

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Part I**  
**General Provisions**

**[Interim] Conservation and management measures**

1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for the years, 2025, 2026 and 2027, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) shall apply the following interim conservation and management measures with the objective of managing fishing mortality of tropical tunas, including small bigeye and yellowfin, [while the Commission obtains additional scientific advice to adopt a long-term multi-annual management and rebuilding programme].

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

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

**Part II**  
**Catch Limits**

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

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

### Catch limits for bigeye tuna and conditions associated with the catch limits

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

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Catch limit</i>
EU	<b>A</b>	13,488.71
Japan		13,009.00
Chinese Taipei		9,076.41
China (P.R.)		4,512.08
Brazil	<b>B</b>	6,528.60
Ghana		4,732.53
Curaçao		2,945.87
Senegal		2,938.34
Panama		2,565.36
El Salvador		2,100.00
Belize		2,050.00
Morocco		1,632.18
Côte d'Ivoire		1,420.92
Small harvesters		<b>C</b>

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

- (a) The Sub-total for Category C is a reserve for this group and not a limit.
- (b) CPCs in Category C shall be subject to a [1,300/1,575] t trigger threshold. If the annual catches of bigeye tuna by a CPC in Category C exceeds this threshold in two consecutive years (from 2025), Panel 1 will determine a binding catch limit to apply to that CPC in future years. In that situation, 50% of the catch limit shall come from the Sub-total for Category C, and the remaining 50% shall come from any reserve which is agreed. If this reserve is unavailable or has less than the remaining 50%, the deficit shall come from the unused catch limits for CPCs in Categories A and B and shall be redistributed in accordance with **Annex 1**.
- (c) CPCs in Category C shall not be subject to any underharvest, carry-over or payback provisions, and shall not be eligible to engage in transfers of fishing opportunities pursuant to [Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas \(Rec. 01-12\)](#). The provisions on chartering ([Rec. 13-14](#)) remain unaffected as a mechanism for the development of CPC fisheries in this Category.
- (d) If the combined bigeye tuna catches of all CPCs within Category C exceed the Sub-total for Category C in any given year, Panel 1 shall reconsider the arrangement, including the need to assign catch limits to individual CPCs within Category C.
- (e) If the TAC in 2026 is decreased in accordance with paragraph 3, the catch limits in 2026 will be adjusted pro-rata for CPCs which have catch limits, i.e., if the 2026 TAC decreases according to paragraph 3, the difference between the new TAC and the previous TAC shall be deducted proportionally taking into account the catch limits of Categories A and B, without modification of the limits of other Categories.
- (f) If a CPC in Categories [A or B] underharvests its total catch limit (as adjusted to account for over or under harvests but excluding quota transfers) in any year, it may carry-forward into the next year or the one after that a maximum of 10% of its initial catch limit specified in paragraph 4. Unused catch limits for CPCs in Categories A and B shall be redistributed in accordance with **Annex 1**.

- (g) If the TAC in 2026 is increased in accordance with paragraph 3, the positive difference in TAC shall be allocated as follows subject to agreement by the Commission:
- i. 40% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category A CPCs, pro rata to their annual catch limits;
  - ii. 50% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category B, in proportion to their annual catch limits;
  - iii. 10% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to the Category C.
5. The provisions of paragraphs 4 and 4bis of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention area whose current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, and that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future. CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation to their capacity and resources. Any limitations that may result from this Recommendation for those CPCs shall be considered interim for the duration of this Recommendation, without prejudice to its reviews and amendments.
6. Small-scale fisheries in overseas territories and outermost regions shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs.
7. The annual catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long-term rights and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
8. If the total catch exceeds in any year the annual TAC specified in paragraph 3, adjusted by the carryover of underharvests, when applicable, due to causes other than exceeding of catch limits by a CPC with an allocated catch limit, the Commission shall review these measures.

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

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

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

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

#### **Monitoring of catch**

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

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

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

15. The annual TAC for 2024 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.
16. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2027 Annual Meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures or allocated catch limits.
17. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 15, the Commission shall consider additional management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall take into account the special requirements of developing coastal CPCs.
18. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the yellowfin TAC has been caught.

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

19. By 15 February each year, CPCs in Category A and B, as specified in paragraph 4 above, shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 on how they will implement their respective catch limit obligations. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20 m or  $\geq$  20 m) and support vessels.
20. Each CPC shall demonstrate in the plan that its total capacity is commensurate with its catch limit, taking into account the annual average bigeye catches per vessel in the past and other factors such as dependence of each vessel on bigeye catch. For information purposes, Panel 1 shall annually review these plans.
21. Notwithstanding paragraph 19, if a CPC in Category C 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. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20 m or  $\geq$  20 m) as well as any plan to introduce additional fishing vessels in the current or following year. The plans shall be submitted to Panel 1 for information.
22. Any CPCs in Category C that plan to expand capacity in 2025, 2026 or 2027, shall provide a declaration by the 31 January of that year. These declarations should include details of proposed/potential fleet additions, including vessel characteristics and gear type. The declarations shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs shall amend their declaration as their situation and opportunities change.

### **Part III**

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

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

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

#### 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).

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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.

### FAD closure

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

### FAD limitations

29. CPCs shall ensure that, for vessels flying their flag, the following limits shall apply on the number of FADs with operational buoys at any one time according to definitions given in paragraph 26. The number of FADs with operational buoys will be verified through the verification of telecommunication bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:
  - 2025-[2026/2027]: [275] FADs per vessel
30. [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. Also,] 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 (Task 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE) for a minimum of the last five years (2019-2023). For those CPCs who have provided the historical FAD set data, the data of the latest year shall be provided. CPCs that do not report these data in accordance with this paragraph shall be automatically and immediately prohibited from setting on FADs until such data have been received by the Secretariat. By 1 August [2025], the Secretariat shall provide a report to the Commission on the data received, including a notification of any CPCs that have not provided the required data and are prohibited from setting on FADs. When any CPC subject to such prohibition rectifies the situation by submitting its data to the Secretariat for transmission to the SCRS, the Secretariat shall, without delay, so notify the Commission.

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.

In addition, 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.

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

## FAD Management Plans

32. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 31 January each year.
33. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be the following:
  - i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and non-target species;
  - ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
  - iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g., number of deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).
34. The plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 2**.

## FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs

35. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with or deploying FADs, collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:
  - a) Deployment of any FAD
    - i. Position
    - ii. Date
    - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
    - iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID, type of buoy e.g., simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
    - v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)
  - b) Visit on any FAD
    - i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy<sup>3</sup>, retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD<sup>4</sup>)
    - ii. Position
    - iii. Date
    - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
    - v. Log description or FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
    - vi. Buoy ID

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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).



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**.

36. 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**.
37. The IMM and SCRS shall review the requirements of paragraphs 35, 36 and 38 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**

38. 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**

39. 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.

40. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris:
  - a) CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy FADs of biodegradability Categories I, II and III, as defined in **Annex 6**;
  - b) CPCs shall no longer deploy any FADs of Category IV, as defined in **Annex 6**;
  - c) as of 1 January 2026, CPCs shall use only FADs of Categories I and II; as defined in **Annex 5**; and
  - d) as of 1 January 2028, CPCs shall use only FADs of Category I, as defined in **Annex 6**.
41. Notwithstanding paragraph 40, the use of non-biodegradable materials, in particular nylon ropes, can be used exclusively to strengthen the structure of the floating or underwater component of the FAD Categories I and II, as a temporary solution and only provided no biodegradable alternative is available.
42. CPCs are encouraged to share their experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable materials in drifting FADs.
43. CPCs shall ensure to collect and submit to ICCAT detailed information in their FAD management plans on the drifting FAD design used including its conformity with the requirements set out in **Annex 6** prior to the deployment of each drifting FAD.
44. CPCs shall submit in their FAD management plans information concerning the status of implementation of paragraphs 39 and 40, and this information shall be made available for analysis to the SCRS and the IMM Working Group.
45. CPCs are encouraged to continue trialing bioFAD designs in a continued effort of design improvement and to share the results in the Temporary Working Group on FADs.
46. The SCRS and the IMM Working Group shall review the information reported by CPCs and will, as necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.
47. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the full implementation of paragraph 39 and 40 of this Recommendation.

## **Part V Control Measures**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Transhipments**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Observers**

61. [Observers shall perform tasks to verify compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT and carry out the scientific data collection and tasks required by the SCRS. While on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, the following shall apply:

- Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the observer to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the Flag CPC which mandated the observer the information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.]
62. [Starting in 2026, CPCs shall ensure a minimum of [10%/20%] observer coverage on their longline vessels of 20m LOA or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention Area. This shall be achieved through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 8** or a combination of human observers and EMS consistent with **Rec. 16-14** unless a derogation as outlined in that measure applies, and EMS can be used to cover the required minimum percentage of human observers as advised by the SCRS.

CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or by a combination of observers and EMS from the previous year by 30 April to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.]

63. CPCs shall submit all relevant data and administer scientific observer programs for tropical tunas in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observers* (Rec. 16-14). In 2025, the SCRS shall provide advice on the improvements to observer programs including how coverage should be stratified across vessels, seasons and areas to achieve maximum effectiveness. [The SCRS shall consider available information to recommend, where appropriate, improvements to ICCAT standards.]
64. CPCs shall endeavour to further increase observer coverage rates for longline vessels, [with a view of achieving a maximum percentage,] including through trials and implementation of electronic monitoring to supplement human observers.

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

65. [In any case, the Flag CPC may maintain the coverage of 20% of human observers, provided that it implements the EMS in the remaining 80% of its entire fleet, for a 100% coverage and the EMS information is audited in all its components, informing the Secretariat of the periodic audit reports carried out by whoever the CPC designates for this purpose.]
66. Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under observer and EMS programs, including on the coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the Commission before the annual meeting for further deliberation, taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.
67. The IMM Working Group shall explore and shall make recommendations to the Commission on the possible scope and benefits of ICCAT adopting a regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries taking into account the need for harmonization and coordination of national observer programs and the possible use of electronic monitoring systems for tropical tuna fisheries.
68. [On the basis of the advice from IMM, the Commission shall consider how to use existing schemes of observers, deployed onboard vessels authorized to fish for tropical tunas in ICCAT. For this purpose, the CPC whose Flag or chartered vessel involved in already existing observers' programs should provide details about these schemes to the Secretariat by 31 March 2025, including the copy of the agreement endorsed by the Flag State and the applicable CPC of the observers.]

### **[Port Sampling Programme]**

69. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable. SCRS shall report each year on the implementation of the port sampling programme broken down by CPCs.
70. In 2025, the IMM will discuss control measures relating to:
- a) the use of FADs, including the feasibility, utility and effectiveness of establishing a FAD registry taking into account the existence of complete information on active vessels and their VMS operations, as well as MCS measures;
  - b) its timely processing for all tropical tuna fisheries in the Convention area, including for FADs, in accordance with the tasks in **Annex 9**;
  - c) the improvement of the quantity and quality of size sampling.]

## **Part VI Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)**

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

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

## **Part VII Final Provisions**

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

72. CPCs shall ensure that:
- a. Both paper and/or electronic fishing logbooks and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 35, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
  - b. [Their Task 1, 2 and 3 data, including catch at size, shall include active vessels, support vessel activity, FADs, observers and summary of port sampling. The information collected from the fishing or/and FAD logbooks, where applicable, is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.]
73. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national industry to analyse data [derived from all fisheries, including those] related to FADs (e.g., logbooks, buoy data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate making the data available for such collaborative work, consistent with relevant CPC confidentiality requirements.

### **Confidentiality**

74. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent with ICCAT's data confidentiality guidelines and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and procedures developed by the Commission.

## Final Provisions

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

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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).

### 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.

### 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

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

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

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

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

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

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
FOB	Encounter	Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)
	Visit	Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)
	Deployment	FAD deployed at sea
	Strengthening	Consolidation of a FOB
	Remove FAD	FAD retrieval
BUOY	Fishing	Fishing set on a FOB <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).

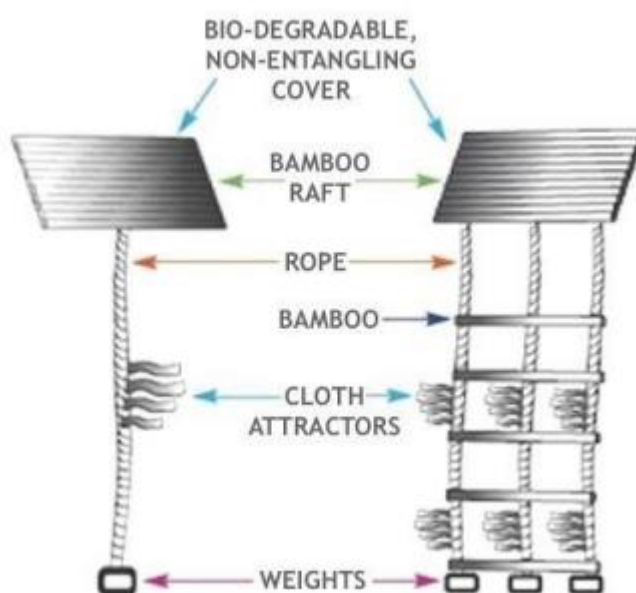
**List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis**

**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 observer 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.