordance with paragraph 3, at least 20% of the increase in the  
269 TAC shall be allocated to the Category C.]  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274

- 275 5. The provisions of paragraphs 4 and 4bis of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and  
276 obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention area whose  
277 current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing  
278 for the species, and that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future.  
279 CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation  
280 to their capacity and resources. Any limitations that may result from this Recommendation for those  
281 CPCs shall be considered interim for the duration of this Recommendation, without prejudice to its  
282 reviews and amendments.  
283
- 284 6. Small-scale fisheries, including those operating in overseas territories and outermost regions, of a CPC  
285 shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs.  
286
- 287 7. The annual catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long-term rights and are  
288 without prejudice to any future process of allocation.  
289
- 290 8. If the total catch exceeds in any year the annual TAC specified in paragraph 3, adjusted by the carryover  
291 of underharvests, when applicable, due to causes other than exceeding of catch limits by a CPC with an  
292 allocated catch limit, the Commission shall review these measures.  
293
- 294 8bis. Korea may transfer up to 223 t of its bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to Chinese Taipei annually from  
295 2025 to 2027. Japan will make an annual transfer of 350 t of its bigeye catch limit to China from 2025  
296 to 2027.  
297

#### 298 **Excess with respect to bigeye tuna catch limits**

- 299
- 300 9. Any overharvest of its total annual catch limit of bigeye tuna for CPCs listed in paragraph 4 shall be  
301 deducted from that CPC's catch limit on or before the adjustment year as follows:  
302

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

- 303
- 304 10. Taking into account paragraph 9, if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:  
305
- 306 a) In one year, then the amount deducted on or before the adjustment year shall be determined as  
307 100% of the overage; and  
308
- 309 b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission shall recommend appropriate measures,  
310 which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the accumulated excess harvest.  
311

#### 312 **Monitoring of catch**

- 313
- 314 11. CPCs shall report quarterly to the ICCAT Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas by species caught by  
315 vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.  
316
- 317 12. Notwithstanding paragraph 11, for purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 20m or greater), CPCs  
318 shall report on a monthly basis, increasing to weekly when 80% of their bigeye tuna catch limits have  
319 been caught.  
320
- 321 13. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the bigeye TAC has been caught.  
322
- 323 14. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has  
324 been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs and will keep  
325 it published and updated on the ICCAT website.  
326  
327  
328  
329

330 **TAC for yellowfin tuna**

- 331
- 332 15. The annual TAC for 2025 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for
- 333 yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.
- 334
- 335 16. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation
- 336 measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2027 Annual Meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures
- 337 or allocated catch limits.
- 338
- 339 17. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 15, the Commission shall consider additional
- 340 management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall take into account the special
- 341 requirements of developing coastal CPCs.
- 342
- 343 18. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the yellowfin TAC has been caught.
- 344

345 **Fishing, Management and Capacity Plans**

- 346
- 347 19. By 15 February each year, CPCs in Category A and B, as specified in paragraph 4 above, shall submit a
- 348 fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 on how they will implement their respective catch
- 349 limit obligations. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20
- 350 m or  $\geq$  20 m) and support vessels.
- 351
- 352 20. Each CPC shall demonstrate in the plan that its total capacity is commensurate with its catch limit,
- 353 taking into account the annual average bigeye catches per vessel in the past and other factors such as
- 354 dependence of each vessel on bigeye catch. For information purposes, Panel 1 shall annually review
- 355 these plans.
- 356
- 357 21. Notwithstanding paragraph 19, if a CPC in Category C catches more than 500 t of bigeye tuna in any
- 358 year, it shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 within two years following the
- 359 year the catch was made. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by
- 360 size (< 20 m or  $\geq$  20 m) as well as any plan to introduce additional fishing vessels in the current or
- 361 following year. The plans shall be submitted to Panel 1 for information.
- 362
- 363 22. Any CPCs in Category C that plan to expand capacity in 2025, 2026 or 2027, shall provide a declaration
- 364 by the 31 January of that year. These declarations should include details of proposed/potential fleet
- 365 additions, including vessel characteristics and gear type. The declarations shall be submitted to the
- 366 ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs shall amend their declaration as their
- 367 situation and opportunities change.
- 368

369 **Part III**

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

- 371
- 372 23. Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the
- 373 names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those
- 374 vessels were active in 2019 in the ICCAT Convention area, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that
- 375 received the support of each support vessel. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile this information and
- 376 prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels
- 377 shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required. Notwithstanding this,
- 378 CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels from the numbers active in 2019, this does not
- 379 apply to the new participants in purse seine fisheries, for which a maximum proportion of XX% of
- 380 support vessels can be allowed per fishing vessel, until the Commission decides based on an SCRS
- 381 recommendation.
- 382
- 383 24. For the purposes of this measure, a support vessel is defined as any vessel that carries out activities in
- 384 support of purse seine vessels that increases the efficiency of their operations including, but not limited
- 385 to deploying, servicing and retrieving FADs.
- 386
- 387
- 388

Part IV  
Management of FADs

FAD management objectives

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

<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, fishing by purse seine
- 448 and baitboat vessels in association with FADs for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas, and activity by
- 449 vessels supporting such vessels shall be prohibited during a 45 day-period in 2025 from 17 March to
- 450 30 April throughout the Convention area. In 2025, the SCRS shall estimate the expected effects of the
- 451 measures in this and previous recommendations, in particular, the possible effects of increasing catch
- 452 limits of CPCs with purse seiners in terms of change in bigeye juvenile mortality, based on the new
- 453 bigeye stock assessment, and revise the K2SM. The Commission shall consider, as appropriate, based
- 454 on the SCRS' work, whether to modify the FAD closure period or establish additional measures at its
- 455 2025 Regular meeting. If the Commission cannot agree to any additional measures in 2025, a FAD
- 456 closure period of at least the same length shall remain in place for 2026 and 2027.
- 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: 300 FADs per vessel, and for 2026 and 2027: 288 FADs per vessel.
- 469

470 30. Alternative 1

471 With a view to analyzing the establishment of FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile bigeye and

472 yellowfin at sustainable levels, scientists from CPCs with purse seine vessels should submit analyses

473 of the per vessel catch rates of bigeye and yellowfin on FADs from 2019 to 2023 and present it to the

474 SCRS for their evaluation in 2025. Also, CPCs with purse seine vessels shall report to the SCRS by 15

475 July 2025 the required historical FAD set data disaggregated by vessel or FAD-associated fishing vessel

476 activity in the format required by the SCRS (Task 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE) for a

477 minimum of the last five years (2019-2023) when available. For those CPCs who have provided the

478 historical FAD set data, the data of the latest year shall be provided. CPCs that do not report these data

479 in accordance with this paragraph shall be automatically and immediately prohibited from setting on

480 FADs until such data have been received by the Secretariat. By 1 August 2025, the Secretariat shall

481 provide a report to the Commission on the data received, including a notification of any CPCs that have

482 not provided the required data and are prohibited from setting on FADs. When any CPC subject to

483 such prohibition rectifies the situation by submitting its data to the Secretariat for transmission to the

484 SCRS, the Secretariat shall, without delay, so notify the Commission.

485

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

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

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

489 the context of all tropical tuna fisheries.

490

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

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

493 2024 level to the Commission at the 2025 annual meeting.

494

495 Alternative 2

496 With a view to analyzing the establishment of FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile bigeye and

497 yellowfin at sustainable levels, national scientists from CPCs with purse seine vessels shall submit

498 analyses of the per fleet catch rates of bigeye and yellowfin on FADs from 2019 to 2023 and present it

499 to the SCRS for their evaluation in 2025. Also, CPCs with purse seine vessels shall report to the SCRS

500 by 15 July 2025 the required available historical FAD set data in the format required by the SCRS (Task

501 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE) for a minimum of the last five years (2019-2023). For

502 those CPCs who have provided the historical FAD set data, the data of the latest year shall be provided.

503 CPCs that do not report these data in accordance with this paragraph shall be automatically and

504 immediately prohibited from setting on FADs until such data have been received by the Secretariat. By  
505 1 August 2025, the Secretariat shall provide a report to the Commission on the data received, including  
506 a notification of any CPCs that have not provided the required data and are prohibited from setting on  
507 FADs. When any CPC subject to such prohibition rectifies the situation by submitting its data to the  
508 Secretariat for transmission to the SCRS, the Secretariat shall, without delay, so notify the Commission.  
509

510 In 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, the SCRS should provide advice to the Commission on the  
511 maximum number of FAD sets per vessel or per CPC in the Convention area. To this purpose, the advice  
512 from the SCRS shall describe the data set used, the methodology, as well as the objectives set within  
513 the context of all tropical tuna fisheries. Nothing in this provision shall be construed as an amendment  
514 to the data provision standards applicable in ICCAT. SCRS shall evaluate and advise to the Commission  
515 on any change in the data provision standards to be required of all fleets fishing for Tropical Tunas.  
516 The information provided under this paragraph can only be utilized for the specific purposes  
517 expressed herein.  
518

519 In addition, each CPC with purse seine fishing vessels is encouraged not to increase its total fishing  
520 effort on FADs from its 2018 level. CPCs shall report the difference between the 2018 level and the  
521 2024 level to the Commission at the 2025 annual meeting.  
522

523 31. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel  
524 has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is consistent with  
525 the [Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and programme requirements for the](#)  
526 [use of Electronic Monitoring Systems \(EMS\) in ICCAT fisheries \(Rec. 23-18\)](#) and provides to the SCRS  
527 information on fishing activities specified in [Rec. 16-14](#) and [Rec. 23-18](#). Each year, by 15 July, CPCs  
528 shall notify the Secretariat which of their purse seine vessels that set on floating objects in the previous  
529 year complied with the provisions of this paragraph. The Secretariat shall provide a summary of the  
530 verifications made by the CPCs, to the Compliance Committee for analyses and recommendations 30  
531 days ahead of the annual meeting.  
532

533 32. Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the effect of support vessels on the catches of  
534 juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2025.  
535

### 536 **FAD Management Plans**

537  
538 33. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in  
539 association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of  
540 aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 15 February each year.  
541

542 34. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be the following:  
543

- 544 i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including  
545 fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and  
546 non-target species;
- 547 ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their  
548 potential loss;
- 549 iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where  
550 appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g., number of  
551 deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of  
552 support vessels).

553  
554  
555 35. The plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as  
556 provided in [Annex 1](#).  
557  
558  
559  
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562

563 **FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs**  
564

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

570  
571 a) Deployment of any FAD

572 i. Position

573 ii. Date

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

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

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

579  
580 b) Visit on any FAD

581 i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy<sup>3</sup>, retrieving FAD and/or buoy,  
582 strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random  
583 encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without  
584 fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD<sup>4</sup>)

585 ii. Position

586 iii. Date

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

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

590 vi. Buoy ID

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

594  
595 c) Loss of any FAD

596 i. Last registered position

597 ii. Date of the last registered position

598 iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID)

599 For the purpose of the collection and reporting of the information referred to above and where  
600 paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their  
601 reporting system or establish FAD logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs should consider  
602 using the template laid down in **Annex 2** as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs  
603 may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs  
604 shall use the minimum standards recommended by the SCRS in **Annex 3**.

605  
606 37. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 29 keep updated on a monthly basis  
607 and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the  
608 information as laid down in **Annex 4**.

609  
610 38. The IMM and SCRS shall review the requirements of paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 and make  
611 recommendations to remove duplication and streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light  
612 of any future FAD registry and associated technology change.

613

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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 FAD's 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).

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

- 617
- 618 39. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in
- 619 a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and
- 620 to the Temporary Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:
- 621
- 622 i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD
  - 623 type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to
  - 624 the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective
  - 625 of their Flag;
  - 626 ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g., radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder)
  - 627 deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
  - 628 iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have
  - 629 been followed by each vessel;
  - 630 iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
  - 631 v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
  - 632 vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode
  - 633 (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task 2 data
  - 634 requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
  - 635 vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and
  - 636 effort in line with Task 1 and Task 2 requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats”
  - 637 (PS+BB).
- 638

639 **Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs**

- 640
- 641 40. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as
- 642 of 1 January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be
- 643 placed in the water) in the ICCAT Convention area shall comply with the following specifications in
- 644 accordance with **Annex 6**:
- 645
- 646 a) the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;
  - 647 b) only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used.
- 648
- 649
- 650 41. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris:
- 651
- 652 a) CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy FADs of biodegradability Categories I, II and
  - 653 III, as defined in **Annex 5**;
  - 654 b) CPCs shall no longer deploy any FADs of Category IV, as defined in **Annex 5**;
  - 655 c) as of 1 January 2026, CPCs shall use only FADs of Categories I and II; as defined in **Annex 5**; and
  - 656 d) as of 1 January 2028, CPCs shall use only FADs of Category I, as defined in **Annex 5**.
- 657
- 658 42. Notwithstanding paragraph 41, the use of non-biodegradable materials, in particular nylon ropes, can
- 659 be used exclusively to strengthen the structure of the floating or underwater component of the FAD
- 660 Categories I and II, as a temporary solution and only provided no biodegradable alternative is available.
- 661
- 662 43. CPCs are encouraged to share their experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable
- 663 materials in drifting FADs.
- 664
- 665 44. CPCs shall ensure to collect and submit to ICCAT detailed information in their FAD management plans
- 666 on the drifting FAD design used including its conformity with the requirements set out in **Annex 5**
- 667 prior to the deployment of each drifting FAD.
- 668
- 669 45. CPCs shall submit in their FAD management plans information concerning the status of
- 670 implementation of paragraphs 40 and 41, and this information shall be made available for analysis to
- 671 the SCRS and the IMM Working Group.
- 672
- 673 46. CPCs are encouraged to continue trialing bioFAD designs in a continued effort of design improvement
- 674 and to share the results in the FAD management plan. The Secretariat will make this available to the
- 675 SCRS when provided.
- 676

- 677 47. The SCRS and the IMM Working Group shall review the information reported by CPCs and will, as  
678 necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for  
679 consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.  
680  
681 48. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the full implementation  
682 of this Recommendation.  
683

684 **Part V**  
685 **Control Measures**

686  
687 **Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas**  
688

- 689 49. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to  
690 fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their  
691 flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").  
692

693 **ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels**  
694

- 695 50. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels,  
696 including support vessels. Such tropical tuna vessels not entered into this record are deemed not to be  
697 authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or  
698 yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area or to carry out any kind of support to those  
699 activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.  
700

- 701 51. Notwithstanding paragraph 49, a CPC may allow bycatch of tropical tunas by fishing vessels 20m LOA  
702 or greater not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 48, if this CPC establishes a  
703 maximum per trip onboard bycatch limit of not more than 5% by species for such vessels and the  
704 bycatch is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual  
705 Report (a) the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels, (b) the total amount of tropical tuna  
706 harvested as bycatch that year, (c) information about how the CPC ensures compliance with the limit  
707 and (d) the maximum per trip bycatch limit the CPC will allow per stock for the coming fishing year.  
708 The information in item d above shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs  
709 by 15 January each year.  
710

- 711 52. Conditions and procedures referred to in the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation](#)  
712 [13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater](#)  
713 [authorized to operate in the Convention area \(Rec. 21-14\)](#) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the ICCAT  
714 record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.  
715

- 716 53. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in  
717 accordance with the format set in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by*  
718 *ICCAT*. For purse seine vessels, the notification shall include data on transport or fishing carrying  
719 capacity of the vessels in gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT),  
720 aiming ICCAT to monitor the capacity of fleet activity in the Convention area.  
721

- 722 54. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT  
723 website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.  
724

- 725 55. The provisions of paragraphs 49 to 52 do not apply to recreational vessels.  
726

727 **Transshipments**  
728

- 729 56. LSPLVs shall be allowed to tranship at sea only in the presence of a Regional Observer onboard carrier  
730 vessels, in accordance with the ICCAT [Recommendation 21-15](#).  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735

736 **Recording of catch and fishing activities**

- 737
- 738 57. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or
- 739 skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out
- 740 in **Annex 6** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the recording of catch by fishing Vessels in*
- 741 *the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 03-13).
- 742

743 **Identification of IUU fishing activity**

- 744
- 745 58. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context
- 746 of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels. If a possible violation is
- 747 detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall
- 748 immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect
- 749 fish aggregation, including FADs, during the period of closure request the vessel to stop fishing and, if
- 750 necessary, leave the area. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the
- 751 results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
- 752
- 753 59. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the
- 754 Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the
- 755 VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant
- 756 measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.
- 757
- 758 60. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with
- 759 paragraph 59, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and
- 760 taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 58, on the ICCAT draft IUU list.
- 761

762 **Observers**

- 763
- 764 61. Observers shall perform tasks to verify compliance with the conservation and management measures
- 765 adopted by ICCAT and carry out the scientific data collection and tasks required by the SCRS. While on
- 766 board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas [in the area East of meridian 20°/West
- 767 longitude and North of parallel 28°/ South latitude] in the Convention area, the following shall apply:
- 768
- 769 - Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the observer
  - 770 to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The
  - 771 coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the Flag CPC which mandated the observer the
  - 772 information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their
  - 773 EEZ.
- 774
- 775 62. In 2025, 2026, and 2027 CPCs shall ensure a minimum of 10%observer coverage on their longline
- 776 vessels of 20m LOA or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention Area. This
- 777 shall be achieved through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** or
- 778 a combination of human observers and EMS consistent with **Rec. 16-14** unless a derogation as outlined
- 779 in that measure applies, and EMS can be used to cover the required minimum percentage of human
- 780 observers as advised by the SCRS.
- 781
- 782 CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or by a combination of observers and EMS
- 783 from the previous year in accordance with Rec. 23-18 and Rec. 16-14to the ICCAT Secretariat and to
- 784 SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.
- 785
- 786 63. CPCs shall submit all relevant data and administer scientific observer programs for tropical tunas in
- 787 accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific*
- 788 *observers* (Rec. 16-14). In 2025, the SCRS shall provide advice on the improvements to observer
- 789 programs including how coverage should be stratified across vessels, seasons and areas to achieve
- 790 maximum effectiveness. The SCRS shall consider available information to recommend, where
- 791 appropriate, improvements to ICCAT standards.
- 792
- 793
- 794

- 795 64. CPCs shall endeavour to further increase observer coverage rates for longline vessels, including  
796 through trials and implementation of electronic monitoring to supplement human observers.  
797  
798 For purse seine vessels flying their flag and targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the  
799 Convention area, CPCs shall ensure 100% observer coverage of fishing effort, through the presence of  
800 an observer on board in accordance with Annex 7 or through implementation of EMS that is consistent  
801 with the requirements of Rec. 23-18. CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or a  
802 combination of observers and EMS from the previous year by 30 April/in accordance with Rec. 23-18  
803 and Rec. 16-14 to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS, taking into account CPC confidentiality  
804 requirements.  
805  
806 65. In any case, the purse seine Flag CPC may maintain the coverage of 20% of human observers, provided  
807 that it implements the EMS in the remaining 80% of its entire fleet, for a 100% coverage and the EMS  
808 information is audited in all its components, informing the Secretariat of the periodic audit reports  
809 carried out by whoever the CPC designates for this purpose.  
810  
811 66. Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under observer and EMS  
812 programs, including on the coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the  
813 Commission before the annual meeting for further deliberation, taking into account CPC confidentiality  
814 requirements.  
815  
816 67. The IMM Working Group shall explore and shall make recommendations to the Commission on the  
817 possible scope and benefits of ICCAT adopting a regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries  
818 taking into account the need for harmonization and coordination of national observer programs and  
819 the possible use of electronic monitoring systems for tropical tuna fisheries.  
820  
821 68. On the basis of the advice from IMM, the Commission shall consider how to use existing schemes of  
822 observers, deployed onboard vessels authorized to fish for tropical tunas in ICCAT. For this purpose,  
823 the CPC whose Flag or chartered vessel involved in already existing observers' programs should  
824 provide details about these schemes to the Secretariat by 31 March 2025, including the copy of the  
825 agreement endorsed by the Flag State and the applicable CPC of the observers.  
826

#### 827 **Port Sampling Programme**

- 828  
829 69. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or  
830 transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported  
831 to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species  
832 composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for  
833 determining life history should be collected as practicable. SCRS shall report each year on the  
834 implementation of the port sampling programme broken down by CPCs.  
835  
836 70. In 2025, the IMM will discuss control measures relating to:  
837  
838 a) the use of FADs, including the feasibility, utility and effectiveness of establishing a FAD registry  
839 taking into account the existence of complete information on active vessels and their VMS  
840 operations, as well as MCS measures;  
841 b) its timely processing for all tropical tuna fisheries in the Convention area, including for FADs, in  
842 accordance with the tasks in Annex 8;  
843 c) the improvement of the quantity and quality of size sampling.  
844

### 845 **Part VI**

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

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

- 848  
849  
850 71. [The SCRS shall refine the MSE process in line with the roadmap adopted by the Commission. Based on  
851 input from Panel 1 on interim operational management objectives to be developed starting in 2025,  
852 SCRS should continue testing the candidate management procedures. In 2026 or as soon as possible  
853 thereafter, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures, including pre-agreed

854 management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. These shall take into account the  
855 differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g., purse seine, longline and baitboat) on juvenile mortality  
856 and the yield at MSY, as well as other impacts of these fisheries, including impacts on bycatch,  
857 ecosystem impacts and socio-economic impacts.]

858  
859 **Part VII**  
860 **Final Provisions**

861  
862 **Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists**  
863

864 72. CPCs shall ensure that:

- 865
- 866 a. Both paper and/or electronic fishing logbooks and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 36,  
867 where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
  - 868
  - 869 b. Their Task 1, 2 and 3 data, including catch at size, shall include active vessels, support vessel  
870 activity, FADs, observers and summary of port sampling. The information collected from the fishing  
871 or/and FAD logbooks, where applicable, is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary,  
872 to be made available to the SCRS.
  - 873

874 73. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national  
875 industry to analyse data derived from all fisheries, including those related to FADs (e.g., logbooks, buoy  
876 data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate  
877 making the data available for such collaborative work, consistent with relevant CPC confidentiality  
878 requirements.

879  
880 **Confidentiality**  
881

882 74. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent  
883 with Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by ICCAT  
884 and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and  
885 procedures developed by the Commission.

886  
887 **Final Provisions**  
888

889 75. Actions required from the SCRS and the ICCAT Secretariat:

- 890
- 891 a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in  
892 PA1-505A/2019<sup>5</sup> might have to reduce the catches of tropical tunas to the agreed levels; and the  
893 potential of such scheme to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in line with  
894 recommendations from the SCRS;
  - 895
  - 896 b) The ICCAT Secretariat shall work with the SCRS in preparing an estimate of capacity in the  
897 Convention area, to include at least all the fishing units that are large-scale or operate outside the  
898 EEZ of the CPC they are registered in. All CPCs shall cooperate with this work, providing estimates  
899 of the number of fishing units fishing for tuna and tuna-like species under their Flag, and the species  
900 or species groups each fishing unit targets (e.g., tropical tunas, temperate tunas, swordfish, other  
901 billfish, small tunas, sharks, etc.); this work shall be presented to the next meeting of the SCRS in  
902 2025 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration.
  - 903

904 76. This Recommendation replaces [Rec. 22-01](#) and [Rec. 23-01](#) and shall be reviewed by the Commission  
905 in 2026.

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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>).



910 77. Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, all CPCs are strongly  
911 encouraged to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2025.  
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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.

**Annex 3**

**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).

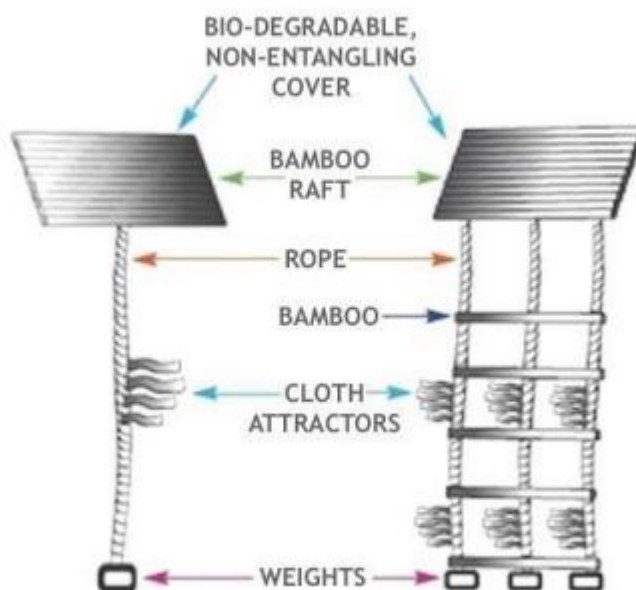
**List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis**

**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.