

Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2*(hybrid, Madrid (Spain) 5-8 March 2024)***Part I****(Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans and other related matters)***(5 and 6 March 2024)***1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr Shingo Ota (Japan).

The Executive Secretary mentioned the CPC participants and recalled several organisational aspects of the meeting.

2. Nomination of Rapporteur

Mr Mamadou Seye (Senegal) was appointed as the rapporteur of the first part of the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes and is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 2 includes a list of delegates from each participating CPC as well as observers.

4. Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for 2024 and**5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4**

Agenda items 4 and 5 were discussed together by Panel 2. The Chair asked CPCs, in alphabetical order, to present their 2024 fishing plans, primarily, focusing on the differences from 2023.

The endorsed plans are included in **Appendix 3**.

Albania

Albania introduced their fishing plan which reflects the new provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* with the same quota as in 2023 (264 t) distributed as follows: Two purse seiner vessels (263 t) and incidental bycatch (1 t). A carry-over of 13,2 t is requested for 2024 in accordance with paragraph 6 of the *Rec. 22-08*.

In 2024, national provisions are adopted for fishing logbooks. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) will also be implemented to transmit bi-weekly reports to ICCAT. The provisions of *Rec. 22-08* regarding transshipment, regional and national observer programme, minimum sizes and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), will be applied.

For farming, it is planned that a single farm will cover 100% control measures for observers for all operations.

The revised fishing plan of Albania incorporating the changes relating to the reference to *Rec. 22-08* and the deletion to request carry-over was presented and endorsed.

Algeria

Algeria introduced their fishing plan expecting an increase of five vessels in 2024 compared to 2023.

Algeria clarified that the incorporation of five new vessels is part of their fleet rehabilitation programme, which began in 2015, and explained, in response to a concern expressed by Japan, that it does not exceed its capacity limit and has no intention of increasing its capacity, but that adaptation of the fleet takes into account the best catch rates as defined by the SCRS, and the number of vessels and capacity which will not exceed the quota allocated to Algeria in the future.

The revised fishing plan of Algeria was presented and endorsed.

China (Rep.)

China introduced the same fishing plan as their 2023 plan with a quota that will be distributed between two longliners. China requested to carry-over 1.3 t from 2023 for 2024.

China was requested to correct references in the plan to the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 21-08) and replace it with the Rec. 22-08 in force.

The revised fishing plan of China was endorsed by Panel 2.

Egypt

Egypt introduced their 2024 fishing plan, which is similar to that of 2023 except for the Joint Fishing Operations (JFO). No farming activities are expected for 2024.

A revised fishing plan of Egypt including revised references to Rec. 22-08 (replaced by Rec. 22-08 and correct reference years) was presented by Egypt and endorsed by Panel 2.

European Union

The European Union introduced their fishing plan. The 2024 quota is 21,503 t, with a carry-over of 1,075 t from 2023 for 2024. A decrease in capacity is planned to adapt it to fishing opportunities.

Regarding farming, 20 farms will be operational in 2024, with a capacity of 27,900 t and the farming plan will be amended within the deadline. A pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea will be developed within the framework of the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea* (Rec. 23-08).

The comments on the EU plan focused on updating references to Rec. 21-08 with Rec. 22-08 in force, the deletion of inactive farming capacities in the capacity table, clarification that the Regional Observer Programme requirements would apply to the pilot project, and the clear reference to compliance with the carry-over provisions of Rec. 22-08. EU expressed its intention of not using the derogation on harvesting farmed BFT (paragraph 102 of Rec. 22-08) for the pilot project.

The revised fishing plan of the EU was presented and endorsed by Panel 2.

Iceland

Iceland introduced their fishing plan with a quota of 224 t, 212 t distributed between three longliners (individual quotas) and 12 t reserved for incidental bycatch. No carry-over was requested. The fishing campaign starts on 31 August. All catches are recorded in eBCDs adopted by Iceland since 2015.

Iceland's fishing plan was endorsed.

Japan

Japan introduced their fishing plan with no substantial changes compared to its 2023 fishing plan. The initial quota is 3,114 t, with a carry-over request of 70.19 t from 2023 for 2024, totalling an adjusted quota of 3,169.39 t. This will be carried out by longliners landing exclusively at 10 domestic ports. Catch reports will be transmitted every two days, and the required 20% observer coverage will be implemented as the COVID restraint has been lifted.

The revised fishing plan of Japan was endorsed.

Korea (Rep.)

Korea (Rep.) introduced their fishing plan. The adjusted quota is 275.679 t, including 221 t initial quota, a transfer of 50 t from Chinese Taipei and 5.179 t carry-over from the 2023 quota. The quota will be allocated to two to four longline vessels. Catch declarations will be made on a daily basis, and landings will be made at authorized ports.

Clarifications to the adjusted quota formula were made at the suggestion of the Chair.

The revised fishing plan of Korea was endorsed.

Libya

Libya introduced their fishing plan which is the same as that of 2023. A quota of 2,548 t, of which 2,530 t will be exploited by 15 purse seiners and 18 t for bycatch.

Revisions were made to the adjusted quota formula in the capacity table and to the numbering of certain paragraphs.

The revised fishing plan of Libya was endorsed.

Morocco

Morocco introduced its fishing plan with a quota of 3,700 t distributed among traps (18), purse seiners (5), small coastal vessels and artisanal boats.

Among the five authorized bluefin tuna fattening farms, three will be operational in 2024. Morocco intends to update the study on the use of stereoscopic cameras to measure the sizes of farmed tuna both at caging and at the end of the fattening season.

Comments from some CPCs related to correct references to the [Rec. 22-08](#), farming capacities and further clarification on JFOs.

The revised fishing plan of Morocco was endorsed.

Norway

Norway introduced their fishing plan. The quota for 2024 is 386.4 t (an initial quota of 368 t plus a carry-over of 18.4 t), of which 33.4 t will be allocated for the research activities, of which 30 t will be reserved for the bluefin tuna short-term live storage project, and the remainder (3.4 t) will be allocated to the Welltuna project. 15 t is set for bycatch.

The Chair suggested correcting a paragraph reference.

The revised fishing plan of Norway was endorsed.

Syria

The Chair of Panel 2 introduced Syria's fishing plan, as Syria was not present at the meeting. The Chair pointed out that the frequency of catch reporting to the Commission is bi-weekly, not weekly and monthly.

The revised fishing plan of Syria was endorsed.

Tunisia

Tunisia introduced their fishing plan, which is the same as its 2023 fishing plan.

The comments by CPCs were related to the capacity table, farming capacity and the procedure to calculate minimum size (the percentage of fish below the minimum size in volume, then corrected in number).

The revised fishing plan of Tunisia was endorsed.

Türkiye

Türkiye introduced their fishing plan. Türkiye's 2024 annual quota for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is 2,600 t. No carry-over of underharvest is requested. As per paragraph 8 of [Rec. 22-08](#), Türkiye may receive quota from other CPCs. A maximum of 30 purse seiners will be authorised for the 2024 fishing season.

Türkiye explained that the derogation in paragraph 102 cannot be operationalized because the current eBCD system does not allow this to be implemented and requested the Panel's opinion. The Panel concluded that this would be discussed under Agenda item 8.

The comments of the Chair and CPCs focused on clarifying Türkiye's plans to make use of the derogation in paragraph 102 of Rec. 22-08, including what fresh market they are selling into, total farming capacity and the errors in its capacity table. In response to the comment that the input capacity should not exceed the farming capacity, Türkiye reduced the input capacity.

The revised fishing plan of Türkiye was endorsed.

United Kingdom

United Kingdom introduced their fishing plan. The adjusted quota, including 3.15 t of carry-over from 2023 to 2024, is 66.15 t. The UK intends to begin a bluefin tuna recreational catch and release fishery in 2024 and will allocate 16 t of its quota to this. The UK will allocate 1 t for the scientific catch and release tagging programme (CHART), 9.15 t for bycatch, 1 t for any other possible scientific research and 39 t for a trial commercial fishery in 2024.

The UK recalled its letter to the Chair of Panel 2, dated 23 January 2024, which set out the UK's intention to extend its 2023 CHART tagging program, as described in the UK's Fishing Plan for 2023, to the end of February 2024. This was on the basis that bluefin tuna had been observed in UK waters beyond the end of 2023 and the UK wished to continue research into the species' presence and behaviour in its waters, but noting that the 2023 Fishing Plan covers only up to 31 December 2023 (see ICCAT Circular 00669/24). Whilst no objections to the extension of the programme were received from CPCs, the UK asked that the Panel consider what would be the most appropriate way to handle and account for any future extension of its tagging programmes. The Panel confirmed that, as a provisional measure, the UK should decide whether to extend its 2024 tagging activities into 2025, will notify the ICCAT Secretariat of its intentions, and will account for any incidental mortality arising from this activity under the UK's 2025 quota.

The Chair suggested edits to the capacity table.

The UK's revised fishing plan was endorsed.

Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei introduced their fishing plan which is practically the same as their 2023 plan. The quota is 101 t, with a 50 t transfer to Korea (Rep.), and therefore an adjusted quota of 51 t. No fishing activity is envisaged in 2024.

The fishing plan of Chinese Taipei was endorsed.

Senegal

Senegal presented the document “Status of Senegal bluefin tuna quota utilisation and scientific activities” providing an update on the use of the 5 t of bluefin tuna quota for research. No research on bluefin tuna has been carried out due to the lack of catches and availability of this species for national scientists.

Senegal requested clarification on the trade conditions for bycatch of their vessels.

One CPC clarified that Senegal has no bluefin tuna quota, but instead a research allowance of up to 5 t, stemming from the unallocated reserve.

The Panel confirmed that Senegal would have to comply with the recommendations related to the eBCD and report to the ICCAT Secretariat in order to trade bluefin tuna on the international trade.

Namibia

Namibia did not present their fishing plan for 2024, despite having a quota of 50 t this year. As a result, the Panel confirmed suspension of BFT fishing by Namibia in 2024 in accordance with paragraph 11 of [Rec. 22-08](#).

At the conclusion of the final review of Plans, the United States suggested that in future years, when the template for the bluefin tuna fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans is provided to CPCs by the Secretariat in advance of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, the document should contain annotations to show the reasoning for any changes made to the template (e.g., paragraph references). It was suggested that this might result in better understanding of the changes and facilitate preparation and endorsement of the plans.

6. Review of any updates relating ongoing pilot schemes

6.1 Farming with artificially hatched fries

Egypt presented the status of its project on tuna farming with artificially hatched fries, which it expects to start in 2025. Egypt explained that it would take three to four years to harvest farmed bluefin tuna after starting and fish are genetically finger-printed for identification. Egypt confirmed that it would comply with the eBCD requirements when exporting the farmed fish.

CPCs stated that farming with artificially hatched fries is not covered under the recommendations in force for bluefin tuna and the eBCD and recommended to amend these to cover this new activity, as appropriate.

One CPC stated that fattening farms with artificially hatched fries should be registered in the ICCAT records of fattening farms, and the control measures should ensure that fish from artificially hatched eggs do not escape from cages while investigating the possible impact on wild bluefin tuna (risk of genetic mixing). Another CPC suggested that, although this type of farming with artificially hatched fries may ultimately be exempted from the requirements of Rec. 22-08, it may be useful if CPCs conducting this sort of farming activity submitted a farming plan to ICCAT for the Panel’s review and awareness.

The Chair reminded the Panel that Cabo Verde had a similar project but was not participating in the meeting.

The United Kingdom indicated that one of its Overseas Territories had received an application to develop this type of farming from a private sector business. This application was currently subject to review by the government of that territory, and no decisions had been made at the time of the March 2024 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2.

The Chair concluded that the Commission must address this issue before fish farmed with artificially hatched fries are marketed. He indicated that (i) since [Rec. 22-08](#) is aimed at managing catch of wild bluefin tuna, measures must be taken to exempt fish farmed with artificially hatched fries from its application; (ii) measures should be taken to prevent caged fish from escaping; and (iii) the fish should be properly handled in the eBCD system. These measures could be reviewed at the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in June 2024. The Chair requested Egypt and other concerned CPCs to propose amendments to the related Recommendations.

6.2 Short-term storage

Norway provided an update on its pilot project for short-term storage of bluefin entitled “Pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna; trials onboard MS Vestbris 2023”, which it intends to continue in 2024 utilising a portion of its bluefin tuna quota.

Norway presented the results and difficulties of using stereoscopic cameras to measure growth and reaffirmed the project’s compliance with the eBCD in terms of traceability.

Only three bluefin tuna individuals have been stored. In response to a question about feeding, Norway indicated that the fish were stored for 10 days without feeding.

The results on their growth will be presented in 2025 and Norway will determine at that time if the project can be further developed.

6.3 Growth ratios

The SCRS presented a document “Bluefin tuna growth rates in farms: update on GBYP and CPCs studies”, and Japan presented a document “The report of growth rate analysis of farmed Atlantic bluefin tuna”.

The SCRS document provides an update of the bluefin tuna growth table, as requested by the Commission. The work of the GBYP confirmed previous information. Some CPCs expressed concern that the 2022 growth table overestimates the growth and requested the SCRS to update the 2022 growth table in accordance with paragraph 25 of [Rec. 22-08](#). The SCRS Chair stated that it would not be possible to conduct this work in the absence of new data, but the SCRS Bluefin Tuna Species Group must be made aware of this issue. The Panel Chair urged CPCs to submit new data if they want to see the update of the 2022 growth table.

Japan presented its document on the work on growth rate analysis of farmed bluefin tuna imported into Japan, prepared in accordance with paragraph 26 of [Rec. 22-08](#), in order to establish whether there are any significant discrepancies between the 2022 SCRS table and the observed growth rates.

For each cage, the average weight observed at harvest was compared with the expected weight at harvest obtained from two growth tables: the 2022 growth table and the previous growth table adopted in 2009.

The results show that the weight at harvest observed from 2019 to 2022 was, in most cases, lower than the average weight expected based on the 2022 growth table while for 2023, the observed weight at harvest did not differ significantly from the 2022 growth table.

Japan recalled the limitations of the approach based on import data and therefore cannot draw conclusions either on the accuracy of the growth data at this stage and whether there were any problems or issues. Japan reiterated its intention to continue its work while recommending adoption of other approaches.

One CPC noted that although there are not enough data for 2023, the introduction of a new template to collect the underlying data for this calculation in 2023 might also justify that improved and more complete data (“fit for purpose”) are now being made available. The SCRS Chair stated that Japan’s paper should be submitted to the SCRS for review.

6.4 Others

There were no discussion points.

7. Consideration of issues of interpretation of Rec. 22-08, and possible amendments

Clarification from the ROP Consortium

The document “Requests for clarification of Rec. 22-08 by the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT) Consortium” was reviewed, and a revised version, including conclusion of Panel 2, was produced. A summary of responses is attached as **Appendix 4**.

EU proposed amendments to Rec. 22-08

The EU presented the document “ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 – Proposal for amendments. Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2. (Agenda item 7)”.

A revised version of this document [PA2_23B/i2024] was then presented by the European Union, after consultation with Japan (points 1 and 2), Norway (point 2) and Morocco (point 5).

The proposed changes concern the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 85: Prior notification of landings

The addition of new elements of notification such as the external identification number and vessel name, date of arrival in port, port of destination and purposes of the call, such as landing, transshipment or access to services.

The addition of a paragraph that makes it possible for a CPC to establish a shorter period for prior notification that takes into account the distance between the fishing areas and the port or landing site, provided that this shorter period does not affect the CPC's ability to carry out inspections. In the final revised text “fishing grounds” was replaced by “area of activities”.

The amendments to the paragraph on the conditions for modifying the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board specify that these may be modified at any time prior to arrival in port, if catches are made between the time of prior notification and arrival in port.

The last amendment better specifies the information on shortening of deadlines and the conditions established for CPCs for prior notification in the monitoring, control and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10.

Reporting of CPC catches to the Secretariat

New language is proposed for paragraph 86 with editorial changes and the insertion of the obligation to include zero catches in the bi-monthly report for purse seiners and traps.

Annex 10 release protocol

Two new paragraphs (paragraphs 13 and 14) must be added to Annex 10 on derogation from paragraph 3 first bullet, which establishes additional conditions to which releases are subject for farms connected to traps and derogation from paragraph 9 which specifies that minimum distance measures shall not apply to farms directly connected to traps.

Annex 11. Treatment of dead or lost fish

A new paragraph 11bis is proposed for Annex 11 so that the accumulated mortalities reported by the master of the towing vessels in accordance with points 9 to 11, shall be reported in the caging section of the eBCD by the farm operator.

At the conclusion of the discussion on possible amendments to Rec. 22-08, the Chair of Panel 2 offered to circulate a revised proposal that incorporated all of the potential updates to the measure. As a part of this exercise, the Chair also agreed to adjust the relevant paragraph numbers that had changed with the adoption of Rec. 23-06. The draft would be circulated and further discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group in June 2024.

8. Other matters

Three points were addressed under this item:

Use of the derogation in paragraph 102 of Rec. 22-08

Türkiye raised the question of whether the derogation in paragraph 102 of Rec. 22-08 can be used since the current eBCD system does not assume this situation. It was concluded that the question must be put to the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG). The Secretariat recalled that the CDS WG requested at its meeting on 4 March 2024 that TRAGSA make a cost/time estimate and take this into account in future developments.

The Chair concluded that until this work is completed, it will not be possible to use the derogation in paragraph 102, and not for the 2024 farming season.

Tag and release programme (CHART)

The United Kingdom raised the question of how to address the possibility that the tag and release programme (CHART) for 2024 will continue in 2025 without approval of the 2025 fishing plan by Panel 2.

The Chair suggested an amendment to Rec. 22-08 as a solution.

Canned bluefin tuna and its coverage by the eBCD

The ICCAT Secretariat requested Panel 2 to clarify whether canned bluefin tuna is covered by the eBCD, which was discussed at the CDS WG.

One CPC stated that the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme (Rec. 23-21)* does not clearly exclude canned tuna, but since the quantities of canned tuna actually marketed are expected to be insignificant, a cost-benefit analysis should be first conducted by the CDS WG. The Panel Chair concluded that: (i) Rec. 23-21 does not specifically exempt canned bluefin tuna and thus it is subject to the eBCD; (ii) a cost-benefit analysis should be conducted before considering a system update for canned bluefin tuna; and (iii) canned bluefin tuna should be treated as “other product” until the system update is made.

9. Adoption of the report and closure

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

Part II
(Discussion on the allocation for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna)
(7-8 March 2024)

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements

The Chair explained that Part II would focus on the allocation for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and expressed his hope for fruitful discussions that would contribute to allocation and TAC negotiations next year.

2. Nomination of Rapporteur

Mr Alexander Meyer (Japan) was appointed as the rapporteur of the second part of the meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1**).

Appendix 2 includes a list of delegates from each participating CPC as well as observers.

4. Presentation by the Chair of Panel 2 on allocation

The Chair presented his paper “Second discussion paper on allocation”. The Chair first summarized the previous discussions and developments related to allocation at the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission in 2022, the [Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#) in March 2023, and the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2023.

The Chair explained that many CPCs had referred to the [Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities \(Res. 15-13\)](#) when discussing allocation and he had therefore conducted a review of the criteria stipulated in [Res. 15-13](#) and their respective applicability. He presented the results of his review and summarized that many of the criteria are difficult to apply in a quantitative manner while the concepts are fine; some of the criteria have been already applied or their concepts have been already incorporated; some of the criteria are similar or almost identical to others; and there are several criteria that can be applied such as: 1) historical catches (with caution), 2) gradual application, 3) consideration to developing CPCs and small-scale coastal fishermen, 4) allocation to non-CPCs, 5) compliance on an ad hoc basis.

Based on his review, the Chair proposed the following basic ideas to consider for establishing/changing allocation: 1) Allocation keys should be changed only when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is changed, preferably increased; 2) In order to reach agreement on a new allocation package, it is necessary for some CPCs to accept reduction in the current key (not allocation); 3) There is a limit for reduction and drastic change should be avoided; 4) Consideration should be given to aspirations of developing CPCs to develop their own fisheries; 5) Consideration should be given to small quota holders if they have capacity to catch bluefin tuna (BFT); 6) Consideration should be given to possible new entrants.

The Chair elaborated on the above basic ideas and drew the following conclusions:

1. “Historical catches” is an important factor in deciding allocations, but it should not be the main one due to its complexity.
2. Allocation should be changed whenever the TAC is changed. However, it will be much more difficult to change allocation keys when the TAC goes down.
3. Certain CPCs should accept reduction in their keys to reach a consensus.

4. Drastic changes should be avoided.
5. Fishery development of developing CPCs is an important factor in deciding allocations as long as it is for their own development.
6. Consideration should be given to small allocation holders and coastal CPCs, particularly those having small-scale fishermen.
7. A reserve should be enough to address possible new entrants, but with some cautions.

The discussion of the Chair’s paper is described under Agenda item 6.

5. Presentation by CPCs on allocation

Presentation by Korea (Rep.)

Korea (Rep.) presented its “Proposal on eastern bluefin tuna (BFT-E) allocation”. Korea explained that it considered the idea behind the proposal of the Chair of Panel 2 at the 2022 Annual Meeting to be reasonable, namely that for new allocations, distinction should be made between (i) coastal CPCs and distant-water fishing CPCs, (ii) developing coastal CPCs and developed coastal CPCs, and (iii) developing coastal CPCs having more than 1,000 t and those having less than 1,000 t. However, Korea stressed that, in addition, mitigating the growing polarization of quotas among CPCs is essential to achieve fairness in distribution, pointing out the growing gap between the total amount of the quotas of the three largest quota holders and the three smallest quota holders, as well as for the seven largest and seven smallest. Therefore, special attention is needed for developing coastal CPCs and consideration for the small quota holders should apply to all CPCs, including distant water fishing CPCs with a small portion of the total quota.

Against this background, Korea suggested that one of the principles for adjusting allocations should be “Mitigating the growing polarization of quotas among CPCs.” In line with this principle, Korea proposed grouping CPCs according to their nominal quota ranking by total quota amount and setting quota increase/decrease rates in response to TAC increases/decreases by group. Specifically, it proposed the following groupings: A. CPCs ranking in the top 10% among Panel 2 members; B. 10-20%; C. 20-30%; D. 30-50%; E. 50-80%; and F. 80-100%.

The discussion of Korea’s proposal is described under Agenda item 6.

Presentation by the UK

In its paper “Towards a more equitable allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna”, the United Kingdom (UK) presented proposed principles for developing a more equitable allocation for BFT-E before the next TAC decision. The UK pointed out that there is a huge disparity in allocations between smaller and larger harvesters and, despite some adjustments to quotas in recent years, this disparity remains. Furthermore, many smaller harvesters, including developing and coastal States, have legitimate aspirations to develop their fisheries but lack the quota to do so. There is therefore a clear case for greater equity in allocations and there are many ways that this could be achieved. Furthermore, the allocation criteria in [Res. 15-13](#) are multiple, complex, and have so far not helped resolve the issue of BFT-E allocations.

The UK considered that reverting to the last allocation key established by ICCAT under the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean \(Rec. 14-04\)](#) as a baseline would not be appropriate because it is ten years old and several adjustments have been made to quotas since 2014 which need to be taken into account, it does not include two CPCs (Namibia and the UK) who have subsequently established allocations, and it has not been agreed by consensus. Instead, the UK recommended using the quotas in [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#) as the baseline, as they reflect current interests in the fishery to some extent, incorporate some recent adjustments to smaller harvesters’ quotas to some extent, and reflect the addition of the UK and Namibia to the table.

The UK then presented two example illustrations of potential approaches. The first example demonstrated how the 4,570 t TAC increase established under [Rec. 22-08](#) could be distributed more equitably among the 17 interested parties, ensuring that all 17 receive an increase in quota in tonnage terms, while starting to address the disproportionate nature of the current allocations, and could be applied in future TAC increase scenarios as well. It consisted of three stages: 1) Baseline uplifts for all major harvesters, whereby they all receive a 5% uplift in quota; 2) Additional uplifts for all parties, whereby the remaining TAC increase is distributed among all 17 parties, taking a range of factors into account; and 3) Further manual adjustments/special circumstances accounting for final negotiations and the special needs or circumstances of individual parties (e.g. Algeria's claim for reinstatement of its historical position). The second example demonstrated how gradual change could be achieved in a scenario where the TAC is stable or changes minimally, based around a redistribution of quota from developed economy larger harvesters. A percentage redistribution factor could be selected and that percentage of the quota of each of the developed economy larger harvesters could be redistributed to all other parties based on their current percentage shares. The process could be iterative, and repeated over a number of cycles to progressively achieve the desired changes, avoiding sudden impacts on developed larger harvesters.

Based on the above examples and discussions with other CPCs, the UK recommended that the following principles be taken into account in establishing a way forward on the BFT-E allocation issue.

1. There is sufficient quota for everyone who needs/wants it;
2. Change is essential – current allocations are not equitable;
3. Greater equity is key – provide parties what they need to develop their fisheries;
4. Needs of coastal and developing States should be priorities;
5. Established interests should be recognized alongside aspirations of smaller harvesters;
6. Sudden shocks to system should be avoided.

The UK informed the Panel 2 members that in conjunction with the above proposal, it has also submitted a paper “Bluefin tuna in the waters of the United Kingdom and the case for an allocation increase” that provides evidence and information in support of an increased allocation of BFT-E to the UK.

The discussion of the UK's proposals is described under Agenda item 6.

Presentation by Egypt

Egypt presented a “Proposal for new allocation key for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna”. Egypt first explained its difficulty supporting having allocation keys in [Rec. 14-04](#) as a baseline as several CPCs are not satisfied with their current quotas. While the keys in [Rec. 14-04](#) are the only valid keys, there are no allocations included for two CPCs, and some adjustments were made in 2022 to consider the needs of some CPCs, which reflects that those keys in [Rec. 14-04](#) have been changed and adopted. Moreover, it is not appropriate to use the same allocation that has been used for about ten years. Over recent years, it has been observed that there is a great gap between smaller and larger harvesters, although all of them are committed to the same compliance issues. The increase in TAC adopted in 2022 offers a great opportunity to take into consideration the needs and ambitions of Panel 2 members and to move towards more equitable allocation of available TAC, keeping in mind the criteria for allocation of fishing possibility included in the [Res. 15-13](#).

Based on these points, Egypt recommended a new allocation methodology that will be applicable in the case of stability, decrease and increase of TAC. The main criteria of the methodology are: i) coastal CPCs and distant-water fishing CPCs, ii) developing coastal CPCs and developed coastal CPCs, and iii) developing coastal CPCs having more than 1,000 t (large harvesters) and those having less than 1,000 t (small harvesters), with a focus on the idea that the change will not be so drastic for CPCs. The base for the new allocation key will be the same quantity (i.e., TAC of 36,000 t) set in the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 21-08\)](#). Moreover, the increase in the TAC endorsed in [Rec. 22-08](#) (4,570 t) will be divided into two equal amounts. This amount will be distributed as follows:

1. The first 50% of TAC increase will be distributed between CPCs using the same share as mentioned in [Rec. 21-08](#).

2. The second 50% of the TAC increase will be distributed with a reversed share for CPCs, except for CPCs which are i) developing, non-coastal, small harvesters, ii) developed, coastal, small harvesters, iii) developed, non-coastal, which will have the same share as mentioned in [Rec. 21-08](#) for the two amounts, but increased final quotas.
3. Compensation will be set for the rest of the CPCs to reduce the severity of the decrease in their allocations.
4. The newcomer (Namibia) requested 50 t to start, and this will be considered.

The discussion of Egypt’s proposal is described under Agenda item 6.

Presentation by Norway

Norway presented a paper summarizing the “Distribution, catches and research on Atlantic bluefin in the Norwegian exclusive economic zone”. Norway outlined the historical size and importance of its Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT-A) fishery with an average catch of almost 5,000 t from the 1950s to the 1970s, the subsequent disappearance of BFT-A Norwegian waters due to overfishing, and their current return to the Norwegian exclusive economic zone (EEZ), with research showing a substantial increase in the relative abundance of BFT-A during the last decade since the comeback in 2012. Tagged BFT-A spent on average 2 to 2.5 months in Norwegian waters during their annual feeding migrations, with these waters serving as crucial feeding grounds.

Norway explained that, against this background, there has been an evolution in how the Norwegian quota has been allocated among groups and the emergence of a fleet of small-scale coastal vessels. Norway has also established a pilot project on live storage to facilitate the market. In addition, catches are now spread over a longer time period and a larger area within the Norwegian EEZ. One issue that has emerged from the increased abundance of BFT-A is that this species is targeting mackerel and herring, which are highly valuable fisheries in Norway, causing concern among Norwegian fishermen.

Norway also explained that it has contributed to the scientific work of ICCAT for many years. It has devoted much effort to obtaining samples and data from all individual BFT-A caught, engaged in extensive tagging activity in collaboration with Norwegian fishermen, and provided data from the past 70 years to ICCAT.

Norway concluded by pointing out that the return of BFT-A to the Norwegian EEZ has consequences for Norway as a coastal State and that it takes time to find a way to regulate the fishing activity and develop the fishery. Furthermore, despite having a small quota, Norway is an active coastal State that makes a major contribution to the sustainable management of the stock. Moreover, as a coastal State, Norway has the right to fish the stock, and it is important to ensure that all harvesters with an interest or right have sufficient quota to develop their fisheries.

The UK expressed understanding for Norway’s situation as a coastal State and noted that many similar points also apply to the UK’s case.

6. Discussion on allocation

Discussion of the paper on allocation by the Chair of Panel 2

The Panel 2 members discussed the Chair’s paper under Agenda item 6.

The Chair proposed to proceed by having CPCs consider each criterion he had identified and to comment on his review and analyses.

The European Union (EU) sought clarification on the Chair’s process, pointing out that, in its understanding, many of these criteria have already been reflected in the current allocation and in the history of the allocation and the shares. The EU further cautioned that the proposed discussion risks reopening a discussion on the weighting of the criteria, a discussion that has occurred previously and was unsuccessful.

The Chair explained that, as he had described in his presentation, CPCs frequently refer to [Res. 15-13](#) and express dissatisfaction that the current allocation does not necessarily take into account the criteria stipulated in it, which is why he conducted a thorough review of the criteria and applicability of each criteria and is now inviting CPCs to share their views on the criteria and his analysis thereof. The Chair suggested that, if, however, CPCs considered that the criteria have already been incorporated in the allocations, then a criterion-by-criterion review would not be necessary.

Several CPCs expressed their intention to comment on specific criteria.

The UK explained that it has not been an independent CPC of ICCAT for very long and that it would appreciate if the Chair or the Secretariat could provide it with any indication of how the criteria have been previously applied, for example in a meeting document.

The Chair explained that the Agenda of Panel 2 at annual meetings of the Commission always refers to [Res. 15-13](#), which should be taken into account. The Chair further explained that the criteria have indeed been applied in negotiations on allocation, but he did not know precisely how or to what extent.

Algeria suggested that one way to make progress would be to review all of the criteria that the Chair identified as being difficult or not possible to apply and to try to reach consensus among CPCs on whether or not these are indeed difficult or not possible to apply and it appreciated this indication by the Chair in his presentation (that radical changes should be avoided, and that the change should be made when the TAC increases, as it is difficult to modify the keys when the TAC decreases).

The EU stated that it would be amenable to reviewing the criteria and providing comments as a preliminary exercise, provided that its position on this matter is clearly understood, namely that this should not be an exercise of determining criteria for the development of an allocation regime from scratch; rather, an allocation regime already exists.

The Chair clarified that his intention was not to start the allocation discussions from scratch and that the determination of the specific starting point, such as [Rec. 14-04](#) or otherwise, is subject to negotiations among CPCs.

Morocco suggested that the previous discussions on the weighting of the criteria should be continued and that it would be useful to have an annex listing the weight of each criteria for the subsequent analysis and definition of the allocation keys.

The Chair cautioned against such an approach, pointing out that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria held several meetings, was unable to reach agreement, and eventually gave up attempting to do so. He also shared the example from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), where a similar meeting has been held 12 times, but still no weighting has been agreed, nor is there a prospect of such an agreement being reached in the future.

Several CPCs expressed agreement with the Chair's view that such an approach would be difficult and not advisable.

The UK added that it has prepared a paper that outlines a simpler and more pragmatic approach. It further clarified that it did not wish to suggest that any of the criteria were not important, rather that they have so far failed to resolve the issue of allocation.

The Chair clarified that he was not ruling out the weighting of criteria in the allocation negotiations, but that if weighting is done, it will likely be among a selection of the criteria, rather than all 27 criteria. The Chair then reiterated his view that some criteria may be applicable, while some others may not be, but CPCs may have different views compared to his analysis, which was why he proposed going through each criterion.

Algeria suggested that another option would be to consider additional criteria or to adjust the existing criteria. As examples, it suggested replacing criterion III.D.17 with a criterion concerning a CPC's contribution to restoring the resource or adding a criterion to allow for the consideration of certain CPCs as special cases.

The Chair cautioned that starting to amend [Res. 15-13](#) would be a very challenging task and reiterated his proposal to proceed by reviewing each criterion.

Iceland emphasized that the development of [Res. 15-13](#) took a long time. It also pointed out that there are currently criteria that can be applied in a gradual manner. Iceland agreed with the Chair's proposed approach and echoed the views of other CPCs that discussions should focus on the criteria themselves, rather than the weighting of them. It also commented that some of the points raised in the Chair's paper go further than those in the discussion papers submitted by CPCs. Iceland also stressed that, while it is willing to participate in the proposed discussions, it reserves the right to comment further on each point, that any silence on its part does not necessarily equate to acceptance, and that the discussion as a whole must be considered altogether at the end.

The Panel 2 members proceeded to review each criterion as follows.

I.1. Be a Contracting or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity

There were no comments on this criterion.

II.2. Have the ability to apply the conservation and management measures of ICCAT, to collect and to provide accurate data for the relevant resources and, taking into account their respective capacities, to conduct scientific research on those resources

Japan noted that the Chair's paper mentioned only contribution to the Grand Bluefin Tuna Year Programme (GBYP) as a possible form of scientific research and pointed out that other scientific contributions should be considered, such as Japan's provision of accurate catch per unit effort (CPUE) data to support the Management Procedure (MP) for BFT.

The EU suggested that Japan's point may have already been captured in the first bullet point of this section in the Chair's paper, namely that the collection and provision of accurate data have been already addressed in other Recommendations.

The EU highlighted the critical importance of criterion II.2., pointing out that contribution to GBYP goes beyond data provision aimed at furthering one CPC's interest. Rather, it underpins the whole decision-making process at ICCAT, thereby benefiting all CPCs, and it therefore warrants special attention and special importance.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the EU's financial contribution to GBYP.

II.3. These criteria should apply to all stocks when allocated by ICCAT

There were no comments on this criterion.

III.A.4. Historical catches of qualifying participants

Norway expressed agreement with the Chair's view that this is a complex criterion to apply, while seeking clarification on his analysis that historical catches have already been incorporated to a large extent. Norway pointed out that if this criterion refers to historical catches not only in international waters but also in EEZs, Norway's historical catch from 1950 to 1970 has not been reflected in the allocation key.

The Chair clarified that historical catches should include catch in international waters and in EEZs as BFT is a highly migratory species. He also noted that Norway's point touched on another point of complexity, namely what the applicable period for historical catches should be.

Türkiye stated that historical catches is one of the most important criteria, noting that it is used by ICCAT for the allocation not only of bluefin tuna stocks but also several other stocks, and that it is the basis of the current allocation scheme.

The EU agreed that historical catches is one of the key criteria as any allocation discussion has to be linked to the reality on the ground and intrinsically linked to fishing activities. The EU further pointed out that the qualification of historical catches is important, in the sense that there is a difference between occasional historical catches and continuous historical catches, as continuity of fishing activities is also linked to the local economic situation or local community, which is one of the other criteria.

Japan agreed on the importance of historical catches as a criterion, while recognizing the complexity of applying it. It also suggested that an even longer-term period of historical catch may be important.

Tunisia supported the opinion expressed in the previous interventions by CPCs regarding the importance of historical catches.

Morocco also emphasized that historical catches is a key criterion, pointing out that its importance relates not only to the economic impact on CPCs, but also the role CPCs have played in reconstituting stocks. For example, in 2008, Morocco froze and even reduced fishing activities so as to replenish stocks, and did not fully resume activities until 2020, after years of sacrifice.

The UK acknowledged the importance of historical catch and pointed out that it has recognized this in the two proposals it has prepared. At the same time, it pointed out that in the current, more dynamic situation, they are only part of the solution. For example, ICCAT will need to accommodate new entrants and new entrants might have no historical catches as members of ICCAT but have catch as a non-party to ICCAT. It is necessary to think more dynamically and adapt to changing situations.

The EU clarified that while it believes that historical catches are the best indicator of the reality on the ground, this does not mean that nothing can change, and, in fact, ICCAT has been able to accommodate newcomers and make adjustments to allocation shares.

Algeria wondered how its historical catches would be assessed, pointing that it was the only CPC that suffered a drastic and radical reduction in its allocation in 2010 and when there is a decrease in TAC, asking for it to be compensated in future allocations.

The Chair noted that Algeria was referring to a past decision to increase Algeria's share up to 5%. The Chair explained that, in his view, this increase was achieved two years ago, thereby fulfilling the provision, which was why it was subsequently removed from [Rec. 22-08](#). The Chair stated that Algeria could certainly express its view that it should be compensated in future allocations but whether this should be reflected in the allocations will be subject to negotiations.

Egypt agreed that historical catches is an important factor to be considered, while calling for care to be taken to avoid causing any injustice to other CPCs or compromising their legitimate rights. The United Kingdom agreed with this point, recognising that historical catches are important but noting that smaller harvester CPCs do not have significant historical catches and that this then becomes a constraint to them being able to develop their fisheries if there is too much reliance on historical catches as a factor in determining future allocations.

III.A.5. The interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of qualifying participants

There were no comments on this criterion.

III.B.6. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated in relation to maximum sustainable yield, or in the absence of maximum sustainable yield an agreed biological reference point, and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery taking into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention

There were no comments on this criterion.

III.B.7 The distribution and biological characteristics of the stock(s), including the occurrence of the stock(s) in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas

Norway disagreed with the Chair's view that application of this criterion is not realistic. Norway pointed out that, in its experience, BFT were present in Norwegian waters, then disappeared due to overfishing, before coming back and being present now. Norway argued that such cases, when there is clear evidence that the northern distribution has increased, should be reflected in allocation, at least in the long term.

Algeria agreed with Norway that the application of this criterion is realistic and suggested that it could be based on findings of the SCRS. Algeria further suggested that this criterion could be interpreted in a way to consider the effort that CPCs make to protect the species (bluefin tuna) in their waters, such as the implementation of protection and management measures at the national level.

Morocco also expressed agreement with Norway regarding the importance of distribution and biological characteristics of the stock. Morocco added that particularly from 2022 to 2023, from the point of the recovery of stock, there has been an abundance of BFT in the waters off Morocco's Mediterranean coast, which is having a growing negative impact on fisheries of smaller pelagic species. In addition, Morocco raised the impact of climate change, pointing out that this has caused the fishing period of its trap fisheries to be delayed by a month.

The UK expressed agreement with the previous interventions regarding the importance of the distribution of the stock. It also pointed out that the distribution may change over time due to climate change, which indicates that an approach that stays fixed in time is no longer fit for purpose.

Tunisia supported the opinion expressed in the previous interventions and added that, like Morocco, the abundance of BFT on its Mediterranean coast is resulting in reduced landings in its smaller pelagic fisheries.

The EU agreed on the importance of taking the distribution of the stock into account, while pointing out that the application of this criterion would be more difficult than it might appear at first sight. The EU pointed out that there are several factors to consider. Firstly, if the abundance of BFT is increasing because the stock is doing well and growing, that is due to the conservation and management efforts that CPCs have made. The EU has also seen increased abundance, especially in the Mediterranean, which means that the stock is likely to spread out further across more territory, which will automatically be to the benefit of existing quota holders, whether their quotas are big or small. At the same time, there are also other factors that are less clear-cut and are difficult to predict, quantify, and feature in a fixed way, such as the impacts of climate change and structural changes to the stock. Recent studies indicate that there is scientific uncertainty as to whether the presence of BFT in certain areas is structural, is part of the overall stock, is a subset of the stock, or is a specific group that constantly returns to a certain region, in which case, more care should be taken when considering increasing quotas and allowing fishing on that particular group.

Japan agreed with the EU that the application of this criterion would be difficult. It also commented that the criterion refers to both areas of national jurisdiction and the high seas and does not emphasize the former over the latter.

Norway emphasized the importance of the presence of BFT in a CPC's EEZ, especially if that is an important feeding ground for the stock.

The Chair clarified his view on this criterion, explaining that this is a very important criterion from a qualitative and conceptual standpoint, but that it is unclear how this criterion should be applied in a quantitative manner. To apply the criterion quantitatively, it would be necessary to assess the amount of biomass in EEZs and/or the high seas, but this would be difficult as the amount of biomass in EEZs is likely to be subject to frequent changes due to global warming or oceanographic conditions.

III.C.8. The interests of artisanal, subsistence and small-scale coastal fishers

III.C.9. The needs of the coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing the stocks

Criteria III.C.8. and III.C.9. were considered in conjunction.

The EU reiterated the importance it attaches to these two criteria.

Algeria pointed out that these criteria are linked to the previous criterion, III.B.7., in terms of the presence of the stock in EEZ waters, and are also directly linked to the coastal fisheries, in particular its small-scale fishers have been deprived of the right to fish this stock as part of stock protection measures taken, pending recovery of its quota.

Morocco emphasized the importance of these criteria because of their direct social impact, citing the scarcity of resources, the predatory behavior of large species, and the impacts on small-scale fishers whose livelihoods are dependent on catches of BFT. Morocco stressed the need to take these criteria into account to prevent the migration of its fleet southward or the triggering of other changes to fishing activities.

Tunisia also emphasized the importance of these socio-economic criteria, highlighting the contribution of the BFT fishery to employment and coastal communities, and the large proportion of coastal fishers among the local population in the concerned regions.

The Chair noted that all CPCs agree on the importance of these criteria. However, the question is how to apply them in a quantitative manner. It is not clear how to quantify the importance of the small-scale coastal fishers of one CPC in relation to another CPC and whether this should be assessed by, for example, population number or amount of catch. In any case, a benchmark or statistics would be needed, and producing them would not be easy.

The EU suggested that a more realistic approach to accommodate these criteria, and one that Panel 2 has taken in the past, would be to allow all CPCs to make that assessment themselves and make use of that information as they deem appropriate, rather than trying to formally include them and having to therefore quantify them.

The Chair noted that some fishing plans only allocate for industrial fishing vessels, while others allocate for both industrial and small-scale fishing vessels, and asked CPCs for their views on whether there should be differential treatment between the two.

Japan agreed that more consideration should be given to small-scale and artisanal fisheries. Japan also noted that some CPCs only allocate for industrial fishing vessels, and that these two criteria should not apply to such CPCs. Japan further suggested it would be worthwhile confirming whether or not CPCs are allocating for small-scale and artisanal fisheries.

Morocco believed that it would be important to define what constitutes a “small-scale” fishery and wondered, for example, how trap fisheries would be categorized.

The Chair acknowledged that there is no clear definition of “small-scale” fisheries and that in some cases the categorization is not obvious. In the case of trap fisheries, for example, their size might be industrial in scale, but they might be operated by a large number of local coastal fishermen, making them a coastal community fishery.

The EU agreed with the importance of giving consideration to small-scale fishers and pointed out that this also ties into criteria relating to socio-economic considerations.

The Chair concluded that many CPCs support placing importance on small-scale fisheries, but its definition is not clear.

III.C.10. The needs of the coastal States of the region whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources, including those regulated by ICCAT

The Chair clarified that this criterion refers very specifically to States where fisheries account for a major percentage of their gross domestic product and that no such States are members of Panel 2.

III.C.11. The socio-economic contribution of the fisheries for stocks regulated by ICCAT to the developing States, especially small island developing States and developing territories from the region

The Chair noted the similarity of this criterion to criteria III.C.8.-10. and that the points raised during the discussion of those criteria are also relevant here.

There were no further comments on this criterion.

III.C.12. The respective dependence on the stock(s) of the coastal States, and of the other States that fish species regulated by ICCAT

There were no comments on this criterion.

III.C.13. The economic and/or social importance of the fishery for qualifying participants whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention area

The Chair noted the similarity of this criterion to criterion III.B.4. and that the points raised during the discussion of III.B.4. are also relevant here.

There were no further comments on this criterion.

III.C.14. The contribution of the fisheries for the stocks regulated by ICCAT to the national food security/needs, domestic consumption, income resulting from exports, and employment of qualifying participants

The Chair noted the importance of this criterion, while pointing out the difficulty of quantifying it.

III.C.15. The right of qualified participants to engage in fishing on the high seas for the stocks to be allocated

Japan emphasized the importance that it places on this criterion conceptually, while noting the difficulty of applying it, especially quantitatively.

III.D.16. The record of compliance or cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including for large-scale tuna fishing vessels, except for those cases where the compliance sanctions established by relevant ICCAT recommendations have already been applied

The EU expressed agreement with the view stated in the paper by the Chair that the application of this criterion would not be straightforward. The EU pointed out that if, for instance, a CPC identifies a case of non-compliance, is transparent about it, and takes action to deal with it, this case of non-compliance would still be on the CPC's record and the CPC could still be penalized for it. Conversely, if a CPC's compliance system were to fail to identify a case of non-compliance, the CPC would not face a scenario where it might be penalized for said non-compliance. Therefore, even though it may seem intuitive, it is difficult to envision how this criterion would actually be applied in allocation discussions. An alternative approach could be for CPCs to demonstrate their credible implementation of measures and to link this to the compliance policy in a more generic way, but even then, it would be difficult to qualify and quantify that in the context of an allocation discussion.

III.D.17. The exercise of responsibilities concerning the vessels under the jurisdiction of qualifying participants

The Chair noted the similarity of this criterion to the previous one, III.D.16.

There were no further comments on this criterion.

III.D.18. The contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks

The Chair noted the similarity of this criterion to I.2.

There were no further comments on this criterion.

IV.19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants

The EU pointed out that it is not clear what constitutes "fair and equitable" and that each CPC probably has its own interpretation thereof.

The EU also reminded the Panel 2 members that IV.19.-27. are not allocation criteria but are conditions for applying allocation criteria.

IV.20. The allocation criteria should be applied by the relevant Panels on a stock-by-stock basis

There were no comments on this condition.

IV.21. The allocation criteria should be applied to all stocks in a gradual manner, over a period of time to be determined by the relevant Panels, in order to address the economic needs of all parties concerned, including the need to minimize economic dislocation

Japan expressed its view that this condition applies to changes in allocation criteria or the allocation keys and emphasized that any such change should be applied in a gradual manner, while acknowledging that it remains unclear how “gradual” should be defined. Japan suggested that one approach to ensure a gradual application would be to apply changes only when the TAC is increased, not when it is decreased.

The EU pointed out that, without a defined endpoint, it is not possible to define “gradual.” It also pointed out that it is unclear whether the gradualness refers to the process of reaching a defined endpoint, or to the process of defining an endpoint.

IV.22. The application of the allocation criteria should take into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention

The Chair noted the similarity of this condition to III.B.6.

There were no further comments on this condition.

IV.23. The allocation criteria should be applied consistent with international instruments and in a manner that encourages efforts to prevent and eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity and ensures that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with the ICCAT objective of achieving and maintaining MSY

IV.24. The allocation criteria should be applied so as not to legitimize illegal, unregulated and unreported catches and shall promote the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels

Conditions IV.23. and IV.24. were considered together and there were no comments on either.

IV.25. The allocation criteria should be applied in a manner that encourages cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to become Contracting Parties, where they are eligible to do so

There were no comments on this condition.

IV.26. The allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the developing States of the region and other fishing States for the sustainable use of the stocks managed by ICCAT and in accordance with the relevant international instruments

There were no comments on this condition.

IV.27. No qualifying participant shall trade or sell its quota allocation or a part thereof

There were no comments on this condition.

The Panel 2 members reviewed the Chair’s summary of his own review.

Besides the criteria that the Chair had identified as being able to be applied, the EU wished to add the contribution of CPCs to science, the impact on local communities, and the contribution of CPCs to the recovery of the stock.

The Panel 2 members then reviewed the basic ideas for establishing/changing allocation that the Chair had proposed as follows.

1. Allocation keys should be changed only when the TAC is changed, preferably increased

Morocco sought clarification on whether this would require a change to the allocation key every time there is a change in the TAC.

The Chair clarified the intention of his proposal. The current management cycle is three years, meaning that there is a possibility of changing the TAC every three years. If there is a change in TAC, there should be an opportunity, but not an obligation, to change the allocation keys as well, subject to negotiations.

Japan expressed general agreement with the Chair's proposal. Japan also agreed with the point made by the Chair elsewhere in his paper that it would be more acceptable to CPCs to have less of an increase than more of a decrease in their allocation keys, and reiterated that the allocation keys should only be changed when the TAC is increased.

The EU pointed out that, in the first place, Panel 2 needs to be convinced that a change in the allocation keys is in fact necessary. The EU expressed its view that this point has not yet been reached.

Korea acknowledged that it would be easier to find consensus to change the allocation keys when the TAC is increased but argued that the opportunity to seek consensus to also change them when the TAC is decreased should not be excluded.

The Chair clarified that he did not intend to rule out that possibility, while also explaining that, in his view, if there is an increase in the TAC, there is an incentive for CPCs to find a consensus on changing the allocation keys, because otherwise, none of them would receive any increase to the quota. On the other hand, the same incentive does not exist when the TAC is decreased, which would make finding a consensus less realistic.

The UK agreed with Korea that the possibility should not be ruled out of finding consensus to change the allocation keys even when the TAC is decreased. The UK recognized that this would be more difficult than when the TAC is increased.

Norway pointed out that the question of which allocation keys remains open and needs to be decided. Norway further commented that it is reasonable that there should be a limit to any reduction and that drastic changes should be avoided, even if certain CPCs are expected to make a sacrifice to reach a consensus allocation, which is why, in its view, the starting point should be the last agreed allocation in [Rec. 22-08](#).

The Chair clarified that he had intentionally not touched on the starting point in his paper as there are different views among CPCs. He agreed that this point will need to be discussed when establishing new allocations, while acknowledging that it is a difficult question.

2. In order to reach agreement on a new allocation package, it is necessary for some CPCs to accept reduction in the current key (not allocation)

Morocco requested the Chair to elaborate further on the idea that some CPCs will have to make sacrifices.

The Chair explained that throughout the discussions since 2022, there has been a strong expression of dissatisfaction from small quota holders about the large share occupied by the 7 CPCs with the largest quotas, whereby these 7 CPCs have 95% of the total quota, while the remaining CPCs only have 5%. If small quota holders are to have their shares increased, other CPCs will have to reduce their share.

The Chair pointed out that this "sacrifice" is not a decrease in allocation but a decrease in the share of increase compared to the pro rata case, in other words, less of an increase than would be expected by the current share. The Chair clarified that CPCs are of course welcome to assert their position, for example by citing their contribution to the recovery of the stock, but cautioned that CPCs are required to work on a consensus basis, which means that if the large quota holders do not consider the small quota holders' position and insist on allocation on a pro rata basis, it will not be possible to reach consensus, and no CPCs will receive any increase at all.

Egypt stated its view that there is an urgent need to apply a new allocation and to hold productive discussions towards a new allocation. There is a need to prioritize common good over individual interest and for some CPCs to accept a slight reduction in their share, not their quota, while avoiding any drastic change or shock, so as to accommodate the aspirations of developing CPCs and the inclusion of new CPCs.

The EU strongly refuted the notion that there has been no change in gap in the allocation share between large and small quota holders or that the gap is even increasing, as well as the notion that the large CPCs have been inflexible and unaccommodating. The EU pointed out that its allocation share has steadily decreased over the years and that it has also agreed to deviate from the share that it is legally entitled to and reduced its share further. It also pointed out that the number of new entrants has increased, as has the share of the small quota holders. The EU further pointed out that allocation is based on the reality on the ground, namely fishing activities that are actually taking place. In addition, the EU suggested that there are other potential ways for small quota holders' shares to be increased, besides decreasing the share of the large quota holders, such as utilizing unused quotas.

Albania expressed agreement with the intervention by Egypt. It also explained its situation as a small quota holder that bases the development of its fisheries sector on tuna farming and has made significant investments to build tuna farms based on its allocation but has difficulty developing its BFT fishery because of its current small quota. Albania also cited, as an example of sacrifice by a large quota holder, Japan providing some of its quota to Albania in 2017 to support Albania in developing its tuna farms. Albania pointed out that there are existing allocation keys that were agreed to in the latest Recommendation but have yet to be implemented and stated that these should be the starting point of discussions. In addition, Albania questioned the logic of the point raised by some CPCs that because they implemented measures to contribute to the recovery of the stock, they now deserve an increase in their allocation share, which implies that small quota holders do not have a right to ask for an increase. Albania also pointed out that it has contributed greatly to the rebuilding of other stocks, such as small pelagic stocks, reducing its fleets and sacrificing economic growth by doing so, while also having to deal with the negative impact of the growing abundance of tuna on its small pelagic fisheries, and it should therefore be compensated for this in some way.

Iceland prefaced its comments by stating its understanding that the aim of the current discussion is to adjust and justify the allocation criteria in favor of CPCs with small allocations over CPCs with large allocations. Iceland expressed agreement with the Chair's point that to increase the share of small quota holders, large quota holders will have to accept some reduction in their share, and agreement that any change should be applied gradually. Iceland also highlighted the need to bear in mind the distinction that there are some CPCs who are coastal States and are not developing States, but still have a high dependency on fisheries. Iceland also commented on one of the factors that the Chair identified that should be considered in considering which CPCs should accept a reduction in keys, namely "5) CPCs which do not use allocation." Iceland cautioned that this point is very severe and open-ended, pointing out that if a CPC does not fully use its allocation, it could be the result of complex or even *force majeure* situations. Furthermore, quota transfers between CPCs should be taken into account. In addition, relative and marginal factors should be taken into account, whereby, for example, 100 t that are not used or transferred would have a relatively small impact on the national fisheries of a CPC with a large quota but a massive impact for a CPC with a small quota. Iceland requested that the above points be reflected in "5) CPCs which do not use allocation" accordingly.

3. *There is a limit for reduction and drastic change should be avoided*

The Chair pointed out that this point has already been extensively discussed.

There were no further comments on this point.

4. *Consideration should be given to aspirations of developing CPCs to develop their own fisheries*

The Chair reiterated the importance of giving consideration to the aspirations of developing CPCs, but emphasized that the key point is that this concerns developing CPCs' own fisheries, and explained that his suggestion is that, if certain developing CPCs do not fully utilize their allocation, there may be other developing CPCs that would want to utilize that allocation.

Japan agreed with the Chair that the key aspect is the development of developing CPCs' own fisheries.

Albania expressed skepticism about the quota transfer system, pointing out that CPCs who seek a transfer are subjected to unreasonable demands by the CPCs offering a transfer, and explained that its priority is to seek a direct increase in its quota share.

The Chair sought CPCs' views on his proposed idea to establish a limit for transfers of allocation and make this subject to approval of the Commission so that such transfers are done in a transparent and fair manner.

Japan supported the idea of making it possible for a developing CPC to transfer its allocation, but only to another CPC for the development of that CPC's fisheries. Japan believed that this could be ensured by making such transfers subject to the approval of the Commission.

The EU and Algeria concurred with Japan.

5. *Consideration should be given to small quota holders if they have capacity to catch BFT*

The Chair pointed out that this point has already been extensively discussed.

There were no further comments on this point.

6. *Consideration should be given to possible new entrants*

To open the discussion on the consideration given to possible new entrants into a fishery, the Chair noted that Lebanon has requested a BFT quota and that, currently there are only 17 t remaining in the unallocated reserves for new entrants. The Chair considered this would be an important topic for Panel 2 to bear in mind.

The EU agreed that the principle of having a reserve for possible new entrants is sound but suggested that the process should be carefully considered and that past experience should be taken into account. For example, Namibia was accommodated as a new entrant but did not use its allocation. The EU expressed the view that it does not make sense to set aside a reserve instead of distributing this to CPCs who are fishing when there are no requests from new entrants to make use of that reserve. The EU suggested that if there is a reserve and it is not used, it should be redistributed to CPCs who are already engaged in fishing activities.

The Chair explained that a number of approaches could be taken to accommodate possible new entrants. For example, one way is to keep a certain amount as a reserve for new entrants. Another is to collect a certain amount for new entrants from existing shareholders based on shares or allocation over the past 2-3 years. The Chair indicated his preference for the former approach, as the latter is likely to be difficult for CPCs to accept.

Having considered the Chair's paper as a whole, the Panel 2 members expressed general agreement that the 27 criteria and conditions in [Res. 15-13](#) are too many to apply, and that it is necessary to identify a subset of these that can actually be applied when considering the allocation.

The Chair thanked the Panel 2 members for reviewing his papers and providing their comments on it. He informed them that he would in any case prepare a proposal for amending [Rec. 22-08](#) that incorporates the paper submitted by the EU "ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 – Proposal for amendments - Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (Agenda item 7)" [PA2_23B/i2024] and the renumbering of paragraphs, and consider amending the rules for quota transfers between CPCs in the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#), too. The draft text for the amendments will be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

Discussion of Korea's proposal

Japan reiterated its basic position that changes in the allocation keys should only be considered when the TAC is increased, pointing out that it would be difficult to achieve consensus in the case that the TAC is decreased. Japan also expressed its general preference for any change to be more gradual.

Korea reiterated its preference to consider both the case that the TAC is increased and one where it is decreased, while stating that it could accept moving forward with only the former scenario, if the latter scenario would impede consensus.

The EU disagreed with the premise in the proposal that there is a growing gap between the shares of the large quota holders and the small quota holders. The EU noted that Korea's paper used absolute numbers for comparing quotas and pointed out that for a useful comparison, those numbers must be put in the context of the TAC. Nevertheless, even when looking at the absolute numbers, going back to 1999, the EU has been contributing more than 5,000 t to accommodate the needs of new entrants and small harvesters. The EU also questioned the proposed dual approach of changing the allocation keys when increasing and decreasing the TAC and applying different adjustment rates for an increase or decrease. The EU pointed out that, as a large coastal State quota holder, its quota is based on a track record of fishing activities that is linked to the socio-economic network in the related regions. Furthermore, it has contributed greatly to the recovery of the stocks. In light of this, the EU did not consider it to be fair or equitable to be asked to reap less of the benefits of the stock recovery that it contributed to, and to bear a greater cost when the TAC is decreased.

Korea pointed out that, going back to 1999, it has also seen a decrease in its allocation share. Korea explained, however, that it did not raise this point because it would not be persuasive to other CPCs, such as those who became members after 2020, and would not be conducive to finding a solution.

Tunisia pointed out that it too has made great sacrifices and shown great commitment to supporting the recovery of the eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock.

Morocco also expressed agreement with the views expressed by the EU, pointing out that, like the EU, it has accommodated other CPCs by allowing its allocation percentage to be steadily reduced since 2002 and that it has devoted its resources to supporting the recovery of the BFT stock, while being a developing CPC. Morocco explained that it is not against finding a fair solution or increasing other CPCs' allocation but it also has a legitimate right to defend its quota, and suggested that another approach is needed to accommodate new entrants or small harvesters.

The UK noted that several CPCs have been citing their allocation percentages in the far past and how these percentages have decreased over time. The UK cautioned against focusing overly on percentages from the past that no longer bear relation to reality. The UK pointed out that because the total TAC has been shared among a growing number of CPCs, it is a natural consequence that existing CPCs' shares have decreased, but their quotas are actually increasing in absolute terms.

The EU explained that it referred to numbers dating back to 1999 to refute the narrative purported by other CPCs that the situation has not changed and that the large quota holders are not giving up their share, when this is, in fact, manifestly false.

Algeria raised the question of how and when the classification of CPCs in relation to the quotas would be decided, asking whether this would be done when applying the criteria of [Res. 15-13](#) to consider changes to the allocation keys or whether it would be done on the basis of CPC proposals.

Korea clarified that the classification in its proposal is only one that it has proposed and is not one that has been accepted by consensus.

Algeria pointed out that the classification of CPCs with respect to quotas has always been respected, except one instance in 2010 when it lost its classification. Algeria pointed out that the aim, when considering classification, should be to understand how the relationship has always been between the large harvesters and the small harvesters.

The UK noted several positive aspects of Korea's proposal, including the effort made to reduce polarization, the effort made to reduce shocks, and the effort made to pursue gradual but constant progress towards fairer allocation. The UK also reiterated its support for considering adjusting the allocation keys both when the TAC is increased and when it is decreased. In addition, the UK suggested that the next iteration of the proposal should reflect the fact there that there are other coastal States who are not necessarily developing CPCs, but whose economies and communities have an important reliance on BFT fisheries.

Korea thanked the UK for its comments and said it would try to reflect its suggestion in the next iteration of its proposal.

Egypt suggested that Korea provide an example with concrete numbers to make its proposal clearer to understand.

Korea said it has conducted such a simulation of its proposal and offered to share the results with Egypt.

Discussion of the UK's proposal

Japan stated that it would have difficulty supporting the UK's proposal as Japan's share is decreased in both example scenarios and pointed out that having only Japan and the EU bear the whole of the burden of the redistribution of allocations would not be a practical way to seek consensus. Japan explained that its goal is to seek a fair and equitable allocation while avoiding polarization and suggested that, to that end, all large harvesters, not only developed ones, should bear some of the burden, while recognizing that developed CPCs should perhaps bear more of the burden than developing CPCs. Japan also noted some positive aspects of the proposal, namely that it does not neglect the interests of large harvesters and that it emphasizes gradual change and repeated process over multiple cycles to avoid sudden shocks to larger developed harvesters. Japan also suggested that the UK consider adding the scientific contribution of CPCs as one of the rationales in "Table 3. Rationale for approach to each party".

The EU did not consider the first example scenario to be equitable, stating that the cost of change is borne by the EU, with its share decreased by an additional 650 t on top of the 2,500 t that it is already contributing as a deviation from its rightful share. The EU also noted that in the second example scenario, the UK's share only increases by 15 t, and questioned how such a small increase would provide the UK with radically different opportunities and whether this is worth the significant impact on other CPCs. In addition, the EU suggested that "Table 3. Rationale for approach to each party" should include additional factors such as scientific contribution and socio-economic impact on local communities.

The UK thanked Japan for acknowledging the positive aspects of its proposal and reiterated that it recognizes the interest of large harvesters, as well as the importance of avoiding sudden impacts and ensuring gradual change. The UK also agreed with Japan and the EU's comments regarding the importance of scientific contribution and socio-economic impacts. The UK explained that, as the earlier review of [Res. 15-13](#) showed, incorporating all 27 factors in the Resolution would be very difficult, so it tried to identify a subset of those factors that seemed most important to CPCs. Nevertheless, the UK acknowledged that there could be room to consider incorporating other factors, such as those raised by Japan and the EU, into its proposal.

The UK noted the concern expressed by Japan and the EU over the proposed decrease in their allocations, while pointing out that their allocations under the proposal would increase compared to those in [Rec. 21-08](#). The UK further pointed out that in order to share the TAC among a larger number of CPCs, it is necessary to adjust existing CPCs' quotas, including larger harvesters such as the EU. The UK reiterated that it has tried to propose a fair adjustment that would marginally reduce some of the larger harvesters' share to the significant benefit of many smaller quota holders.

Regarding the EU's point that the proposed increase in the UK's allocation under the second example scenario is so small as to be hardly significant, the UK explained that it had put forward the number merely for illustrative purposes and had suggested a smaller number based on its recognition that the CPCs whose shares would be decreased seemed to prefer a smaller rather than a larger number. The UK explained that one possibility would be to start with such a small incremental increase and then repeat the increase over several years to make the change a gradual one.

Korea expressed support for the UK's suggestion that change is needed and considered the UK's proposed approach to be practical and reasonable.

Egypt commended the UK for its proposal and considered that it contributes to achieving progress towards the establishment of new allocation keys. Egypt also considered it logical that the UK would seek an increase in its quota given the significant increase in BFT in its coastal waters in recent years. Furthermore, Egypt agreed with the UK on the necessity of changing the allocation keys, especially since the allocation keys in [Rec. 22-08](#) were agreed to on the condition that further discussions would be held. In this context, Egypt encouraged CPCs to evaluate the situation and accept new ideas in order to reach a compromise.

Algeria reiterated the need to adjust the allocation shares while taking into account CPCs' individual circumstances and believed that the UK's proposal contains many important considerations that should be kept in mind.

Norway believed that the UK's proposal reflects many of the principles raised by CPCs involved in the discussion of allocations and stated that all harvesters with a legitimate interest or right should have enough quota to develop their fisheries.

Albania expressed its support for the UK's proposal and considered it to be well balanced.

The UK appreciated the support expressed by several CPCs.

Regarding the UK's paper arguing for an increased allocation based on the increased presence of BFT in its coastal waters, the EU pointed out that it has also observed such an increase in its coastal waters and that a similar argument could hypothetically be made to increase the EU's quota. On the other hand, the EU pointed out that some of the scientific literature referred to by the UK suggests that it would not be advisable to start targeting these BFT and that more scientific underpinnings would be needed. The EU offered to consider contributing to developing relevant research through the GBYP and other means, if required.

Discussion of Egypt's proposal

Japan expressed appreciation for the increase in Japan's share in the proposal, while pointing out that some developing CPCs' share would be decreased and cautioning that this would make consensus difficult to reach.

Egypt explained that the only developing CPC whose share would be decreased would be Morocco but pointed out that this would only be a decrease of 0.03%, which is not significant. As for developing non-coastal CPCs, Egypt explained that the allocation is split into two parts, with the first 50% being allocated in accordance with [Rec. 21-08](#) and the second 50% being allocated with the same share, resulting in an increased quota but not an increased share.

Korea expressed general agreement with the CPC classification proposed by Egypt but noted that it had been classified together with Japan under "3c developed, non-coastal" and pointed out that while it is a developed, non-coastal CPC, it is a small harvester, whereas Japan is a large harvester, and requested that it be placed in a separate classification from Japan.

Egypt agreed to classify Korea separately from Japan, but with the same treatment, as Korea is non-coastal.

The EU expressed its dissatisfaction with the proposal and reiterated its position that the existing allocation shares are not arbitrarily decided but are based on a long history of actual fishing activities. The EU further pointed out that under Egypt's proposal, the EU is being asked to reduce actual fishing activities and that, based on current utilization rates, the EU's share will be redistributed to contribute to other CPCs' aspirations, rather than real activities, which the EU is not willing to contemplate. In addition, the EU disagreed with Egypt's description of a reduction of 450 t in the EU share as being insignificant.

Egypt suggested that the EU, as a large harvester, could sacrifice some of its share for the sake of other CPCs. Egypt noted the EU's dissatisfaction with being asked to reduce its capacity, but pointed out that the EU, by refusing to consider a reduction in its share, is indirectly asking developing CPCs to limit their capacity and the development of their fisheries.

The UK noted that Egypt’s proposal contained a number of positive aspects, including aiming to use the large TAC increase to ensure allocation in a fairer way, being based around CPCs’ relative positions with the aim of improving balance and fairness, accounting for specific needs and circumstances of groups of CPCs, and aiming to avoid large shocks.

In response to the EU, the UK acknowledged that the EU quota is based on actual activities but pointed out that some small quota holders feel that are not able to develop their fishing activities because they do not have a sufficient quota.

The EU countered that if it takes time for CPCs to develop their fishing activities, there is no rush to change the allocation keys again so soon after the last adjustment.

The UK pointed out that there has been no rush and that it has taken three years for the discussions to reach this point.

Algeria pointed out that Egypt’s proposal would decrease Algeria’s allocation. Algeria asked Egypt to explain why this would be the case, especially given that all the other CPCs in its classification, “2 developing, coastal, large harvesters,” would have their allocation increased.

Egypt explained that the appropriate comparison is against [Rec. 21-08](#), which shows that Algeria’s quota and share would be increased.

The Chair pointed out that under Egypt’s proposal, Algeria’s quota would be smaller than its current existing quota.

General discussion

The Chair thanked the CPCs who had submitted proposals for doing so and invited other CPCs to submit their own proposals if they consider that there are alternative ways to accommodate the interests of small quota holders. He emphasized the importance of all CPCs participating in the allocation discussions and trying to find a creative solution.

The EU stated that, as a fundamental issue, it has yet to be convinced of the need for change to the allocation keys.

The Chair reminded the Panel 2 members that at the end of the 2022 Annual Meeting, it was clear that some CPCs were unsatisfied with the current allocation, so Panel 2 decided to launch a discussion on this issue, recognizing the need to find a better solution that would address some of the concerns that had been raised. The Chair reiterated that if CPCs insist on continuing the past practice of a pro rata increase, it will not be possible to find a solution or consensus.

The UK expressed agreement with the Chair’s comments and emphasized the importance of avoiding a situation in 2025 where it is not possible to find consensus. The UK also noted that a 4,500 t TAC increase was agreed via Recommendation 22-08, and that a fairer allocation of that additional quota, rather than simply allocating according to historical shares, would mean progress towards fairer allocations for all parties. The UK also noted that with TAC increases of this scale, it is not the case that major harvesters are losing out when quotas/allocations for smaller harvesters are increased – major harvesters are simply not gaining quite as much.

Türkiye explained its position on the overall allocation process. Türkiye noted that, as a result of difficult negotiations that have continued for many years, a certain level of compromise and stability has been achieved, particularly with the adoption of [Rec. 21-08](#). Even though not all CPCs were fully satisfied, a degree of compromise was achieved by many CPCs, including Türkiye, which had expressed its dissatisfaction with the quota-sharing for a long time. Therefore, the allocation system provided in the current [Rec. 22-08](#) should be the baseline for further negotiations. The origins of today’s baseline, on the other hand, have evolved over many years with small changes, beginning with a decision that was adopted by the Commission in 1998, entered into force in 1999, and used 1993 and 1994 as the baseline for allocations. In terms of fairness and equitability, all the CPCs in the table of allocations in [Rec. 22-08](#) should start from the same baseline. In light of that, Türkiye has historical catches and its quota share should correspond to at least 8% of the TAC

from that point. Furthermore, Türkiye has shown flexibility and made important concessions to be able to reach the current consensus. Therefore, in future proposals, Türkiye's special circumstances should be taken into consideration.

7. Future actions

The Panel 2 members agreed on the following future actions:

1. In respect of the Part I discussion, the Chair will prepare a proposal for amending [Rec. 22-08](#).
2. Egypt, Korea, and the UK will prepare updated versions of their proposals to change the allocation keys.
3. Any other CPCs are welcome to prepare their own proposals on the allocation keys.
4. Panel 2 members will hold further discussions on the allocation of BFT as part of its agenda at the Annual Meeting.

8. Other matters

No other matters were raised.

9. Adoption of report and closure

The Chair confirmed that the draft report would be circulated after the meeting and adopted via correspondence.

The Chair thanked Panel 2 members and observers for their active engagement in fruitful discussions, the ICCAT Secretariat for organizing the meeting, and the interpreters for their excellent work.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Agenda

Part I (Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans and other related matters) (5 and 6 March 2024)

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for 2024 presented by CPCs
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4
6. Review of any updates relating ongoing pilot schemes
 - 6.1 Farming with artificially hatched fries
 - 6.2 Short-term storage
 - 6.3 Growth ratios
 - 6.4 Others
7. Consideration of issues of interpretation of [Rec. 22-08](#), and possible amendments
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of report and closure

Part II (Discussion on the allocation for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna) (7 and 8 March 2024)

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Presentation by Panel 2 Chair on allocation
5. Presentation by CPCs on allocation
6. Discussion on allocation
7. Future actions
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of report and closure

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**Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, farming,
inspection and capacity management plans**

Name of CPC: Albania

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)

1 a) Overview (para 12)

CPC Albania hereby presents its fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT, Albania's quota for 2024 is established at 264 t.

The Albania's quota of bluefin tuna fishing is allocated to purse seiner vessels (263 t) and incidental by-catch (1 t).

Two purse seiner vessels (41 meters and 28 meters) are authorized to fish the Albanian bluefin tuna quota and these vessels are provided with Bluefin Tuna Fishing Authorization. These will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

The method used to allocate and manage the quotas is based on Minister Order No. 524 dated 08 September 2023, "For the implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)*" and the national regulation, especially, Law No. 64/2012 "On fisheries", amended, article 69, Paragraph 1/point b and c, Paragraph 3 and 5.

In the Albanian fishing fleet register, there are no baitboats, longliners, handliners or traps. The fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners is not developed and no permissions are issued. Albania reports annually the fishing gear groups and fleet segments (DCRF - GFCM and DG MARE).

The permissions issued to small scale vessels clearly indicate the distance from the coast (1 – 2 NM) and fishing gears to be used, gill nets and trammel nets with respective length and mesh size (1000 m and 48 mm).

During the year 2023 there were no bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries by the Albanian fishing fleet.

1 b) Carry Over (para 6)

No carry over is requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

All the amount of the fish catch by the Albanian purse seiners vessels (100%) will be destined for farming in the Albanian BFT farm.

1 d)

	ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)	Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)	Note
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p>The Electronic logbook is still under development. During this year, the Masters of authorized vessels are obliged to use a bound fishing logbook for their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2 of Rec. 22-08</p> <p>The masters of towing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Section B, Annex 2 of Rec. 22-08.</p> <p>The Master of catching vessel shall transmit every day to the Albanian authorities, during the whole period in which he is authorized to fish bluefin tuna, the daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size, referred to in paragraph 33. Fish that are discarded dead shall be counted against the Albania quota.</p> <p>Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports including operations where the catch was zero.</p> <p>The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Albanian authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p>	<p>Annex 4 of DCM No. 407 dated 8/05/2013 <i>“Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy”</i>, implementation of the EU Regulation 1224/2009 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 <i>“Establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy”</i>.</p> <p>Article 40 of DCM No. 756 dated 1/12/2022 <i>“On the method of establishing and operation of the electronic registration and reporting system of fishing activity and determining the time for its implementation”</i>.</p> <p>Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/2023, <i>“For the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)”</i></p>	<p>During 2022, Albania started implementation of the ERS in a pilot phase in the three vessels in close collaboration with GFCM. Based on the results of the pilot project, the ToR for the necessary equipment for all the Albanian fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12m are prepared.</p> <p>The DCM determine that the system should be ready in July 2024.</p> <p>https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2022/12/01/756/46e86b9b-aa57-46ab-8930-a386a451056b</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>On the basis of the information, the Ministry will transmit a bi-weekly catch report to the ICCAT Secretariat. Albania has designated ports where landing/transshipment operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. The list of ports was transmitted to ICCAT and its part of this annual fishing plan. Albania shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when its entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized.</p>	<p>The designated ports (Article 36 of Order No. 149, dated 31/3/2022 for the approval of the Regulation for the implementation of Law No. 64, dated 31/5/2012, "On fisheries").</p>	<p>CP24 attached</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)</p>	<p>Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the Mediterranean Sea during the period from 26 May to 1 July 2024. If the fishing operations are prevented due to weather conditions, the Albanian authorities may decide that the fishing seasons be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.</p>	<p>Fishing authorization</p> <p>Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)</i>"</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>It is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transhipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm.</p> <p>Albania does not catch bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes (para 34, point c).</p> <p>If any bluefin tuna below the minimum size are caught and retained or discarded dead, they will be confiscated and will be counted against Albania's quota.</p>	<p>Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)"</p>	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted although Albania allocates 1 (one) t as a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna, considering that its purse seiner fleet of small pelagic exercise activity in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>If the specific quota for by-catch is exhausted all by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of Albania and reported to ICCAT.</p> <p>All by-catches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea.</p> <p>Albania shall report information on such quantities (landed dead or released live) on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	<p>Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)"</p>	<p>Albania notified the ICCAT Secretariat on January 8, 2020 (para 57, Rec. 19-04) regarding the 252 kg of BFT caught in September 2019, out of the authorization period by one of small pelagic purse seiner vessel in Adriatic Sea and deducted this amount from the Albanian quota in Fishing Plan 2020.</p> <p>Instead of 170000 kg, in the Fishing Plan 2020 Albania had a reduced quota 169748 kg, due to 252 kg caught as bycatch out of the authorization period.</p> <p>During the year 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 there were no bycatches of BFT caught in other fisheries by the Albanian fishing fleet.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No quota is allocated for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries and this fishing activity is not permitted.	Minister Order No. 524 dated 08/09/2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)"	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	The landing and transshipment operations of bluefin tuna shall be allowed only at the designated port of Shengjin and Saranda. Prior to entry into port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the Albanian authorities at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.	Minister Order No. 524 dated 08/09/ 2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)"	CP24 attached.
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	VMS implemented in catching & towing vessels and the polling rate is at least once every hour. Transmission of positions of catching, & towing vessels starts 5 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until 5 days after the end of the authorisation. The transmission of VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat by each authorized vessel must not be interrupted	Law No. 64/2012, "On Fisheries", amended, Article 72: The vessel monitoring system <i>1. Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install on their board the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.</i>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		when the vessel is in port, for control purposes or bad weather.	Minister Order No. 524 date 08/09/2023.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Albanian authorities will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents, on board of all towing vessels i.e., 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 22-08. The Albanian observers were trained by EU experts in the frame of EU-IPA project "Support to fishery sector in Albania"	Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)"	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	The Albanian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities, throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities and during release of bluefin tuna from farming cages in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 22-08.	Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)"	
10	Domestic legislation	Albania fully implemented the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)	Minister Order No. 524 dated 8/09/ 2023, "For the implementation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i> (Rec. 22-08)".	https://qbz.gov.al/eli/urdher/2023/09/08/524/b663d749-1fcb-4bb0-bbce-6a8d5a8c6a6e

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		Albania has approved the Electronic logbook ERS system	DCM No. 756 dated 1/12/2022 "On the method of establishing and operation of the electronic registration and reporting system of fishing activity and determining the time for its implementation".	https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2022/12/01/756/46e86b9b-aa57-46ab-8930-a386a451056b
	<i>Other requirements such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>			

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

Attached the list of designated ports for landing and transshipment in CP24 form.

- Shengjin
- Sarandë
- Durrës
- Vlorë

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

Albania's quota for 2024 will be 264 t. As Albania allocates 1 t for by-catches, the total quota available for the purse seiners will be 263 t (Table 2 attached).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

The farming management plan 2024 for Albania is detailed below.

<i>Country</i>	<i>FFB</i>	<i>Active/ Inactive</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>	<i>Input Capacity (t)</i>	<i>FFB Coordinates</i>
ALBANIA	ROZAFI	Active	1,200	700	39°57'59.57"N 19°52'0.19"E 39°58'16.25"N 19°52'49.27"E 39°56'20.97"N 19°53'47.91"E 39°56'02.59"N 19°52'59.32"E

We have nominated as farm CPC competent authority the branch of the fisheries inspectorate in Saranda (para 140).

In accordance with the measures laid down in paras 200-207 of ICCAT Rec. 22-08, the following procedures shall be followed for the implementation of carry-over assessments:

Prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner seasons, all fish remaining in cages shall be transferred to other empty farm cages in order that they can be counted and estimates of weight be taken by way of stereoscopic cameras.

The live bluefin tuna carried over will be placed in a separate cage in the farm, on the basis of the catch and JFO.

Differences between the number of BFT individuals resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest will be duly investigated and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, Albanian authority will issue the release order of the corresponding number of fish.

Albania will transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the annual carry-over declaration in accordance with para 207, [Rec. 22-08](#).

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

In accordance with the domestic legislation in force, (Order, No. 5, dated 28/01/2019) issued by the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, a Task Force will be installed at the Shengjini and Saranda fishing port, during the fishing and harvesting season, to carry out duties based on ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, Albanian legislation and Minister Order Nr. 524 dates 8/09/2023.

The Albanian control competent authority or the Task Force is composed by:

<i>Name and duties</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Phone number</i>
Aleksander Luli, Fisheries Inspector	Aleksander.Luli@dshpa.gov.al	+355693995558
Ilirjan Cepe, Fisheries Inspector	Ilirjan.Cepe@dshpa.gov.al	+355696310355
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Marco Kule, Specialist in the Department of Fisheries	Marco.Kule@bujqesia.gov.al	+355696757794

Requests for entry and use of Albanian ports by foreign-flagged vessels will be granted, if appropriate, by the relevant port and maritime authorities. In case of authorisation for port entry and use, in-port inspections will be carried out by fishery Inspectors of the relevant authority.

The Fishery Inspector should prioritize implementation as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The Master of the Authorized Fishing Vessel should notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the estimated time of arrival into the port, estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

Fishery Inspectors takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and obtain from the master the landing declaration which reflects the above data already specified (through weighing) and not in a random way.

The Master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The Albanian authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

- The Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by the authorized fishing vessel, the data communicated, the landing declarations in the fishing port, as well as other details that are seen as reasonable. The Fishery Inspector shall communicate these data to the Fishery Directorate within 48 hours of the landing of the fish products by the authorized fishing vessel.
- Ensure that the Master of fishing vessel fills correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.

- Not allow the bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the snout to the bifurcation of the tail). The Inspector makes measurements of each tuna caught, just landed and verifies implementation of the foregoing obligation to weigh/minimum size of fish caught.
- Check the functionality of the VMS system of the vessel, with a non-stop signal, which is not interrupted even when in port.
- Send to the Fishery Authorities at the Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.
- Observe, identify and monitor any quantity of bluefin tuna caught by the fishing vessel (outside of authorized fishing season).

In addition, control measures are provided for in [Rec. 22-08](#) (paras 95 and 96) for regional and national observers programmes which ensure coverage of:

- 100% of purse seiners authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna,
- 100% of authorised towing vessels,
- 100% of bluefin tuna transfer operations from purse seiners to towing cages and from caging on farms
- 100% of harvesting operations.

All monitoring, control and surveillance operations will be ensured in accordance with [Rec. 22-08](#).

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations

Fishery inspectors of the Task Force, nominated in this case as Farm competent authority shall:

1. Coordinate the collection and verification of information on national caging activities, for the control of farm activities and for reporting to Albanian competent authorities.
2. Shall ensure that farm operators maintain at all times an accurate schematic plan of their farms, indicating the unique number of all cages and their individual position on the farm.
3. Shall assign a unique and identifiable number to each cage associated to farms, including those cages used to transport the fish to the farm.
4. Issue a caging authorization for each caging operation.
5. Shall ensure that towing vessel concerned is maintained at a distance of minimum 1 nautical mile from farm until they are physically present.
6. Shall ensure that farm cages containing bluefin tuna are sealed at all times.
7. Shall ensure that each bluefin tuna caging operation in the farm is recorded by the farm operator using both conventional and stereoscopic cameras.
8. Shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observer has immediate access to all stereoscopic and conventional camera video footage.
9. Shall determine the number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation provided by the farm operator, following the procedures set out in point 1 of Annex 9.
10. Shall submit the procedures and results related to the stereoscopic camera programme to the SCRS by 31 October annually.
11. Shall issue a caging report for each single caging operation.
12. Shall issue the harvesting operation authorization.
13. Shall inspect all harvesting operations of bluefin tuna destined for processing vessels.

Random control operations using conventional cameras will be carried out in the farm by Fishery Inspectorate between the end of caging and the first caging of the following year.

Considering the size of the farm and the number of cages, farm competent authority will cover 100% of the number of cages in its random control.

In accordance with Para 119 -123 of [Rec. 22-08](#), the transfers from cages to farm shall be monitored by video cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to Albanian competent authorities.

Covering 100% of all caging operations with stereoscopic cameras shall be used to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged. Farm operator shall communicate the results of this program to competent authorities and to the Regional Observer.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

N/A

5. Others

N/A

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7			1	1	1	1				70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78				1	1	1					49.78	49.78	49.78
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68													
Purse seine total fleet														
Longliner over 40m	25													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet														
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10													
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5													
Total fleet/fishing capacity											70.7	120.48	120.48	120.48
Quota											100	170	264	264
Percentage allocated to bycatch												0.56%	0.38%	0.38%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)												177.5	263	263
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)														
Under/ overcapacity														

"Adjusted quota" = Quota - Allowance for discards and/or bycatch (264 - 1 = 263).

Name of CPC: Algeria

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

Algeria presents its eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan below.

Algeria's fishing plan for 2024 is based on the relevant provisions of the ICCAT recommendations, in particular Recommendation 22-08 and 23-06 and of the national regulation and legislation, in particular those of the Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, amended and supplemented, of the Order No. 03-481 establishing the methods and conditions for fishing operations and the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022, establishing the conditions and methods of bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

The new regulatory mechanism, implemented in 2022, strengthens monitoring and control methods as well as sanctions for any potential non-compliances observed.

In effect, the regulatory mechanism referred to above strengthens the control and surveillance arrangements of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign - upstream and downstream - especially through extension of the prerogatives and scope of action of national controllers onboard tuna purse seine vessels as well as control on land, in particular:

- carrying out the departure inspection of tuna vessels before the start of the campaign to verify fishing methods;
- carrying out controls at landing ports in addition to the control by the national coast guard service;
- controlling the tuna vessels on landing;
- daily control of the logbook;
- controlling operation of the positioning beacon (VMS);
- monitoring bluefin fishing and transfer operations;
- controlling compliance of information recorded in the logbook;
- controlling bluefin tuna transfer documents following each transfer;
- analysing transfer videos and preparing reports and related documents;
- controlling the content of storage spaces and cold-storage rooms;
- preparing reports on non-compliances and infringements observed.

The objective of these new tasks assigned to fisheries administration controllers is to strengthen monitoring and control of fishing and transfer operations and to ensure compliance with the national regulation and the relevant ICCAT requirements.

Bluefin tuna fishing activities in 2024 will be carried out in accordance with the conditions and methods for fishing live bluefin tuna in accordance with the regulatory mechanism and ICCAT monitoring and control conditions and requirements.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08), the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Algeria in 2024 is 2,023 t.

For 2024, Algeria will implement its fishing plan to catch its adjusted quota.

To this end, the individual quotas will be distributed among the tuna purse seine vessel owners that have been selected in accordance with national regulatory conditions, in particular, Ministerial Decree dated 24 February 2022, establishing bluefin tuna conditions and methods by vessels flying a national flag.

For the 2024 fishing campaign, Algeria will allocate fishing quotas to the tuna purse seine vessels with a length overall between 22 and 42 m.

The list of live bluefin tuna catching vessels authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 52 of Recommendation 22-08, i.e. 12 May 2024.

A five (5) ton quota will be allocated to bycatch.

Bluefin tuna caught as bycatch will be deducted from the reserved bycatch quota. If there is an excess of catches of this reserved quota, these quantities will be deducted from the national quota.

The vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current national regulation and that do not target bluefin tuna, will not be authorised to catch bluefin tuna. Specimens taken as bycatch, alive or dead, will be recorded in logbooks.

Regarding the bluefin tuna fishery opening period, and in accordance with the provisions of the Order dated 24 February 2022 and paragraph 28 of Recommendation 22-08, Algeria authorises fishing for bluefin tuna by purse seine vessels for the 2024 campaign, from 26 May to 1 July 2024. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, the period can be extended by the equivalent number of days lost, up to a maximum of 10 days.

1 b) Carry Over (para 6)

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08, Algeria requests a transfer of 23 t (1.14%) of its 2023 unused quota to 2024. therefore, the total adjusted national quota will be 2,046 t.

1 c) Destination of catch

Catches by purse seine vessels are destined for farming in the authorised farms. Part of the catch can be landed dead at authorized Algerian ports. Confirmation of the quantities of dead bluefin tuna will result, if applicable, in an amendment to the Fishing Plan within the established deadline.

1 d)

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. 22-08 and Rec. 23-06 as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p>Purse seiners participating in the fishing season must record catches (including null catches) in the logbook. The logbook is bound and maintained onboard the vessel in accordance with domestic regulations the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation. Weekly catches of bluefin tuna are communicated to the fishing administration in accordance with paragraphs 76-77 of Rec. 22-08.</p> <p>Likewise, the dead fish retained or discarded will be deducted from the quota and recorded in the logbook; the national onboard controller oversees implementation of these measures.</p>	<p>Articles 32-34-36 and Annex 8 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.</p>	
2	Fisheries openings (para 28-32)	<p>Bluefin tuna fishing is open for purse seine tuna vessels: 26 May 1 July.</p> <p>Fishing will be conducted in national and international areas of the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>Article 62 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.</p> <p>However, in accordance with paragraph 29 of Rec. 22-08, Algeria may possibly extend the fishing period of its affected vessels, by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
			Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted.	
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	115 cm - 30 kg. However, bycatch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm in relation to total catch may be authorised. Dead fish will be declared and deducted from Algeria's quota and live fish will be released.	Order No. 20-266 of 20 September 2020 which amends and supplements. Order No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources. Article 66 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	With regard to bycatch, all vessels that do not hold a specific permit for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the national regulation in place, are not authorised to catch bluefin tuna. A five (5) tons bluefin tuna quota is reserved for bycatch. The bycatch level in previous years was around five tons. Any discard of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 5 t allocated to bycatch or from national quota. Discards will be recorded in logbooks and counted against national quota. In addition, catches are controlled at port accesses by members of the National Coast Guard Service and at landing sites by fishing inspectors.		

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
5	Recreational and sport fisheries (para 38-46)	There are no recreational and sport fisheries targeting bluefin tuna in Algeria. No quota is allocated to recreational and sport fisheries.	Order No. 03-481, dated 13 December 2003, establishing the conditions for fishing.	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Transshipment at sea of fishery products is prohibited, except in cases of <i>force majeure</i> , justified and duly recorded by agents of the National coastguard service.	Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented.	
7.	VMS (paras 219-225)	Legislative and regulatory obligation. All tuna purse seiners are equipped with a positioning beacon, operational five (5) days before the start of the campaign and five (5) days after its end.	<p>Article 20 bis of Law 15-08, which amends and supplements the Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p>Article 3 of the Order of 22-58 of 2 February 2022 establishes the conditions and methods to implement positioning beacons on vessels fitted and equipped for fishing:</p> <p>"The fishing vessels listed below must be equipped with a satellite positioning beacon... bluefin tuna fishing vessels and vessels used to tow cages for transporting live bluefin tuna".</p> <p>Articles 14-15 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.</p> <p>"Hourly VMS messages are transmitted by the tuna purse seine vessels, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recs. 22-08 and 18-10."</p>	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Boarding of one controller / national observers onboard each of the bluefin tuna purse seine vessels actively targeting bluefin tuna throughout the fishing season. There is a 100% coverage for purse seine vessels.	Article 17 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	Regulatory requirement: Purse seine tuna vessel owners are required to take onboard ICCAT regional observers.	Article 25 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
10	Domestic legislation	Yes. ICCAT recommendations are transposed to national legislation.	Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented. Order 03-481 of 13 December 2003 establishing the conditions for fishing. Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44) etc.</i>	Use of video camera for transfer surveillance: Transfer operations from the fishing net to the transport cage will be recorded by video camera, as required by paragraph 119 and Annex 8 of ICCAT Rec. 22-08.	Article 48 of the Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.	

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

The ports designated for bluefin tuna landings in 2024 are:

<i>No</i>	<i>Landing port</i>
1	Alger
2	Annaba
3	Beni Saf
4	Bouzedjar
5	Béjaia
6	Cherchell
7	Oran
8	Ténés

(CP24 has been sent to the ICCAT Secretariat).

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

The fishing capacity is represented by a fleet of 40 tuna purse seine vessels. This capacity is adapted to the quota allocated to Algeria and in accordance with the estimations recommended by the SCRS. Therefore, Algeria will not exceed its bluefin tuna fishing capacity.

The number of bluefin catching vessels will be enacted in accordance with the criteria established by the national regulations enforced.

Individual quotas are attributed in accordance with the national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation “Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag”.

The fishing capacity management plan and the list of vessels that should participate in the 2024 fishing campaign may be revised and will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraphs 13 and 52 of Recommendation 22-08.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in [Rec. 23-06](#)), as applicable

One (01) bluefin tuna fattening farm is authorized to operate in 2024 (see table below).

In accordance with Recommendation 22-08 and Recommendation 23-06, the input volume of bluefin tuna in 2024 is proportional to the fishing quota allocated to Algeria in 2024.

However, Algeria reserves the right, if necessary, to submit revised farming management plans to the Secretariat before 1 June 2024, in accordance with paragraph 20 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08.

Monitoring of caging and random checks:

- National and regional observers will monitor caging operations in fattening farms, using conventional and stereoscopic cameras, in accordance with the provisions established in Recommendation 22-08.
- Random checks of no less than 10% will be carried out on cages after caging operations.

<i>Farm name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Management facility</i>	<i>Farm coordinates</i>	<i>Entry wild (t)</i>	<i>Farming capacity (t)</i>
SOUFI TUNA	AT001DZA00001	SARL SOUFI FISH	35°13'55,32"N - 01°38' 39,91" O	950	1,800
			35°13'46,36"N - 01°38' 28,69" O		
			35°14'14,33"N - 01°38' 8,79" O		
			35°14'5,78"N - 01°37' 57,46" O		
TOTAL (t)				950	1,800

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

The controlling competent authority is the Directorate of Control of Fisheries Activities and Aquaculture and Market Regulation (Order 20-83 on the organization of the central administration of the Ministry of Fisheries and Fisheries Products).

The Contact Points designated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are:

- Mr HENTOUR Abderrahmane: Director of Control of Fisheries Activities and Aquaculture and Market Regulation (email: abdou.hentour@gmail.com; Tel.: 213559139817/21323495333).
- Mr HABTICHE Amirouche: Deputy Director of Control of Fisheries Activities and Aquaculture (email: habticheamirouche@hotmail.fr; Tel.: 213553091710)

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2024 campaign, in accordance with national legislation and the domestic regulation and the relevant provisions of ICCAT recommendations. This programme consists in carrying out in-port inspections on tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2024 fishing campaign, before and after the campaign, and observing and controlling tuna purse seiners at sea throughout the campaign period.

One controller / observer (sworn inspector before the competent authority, law 01-11 in its articles 60 and 61) relevant of the Fisheries Administration is embarked onboard each of the tuna purse seine vessels throughout the fishing season (100% coverage) (articles 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 of the Order of 24 February 2022). The controllers / observers are responsible for monitoring fishing, transfer operations and verifying information and data on the fishing campaign. They will ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. In the event of an infringement, a report is immediately sent to the fisheries administration.

Each controller / observer is required to produce campaign reports at the end of the campaign and daily reports are transmitted to the monitoring unit campaign and monitoring at the level of the central administration (article 24 of the Order of 24 February 2022).

The objective of these reenforced tasks assigned to the controller observers of the fisheries administration is to strengthen monitoring and control of fishing and transfer operations and to ensure compliance with the national regulation and relevant ICCAT requirements in this regard. The controller observers (official inspectors) on board tuna purse seine vessels and on the ground, will guarantee, in accordance with article 18 of the Order of 24 February 2022, in particular:

- carrying out the departure inspection of tuna vessels before the start of the campaign to verify fishing methods;
- carrying out controls at landing ports in addition to the control by the national coast guard service;

- controlling the tuna vessels on landing;
- daily control of the logbook;
- controlling operation of the positioning beacon (VMS);
- monitoring bluefin fishing and transfer operations;
- controlling compliance of information recorded in the logbook;
- controlling bluefin tuna transfer documents following each transfer;
- analysing transfer videos and preparing reports and related documents;
- controlling the content of storage spaces and cold-storage rooms;
- preparing reports on non-compliances and infringements observed.

The controllers / observers will remain in constant contact with the fisheries administration and communicate all information on fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, in accordance with articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Order of 24 February 2022, for the purposes of monitoring, the tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a VMS beacon which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and must start 5 days before the authorisation period and will continue 5 days after the fishing campaign. The polling rate will be every hour in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT Recommendation. A central unit is responsible for monitoring tuna purse seine vessels by VMS.

With regard to landing ports, tuna vessels flying the national flag are authorised to land bluefin tuna caught during the fishing campaign in the authorised ports only. An inspection of products to be landed by tuna purse seine vessels that have participated in the bluefin tuna fishing season, and all the onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant State institutions (Fisheries and Coast Guard). It is prohibited for foreign vessels to land bluefin tuna.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Algeria does not foresee participating in joint international inspection in 2024, and will implement alternative measures, in accordance with paragraph 231 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, to ensure monitoring and control, i.e.

(i) Control and inspection at the start to the bluefin tuna fishing season

All tuna purse seiners are subject to inspections for the purpose of controlling fishing equipment, the relevant documents, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag (Article 9 and annexes 2, 4 and 5).

(ii) Pre-departure control for bluefin tuna fishing:

All tuna seiners are subject to pre-departure inspections, in accordance with Order of 24 February 2022 establishing the terms and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag (Article 23 and Annex 6).

(iii) Control and monitoring during the fishing season

Permanent sworn inspectors of the fisheries administration, are embarked onboard each tuna purse seiner, throughout the authorised bluefin tuna fishing period. Therefore, 100% coverage of tuna purse seiners is ensured, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

These national inspectors, duly qualified to ensure application and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, have been strengthened by broadening of their prerogatives and missions, in terms of monitoring and control, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag (refer to page 1 of this fishing plan).

(iv) Coordination of monitoring and control

A unit responsible for monitoring and control, has been established by a Ministerial Decision. This unit carries out coordination with controller observers embarked onboard all the tuna purse seiners and constantly receives relevant information from the controller observers onboard all the purse seiners, in accordance with the Ministerial Order of 24 February 2022 which establishes the conditions and methods for bluefin tuna fishing by vessels flying the national flag.

(v) Use of VMS

Two authorities monitor the use of VMS data: the National Coast Guard Service and the ministerial unit referred to in point (iv). If failures are registered by the VMS onboard the vessels, the controller observers will transmit the positions regularly, in addition to the masters.

(vi) Control and inspection on return of tuna purse seiners to ports of landing

On return, all tuna purse seiners undergo an inspection in the designated ports by two control bodies i.e. the National Coast Guard Service and the fisheries inspectors. In addition, landing of bluefin tuna is only authorised in the ports designated for this purpose.

(vii) Cross-checking of monitoring and control data and enquiries

The information transmitted by the national controller observers, the monitoring unit, VMS are used to monitor and control fishing operations during the fishing season.

In addition to this, and on the return of the tuna vessels, all the reports submitted by the masters and the controller observers, as well as the documents are used, for the purpose of cross-checking the data and potentially improving the control for future fishing seasons.

(viii) Strengthening of legislation and regulations promoting compliance with ICCAT requirements

The provisions contained in Law 15-08 amending and supplementing Law 01-11, which regulates fishing in Algeria, through strengthening of sanctions and penalties, aim to ensure compliance by tuna purse seiners, with strict implementation of the relevant ICCAT provisions.

Moreover, articles 54, 55, and 56 of the Order of 24 February 2022 set out penalties in case of infringements of the provisions of the ICCAT management measures, which have been duly observed.

It should be noted that during recent bluefin tuna fishing campaigns, these measures were very satisfying as regards compliance.

A training and capacity-building session is organized for all observers. A guide to monitoring, control and inspection procedures is developed and submitted to these agents to harmonize their actions.

5. Others

Not applicable.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	2		0	0	0	0	0	141,4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	3	8	12	30	34	37		149,34	398,24	597,36	1493,4	1692,52	1841,86
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	0	2	1	1	1		33,68	33,68	67,36	33,68	33,68	33,68
Purse seine total fleet		4	8	14	31	35	40		183,02	398,24	664,72	1527,08	1726,2	2016,94
Longliner over 40m	25	15	0	0	0	0	0		375	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	1	1	1	0	0	0		5,68	5,68	5,68	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	1	0	0	0	0		5	5	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		17	2	1	0	0	0		385,68	10,68	5,68	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		21	10	15	31	35	40		568,70	408,92	664,72	1527,08	1726,2	2016,94
Quota			0%	0%					1700	1460,04	1260	1655	2023	2023
Percentage allocated to bycatch				0.46%	0.30%	0.24%	0.24%		0	0	6	5	5	5
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									1700	1460,04	1300,0	1650	2018	2041
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)			0						0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity									-1131,3	-1051,12	-629,60	-117,92	-291,8	-24,06

Name of CPC: China

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

According to Recommendation 22-08, China was allocated 112 metric tons BFT in 2024 fishing season. China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels to conduct BFT fishing activities seasonally in the eastern Atlantic the same as the past several years.

The Fisheries Law (issued by the National Congress) and the Regulation on Management of Distant Water fisheries (issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, serial No. 2020-2) are the main national legislation to manage Chinese distant water fishing vessels to conduct fishing activities on the high seas. In addition, Fisheries authority of China also issued the Regulation on VMS Management (issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, serial No. Nongyufa 2019-22) and Regulation on the Implementation Guidance on the Management of National Observer Program in Distant Water Fisheries (issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, serial No. Nongbanyu 2016-72) which respectively specify the stipulation of VMS and observer on China’s distant water fishing vessels. Besides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs updated the ministerial-level document, namely Notification on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs (issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, serial No. Nongbanyu 2022-1) which entered into force from March of 2022, include the main requirement contained in the ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, such as the minimum size, observer coverage, VMS requirement, logbook requirement, fishing season and designated transshipment/landing port requirement and so on.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

In 2023, the adjusted quota of China is 117.1 t while the harvested amount is 115.8 t. The gap is 1.3 t. China would like to carry over of underharvest from 2023. The carryover amount is 1.3 t (117.1 t - 115.8 t = 1.3 t, 117.1 t is the adjusted quota and 115.8 t is the harvested amount).

1 c) Destination of catch

The fish will be landed.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	We distribute to every Chinese fishing vessel operating on the high seas the standardized logbook (both paper and electronic) and ask the master to fill it on time and accurately, the BFT must be landed or transhipped at the designated port. The fishing vessel owner must report daily/weekly/monthly catch. We will issue the warning notice when the quota	1.Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Adopted by Tuna RFMOs For example, Section 2, Logbook: Each tuna fishing vessel must file in the logbook and record truly all the	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		approaches 80% and 90% respectively of the total. When the quota is exhausted, we will ask the fishing vessels to stop operation and leave the fishing ground immediately, then we report the closure to Secretariat at once.	catches including marine mammals. The bluefin tuna company must report its catches to the China Overseas Fisheries Association daily/weekly/monthly	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Usually, our vessels will start to fish at the end of September on eastern Atlantic until the quotas were exhausted. But usually before the end of the year given the very few limited quotas.	1.Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and management Measures adopted by Tuna RFMOs For example, Section 4: Fishing area and gear limitation and prohibition: the fishing seasons and fishing area in the Atlantic Ocean shall be from 1 August to 31 January next year, in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Through the observer program and logbook as well as the daily/weekly/monthly catch report we could monitor the Minimum size, any catch under the minimum size must be released and recorded. We set the minimum size limit which is corresponding to Rec. 22-08, prohibit to catch, retain, tranship, land and sell BFT less than 30kg or 115cm, the maximum of 5% tolerance is	1.Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna RFMOs For example, Section	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		authorized. Discarded catch is also counted against our quotas.	5: Vessels targeting BFT in the Atlantic Ocean must follow the minimum size requirement.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Bycatch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels. Any vessels other than BFT fishing vessels are prohibited to catch, retain and tranship BFT. Any BFT caught by other vessels are not issued eBCD. All the by-catch must be discarded. These discarded BFT will be counted against China's BFT quota and these data will be reported to ICCAT. China did not have bycatch in the recent years. However, we still allocate 0.5 t for such kind of discard bycatch.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management, which stipulated that tuna fishing vessel is obliged to receive national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs. For example, Section 3: Fishing quota: tuna fishing vessel is not allowed to catch if no quota is allocated.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessel shall only tranship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Transshipment at sea is not allowed for BFT fishing vessel.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs. For example: Section 7: transshipment: tuna Longline fishing vessels targeting	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
			Atlantic BFT is only allowed to conduct transshipment and/or landing at the designated port in accordance with relevant ICCAT requirement.	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	The VMS could be reported to the Secretariat directly as required and we will also poll the vessel position from our VMS platform. From our platform we could daily monitor and poll 24 positions, once per hour, which is higher than ICCAT requirement.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on Management of VMS, which stipulates vessels must report their position once every hour. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Usually, we will implement 50% observer coverage which is higher than 20% for longliners stipulated in the Rec. 22-08.	1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation Guidance on the Management of National Observer, which stipulates that tuna fishing vessels are obliged to receive national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements. 3. Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by Tuna-RFMOs.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	
10	Domestic legislation	China has transposed Recommendations to domestic law and relevant legislation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulation on Management of Distant Water Fisheries 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management. 3. Regulation on Management of VMS Notification issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Complying with Conservation and Management Adopted by Tuna RFMOs	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Each BFT will have a tag with a unique number.	Based on Fisheries Law of China, Chinese fishery competent authority has notified relevant company of such ICCAT requirement on BFT.	

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

Only the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends to use port of Dakar in Senegal, Mindelo in Cabo Verde and Las Palmas in Spain. The vessels are required to follow the regulation set by the port CPC.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

Please see the attachment.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

Not applicable as China has no BFT farming.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

The control competent authority is Bureau of Fisheries from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The list of contact points is as follows.

LI Le, Director, bofdwf@126.com
FANG Lianyong, Officer, fanglianyong@cofa.net.cn

China will dispatch two fishing vessels to catch BFT and they are longliners. Both vessels will be allocated to 56.4 metric tons, each vessel hold one half of the 112.8 t (initial quota 112 t + carry-over 1.3 t – allocated discard 0.5 t = 112.8 t).

It is relatively simple to monitor and respect the quotas since only two fishing vessels share the limited quotas and they belong to one company, we could manage the quotas through the following ways:

Observer program: We usually implement 50% observer coverage for BFT fishing vessels which is much higher than the requirement in Rec. 22-08. The observer must be familiar with the BFT recommendation and will daily record the accurate weight and number of BFT, including the weight for round fish and GG weight.

Catch report: We have daily\weekly\monthly BFT catch reports and we could cross-check the catch. The fishing vessel owner will be notified when 80% and 90% of the catch is reached, and the BFT fishing vessel must cease to fish and immediately leave the fishing ground when the quota is exhausted.

Logbook: the fishing vessel master must strictly and accurately fill in the logbook (both paper and electronic version), including any other bycatch and incidental catch.

Landing\transshipment: only the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends to use port of Dakar in Senegal, Mindelo in Cabo Verde and Las Palmas in Spain. The vessels are required to follow the regulation set by the port CPC

VMS requirement: we could monitor these vessels through our VMS platform and their positions could be polled whenever we need.

Catch documentation: using the catch documentation system to check the quotas.

BFT bycatch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT. Our BFT fishing area is delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, and no fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea which means no by-catch and small-scale BFT. However, we reserved 0.5 t for discarded catch just in case.

Training program: each year we hold a training program for the fishing vessel owners and vessel masters, interpret the relevant recommendations and the main requirement, meanwhile, the Rec. 22-08 was translated into Chinese and distribute to them for their better understanding and learning.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Not applicable as China has only two BFT fishing vessels.

5. Others

Not applicable as China has no such research projects.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Refyears</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Refyears</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78													
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68													
Purse seine total fleet														
Longliner over 40m	25	4	4	2	2	2	2		100	100	50	50	50	50
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet		4	4	2	2	2	2		100	100	50	50	50	50
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10													
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5													
Total fleet/fishing capacity		4	4	2	2	2	2		100	100	50	50	50	50
Quota									74	63.55	79	102	112	112
Percentage allocated to bycatch												0.98% (1t)	0.446% (0.5t)	0.446% (0.5t)
Adjusted quota (if applicable)												101	116.6 (112-0.5+5.1)	112.8 (112-0.5+1.3)
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)														
Under/ overcapacity									26	36.4	-29	-51	-66.6	-62.8

Name of CPC: Egypt**Fishing Plan Year: 2024****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps****1 a) Overview (para 12)**

According to the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT during the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission which was held hybrid in Vale do Lobo, Portugal from 13-21 November 2022, the allocated quota for Egypt for the 2024 fishing season is (513 t) In accordance with para 37 (Rec. 22-08), the adjusted quota will be (507.87 t) on the basis of 1% bycatch allocation. The Egyptian fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea are “SAFINAT NOOH” under ICCAT registration number AT000EGY00010 and national registration number 4274 in the port of Alexandria and “GOLOVIK” under ICCAT registration number AT000EGY00020 national registration number 5365 in the port of Alexandria. Egypt specifies an amount of (67.08 t) for “SAFINAT NOOH” and an amount of (440.79 t) for “GOLOVIK” as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1

<i>Vessel's Name</i>	<i>ICCAT Number</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
Safinat Nooh	AT000EGY00010	67.08
Golovik	AT000EGY00020	440.79

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) is the competent authority in Egypt which entitled to enforce fishing law (Law 146/2021). LFRPDA will license purse seine vessels equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis to catch BFT for the 2024 fishing season which starts from 15 May 2024 to 1 July 2024, in accordance with ICCAT ([Rec. 22-08](#)).

In the case of non-compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the bluefin tuna fishery for the next season, and in case of repetition of non-compliance, this vessel will be banned from the bluefin tuna fisheries.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

Egypt has no carry over of underharvest from 2023.

1 c) Destination of catch

Fish will be destined for caging.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The master of the catching vessels records all information in the bound logbooks including the dead fish (retained or discarded) that will be counted against the quota. According to the requirements set in (Rec. 22-08), to be submitted to LFRPDA for verification using available inspection reports, regional and national observers'	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (8)	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		reports, in addition to recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations.		
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>The authorized period for fishing bluefin is from 15 May 2024-1 July 2024. In accordance with paragraph 28 of Recommendation 22-08, Egypt may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing season may be extended up to 10 days based on operators' request, due to bad weather conditions.</p> <p>Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by LFRPDA once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.</p> <p>No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.</p>	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (3)	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by the relevant ICCAT (Rec. 22-08) shall be strictly implemented.</p> <p>National observer / inspector on board shall ensure the full commitment of the minimum size in accordance with the relevant ICCAT Rec. 22-08 during the season.</p> <p>Regulations prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm.</p>	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (4)	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>Incidental catch of max. 5% of BFT weighting (8 to 30 kg) or fork length 75 to 115 cm may be authorized.</p> <p>All live undersized BFT must be released into the sea and dead BFT should be reported and deducted from the quota.</p>		
4	<p>Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)</p>	<p>Egypt allocated a specific quota for BFT bycatch, 1% of the total allowable quota yearly, on the basis that there was not any bycatch recorded in 2023. 1% of total allowable quota (5.13 t) will be set aside for by catch.</p> <p>All bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip. Those quantities as bycatches shall be calculated in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).</p> <p>Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are monitored by our national inspectors in landing ports to count any bycatches of BFT (if any) in order to ensure implementation of ICCAT (Rec. 22-08).</p> <p>All our inspectors in landing ports have been instructed to monitor and report any bycatch of BFT throughout the year.</p> <p>Egypt does not have any discards for bluefin tuna, as most of the purse seiners in Egypt are less than 24 m vessels working in our near shore so there is no chance to catch bluefin tuna (BFT); only the authorized vessels targeting the BFT are allowed to work in deep water to catch BFT.</p>	<p>Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (5)</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>Moreover, Egypt in collaboration with FAO (EastMed-project) conducted a study to assess the discards in the Mediterranean, the study showed that the percentage of discards for purse seiners is less than 2% and there was no record for BFT in the report.</p> <p>Egypt shall submit its bycatch report by the end of the year declaring all BFT bycatches (if any) which must be deducted from the specified bycatch quota of the year.</p> <p>The amount of bycatch discarded whether alive or dead in status should be reported to LFRPDA immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT.</p> <p>All quantities of BFT bycatch shall be landed only at the designated ports</p>		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No coastal recreational, sport fisheries are allowed.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (6)	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (12)	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	All authorized BFT vessels fishing actively in the 2024 fishing season, shall be equipped with a fulltime operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) on board, as required by LFRPDA, to be transmitted every 1 hour as minimum requirement.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (16)	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	One of national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and ensuring the	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022, Article (14)	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and LFRPDA resolutions. The permanent observer in port is assigned to follow up the landed catches (if any) and reviewing the on board observers reports.		
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	All BFT vessels, fishing actively in 2024 fishing season have to be covered (100%) by two observers (one national observer and one ICCAT ROP Observer).		
10	Domestic legislation	Egypt has issued Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022 on a multiannual conservation and management plan for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, to transpose ICCAT recommendation to its domestic law.	Resolution Number (121) for the year 2022.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Egypt is not involved in the tagging programme.		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

The designated ports for BFT landing reported in CP24 form are Alexandria port platform, Abo-Qir fishing port platform, El-Meadia fishing port platform and Elsharky Port Alexandria platform as shown in **Table 2**.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

LFRPDA will allocate to each P.S. an individual quota and it will ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota according to Recommendation 22-08.

The Egyptian fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea are “SAFINAT NOOH” under ICCAT registration number AT000EGY00010 and national registration number 4274 in the port of Alexandria and “GOLOVIK” under ICCAT registration number AT000EGY00020 national registration number 5,365 in the port of Alexandria. Egypt specifies an amount of (67.08 t) for “SAFINAT NOOH” and an amount of (440.79 t) for “GOLOVIK”.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

No farming activities will take place in 2024.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) is the management competent authority which ensures that the monitoring, control, and inspection plan comply with the provisions of Rec. 22-08.

The contact points nominated from LFRPDA as responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are Dr Doaa Hammam (International Cooperation Administration, gafred_eg@hotmail.com/doahammam01@gmail.com) and Eng. Abdelrazek Mohamed (Fisheries Administration, abdelrazek.mohamed004@gmail.com).

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2024 bluefin tuna fishing season by LFRPDA's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e., fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any. The national observer covers all fishing activities throughout the entire fishing period.

All catching vessels are crosschecked as they maintain and submit daily information from bound logbooks by electronic or any other effective means to LFRPDA and in case of landing, all landed catches are weighed and are inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort by national inspectors.

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to be transmitted every 1 hour as minimum requirement. LFRPDA submit weekly reports including information such as date, time, location (latitude, longitude), weight and number of BFT caught in the area covered by the plan, including releases and discards of dead fish.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Egypt has not been involved in an international inspection plan up till now.

5. Others

A scientific observer program for bluefin and swordfish catching vessels was prepared by LFRPDA in collaboration with NIOF for collecting data of tuna bycatch from the Egyptian Mediterranean coast to be conducted as bycatch is a major issue for the fishing industry, and it is important to understand the impact of bycatch on tuna populations to ensure sustainable fishing practices. This data collection will provide valuable information that can be used to inform management decisions and improve the sustainability of tuna fisheries in the region.

The proposed data collection will involve collecting information on tuna bycatch from commercial fishing operations along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast. Data will be collected through interviews with fishermen, observation of fishing activities, and analysis of catch records. The data collected will include species composition, size distribution, catch location, and other relevant information. In addition, samples of fish caught in each area will be taken for further analysis whenever possible.

The data collected will provide valuable insights into the impact of bycatch on tuna populations in the region. This information can then be used to inform management decisions and ensure that sustainable fishing practices are being implemented. The results can also be used to educate fishermen about the importance of reducing bycatch and help them develop better fishing practices that minimize its impact on tuna populations.

However, due to financial aspects we could not conduct that program. In this regard Egypt submitted a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to express its interest in ICCAT's assistance to be involved in Phase II of the ABNJ Tuna Project.

Table 2

<i>Port</i>	<i>Species</i>
Izbet El Borg	SWO & ALB
Rashid	SWO & ALB
Elmadia	BFT & SWO & ALB
ABO QIR	BFT & SWO & ALB
Elsharky Port Alexandria	BFT & SWO & ALB
Port Said Port	BFT & SWO & ALB

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0						0	0				
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	1	3	2	2		0	0	49.78	149.34	99.56	99.56
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	1	3	2	2		0	0	49.78	149.34	99.56	99.56
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0						0	0				
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0						0	0				
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0						0	0				
Total longline fleet		0	0						0	0				
Baitboat	19.8	0	0						0	0				
Handline	5	0	0						0	0				
Trawler	10	0	0						0	0				
Trap	130	0	0						0	0				
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A	0	0						0	0				
Other (please specify)	5	0	0						0	0				
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	1	3	2	2		0	0	49.78	149.34	99.56	99.56
Quota		0	0						0	0	181	330	513	513
Percentage allocated to bycatch		0	0		1%	1%	1%		0	0	1%	1%	1%	1%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		0	0						0	0	326.7	507.87	507.87 ¹	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity		0	0						0	0	-131.22	-177.36	-408.31	-408.31

(1) 5.13 ton is set aside for bycatch.

Name of CPC: European Union (EU)**Fishing Plan Year: 2024****Introduction**

The European Union (EU) hereby provides its Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management plans and its Farming Management plan for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) for 2024.

The eight EU Member States actively fishing Bluefin tuna are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors. However, significant catches are also made by longline vessels and more artisanal sectors, such as the bait-boats, handlines and pelagic trawlers, in both the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. These eight EU Member States also cooperate in the implementation of a BFT Joint Deployment Plan of inspections, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The EU adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 on 6 April 2009 transposing into EU law ICCAT Recommendation 08-05 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following the adoption at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris the ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 amending ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the EU amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 into EU law. In 2014, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 544/2014 transposing the amendments to the recovery plan, as set out in the ICCAT Recommendation 13-07. Finally, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, as replaced by Recommendation 17-07. Regulation (EU) 2019/833¹ partially transposed Recommendation 18-02, as replaced by Recommendation 19-04. In 2023, the EU concluded the transposition of the Recommendation 21-08. The latest provisions as set out in the ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, are in the process of being transposed with planned date for publication and enter into force by early April of 2024.

In the meantime, and pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, international agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the Union and on its Member States. In these circumstances, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, and in particular Recommendation 22-08 and, in particular, when the rules thereby implemented result in more stringent measures than the ones implemented via Regulation (EU) 2023/2053. Furthermore, the EU has decided to implement Recommendation 23-06 and Recommendation 23-08 as of 1 of January 2024 in EU. The European Commission informed the ICCAT Secretariat about this implementation.

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps**1 a) Overview (para 12)**

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided for under Recommendation 22-08, the quota for the EU in 2024 will be 21,503 t. The EU has drawn up the annual Fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 meters and their associated individual quotas. All purse seine vessels over 24 meters are allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SCRS catch rates as adopted by the ICCAT Commission for estimating fleet capacity.

The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other vessels' and will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2024 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of the Rec. 22-08.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 2115/2005 and (EC) No. 1386/2007 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/833).

The EU has allocated quotas² to the following sectors:

Fishing plan	2024	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Fleet (Nbr vessels)</i>	<i>Quota allocated (t)</i>
Purse seiner over 40m	31	6,860.55
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	35	4,593.42
Purse seiners less than 24m	5	231.10
Total Purse Seine Fleet	71	11,685.07
Longliner over 40m	0	0.00
Longliner between 24 and 40m	27	64.82
Longliner less than 24m	154	1,760.57
Total Longline Fleet	181	1,825.39
Baitboat	74	1,621.00
Handline	168	40.69
Trawler	56	432.60
Trap	13	2,499.90
Small scale	153	463.00
Other	1,255	2,096.25
Total	1,971	20,663.90
Quota		21,503.00
Recreational		122.68
Bycatch reserve		507.45
Contingency		36.63

The EU hereby submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all bluefin tuna fisheries and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation concerning the management of EBFT fisheries, including Recommendations 22-08, 10-11, 21-19, 22-16 and 23-21.

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. 22-08 as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08, the EU requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2023 quota to 2024.

In 2023, the underharvest for the EU was of 1,576.7 t, which is more than the maximum allowed 5% provided in Rec. 22-08. Therefore, the EU could carry over 1,075.15 t to 2024, 5% of the EU quota for 2023 (21,503.0 t). The decision to make effective this transfer as well as the exact quantities will be communicated at a later stage.

² The EU fishing plan shows the number and length category of vessels that will be authorized by EU in 2024 and the quota allocated to them.

1 c) Destination of catch

The EU catches will be destined to landing and farming according to the following (*preliminary estimated*) percentages:

- Farming: 58%
- Landing: 42%

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p>Purse seine vessels, vessels over 24 meters and traps shall send daily reports to their flag Member State administration. Weekly reports for all vessels are sent by Member States to the European Commission, which transmits them to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p> <p>In 2024, all vessels authorized to fish for BFT independently of the length shall record their catches in a logbook.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 ³ Section 2 Article "Recording Requirements" and Section 4 "Reporting Obligations".	<p>All catch reports are recorded at EU level, and cross-checked with authorizations, individual quotas, national quotas and JFO quotas (when relevant).</p> <p>In accordance with Art. 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009⁴ all EU fishing vessels above 10 m have to be equipped with a bound logbook with chronologically numbered pages. For fishing vessels over 12m, an electronic logbook is required.</p> <p>In accordance with Art. 109 of the above-mentioned Regulation. Member States must cross-check and validate the information reported by the operators in the following documents and data sources: fishing logbook, landing declaration, transhipment declaration, prior notification; take-over declarations, transport documents and sales notes;</p>

³ Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No. 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627.

⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				fishing licences and fishing authorisations; vessel monitoring system data; inspection reports. Additional requirements set up by ICCAT are covered by Art. 31 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No. 2023/2053.
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>The fishing seasons applicable to the EU fleets in all Member States concerned are in line with the seasons established by ICCAT Rec. 22-08. Art 17 Regulation (EU) No 2023/2053 transpose them into EU law.</p> <p>For 2024, ICCAT Rec. 23-08 derogates the end of the season for purse seiners to the end of September in the Cantabrian Sea under the remit of the pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) in the Cantabrian Sea.</p> <p>According to Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as the BFT quota is exhausted.</p> <p>In addition, under Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, Member States shall inform the Commission when the BFT quota allocated to a gear group referred to in Article 11 or Article 11 of this Regulation or to a JFO or to a purse seiner is deemed to be exhausted.</p> <p>A special reporting and alert system are in place to verify at EU level the quota used in each Member State for each fleet.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 Chapter III "Technical measures", section 1 "Fishing seasons", Article 17 and Annex I "Longliners, purse seiners, pelagic trawlers, traps and sport and recreational fisheries" and "Baitboats and trolling boats".	<p>According to provisions in Recommendation 22-08, fishing seasons will be as follows:</p> <p>Fishing season for purse seine vessels will be from 26 May to 1 July.</p> <p>By derogation, the fishing season for purse seiner will be extended until 15 July in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>By derogation, the fishing season for purse seiner will be extended until 30 September in the Cantabrian Sea.</p> <p>Within the EUs Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the verification of the respect of the fishing seasons.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 29 of Recommendation 22-08, EU may extend its fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of 10 days in case of wind speeds reaching 5 or</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>Compliance with this measure is mainly verified by the Fishing Monitoring Centres (FMC) of the Member States which all operate 24/7. These FMCs have delimited authorised zones and periods, and automatic alarms are triggered in case of vessels in an unauthorised zone or period.</p> <p>In addition, the EU deploys a significant number of patrol vessels and air assets each year during the BFT fishing season. There are protocols for the managing of sighting reports.</p>		<p>more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs, evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessel members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>According to Art. 20 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, incidental catches of a maximum 5 % of Bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length between 75 and 115 cm are allowed for all catching vessels and traps fishing actively for Bluefin tuna. These catches are subject to logbook entry, designated port and prior arrival notification requirements, and shall be deducted from the quota.</p> <p>Art. 15 of Regulation EU No 1380/2013⁵ establishes a general landing obligation across the EU. Where a derogation to this Regulation is granted in accordance with Article 15.2 and in line with international obligations, this is provided for by</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, bycatch", Article 19 "Minimum conservation reference size" Article 20 "Incidental catches" and Annex I of the same Regulation "specific conditions applicable to the fisheries referred to in Article 19(2).</p>	<p>For the implementation of the derogation to the Minimum size set up by Article 19(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257⁷ of 27 January 2024 and Annex VI, sets fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations for BFT by fixing yearly the number of vessels per Member State concerned, including the maximum number of vessels allowed to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as in the Adriatic for farming purposes.</p>

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy.

⁷ Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98⁶.</p> <p>This measure is enforced through inspections at sea, inspections at landing and controls during transportation and at markets.</p>		<p>Compliance with capacity limitation provisions is monitored in the context of the Joint Deployment plan (JDP) (see 3.2.2.).</p> <p>A tolerance of a maximum of 7% weight for specimens with a minimum size of 6.4 or 66 cm caught for farming purposes by PS operating in the Adriatic Sea.</p>
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>In accordance with ICCAT measures, the EU deducts all dead fish caught as bycatch from its quota. As every year, for Member States without a quota, the EU reserves part of its quota in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259 of 10 January 2024.</p> <p>A quota of 507 t allocated to bycatch has been included in the EU fishing plan provided to ICCAT. This same quota might be adjusted over the year in case of need.</p> <p>Compliance with this measure is verified mainly through inspections at sea and inspections at landing.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 Chapter III "Technical measures", Article 19 "Minimum conservation reference size, Article 20 "Incidental catches below the minimum conservation reference size", incidental catch, bycatch", Article 21 "Bycatch".</p>	<p>A bycatch quota for accidental catches by EU Member States without a BFT quota is provided in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109 of 27 January 2022.</p> <p>Catching vessels not fishing actively bluefin tuna shall not retain on board bluefin tuna exceeding 20 % of the total catch by weight or number of specimens, compared to tuna and tuna-like species. For small-scale coastal vessels, the amount of bycatch may be calculated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Any bycatch in excess of the 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip shall be released alive whenever possible.</p>

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 of 18 November 2014 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, amended by Commission delegated Regulations (EU) 2016/171, (EU) 2017/1352, (EU) 2018/191 and (EU) 2019/2020.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				<p>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 regulates under which circumstances BFT may be released or discarded within the EU Regulation (EU) 404/2011⁸ provides that discards shall be recorded in the logbook.</p> <p>All bycatches discarded or retained on-board are counted against the quota.</p>
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	<p>Recreational and sport fisheries are managed in different ways across the EU from a total ban of these activities to a catch and release or a maximum catch per vessel and day. In any case, dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries are counted against the quota. In this regard, a quota has been allocated for sport and recreational fisheries in the 2024 fishing plan.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the context of its Joint Deployment Plan, the EU conducts a series of inspections targeting sport and recreational activities, based on minimum benchmarks established based on a risk assessment procedure. Finally, in addition to these common activities, each Member States also conducts programs of inspections, targeting sport and recreational fisheries. The MS programs are assessed through dedicated verification missions (on spot visits) and audits.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 Chapter IV "Recreational Fisheries", Article 23 "Sport and Recreational Fisheries", Article 24 "Specific conditions for recreational fisheries", Article 25. "Catch, tag and release".</p>	<p>Under Art. 24 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 each EU Member State is obliged to record catch data, including weight and length of each BFT caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate the data for the preceding year to the European Commission by 30 June of each year. The EU Commission forwards that information to the SCRS.</p> <p>According to Article 4(8) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98, the limit of one fish per vessel per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.</p>

⁸ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	<p>Transshipments at sea are prohibited.</p> <p>Land inspections in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan also cover transshipments.</p> <p>There are sparse if any BFT transshipments in EU ports. In case of a transshipment in Port, full inspection coverage is mandatory in case of transshipment and there is continuous monitoring of authorised transshipment places.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 Section 3 "Landings and transshipments", Article 35 "Transshipment".</p>	<p>Art. 35 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 prohibits all transshipments at sea in the Convention area. Fishing vessels can only tranship BFT catches in designated ports.</p>
7	VMS (paras 218-224/219-225)	<p>All vessels are continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will immediately be followed up with the Member State concerned.</p> <p>The software associated with VMS in the different Member States can set alarms and generating automatic warnings to monitor various aspects of interest. The VMS is monitored by the Fishing Monitoring Centres (FMC) of each of the Member States which are operational 24/7.</p> <p>EFCA also has its own system for monitoring vessel activity called IMS and its own FMC. The EFCA IMS is an operational fisheries control coordination tool using the integrated maritime data environment (Imdate) developed by the European Maritime Security Agency (EMSA). This tool provides a real-time maritime awareness operational picture fusing and correlating VMS, terrestrial automatic identification systems (AIS), satellite AIS,</p>	<p>According to EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Article 9 "Vessel Monitoring system", all EU vessels over 12 meters are equipped with a VMS. By Article 57 Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 this obligation was extended to all BFT tug and towing vessels irrespective of their length.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations by their vessels and, as appropriate, their nationals.</p>	<p>EU also follows the additional provisions set up ICCAT Recommendation 18-10.</p> <p>VMS messages from the fishing vessels flying their flag are forwarded to the European Commission at least once every one hour for purse seine vessels and once every two hours for other vessels.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, all towing vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna shall, irrespective of their length, install and operate a VMS, in accordance with Rec. 18-10, and transmit messages at least once every hour.</p> <p>A specific IT system is in place to ensure the implementation of this obligation at EU level.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>and long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) position reports together with visual sightings. The service provides a tool for behaviour analysis, risk assessment and classification of possible non-compliance targets to fisheries monitoring centres in Member States and drives the fisheries monitoring activity assessment and follow-up performed by the EFCA.</p> <p>Finally, the team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite VMS, monitors in real time the VMS submissions. To this end, a special IT system is in place.</p>		
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Masters of any fishing vessel holding a European licence for E-BFT pelagic trawler, long liner, baitboat and traps as well as masters of towing vessels receive national observers according to measures set up by Regulation (EU) 2023/2053.	Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 Section 5 "Observer programmes", Article 38 "National observer programme".	<p>Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 "National observer programme" establishes the minimum levels of national observer coverage and describes the tasks to be performed by national observers.</p> <p>The minimum national observer coverages in vessels other than purse seiners are established in accordance with para 95 of Rec. 22-08.</p> <p>EU Member States also ensure a representative temporal and spatial presence of national observers on their vessels and traps to ensure that the</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				European Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries. The implementation of these provisions is ensured through the Data Collection Framework. ⁹
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	The EU ensures 100% coverage of all purse seine vessels and for all caging and harvesting activities. As in previous years, replies to all the cases highlighted by ROs will be duly provided to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, Article 39 and Annex VIII "ICCAT Regional Observer Programme".	
10	Domestic legislation	The EU adopted in 2023: (1) Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 13 September 2023 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 22-08. (2) Regulation (EU) 2023/2833 ¹⁰ implementing Recommendations 18-13 and 21-19 on ICCAT bluefin documentation programme, introducing the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme, Recommendation 10-11 on an electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme (eBCD) and Recommendation 22-16		

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast).

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) 2023/2833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2023 establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 640/2010.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		on the application of the eBCD system. Regulation (EU) 2019/833 ¹¹ partially transposes Recommendation 18-02 replaced by Recommendation 19-04.		
11	Tagging programme	In accordance with ICCAT provisions, the use of tags is authorised only upon request and when the accumulated catch amounts are within Member States' quotas or catch limits for each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps. A summary of any tagging programs implemented by MS is sent to ICCAT.	Art. 6 of (EU) Reg. 2023/2833.	EU also follows the additional provisions set up at ICCAT level by para 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 21-18.
	Tagging programme (para 44)	Up to 175 ¹² port/recreational vessels will conduct catch-and-release activities in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes. The activity is expected to run from 1 July to mid-November in the areas around Ireland, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Sound (map in Annex 1). The objective of the project will be: 1) Migration patterns including possible return of individual tunas, 2) Detailed swimming and diving behaviour, 3) Movements over longer time including migration to spawning areas and,		Sport or recreational vessels intending to conduct catch-and-release activities from 1 July to mid-November, in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes shall be authorised. Fitting and operation of a simple VMS system will be a requirement of the authorisation. National Control Authorities would monitor the activities of these vessels both at sea and at landing to ensure compliance with National and EU Regulations.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/833).

¹² The number and period is subject to revision according to the level of funding and weather conditions.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>4) Origin of stock and physiological condition by means of tissue and blood samples of bluefin tunas.</p> <p>Researchers will report about their activities in accordance the provisions applicable for this in ICCAT. The data collection will be consistent with the ICCAT GBYP research programme, and will be communicated to and discussed with ICCAT as necessary.</p>		<p>Tagging will be operated by staff of Marine Institutes or by recreational fishing vessel operators. The method to collect data is to tag a number of bluefin tunas with different types of tags: pop-up satellite tags, acoustic tags, accelerometer tags, camera tags and ICCAT's ordinary tags (Floy tags). The tags are designed to collect a series of complementary data. Operators concerned will be trained in tagging.</p> <p>Any person authorised to target bluefin tuna in a catch-tag-release fishery shall not retain on board, tranship, transfer, tow, land, transport, store or sell bluefin tuna.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna caught alive shall not be removed from the sea but, if so, shall be carefully handled and returned alive to the waters from which it was taken.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that dies during capture must be recorded and discarded by returning immediately to the sea. The master of the vessel concerned shall immediately report to the flag authorities any discards of bluefin tuna in that trip.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
12	Intra-farm transfers, inter-farm transfers and random controls in farms (para 195-217)	<p>Traceability in farms is ensured in EU farms, including by way of sealing, with official seals provided by the authorities, of all cages containing BFT. Unsealing is possible in the presence of the farm competent authority. Transfers undertaken by the farm operators between farm cages of the same farm (“intra-farm transfer”) shall follow all the requirements of transfers as laid down in paragraph 196-199 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 and hence require the necessary completion in the eBCD system. The presence of control authorities and the video recording of the transfer is mandatory for such transfers.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 208 of ICCAT Rec. 22-08, random controls shall take place in farms between the time of completion of the caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other empty farm cage(s) in order that the number of bluefin tuna can be counted by way of control video record(s).</p> <p>The number of controls shall be decided by the farm Member State authorities on the basis of their risk assessment. Notwithstanding, the number of controls per year shall cover not less than either:</p>		<p>These elements are addressed in Joint Deployment Plan, in particular in Annex V of those Plans, which include harmonised procedures for all the EU.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>- 10% of the total number of cages in each farm under each farm MS jurisdiction, always involving at least one control/cage and, rounded up where needed, or,</p> <p>If required, following the outcome of the risk analysis, the percentages referred to above can be increased as necessary. Transfers require the necessary completion in the eBCD system. Differences in number of BFT as a result of the random controls shall be duly investigated following the procedures in Recommendation 22-08 and in the EU joint deployment plan (JDP) and recorded in the eBCD system. In the event that differences in number of BFT are found to be in excess, the farm MS farm control authorities shall order a release order for the corresponding amount(s).</p>		
13	Carry over estimations in farms (para 199)	<p>In accordance with the measures laid down in paras 200-206 of ICCAT Rec. 22-08, the following procedures shall be followed for the implementation of carry-over assessments:</p> <p>Prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner and trap fishing seasons, all fish remaining in cages shall be transferred to other empty farm cages in order that they can be counted and estimates of weight be taken by way of stereoscopic cameras.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>The live bluefin tuna carried over is placed in separate cages in the farm, on the basis of the catch year and JFO/same CPC trap of origin.</p> <p>Differences between the number of BFT individuals resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest is duly investigated and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm authority orders the release of the corresponding number of fish.</p> <p>The EU transmits to the ICCAT Secretariat the annual carry-over declaration in accordance with para 207 Rec. 22-08.</p>		
14	Sectorial quota (para 15a)	<p>A total sectorial quota is allocated to a group of small-scale vessels with special fishing authorisations, valid for a defined season going from one to four months. Quota allocated considers the extensions of the fishing period(s).</p> <p>The fleets and gear types under the small-scale category are very heterogeneous in the EU. Each EU Member State is responsible for the monitoring of its fleet, including quota uptake, according to the EU legislation control regulation¹³ in place and the national legislation.</p>		

¹³ Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		The quota uptake for these sectorial allocations is monitored following the national legislation.		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

Form CP24 has been submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat including the list of ports authorised in eleven EU Member States, including EU Member States which do not have BFT targeted fisheries, that allow for the landing of BFT bycatch (see **Annex 2**).

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

The EU Capacity management plan is included below.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

The farming management plan for the EU is detailed below.

Hereby, the EU reserves its right to submit, if appropriate, revised farming management plans to the Secretariat by 1 June 2024, in accordance to paragraph 20 of Recommendation 22-08 by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

	<i>Wild input (t) 2024</i>	<i>Capacity (t) 2024</i>
Spain	11,322.09	15,850.92
Italy	610	1,160.00
Croatia	3,225.10	7,880.00
Malta	12,295.00	17,213.00
Portugal	517.00	667.00
Total EU	27,969.19	42,770.92

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2024

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>	<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
Tuna Graso	ATEU1ESP00001	N 37°45,95' W 00°39,49'	2000	2800
Caladeros del Mediterraneo	ATEU1ESP00003	A:37°34'30.40"N 00°49'95.30"W B:37°34'06.60"N 00°50'11.40"W C:67°34'25.80"N 00°50'56.20"W D:37°34'49.60"N 00°50'40.10"W	2500	3500
Ensenada de Barbate	ATEU1ESP00004	36°09'13" N 5°55'45" W	1000	1400
Balfegó Tuna, S.L.	ATEU1ESP00005	A:40° 51,5'N 00° 51,0 'E B:40° 51,95'N 00° 51,17'E C:40° 51,57'N 00° 51,5'E D:40° 51,9'N 00° 51,61'E	3242,086	4538,92
Piscifactorias de Levante	ATEU1ESP00006	A:37°47'36.47"N 00°40'55.06"W B:37°47'35.98"N 00°40'30.55"W C:37°47'19.77"N 00°40'31.06"W D:37°47'20.26"N 00°40'55.57"W	1580	2212
Mediterraneo	ATEU1ESP00014	A: 37° 49',6 N 000° 40',7 W C: 37° 49',6 N 000° 40',4W B: 37° 49',0 N 000° 40',5 W D: 37° 49',0 N 000° 41',0 W"	1000	1400
Jadran Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00008	y 5540056,00 5540410,00 5539883,45 5540237,52 x 4854937,00 4854333,00 4854835,87 4854231,75	689.3	1843.1
Pelagos Net Farma D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00011	y 5521777,07 5522396,80 5522324,84 5521705,39 x 4865868,10 4865705,51 4865434,70 4865597,28	618	1652.4
Sardina D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00006	y 5620531 5620851,14 5620663,29 5620343,141 x 4795026,75 4794700 4794518,74 4794846,83	650	1738
Kali Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00012	y 5514248,71 5514346,2201 5514401,68 5514499,2376 5515214,66 5514694,4002 5515061,69 5514541,3353 5517392,279 5517553,927 5517303,667 5517142,018 5517801,279 5517962,927 5517712,667 5517551,018 5493440,00 5493498,70 5494068,42 5494006,73 5494273,27 5494331,97 x 4877864,54 4877750,5522 4877993,40 4877879,4528 4877043,84 4877651,5991 4876914,98 4877522,6578 4868049,255 4867931,485 4867587,981 4867705,751 4867662,255 4867544,485 4867200,981 4867318,751 4892040,00 4892120,96 4891710,08 4891629,12 4891535,88 4891516,84	695	1858.5

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2024

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>	<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
		5494898,70 5494840,00 5509116 5509264 5508712 5508860	4891105,96 4891025,00 4875654 4875520 4875211 4875076	
MFF	ATEU1MLT00004	35.8785 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6430 (E)	2500	3500
Ta Mattew	ATEU1MLT00007	35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E)	500	700
Fish & Fish	ATEUMLT00003	35.8640 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8495 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6430 (E)	2970	4158
Mare Blu	ATEUMLT00008	35.8930 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E)	3000	4200
MML	ATEUMLT00002	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1720	2408
AJD	ATEUMLT00001	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1605	2247
Tuniraise	ATEU1PRT00002	N 37° 01.006' W 07° 42.615' N 37° 00.975' W 07° 42.607' N 37° 01.048' W 07° 42.500' N 37° 01.024' W 07° 42.485'	310	400
Barril	ATEU1PRT00003	Latitude N 37°02'21.4"; Longitude W 07°39'51.4"	207	267
Soc. Cooperativa Pescatori Cala Bianca*	ATEU1ITA00006	PUNTO 1: LAT: 39°57,903' N LONG: 15°21,295' E PUNTO 2: LAT: 39°57,903' N LONG: 15°21,045' E PUNTO 3: LAT: 39°58,000' N LONG: 15°21,295' E PUNTO 4: LAT: 39°58,000' N LONG: 15°21,045' E	0	0

<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>ICCAT FFB</i>	<i>Geographical coordinates</i>	<i>Wild Input (t)</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
La Favorita Snc.	ATEU1ITA00015	PUNTO 1: LAT: 40°47'10.2209" N LONG: 14°19'57.2993" E PUNTO 2: LAT: 40°47'14.7861" N LONG: 14°20'03.9480" E PUNTO 3: LAT: 40°47'19.8395" N LONG: 14°19'57.9417" E PUNTO 4: LAT: 40°47'15.2744" N LONG: 14°19'51.2930" E	500	1000
Tonnare Sulcitane S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00021	PUNTO 1: LAT: 39°16'45,90" N LONG: 008°20'48,00" E PUNTO 2: LAT: 39°16'51,62" N LONG: 008°20'52,35" E PUNTO 3: LAT: 39°16'55,20" N LONG: 008°20'44,40" E PUNTO 4: LAT: 39°16'49,60" N LONG: 008°20'39,90" E	110	160

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the EU Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States' law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under 4.2 below.

4.1.1 Evaluation of the implementation by the Member States of the fisheries rules in force

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy, one of the tasks of the European Commission is to ensure that Member States comply with the legal obligations set out in the EU framework, including those stemming from ICCAT rules.

The European Commission carries out this monitoring mainly by means of three tools: verifications, autonomous inspections and audits. A specific unit in the Directorate of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) carries out these checks on a regular basis. This supervision by the European Commission of the control activity exercised by the member states, which is provided for in the Title X, Regulation 1224/2009 amended by, "Evaluation and Control by the Commission", is an additional layer that helps to ensure effective control. In this regard, if the European Commission considers that irregularities have occurred in the implementation of the rules, it follows up on the shortcomings found using different tools such as administrative inquiries, EU pilots or actions plans. If the deficiencies are not corrected by the Member State authorities, the European Commission may open infringement proceedings against the member state. Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2024 fishing campaign, the European Commission inspectors will be very active in 2024.

4.1.2 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor in real time the VMS submissions and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

The ICCAT Scheme of joint international inspection as laid down by paras 229-232 and Annex 7 of Rec. 22-08 will be fully implemented by the EU and coordinated by EFCA. EFCA will also coordinate any agreed voluntary exchange of inspection personnel with other CPCs in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 19-17.

4.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)¹⁴ to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna management and swordfish recovery plans. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fishery.

4.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes a strategy for control of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, as well as Mediterranean swordfish and albacore. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land, traps and farms.

EFCA also coordinates the implementation of the joint international scheme of inspection (JIS) for bluefin tuna and swordfish as provided for under ICCAT conservation and management measures. Joint campaigns are planned, implemented and evaluated each year under the framework of the Mediterranean JDP in close cooperation with the European Commission, the Member State concerned and the EFCA.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2024 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. EFCA also has three of its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessels as well as an aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2024 JDP will be the eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to purse seiners, towing vessels, longliners and farming activities. In 2024, the EU will conduct a minimum of 306 days of control and inspection activities at sea and 47 overall flights of air surveillance.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the IMS (Integrated Maritime System) service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data.

¹⁴ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries.

Finally, the EFCA also promote operational cooperation with other ICCAT Contracting Parties such as the exchange of inspectors and training activities, as well as training workshops when requested to ensure a common interpretation and the full implementation of inspection and control measures provided for by the ICCAT.

4.2.3 Member States annual Inspection plans

Under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2022 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control Action programme for bluefin tuna. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategies that Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation 22-08. In line with Recommendation 22-08, the EU authorities will control 100% of caging operations, harvesting to processing vessels, intra-farm transfers and carry-over as well as to establish a level of random controls (with a minimum of 10% of the number of cages in each farm) based on risk assessment to ensure proper reporting and traceability of bluefin tuna in farms.

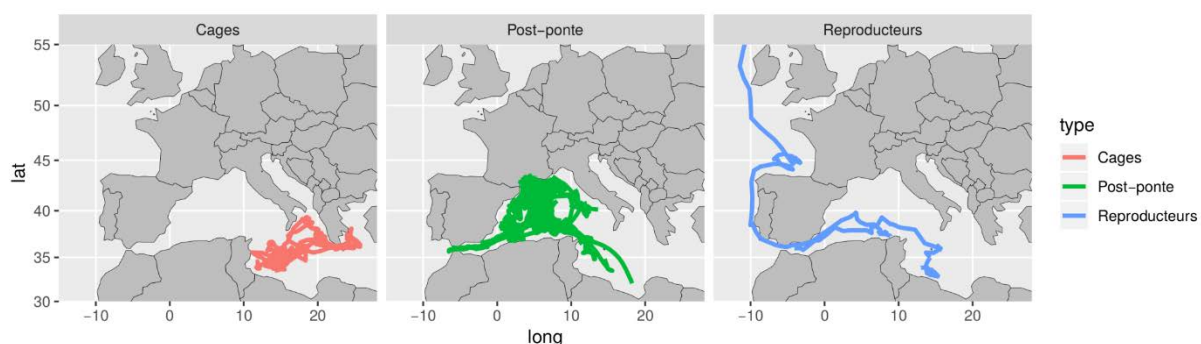
5. Others

a) Research activities

Two main research activities are carried out by Ifremer on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

The first activity is the aerial survey in the Gulf of Lions. This activity has been initiated in 2000 and provides a key fisheries-independent abundance index for young Bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. This is the only index of this kind and it is therefore very valuable to ICCAT for management purpose. The index has been used for the 2017 assessment of the eastern stock. Current work focus on improving the observation through the development of a system for image acquisition and analysis and integrating the impacts of environmental effects on the vertical and horizontal movements of tuna and on the abundance index. The survey could also be used for marine mammals. Papers are presented every year at the SCRS.

The second activity, not independent from the first one, focuses on observing migrations of bluefin tuna in relation to its physiology. This is done through the development of a new electronic tag, embarking a sensor aiming at capturing fish growth and indirectly reproduction (POPSTAR project funded by Ifremer). The project aims also at tagging bluefin tuna caught by purse seiners. The Purse seiner fishery has been representing more than 50% of the Eastern BFT catch in the past 10 years, yet hardly any tagging has been done on this segment. A successful tagging operation was carried out from a purse-seiner in June 2018 and 2019, showing contrasting migration patterns to those obtained from fish tagged in the Northwest Mediterranean. These operations through different projects (POPSTAR, FISHNCHIP and PROMPT) are meant to be a key contribution to applied research and ICCAT, as it will help to document and understand migrations and how they are affected by the environment (e.g., for the MSE). Deployment campaigns for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled because of the pandemics, if the situation allows it, it is planned to be resumed in 2022.



Another project (PROMPT) is pursuing work on BFT migrations through tagging and experimental work. The tagging planned in the project aims at pursuing the work initiated by the POPSTAR and FishNchip projects described above and understand the effects of the physical environment on migrations. The experimental work will serve to estimate energetic requirement of BFT along its migrations.

A close working relationship has been set up between Ifremer, French purse seiners, scientists from a Maltese company (AquaBioTech Ltd, which has also been heavily involved in bluefin tuna research) and a Maltese fattening farm. This has created a unique and fruitful set-up to develop research and experiments on bluefin tuna.

b) Pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea (Rec. 23-08)

The aim of the project is to develop bluefin tuna fattening in the Cantabrian Sea, an activity that has not been previously undertaken by the EU due to the characteristics of the local fleet, as well as the challenging conditions of this Sea, particularly during the autumn and winter.

One vessel, purse seiner, is going to be licensed to operate in the Cantabrian Sea after the fishing season in the Mediterranean, for a limited catch of 50 individuals. This additional vessel and estimate amount of quota are included under the capacity table purse seiners between 24 meters and 40 meters. This is a vessel that is going to be adapted from the local fleet to assess operational conditions for fishing in the Cantabrian Sea to inform the potential future development of such activities.

Fishing period for this project will be from 1 July 2024 until the 50 bluefin tuna fishes have been caught. The harvesting is planned for October the same year.

The activity will take place in full conformity with the provisions laid down by Rec. 22-08, including with the provision laid down by paragraph 101. Therefore according to the plan, the activity will be fully covered by a Regional Observer at all stages of the activity.

The report of the activity in 2024 will be submitted to the SCRS and Commission ahead of the 2024 ICCAT Annual Meeting. This report will include information on the key objectives of the project, relevant statistical data, including the final number of BFT caught/caged and the individual length and weight of those fish at the time of capture and at the time of harvest from the cage. The report will also identify the challenges or difficulties encountered, including regarding data collection and monitoring, control, and surveillance. In particular, the report shall include an analysis of the suitability of the current ICCAT provisions for this activity to inform the potential for this activity to be scaled up and further pursued in the future.

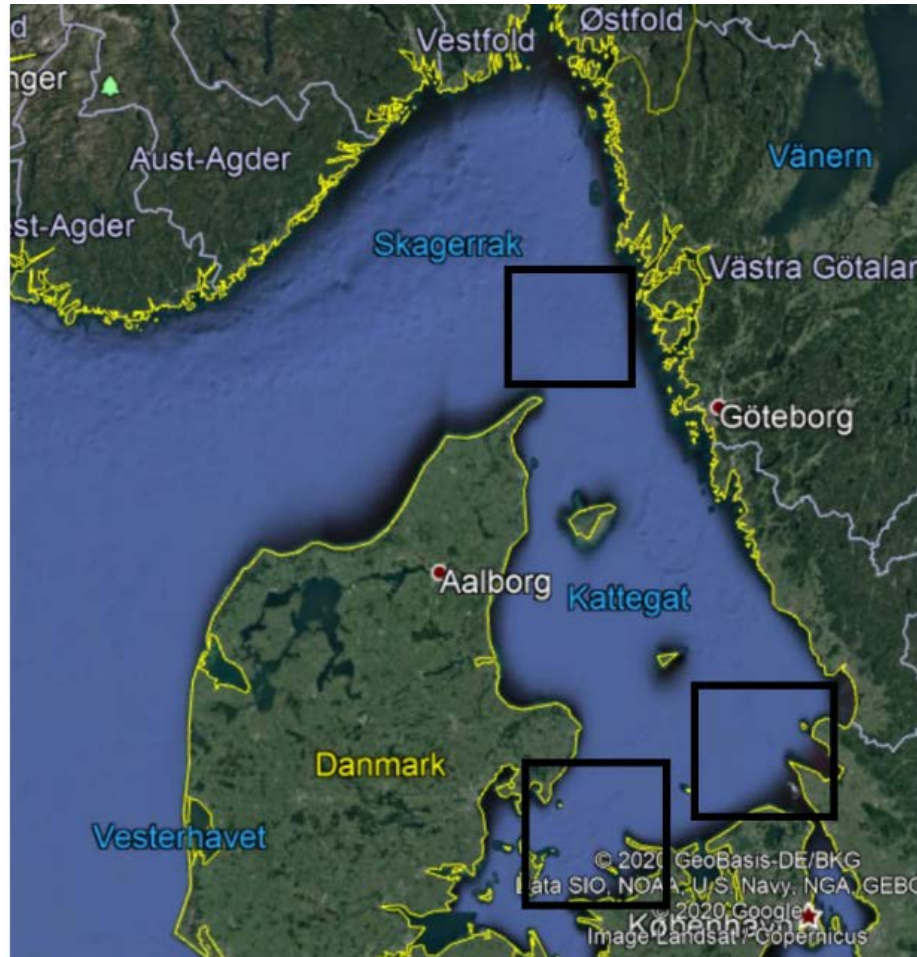
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2024

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>		<i>Fishing Fleet</i>					<i>Ref year</i>		<i>Fishing Capacity</i>				
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2008	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	38	37	28	30	31	31	31	2685	2616	1980	2121	2192	2192	2192
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	91	17	34	34	33	35	36(*)	4530	846	1693	1693	1643	1742	1742
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	112	4	5	5	5	4	4	3772	135	168	168	168	135	135
Purse seine total fleet		241	58	67	69	69	70	71	10987	3597	3841	3982	4003	4069	4069
Longliner over 40m	25		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	7	12	1	1	4	4	4	40	68	6	6	23	23	23
Longliner less than 24m	5	329	127	85	108	192	183	177	1645	635	425	540	960	778	885
Total longline fleet		336	139	86	109	196	187	181	1685	703	431	546	983	800	908
Baitboat	19.8	68	88	56	59	74	74	74	1343	1742	1109	1168	1465	1462	1465
Handline	5	101	46	52	60	60	61	72	505	230	260	300	300	300	360
Trawler	10	160	57	49	57	57	57	56	1600	570	490	570	570	570	560
Trap	130	15	12	13	13	13	13	13	1950	1560	1690	1690	1690	1690	1690
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A			936	1025	1041	1340	1142			4680	5125	5205	5221	4131
Other	5	253	715	61	74	74	361	506	1265	3575	305	370	370	570	2530
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1174	1115	1320	1466	1584	2163	1863	19335	11977	12805	13751	14586	14681	15163
Quota									17044	15850	19460	19411,60	19411,60	21503	21503
Percentage allocated to bycatch													3.26%	2.89%	2.36%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									16211	15850	18657	18651	18642	20882	20996 t
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)													136	150	123 t
Under/ overcapacity									3124	-3873	-5852	-4900	-4057	-6201	-5161 t

(*) Includes one additional medium purse seiner, to operate under Rec. 23-08 (Pilot project farming in the Cantabrian Sea) with license for catching 50 individuals in the fishing ground of the Cantabrian Sea, during a period to be designated between 2 July and 30 September of 2024.

(1) Potential carryover from 2023 is yet under evaluation, hence at this stage the adjusted quota is 20,996 t, i.e., 21,503 t (quota) minus 507 t (bycatch).

Map of designated areas in Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Sound for the bluefin tuna tagging project in 2023



List of designated Ports

PortName	MS
AYIA NAPA FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
LARNACA	EU-CYP
LARNACA FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
LATSI FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
LIMASSOL NEW PORT	EU-CYP
LIMASSOI OLD PORT	EU-CYP
PAFOS FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
PARALIMNI FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
ZYGI FISHING SHELTER	EU-CYP
Bønnerup	EU-DNK
Gilleleje	EU-DNK
Grenå	EU-DNK
Hanstholm	EU-DNK
Hirtshals	EU-DNK
Hvide Sande	EU-DNK
Skagen	EU-DNK
Thyborøn	EU-DNK
A CORUÑA	EU-ESP
ADRA	EU-ESP
AGAETE	EU-ESP
AGUILAS	EU-ESP
ALCUDIA	EU-ESP
ALGECIRAS	EU-ESP
ALICANTE	EU-ESP
ALMERIA	EU-ESP
ALTEA	EU-ESP
AMETLLA DE MAR	EU-ESP
AMPOLLA	EU-ESP
ANDRATX	EU-ESP
ARENYS DE MAR	EU-ESP
ARGUINEGUIN	EU-ESP
ARRECIFE DE LANZAROTE	EU-ESP
AVILES	EU-ESP
AZOHIA	EU-ESP
BADALONA	EU-ESP

BARBATE	EU-ESP
BARCELONA	EU-ESP
BENICARLO	EU-ESP
BERMEO	EU-ESP
BILBAO	EU-ESP
BLANES	EU-ESP
BURELA	EU-ESP
BURRIANA	EU-ESP
CADIZ	EU-ESP
CALA BONA	EU-ESP
CALA RATJADA	EU-ESP
CALETA DE VELEZ	EU-ESP
CALPE	EU-ESP
CAMBRILS	EU-ESP
CARAMIÑAL	EU-ESP
CARBONERAS	EU-ESP
CARTAGENA	EU-ESP
CASAS DE ALCANAR	EU-ESP
CASTELLON	EU-ESP
CELEIRO	EU-ESP
CIUDADELA	EU-ESP
COLINDRES	EU-ESP
COLONIA SAN JORGE	EU-ESP
CONIL	EU-ESP
CORRALEJO	EU-ESP
CULLERA	EU-ESP
DENIA	EU-ESP
ESTEPONA	EU-ESP
FORMENTERA (CALA SAVINA)	EU-ESP
FORNELLS	EU-ESP
GANDIA	EU-ESP
GARRUCHA	EU-ESP
GIJON	EU-ESP
GRAN TARAJAL	EU-ESP
GUETARIA	EU-ESP
HONDARRIBIA	EU-ESP
HUELVA	EU-ESP
IBIZA	EU-ESP

JAVEA	EU-ESP
LA ESCALA	EU-ESP
LA RESTINGA	EU-ESP
LAREDO	EU-ESP
LAS PALMAS - PUERTO DE LA LUZ	EU-ESP
LLANSA	EU-ESP
LOS CRISTIANOS	EU-ESP
MAHON	EU-ESP
MALAGA	EU-ESP
MARIN	EU-ESP
MAZARRON	EU-ESP
MOGAN	EU-ESP
MORRO JABLE	EU-ESP
MOTRIL	EU-ESP
ONDARROA	EU-ESP
ORZOLA	EU-ESP
PALAMOS	EU-ESP
PALMA DE MALLORCA	EU-ESP
PASAJES	EU-ESP
PEÑISCOLA	EU-ESP
PLAYA DE SANTIAGO (GOMERA)	EU-ESP
PLAYA SAN JUAN - GUIA ISORA	EU-ESP
POLLENSA	EU-ESP
PORT DE LA SELVA	EU-ESP
PORTO COLOM	EU-ESP
PUERTO DEL ROSARIO	EU-ESP
ROQUETAS DE MAR	EU-ESP
ROSAS	EU-ESP
S'ESTANYOL DE MIGJORN	EU-ESP
SAN ANTONI DE PORTMANY	EU-ESP
SAN CARLOS DE LA RAPITA	EU-ESP
SAN FELIU DE GUIXOLS	EU-ESP
SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR	EU-ESP
SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA	EU-ESP
SANTA CRUZ DE LA PALMA	EU-ESP
SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE	EU-ESP
SANTA EUGENIA DE RIVEIRA	EU-ESP
SANTA POLA	EU-ESP

SANTANDER	EU-ESP
SANTAÑI	EU-ESP
SANTOÑA	EU-ESP
SOLLER	EU-ESP
TALIARTE - MELENARA	EU-ESP
TARIFA	EU-ESP
TARRAGONA	EU-ESP
TAZACORTE	EU-ESP
TORREDEMBARRA	EU-ESP
TORREVIEJA	EU-ESP
VALENCIA	EU-ESP
VALLE GRAN REY	EU-ESP
VIGO	EU-ESP
VILANOVA I LA GELTRU	EU-ESP
VILLAGARCIA DE AROSA	EU-ESP
VILLAJOYOSA	EU-ESP
VINAROS	EU-ESP
Agde	EU-FRA
Ajaccio	EU-FRA
Arcachon	EU-FRA
Bastia	EU-FRA
Bayonne	EU-FRA
Bonifacio	EU-FRA
Boulogne sur Mer	EU-FRA
Cagnes sur mer	EU-FRA
Calvi	EU-FRA
Cannes	EU-FRA
Carnon	EU-FRA
Carry-le-Rouet	EU-FRA
Centuri	EU-FRA
Cherbourg	EU-FRA
Cogolin	EU-FRA
Concarneau	EU-FRA
Douarnenez	EU-FRA
Frontignan plage	EU-FRA
Galéria	EU-FRA
Granville	EU-FRA
Grau-du-Roi	EU-FRA

Gruissan	EU-FRA
Hyères	EU-FRA
L'Île-Rousse	EU-FRA
La Ciotat	EU-FRA
La Cotinière	EU-FRA
La Rochelle	EU-FRA
La Turballe	EU-FRA
le Barcarès	EU-FRA
Le Conquet	EU-FRA
Le Guilvinec	EU-FRA
Le Lavandou	EU-FRA
Les Sables d'Olonne	EU-FRA
Les Saintes-Maries -de-la-mer	EU-FRA
Lorient	EU-FRA
Marseille	EU-FRA
Martigues	EU-FRA
Menton	EU-FRA
Palavas-les-flots	EU-FRA
Port de Bouc	EU-FRA
Port Saint Louis du Rhône	EU-FRA
Port-la-Nouvelle	EU-FRA
Porto-Vecchio	EU-FRA
Port-Vendres	EU-FRA
Propriano	EU-FRA
Quiberon	EU-FRA
Roscoff	EU-FRA
Royan	EU-FRA
Sagone	EU-FRA
Saint Gilles Croix de Vie	EU-FRA
Saint Jean Cap Ferrat	EU-FRA
Saint Malo	EU-FRA
Saint-Cyprien	EU-FRA
Saint-Florent	EU-FRA
Saint-Jean-de-Luz	EU-FRA
Saint-quay-portrieux	EU-FRA
Saint-Raphaël	EU-FRA
Sanary	EU-FRA
Santa Maria Poggio	EU-FRA

Sari-Solenzara	EU-FRA
Sète	EU-FRA
Théoule sur mer	EU-FRA
Toulon	EU-FRA
Vallauris Golfe-Juan	EU-FRA
Achilleio	EU-GRC
Adamantas	EU-GRC
Agia Anna	EU-GRC
Agia Galini	EU-GRC
Agia Kyriaki Trikeriou	EU-GRC
Agia Marina	EU-GRC
Agia Sotira	EU-GRC
Agioi Apostoloi Petrion	EU-GRC
Agiokampos	EU-GRC
Agios Efstratios	EU-GRC
Agios Georgios Lichadas	EU-GRC
Agios Ioannis o Theologos	EU-GRC
Agios Ioannis Piliou	EU-GRC
Agios Kirykos	EU-GRC
Agios Konstantinos	EU-GRC
Agios Nikolaos	EU-GRC
Agios Nikolaos	EU-GRC
Agios Nikolaos Volimon	EU-GRC
Agios Stefanos Avlioton	EU-GRC
Aidipsos	EU-GRC
Aigiali	EU-GRC
Aigina	EU-GRC
Aigio	EU-GRC
Alexandroupoli	EU-GRC
Aliveri	EU-GRC
Alykes	EU-GRC
Alykes	EU-GRC
Alypa Palaiokastritsas	EU-GRC
Amaliapoli	EU-GRC
Amfilochia	EU-GRC
Ammoudia	EU-GRC
Ammouliani	EU-GRC
Andros	EU-GRC

Antikyra	EU-GRC
Argostoli	EU-GRC
Arillas Perdikas	EU-GRC
Arkitsa	EU-GRC
Astakos	EU-GRC
Astypalaia	EU-GRC
Atalanti	EU-GRC
Atherinolakkos	EU-GRC
Athinios	EU-GRC
Batsi	EU-GRC
Chalastra	EU-GRC
Chalkida	EU-GRC
Chania	EU-GRC
Chersonisos	EU-GRC
Chios	EU-GRC
Chora Sfakion	EU-GRC
Diapori (Kontias)	EU-GRC
Donousa	EU-GRC
Elefsina	EU-GRC
Eleftheron	EU-GRC
Epidavros	EU-GRC
Erateini	EU-GRC
Ereikousa	EU-GRC
Eretria	EU-GRC
Ermioni	EU-GRC
Ermoupoli	EU-GRC
Evdilos	EU-GRC
Fanari	EU-GRC
Fiskardo	EU-GRC
Folegandros	EU-GRC
Fournoi	EU-GRC
Fry	EU-GRC
Gaios	EU-GRC
Galaxeidi	EU-GRC
Gavrio	EU-GRC
Georgiupoli	EU-GRC
Glossa	EU-GRC
Glyfa	EU-GRC

Gritsa	EU-GRC
Gytheio	EU-GRC
Ierapetra	EU-GRC
Ierissos	EU-GRC
Igoumenitsa	EU-GRC
Illia	EU-GRC
Imerolia Kassiopis	EU-GRC
Imeros	EU-GRC
Ios	EU-GRC
Irakleia	EU-GRC
Irakleio	EU-GRC
Iteas	EU-GRC
Kalamaria	EU-GRC
Kalamata	EU-GRC
Kalantos	EU-GRC
Kallirachi	EU-GRC
Kaloi Limenes	EU-GRC
Kalymnos	EU-GRC
Kamares	EU-GRC
Kamariotissa	EU-GRC
Kapsali	EU-GRC
Kardamaina	EU-GRC
Kardamyla	EU-GRC
Karlovasi	EU-GRC
Karpathos	EU-GRC
Karyani	EU-GRC
Karystos	EU-GRC
Katakolo	EU-GRC
Katapola	EU-GRC
Kavala	EU-GRC
Kefalos	EU-GRC
Keramidi	EU-GRC
Keramoti	EU-GRC
Keratsini	EU-GRC
Kerkyra	EU-GRC
Kiato	EU-GRC
Kimolos	EU-GRC
Kissamos	EU-GRC

Kitros	EU-GRC
Koilada	EU-GRC
Kokkinos Pyrgos	EU-GRC
Kolymvari	EU-GRC
Korinthos	EU-GRC
Korissia	EU-GRC
Koroni	EU-GRC
Kos	EU-GRC
Kotsinas	EU-GRC
Koufonisi	EU-GRC
Kouremenos	EU-GRC
Kyllini	EU-GRC
Kymi	EU-GRC
Kyparissia	EU-GRC
Lardou	EU-GRC
Lavrio	EU-GRC
Lefkada	EU-GRC
Lefkimmi	EU-GRC
Leonidio	EU-GRC
Limenaria	EU-GRC
Limni Evvoias	EU-GRC
Lithi	EU-GRC
Livadi	EU-GRC
Lixouri	EU-GRC
Lygia Lefkadas	EU-GRC
Lygia Prevezas	EU-GRC
Maistros	EU-GRC
Makri	EU-GRC
Mantoudi	EU-GRC
Marmari	EU-GRC
Maroneia	EU-GRC
Mastichari	EU-GRC
Mathraki	EU-GRC
Mavra Litharia	EU-GRC
Mavrolimni	EU-GRC
Megisti	EU-GRC
Merichas	EU-GRC
Mesolongi	EU-GRC

Mesta	EU-GRC
Methana	EU-GRC
Monemvasia	EU-GRC
Moudros	EU-GRC
Moutsouna	EU-GRC
Mykonos	EU-GRC
Myrina	EU-GRC
Mytikas	EU-GRC
Mytilini	EU-GRC
Nafpaktos	EU-GRC
Naousa	EU-GRC
Naxos	EU-GRC
Nea Fokaia	EU-GRC
Nea Kallikrateia	EU-GRC
Nea Michaniona	EU-GRC
Nea Moudania	EU-GRC
Nea Peramos	EU-GRC
Nea Potidaia	EU-GRC
Nea Roda	EU-GRC
Nea Skioni	EU-GRC
Nea Styra	EU-GRC
Neapoli	EU-GRC
Neos Marmaras	EU-GRC
Olympiada	EU-GRC
Oreoi	EU-GRC
Ormos Marathokampou	EU-GRC
Ormos Panagias	EU-GRC
Oropos	EU-GRC
Othonoi	EU-GRC
Ouranoupoli	EU-GRC
Pachi Megaron	EU-GRC
Palaia Fokaia	EU-GRC
Palaiochora	EU-GRC
Palairos	EU-GRC
Paralia Astrous	EU-GRC
Paralia Katerinis	EU-GRC
Parga	EU-GRC
Paroikia	EU-GRC

Partheni	EU-GRC
Patitiri	EU-GRC
Patmos	EU-GRC
Patra	EU-GRC
Pefki	EU-GRC
Perama	EU-GRC
Perama Geras	EU-GRC
Perigiali	EU-GRC
Petra	EU-GRC
Petriti Korission	EU-GRC
Pigadi Pteleou	EU-GRC
Piso Livadi	EU-GRC
Plaka	EU-GRC
Platamonas	EU-GRC
Platania	EU-GRC
Plataria	EU-GRC
Platygiali	EU-GRC
Platys Gialos	EU-GRC
Plimmyri	EU-GRC
Plomari	EU-GRC
Politika	EU-GRC
Poros	EU-GRC
Poros Kefalonias	EU-GRC
Porto Koufo	EU-GRC
Porto Lagos	EU-GRC
Porto Rafti	EU-GRC
Portocheli	EU-GRC
Pounta	EU-GRC
Preveza	EU-GRC
Psaropouli Vasilikon	EU-GRC
Pylos	EU-GRC
Pyrgoi Peramatos	EU-GRC
Pythagoreio	EU-GRC
Raches	EU-GRC
Rafina	EU-GRC
Rethymno	EU-GRC
Rodias Linoperamaton	EU-GRC
Rodos (Provlita Kolona)	EU-GRC

Sagiada	EU-GRC
Salamina	EU-GRC
Sami	EU-GRC
Samos (Vathy)	EU-GRC
Sarti	EU-GRC
Schoinousa	EU-GRC
Sigri	EU-GRC
Sikinos	EU-GRC
Siteia	EU-GRC
Skala Kallonis	EU-GRC
Skala Kameirou	EU-GRC
Skala Polichnitou	EU-GRC
Skala Sykamineas	EU-GRC
Skiathos	EU-GRC
Skyros	EU-GRC
Souda	EU-GRC
Stavros	EU-GRC
Stomio	EU-GRC
Stylida	EU-GRC
Symi	EU-GRC
Syvota	EU-GRC
Thasos	EU-GRC
Tinos	EU-GRC
Tolo	EU-GRC
Trypiti	EU-GRC
Varkiza	EU-GRC
Vasiliki	EU-GRC
Vathy Ithakis	EU-GRC
Vlychada	EU-GRC
Vlycho	EU-GRC
Volakas	EU-GRC
Volos	EU-GRC
Vonitsa	EU-GRC
Xylokastro	EU-GRC
Zakynthos	EU-GRC
Banjole-ribarska luka	EU-HRV
Biograd-glavni mul	EU-HRV
Bol	EU-HRV

Brač-uvala Maslinova	EU-HRV
Brižine-ribarska luka	EU-HRV
Brna	EU-HRV
Bunarina	EU-HRV
Cavtat	EU-HRV
Cres	EU-HRV
Crikvenica-Pazdehova	EU-HRV
Dubrovnik-Gruž	EU-HRV
Fažana	EU-HRV
Fortica	EU-HRV
Funtana	EU-HRV
Gat Čađavica	EU-HRV
Hvar	EU-HRV
Hvar-Vira	EU-HRV
Ilovik	EU-HRV
Jablanac	EU-HRV
Jelsa	EU-HRV
Jezera	EU-HRV
Kali-Batalaža	EU-HRV
Kali-Vela Lamjana	EU-HRV
Karigador	EU-HRV
Kaštel Gomilica	EU-HRV
Kaštel Kambelovac	EU-HRV
Kaštel Stari	EU-HRV
Kaštel Sućurac	EU-HRV
Klenovica	EU-HRV
Komiža	EU-HRV
Kraljevica	EU-HRV
Krila Jesenice	EU-HRV
Krk	EU-HRV
Krnica	EU-HRV
Kukljica-ribarski gat	EU-HRV
Ližnjan-Kuje	EU-HRV
Lovište	EU-HRV
Lumbarda	EU-HRV
Makarska	EU-HRV
Mali Lošinj	EU-HRV
Malinska	EU-HRV

Mandre	EU-HRV
Martinska	EU-HRV
Medulin	EU-HRV
Milna	EU-HRV
Molat-Lučina	EU-HRV
Molunat	EU-HRV
Mošćenička Draga	EU-HRV
Murter	EU-HRV
Novalja	EU-HRV
Novigrad	EU-HRV
Novigrad-Prporcela	EU-HRV
Obala Uljanik	EU-HRV
Omiš	EU-HRV
Omišalj	EU-HRV
Orebić	EU-HRV
Osor	EU-HRV
Ploče	EU-HRV
Plomin	EU-HRV
Podgora	EU-HRV
Podvrške	EU-HRV
Porat	EU-HRV
Poreč	EU-HRV
Prapatno	EU-HRV
Primošten	EU-HRV
Prvič-Šepurine	EU-HRV
Pučišća	EU-HRV
Pula-korijen gata Rijeka	EU-HRV
Punat	EU-HRV
Rab	EU-HRV
Rabac	EU-HRV
Rijeka-dio putničke luke	EU-HRV
Rijeka-Luka Rijeka	EU-HRV
Rogoznica	EU-HRV
Rovinj-Valdibora	EU-HRV
Sali-Mardešić	EU-HRV
Santa Marina	EU-HRV
Savudrija	EU-HRV
Seget Donji	EU-HRV

Senj	EU-HRV
Šibenik-gat Sv. Petra	EU-HRV
Silba-porat	EU-HRV
Šimuni	EU-HRV
Slano	EU-HRV
Split-sjeverna luka	EU-HRV
Stari Grad	EU-HRV
Stobreč	EU-HRV
Sučuraj	EU-HRV
Sukošan	EU-HRV
Sumartin	EU-HRV
Supetar	EU-HRV
Sustjepan	EU-HRV
Sveta Fuska	EU-HRV
Sveti Martin	EU-HRV
Tkon	EU-HRV
Tribunj	EU-HRV
Trogir-trajektna rampa	EU-HRV
Trpanj	EU-HRV
Trstenik	EU-HRV
Turanj	EU-HRV
Ubli-operativna obala	EU-HRV
Umag	EU-HRV
Uvala Peleš	EU-HRV
Uvala Voz	EU-HRV
Vela Luka	EU-HRV
Viganj	EU-HRV
Vinišće	EU-HRV
Vir	EU-HRV
Vis	EU-HRV
Vodice	EU-HRV
Vrsar	EU-HRV
Zadar-Gaženica	EU-HRV
Zadar-kod mosta	EU-HRV
Zaostrog	EU-HRV
Žunac	EU-HRV
An Daingean, Co. Kerry	EU-IRL
Baltimore, Co. Cork	EU-IRL

Castletownbere, Co. Cork	EU-IRL
Clogherhead, Co. Louth	EU-IRL
Dunmore East, Co. Waterford	EU-IRL
Howth, Co. Dublin	EU-IRL
Killybegs, Co. Donegal	EU-IRL
Ros a Mhil, Co. Galway	EU-IRL
Union Hall, Co. Cork	EU-IRL
ACCIAROLI	EU-ITA
AGROPOLI	EU-ITA
ALASSIO	EU-ITA
ALGHERO	EU-ITA
AMALFI	EU-ITA
AMANTEA	EU-ITA
ANCONA	EU-ITA
ANDORRA	EU-ITA
ANZIO	EU-ITA
ARBATAX	EU-ITA
ARENZANO	EU-ITA
ARMA DI TAGGIA	EU-ITA
AUGUSTA	EU-ITA
BAGNARA CALABRA	EU-ITA
BARI	EU-ITA
BISCEGLIE	EU-ITA
BORDIGHERA	EU-ITA
BOSA	EU-ITA
BRINDISI	EU-ITA
CAGLIARI	EU-ITA
CALA GONONE	EU-ITA
CALASETTA	EU-ITA
CAMOGLI	EU-ITA
CAPRAIA ISOLA	EU-ITA
CARIATI	EU-ITA
CARLOFORTE	EU-ITA
CASTELLAMMARE DEL GOLFO	EU-ITA
CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA	EU-ITA
CASTELSARDO	EU-ITA
CASTIGLIONE DELLA PESCAIA	EU-ITA
CATANIA	EU-ITA

CATANZARO MARINA	EU-ITA
CECINA	EU-ITA
CESENATICO	EU-ITA
CETRARO	EU-ITA
CHIOGGIA	EU-ITA
CIRO' MARINA	EU-ITA
CIVITANOVA MARCHE	EU-ITA
CIVITAVECCHIA	EU-ITA
CORIGLIANO CALABRO	EU-ITA
CROTONE	EU-ITA
FANO	EU-ITA
FAVIGNANA	EU-ITA
FINALE LIGURE	EU-ITA
FIUMICINO	EU-ITA
FORIO	EU-ITA
FORMIA	EU-ITA
GAETA	EU-ITA
GALLIPOLI	EU-ITA
GELA	EU-ITA
GENOVA	EU-ITA
GIOIA TAURO	EU-ITA
GIRDINI NAXOS	EU-ITA
GIULIANOVA	EU-ITA
GOLFO ARANCI	EU-ITA
GRADO	EU-ITA
IMPERIA	EU-ITA
ISCHIA	EU-ITA
ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE	EU-ITA
LA CALETTA DI SINISCOLA	EU-ITA
LA MADDALENA	EU-ITA
LA SPEZIA	EU-ITA
LAMPEDUSA	EU-ITA
LE CASTELLA	EU-ITA
LICATA	EU-ITA
LIPARI	EU-ITA
LIVORNO	EU-ITA
LOANO	EU-ITA
MANFREDONIA	EU-ITA

MARCIANA MARINA	EU-ITA
MARETTIMO	EU-ITA
MARINA DI CAMEROTA	EU-ITA
MARINA DI CAMPO	EU-ITA
MARINA DI CARRARA	EU-ITA
MARINA DI RAGUSA	EU-ITA
MARSALA	EU-ITA
MAZARA DEL VALLO	EU-ITA
MESSINA	EU-ITA
MILAZZO	EU-ITA
MOLA DI BARI	EU-ITA
MOLFETTA	EU-ITA
MONDELLO	EU-ITA
MONOPOLI	EU-ITA
MONTEROSSO	EU-ITA
NAPOLI	EU-ITA
OLBIA	EU-ITA
ORISTANO	EU-ITA
ORTONA	EU-ITA
OTRANTO	EU-ITA
PALERMO	EU-ITA
PALINURO	EU-ITA
PANTELLERIA	EU-ITA
PESARO	EU-ITA
PESCARA	EU-ITA
PILA DI PORTO TOLLE	EU-ITA
PIOMBINO	EU-ITA
PISA	EU-ITA
PONZA	EU-ITA
PORTICELLO	EU-ITA
PORTO AZZURRO	EU-ITA
PORTO CESAREO	EU-ITA
PORTO CORALLO	EU-ITA
PORTO DI MARATEA	EU-ITA
PORTO EMPEDOCLE	EU-ITA
PORTO GARIBALDI	EU-ITA
PORTO S. GIORGIO	EU-ITA
PORTO SANTO STEFANO	EU-ITA

PORTO TORRES	EU-ITA
PORTOFERRAIO	EU-ITA
PORTOFINO	EU-ITA
PORTOPALO DI CAPO PASSERO	EU-ITA
PORTOROSA FURNARI	EU-ITA
PORTOSCUSO	EU-ITA
POZZALLO	EU-ITA
POZZUOLI	EU-ITA
PROCIDA	EU-ITA
RAVENNA	EU-ITA
REGGIO CALABRIA	EU-ITA
RIMINI	EU-ITA
RIO MARINA	EU-ITA
RIPOSTO	EU-ITA
ROCCELLA JONICA	EU-ITA
S. BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO	EU-ITA
S. VITO LO CAPO	EU-ITA
SALERNO	EU-ITA
SAN FELICE CIRCEO	EU-ITA
SANREMO	EU-ITA
SANT' AGATA DI MILITELLO	EU-ITA
SANT' ANTIOCO	EU-ITA
SANTA FOCA DI MELENDUGNO	EU-ITA
SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE	EU-ITA
SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA	EU-ITA
SANTA MARIA LA SCALA	EU-ITA
SANTA MARINA SALINA	EU-ITA
SANTA TERESA DI GALLURA	EU-ITA
SAPRI	EU-ITA
SAVONA	EU-ITA
SCHIAVONEA	EU-ITA
SCIACCA	EU-ITA
SCILLA	EU-ITA
SCOGLITTI	EU-ITA
SESTRI LEVANTE	EU-ITA
SEVELLETRI	EU-ITA
SIRACUSA	EU-ITA
SOVERATO	EU-ITA

TARANTO	EU-ITA
TERMINI IMERESE	EU-ITA
TERMOLI	EU-ITA
TERRACINA	EU-ITA
TERRASINI	EU-ITA
TORRE ANNUNZIATA	EU-ITA
TORRE DEL GRECO	EU-ITA
TRANI	EU-ITA
TRAPANI	EU-ITA
TRICASE	EU-ITA
TRIESTE	EU-ITA
TROPEA	EU-ITA
VARAZZE	EU-ITA
VASTO	EU-ITA
VIAREGGIO	EU-ITA
VIBO VALENTIA MARINA	EU-ITA
VIESTE	EU-ITA
VILLA SAN GIOVANNI	EU-ITA
VILLASIMIUS	EU-ITA
Gnejna	EU-MLT
Marfa/Cirkewwa	EU-MLT
Marsalforn (Gozo)	EU-MLT
Marsascala	EU-MLT
Marsaxlokk	EU-MLT
Mgarr (Gozo)	EU-MLT
Msida	EU-MLT
St. Julians	EU-MLT
St. Paul's Bay	EU-MLT
Valletta	EU-MLT
Wied iz-Zurrieq	EU-MLT
Xlendi (Gozo)	EU-MLT
Canical	EU-PRT
Figueira da Foz	EU-PRT
Funchal	EU-PRT
Horta (Faial)	EU-PRT
Lajes (Flores)	EU-PRT
Madalena (Pico)	EU-PRT
Matosinhos	EU-PRT

Olhao	EU-PRT
Peniche	EU-PRT
Ponta Delgada (Sao Miguel)	EU-PRT
Porto da Casa (Corvo)	EU-PRT
Praia (Graciosa)	EU-PRT
Praia da Vitoria (Terceira)	EU-PRT
Rabo de Peixe	EU-PRT
Sesimbra	EU-PRT
Sines	EU-PRT
Velas (Sao Jorge)	EU-PRT
Viana do Castelo	EU-PRT
Vila do Porto (Santa Maria)	EU-PRT
Vila Franca do Campo (S. Miguel)	EU-PRT
Barsebäckshamn	EU-SWE
Bläsinge	EU-SWE
Bondhamn	EU-SWE
Byxelkrok	EU-SWE
Ellös	EU-SWE
Engesberg	EU-SWE
Göteborg	EU-SWE
Grankullavik	EU-SWE
Karlskrona, Handelshamnen	EU-SWE
Karlskrona, Saltö	EU-SWE
Kungshamn	EU-SWE
Limhamn	EU-SWE
Lomma	EU-SWE
Lysekil	EU-SWE
Mellanfjärden	EU-SWE
Mollösund	EU-SWE
Närshamn	EU-SWE
Nogersund	EU-SWE
Norrsundet	EU-SWE
Oxelösund	EU-SWE
Ronehamn	EU-SWE
Rönnäng	EU-SWE
Simrishamn	EU-SWE
Skagshamn	EU-SWE
Skeppsmalen	EU-SWE

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2024

Spikarna, Alnön	EU-SWE
Strömstad	EU-SWE
Sturkö-Ekenabben	EU-SWE
Sturkö-Sanda	EU-SWE
Träslövsläge	EU-SWE
Trelleborg	EU-SWE
Västervik	EU-SWE
Ystad	EU-SWE

Name of CPC: Iceland

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

The eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) quota of Iceland for the year 2024 is 224 tonnes, with 12 tonnes reserved for incidental bycatches. Eventual bycatches of BFT by other Icelandic fishing vessels will be reported to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Up to three Icelandic longline vessels will be authorised to conduct directed fisheries for BFT in 2024. Each vessel will be allocated an individual quota, within the limits of the Icelandic quota, that may be adjusted according to the number of authorised fishing vessels. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 Iceland will submit relevant information concerning the vessels authorised to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season, as any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan.

The 12 tonnes reserved for incidental bycatches by other Icelandic fishing vessels, will be adjusted to cover all catches if needed. Bycatches of BFT by Icelandic fishing vessels in 2023 were 370 kilos.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a vessel monitoring system (VMS) system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis. All fishing vessels are required to have electronic logbooks and landings are monitored and recorded in the database of the Directorate of Fisheries (DF).

All Icelandic fishing vessels are required to register all catches and bycatches in electronic logbooks.

The Icelandic fisheries management system is based on individual transfer quotas (ITQs) and all fishing vessels need a general fishing permit and sufficient quota for the expected catch before leaving port for any fishing.

Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs, electronic logbooks and mandatory weighing of all catches at landing. The DF keeps records of all allocated quota and all landings, quota uptake by each vessel is updated after landing in an online landing registration of the DF which is publicly available at www.island.is/fiskistofa.

Discards of commercial species are not allowed. Undersized BFT is to be released alive or landed and registered if dead when taken on-board. No catches of individual fishes below 30 kg have been recorded by Icelandic vessels, neither directed catches or bycatches.

The BFT quota of Iceland will be adjusted if needed between bycatches and longline catch. This will be managed by the DF like all other commercial catches in Iceland. All adjustments will be reported to ICCAT. Bycatch tonnes have generally been set around 5% of the quota, currently set as 12 tonnes out of 224.

Inspectors from the DF in Iceland shall be present on board the BFT longliners for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessels need written permission from the DF before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland (MFRI) will advise the DF on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MFRI.

The longline fishing season will start on 1 August and end on 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N. The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the BFT quota it shall notify the DF in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quotas are fished the BFT fishing licence expires. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is exhausted, or the vessels notify an end to fishing operations in 2024.

In 2015 the DF in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates in 2024 electronically.

1 b) Carry Over (para 6)

No carry over is requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

Destination of catch will be for landing only.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	All Icelandic fishing vessels have electronic logbooks, all landing is recorded in online database of the DF. All catches are to be recorded in logbooks. Dead discards of commercial species are not allowed. All catches counted against quota.	The Icelandic Fisheries Act, and the Regulation on BFT fisheries.	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Longline fishing season starts 1 August and closing when the quota is fished or 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	The Icelandic Fisheries Act, and the Regulation on BFT fisheries.	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Undersized fish to be released alive, discards banned if dead to be landed and recorded.	The Icelandic Fisheries Act, and the Regulation on BFT fisheries.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Discard of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial and non-commercial species must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in logbooks, this also applies to all bycatches of BFT by Icelandic vessels. 12 tonnes are reserved for incidental bycatches for the year 2024. Bycatches of BFT by Icelandic fishing vessels in 2023 were recorded as 370 kilos.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Act concerning the Treatment of Commercial Marine Stocks.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No recreational or sport fisheries for eastern Atlantic BFT will be allowed in 2024.	Regulation on BFT fisheries.	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	No transshipment is allowed.	The Icelandic Fisheries Act, and the Regulation on BFT fisheries.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	All Icelandic fishing vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on hourly basis.	Icelandic Fisheries Act.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	There are no observers in Iceland, only inspectors that are full time employees of the DF. Inspectors shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operation. The vessel needs written permission from the DF before leaving port without an inspector.	The Icelandic Fisheries Act, and the Regulation on BFT fisheries.	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	N/A only long line fishing by up to three vessels.		
10	Domestic legislation	ICCAT rules and requirements implemented with legal acts and regulations.	The Icelandic Fisheries Act, and the Regulation on BFT fisheries.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>			

1 e) Designated Ports (para 80)

The list of authorized ports for 2024 is attached.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

See attached below.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

No farming – not applicable.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Bluefin tuna longline vessels need written permission from the DF as the competent authority to leave port for BFT fishing without an inspector onboard from the DF. Required coverage is at least 20% of the fishing operations in days. Inspectors from the DF are present at all landings of BFT.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis.

All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in electronic logbooks, this also applies to all bycatches of BFT by Icelandic vessels.

The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the BFT quota it shall notify the DF in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT.

List of contact points:

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- Daði Tryggvason, Directorate of Fisheries (dadi.tryggvason@fiskistofa.is)

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

N/A Iceland only authorizes up to three longline vessels in the NE-Atlantic and is therefore not required to be part of an ICCAT International inspection plan.

5. Others

N/A.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78													
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68													
Purse seine total fleet														
Longliner over 40m	25				2	3	3					50	75	75
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet					2	3	3							
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10		1							10				
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5													
Total fleet/fishing capacity			1		2	3	3			10		50	75	75
Quota										51.53		225	224	224
Percentage allocated to bycatch												4.4%	5.4%	5.4%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)												215	212	212
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)														
Under/ overcapacity										-41.53		-165	-137	-137

List of designated ports:

- Reykjavik,
- Hafnarfjordur,
- Hofn i Hornafirdi,
- Vestmannaeyjar,
- Grindavik,
- Thorlakshofn,
- Sandgerdi,
- Keflavik,
- Akranes,
- Olafsvik,
- Grundarfjordur,
- Stykkisholmur

Name of CPC: Japan**Fishing Plan Year: 2024****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (paras 14-15)****1 a) Overview (para 12)¹**

Japan's initial quota for the 2024 fishing season (from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025) is 3,114 t. In accordance with paragraph 6 of Recommendation 22-08, Japan requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2023 quota to 2024. The catch of E-BFT in 2023 was 3,088.00 t, which includes 4.93 t of dead discards. Thus, 3,158.39 t (2023 catch quota) minus 3,088.00 t equals 70.39 t (2.23%), which is transferred to the 2024 quota. In addition, the reserved quota for dead discard (14 t) as well as bycatch quota for vessels without individual quota of bluefin tuna (1 t) are set aside. To conclude, the adjusted quota for 2024 in Capacity Table is 3,169.39 t accordingly (3,114+70.39-14-1=3,169.39).

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic are large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has introduced the Ministerial Ordinance to establish a legally binding management system including individual quotas. The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) is an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, which enforces the Fisheries Law and the Ministerial Ordinance on Japanese fishermen.

The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch) every two days in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), catch amounts, individual BFT weights, tag numbers, and the number of live releases and dead discards including those under the minimum size. The FAJ monitors the catch for each vessel relative to the vessel's individual quota.

Regarding by-catch, all Japanese catching vessels targeting fish other than BFT operate around the equator or further south: the possibility of by-catch of BFT is negligible. In fact, there was no by-catch reported in 2023. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t for bycatch for vessels without individual quota of bluefin tuna for 2024 as a minimum figure.

Landings at overseas ports are prohibited by the Ministerial Ordinance. The Ministerial Ordinance only allows BFT fishermen to land at 10 domestic ports designated by the Ordinance. At the 10 ports, 100% of landings of BFT by both fishing vessels and carrier vessels will be inspected by FAJ official inspectors who will check the total weight and tags, count the number of BFT and compare the collected information with the data previously reported, including daily reports.

Japanese fishing vessels operate in almost the same period from the end of September to early December every year without entering ports during this period. Therefore, the observers are on board the designated BFT vessels during their entire fishing trips for BFT. This means that temporal representation is secured. In addition, as the fishing ground of bluefin tuna is located in a very limited area off the coast of Iceland, there should be little concern about the spatial representation.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Recommendation 22-08, Japan would like to request to transfer of a maximum of 5% of its 2023 quota to 2024. Please see above for the specific amount.

1 c) Destination of catch

All BFT caught by Japanese vessels will be destined to landing.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, para numbers are those in [Rec. 22-08](#).

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The Minister requires fishing operators to communicate to the FAJ daily information including the date, time, location, the weight and number of BFT caught in eastern Atlantic Ocean (including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size) every two days. In addition, the Minister also requires the operators to maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operation.	Fisheries Law, Article 26. Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 14 and 26.	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from fishing for BFT in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July and in other areas during the period from 1 June to 31 December.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 23.	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from catching BFT weighing less than 30kg. The fishing vessel shall stop operating and move away from the fishing area when the number of BFTs which weigh 8-30 kg gets larger than 5% of the total number of BFTs caught on the day. The weight of dead discards of BFTs below minimum weight is counted against Japan's quota.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 23.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	The Minister prohibits the vessels without BFT quota from catching, transshipping or landing BFT. All Japanese catching vessels targeting fish other than BFT operate around the	Fisheries Law, Article 19 and 25.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		equator or further south, thus the possibility of by-catch of BFT is negligible. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t (i.e., less than 0.04%) for bycatch of vessels without individual quota as a minimum figure.		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No recreational or sport fishing vessels in the ICCAT area.	N/A	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered on the ICCAT website with prior authorization.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 59.	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	The Minister requires fishing vessels to be equipped with a VMS which automatically transmits the data every two hours to the FAJ. The FAJ transmits the VMS data from the vessels fishing for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 25.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	The FAJ will ensure 20 % observer coverage of the number of LSTLVs, which are allowed to fish BFT.	N/A	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT are not purse seiner and Japan has no registered farming facilities for BFT.	N/A	
10	Domestic legislation	The relevant Recommendations have been transposed to Japanese domestic law. See <i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Law • Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>			

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

The list of domestic ports for landing:

1	Tokyo
2	Kawasaki
3	Yokohama
4	Yokosuka
5	Misaki
6	Shimizu
7	Oigawa
8	Yaizu
9	Kesenuma
10	Kushikino

The list of third party ports for transshipment:

	Country	Port
1	Cabo Verde	Mindelo
2	Iceland	Reykjavík
3	Marocco	Tanger ville
4	Panama	Cristóbal
5		Balboa
6	South Africa	Cape Town
7	EU-Spain	Las Palmas

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV individual quota, which is more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per LSTLV over 40 m) estimated by SCRS (see Capacity Table). Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 22-08, ensures that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

N/A

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)***(i) Characteristic of Japanese E-BFT Fishery*

The Northeast Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Iceland is the main E-BFT fishing ground for the Japanese fleet. In recent years, the fishing season has usually started at the end of September and lasted until early December. The E-BFT fishing area is remote from fishing areas of bigeye tuna, which is another primary target fish for the Japanese fleet and caught around the equator. This means that LSTLVs targeting E-BFT are distinguishable from LSTLVs targeting other fish such as bigeye, by their location.

(ii) Monitoring the E-BFT fishery in accordance with Rec. 22-08 and other ICCAT measures

The FAJ constantly monitors LSTLVs' locations in the entire Atlantic Ocean through the VMS. The agency issues special licences to LSTLVs fishing actively for E-BFT and allocates quotas to those vessels. The FAJ ensures through the VMS that the LSTLVs without a license and quota do not operate in the E-BFT fishing

ground. Also, the FAJ requires licensed vessels to transmit daily catch reports to the FAJ during the BFT fishing season. The FAJ closely monitors the accumulated catches to make sure that licensed vessels comply with their quotas.

The FAJ distributes official tags only to LSTLVs having E-BFT quotas. The Ministerial Ordinance requires Japanese fishermen to attach the tag to every BFT caught by them. Landings of any E-BFT without the tag are a violation of the Ministerial Ordinance.

Reporting requirements regarding transshipment are also established by the Ministerial Ordinance. LSTLVs shall acquire authorization from the FAJ before transshipment at ports. The FAJ also receives transshipment declaration in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation. The FAJ examines such information and checks the consistency with the accumulated catch amount. Such information will be verified through landing inspections by the FAJ inspectors when the BFT is landed in Japan.

(iii) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ (1) - Very low capacity of Japanese LSTLVs

Moreover, the FAJ will limit the number of catching vessels fishing for BFT well below the limit articulated by the Recommendation 22-08. This diminishes the economic incentive of the fishermen to violate regulations since the allocated quota will be enough for each catching vessel to make a profit through BFT fishing. The Capacity Table shows that Japan's E-BFT fleet has been very low (41 vessels in 2024), compared to the limit in accordance with the Rec. 21-08 and its predecessors (3,169.39 t (quota)/25 t (per LSTLV over 40 m) =126.78 vessel).

(iv) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ (2) – 100% landing inspection by FAJ officials

The Ministerial Ordinance prohibits landing of BFT at any foreign port. All of the BFT caught by Japanese fishermen including those brought by carrier vessels must be landed in the 10 designated ports in Japan. Those ports are the final destination of BFT caught by Japanese fishermen; this scheme enables the FAJ to conduct direct landing inspections against the landed E-BFT. In fact, the FAJ has been implementing 100% landing inspections against the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs since 2009. A range of information collected through the MCS measures mentioned above (e.g., weight and number of E-BFT, attachment of plastic tags) are utilized at the landing inspections.

(v) Cooperation with port State and importing State

Many of the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs are also subject to port inspection by coastal CPCs. When the LSTLVs exhaust their catch quotas, they usually make transshipments of E-BFT at other CPCs' ports, which may be subjected to inspections by the port State, in accordance with Recommendation 18-09. It is rare that a catching vessel carrying the E-BFT goes back to Japan after the end of the BFT fishing season because, in most cases, Japanese LSTLVs change their target fish to bigeye tuna (moving South) and continue their operation in the ICCAT area.

(vi) Risk analysis for illegal BFT fishing

In a hypothetical case that a Japanese LSTLV poaches E-BFT despite the MCS measures described above, the vessel has to sell the fish somewhere in the world. The importing State, especially if an ICCAT member, shall require an electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document (eBCD) to import the E-BFT. However, the FAJ will never validate an eBCD for the export of fish to market States.

In another hypothetical case, if a Japanese LSTLV poaches E-BFT and attempts to bring the fish to Japan, as it is prohibited to land illegally caught E-BFT, it can easily be identified by the landing inspections of the FAJ or business operators in Japan because an official tag is not attached to the fish and the fish is not accompanied by an eBCD. Furthermore, business operators are prohibited from buying such illegal fish by the Ministerial Ordinance.

(vii) Contact point

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Kimiyoshi HIWATARI	International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan	kimiyosi_hiwatari190@maff.go.jp
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(viii) Conclusion

To conclude, Japan fully implements MCS measures and capacity control as required by the relevant Recommendation of ICCAT. In addition, Japan adopts some additional and very effective MCS measures, including 100% landing inspection. Moreover, compliance of Japanese LSTLVs is further ensured through the assistance of and cooperation with port States and possible market States. Those combined measures are expected to eliminate any possibility of IUU fishing of E-BFT by Japanese vessels. Given the effectiveness of the combined measures, the FAJ is not going to dispatch its inspection vessel for BFT fishing.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Japan will not be part of an ICCAT International Inspection plan, due to its alternative measures described in the previous sub-paragraph.

5. Others

N/A

Capacity table

Tuna vessel type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	Ref years		Number of vessels				Ref years Fishing Capacity						
		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78													
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68													
Purse seine total fleet														
Longliner over 40m	25	47	49	36	40	41	41	1,175	1,225	900	1,000	1,025	1,025	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet		47	49	36	40	41	41	1,175	1,225	900	1,000	1,025	1,025	
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10													
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels & baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5													
Total fleet/fishing capacity		47	49	36	40*1	41 *2	41*3	1,175	1,225	900	1,000	1,025	1,025	
Quota									2,430.54	2,279	2,819	3,114	3,114	
Percentage allocated to bycatch										less than 0.04% (1 t)	less than 0.03% (1 t)	less than 0.03% (1 t)	less than 0.04% (1t)*7	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									2,529	2,279	2,900.65 *4	3,143.39*5	3,169.39*6	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)														
Under/ overcapacity									-1,205.5	-1,379	-1,900.65	-2,143.39	-2,144.39	

*1 Two of the 40 vessels cancelled its operation for EBFT in the 2022 fishing season.

*2 One of the 41 vessels cancelled its operation for EBFT in the 2023 fishing season.

*3 The figures are provisional. Once the number of vessels is confirmed, these figures will be revised and be communicated to the Secretariat.

*4 2,819.00 t(2022 initial quota) +96.65 t (2021 carry over (Para 7 of Rec. 21-08))-15t(*7) =2,900.65. t

*5 3,114.00 t(2023 initial quota) +44.39 t (2022 carry over (Para 4 of Rec. 22-08))-15t(*7) =3,143.39 t

*6 3,114.00 t(2024 initial quota) +70.39 t (2023 carry over (Para 4 of Rec. 22-08))-15t(*7) =3,169.39 t

*7 Japan sets aside 14 t for dead discards by the BFT fishery and allocates 1 t for bycatch by the other fishery.

Name of CPC: Korea (Rep.)

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

Korea's bluefin tuna quota for 2024 will be 275.679 t subject to the endorsement by Panel 2.

* 221 t of initial quota + 50 t of quota transfer from Chinese Taipei + 5.179 t of unused quota carried forward from 2023 – 0.5 t for possible bycatch = 275.679 t.

Longline is the only gear type that Korea uses for its bluefin tuna fishery. Open fishing season for the longline gear group will be from 1 September to 30 November 2024.

As Korean bluefin tuna longline vessels operate in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N and no other Korean tuna fishing vessels operate around or in the ICCAT temperate zones, there is virtually zero possibility that any bycatch may occur. Nevertheless, Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for bycatch. Therefore, 275.68 t out of 276.18 t will be allocated to the longline gear group. The amount of any bycatch will be deducted from Korea's quota and the data will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat. Korea has not experienced any bycatch of bluefin tuna so far.

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS in line with the minimum standards in Rec. 18-10. Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall also report VMS data to Korean Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) every hour, which are relayed to the Secretariat in accordance with Rec. 22-08 and Rec. 21-16. Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with prior authorization. MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for the 2024 fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each bluefin tuna brought on board.

Korea's bluefin tuna quota will be allocated to two to four longline vessels of certain fishing companies which have historical records of bluefin tuna fishing. MOF will decide the individual quota for each vessel in consultation with those companies. The details of quota allocation will be submitted to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activities in accordance with para 52 of Rec. 22-08. Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch) to MOF by the end of the next day following their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight, number and weight of discarded/released fish (discards will be counted against the quota), etc. Any over-catch beyond the vessel's individual quota will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's overseas fisheries.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

Korea would like to request the carry over of its unused 2023 quota 5.18 t to 2024 in accordance with para 6 of Rec. 22-08.

* 2023 adjusted quota (278.724 t) – 2023 final catch (273.545 t) = unused quota (5.179 t)

1 c) Destination of catch

Farming: No

Landing: Yes

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	The masters of authorized longline fishing vessels will keep a bound logbook as well as an electronic logbook of their operation and record all necessary information. Bi-weekly catch reports will be submitted. All dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	No more than four Korean longline vessels will catch BFT from 1 September to 30 November 2024 in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Korean BFT catching vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna weighting less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. Fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against Korea's BFT quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Bycatch, including dead discards, will be deducted from Korea's quota. Korea will set aside 0.5 t (0.18%=0.5t/276.179 t [adjusted quota]) of quota for this purpose. There was no by catch in 2023.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Not applicable. Korea does not have any recreational or sports fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	At-sea transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited and only in port transshipment is permitted under domestic regulations. Transshipment of bluefin tuna shall take place in the designated ports only. Korea has also a robust transshipment authorisation scheme in place, under which all Korean distant water fishing vessels are required to be authorized by Korean FMC 24 hours before conducting transshipment. In the 2024 season, Korean vessels are expected to use the port of Cape Town, Dakar, Mindelo or Shimizu and designated domestic ports.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessels are equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall report position data to the Secretariat every hour via Korean FMC. Any delay in data transmission or transmission failure is monitored and addressed immediately.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 15	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for the 2024 fishing season.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1,13-2, 21	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Not applicable (Korea does not operate purse seine vessels for BFT and is not a farming CPC.)		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
10	Domestic legislation	Article 13 of Korea's <i>Distant Water Fisheries Development Act</i> stipulates that: Each operator of a distant water fisheries business and a person engaged in distant water fisheries shall conscientiously conduct fishing operations within the permitted scope of operations and shall comply with resolutions made by international fisheries organizations for the conservation and management of resources and international standards regarding fisheries in the high seas.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Since 2017, Korea has been conducting a tagging program with archival tags (Mini-PAT) by scientific observers as part of GBYP.		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

Third party ports for transshipment and landing (paras 80-84):

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Port</i>
1	South Africa	Cape Town
2	Senegal	Dakar
3	Cape Verde	Mindelo
4	Japan	Shimizu

List of domestic ports:

Boryeong	Hadong	Mokpo	Seoul
Busan	Hosan	Okgye	Sokcho
Daesan	Incheon	Okpo	Taeon
Donghae·Mukho	Janghang	Pohang	Tongyeong
Gohyeon	Jangseungpo	Pyeongtaek·Dangjin	Ulsan
Gunsan	Jeju	Samcheok	Wando
Gwangyang	Jinhae	Samcheonpo	Yeosu
Gyeongin	Masan	Seogwipo	

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

Korea will operate no more than 4 longline vessels in 2024 although the maximum number of longline vessels (over 40m) it may operate is 10 according to the best catch rate defined by the SCRS and the corresponding capacity. Please refer to the detailed information in the last page of this paper.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Masters of Korean longline vessels must provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the necessary information required by para 85. Also, after each trip, they must submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to the FMC of Korea. Korean fishing vessels are required to report their catch to the FMC of Korea on a daily basis and transshipment/landing activities must be reported, too, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act. The FMC of Korea analyzes all relevant information including VMS records and the MOF investigates any suspicious events identified by the FMC. Any infringements or non-compliances will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's overseas fisheries. At least 60% of the Korean BFT fishing vessels returning to Korean ports will be inspected by the flag State's authorities.

The following *control competent authorities* are responsible for the implementation of the monitoring, control and inspection plan:

- Focal: International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
 - Ms. Jiyoung Oh / im5g0@korea.kr / (+82) 44-200-5333
 - Mr Taehoon Won / th1608@korea.kr / (+82) 44-200-5334
- Monitoring: Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of Korea
 - Monitoring team / fmc2014@korea.kr / (+82) 51-410-1410
- Port inspection: Quarantine and Inspection Division, National Fishery Products Quality Management Service
 - Ms. Minkyung Kim / kyung91206@korea.kr / (+82) 51- 400-5741

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Korea does not have any plans to have an inspection vessel in the ICCAT Convention area in 2024 for the purpose of Joint International Inspection but Korean fishing vessels will fully cooperate with the boarding and inspection activities.

Capacity table

Tuna vessel type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	Ref years			Number of vessels			Ref years			Fishing Capacity		
		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7												
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78												
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68												
Purse seine total fleet													
Longliner over 40m	25			3	4	4	4			75	100	100	100
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68												
Longliner less than 24m	5												
Total longline fleet				3	4	4	4			75	100	100	100
Baitboat	19.8												
Handline	5												
Trawler	10												
Trap	130												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A												
Other (please specify)	5												
Total fleet/fishing capacity													
Quota				160	200	221	221			160	200	221	221
Percentage allocated to bycatch				2.6% (4.2t)	0.2% (0.5t)	0.18% (0.5t)	0.18% (0.5t)						
Adjusted quota (if applicable)				205.8	259.5	278.224	275.679			205.8	259.5	278.224	275.679*
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)													
Under/ overcapacity										-130.8	-159.5	-178.224	-175.679

* 221 t (initial quota) + 50 t (quota transfer from Chinese Taipei) + 5.179 t (unused quota carried forward from 2023) - 0.5 t (possible bycatch) = 275.679 t.

Name of CPC: Libya

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

Libya is hereby submitting its Fishing, Farming, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna 2024.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT (Rec. 22-08), the level of the 2023 quota for Libya was set at 2,548 tones.

1 a) Overview (para 12)

In preparation for the 2024 bluefin tuna fishing season, Libya adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology indicated by ICCAT Recommendations. Based on this methodology, Libya has adopted a Fishing Plan which will allocate an individual quota to 15 purse-seiners vessels to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2024 in the Mediterranean.

All Libyan fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna in 2024 shall be tuna purse-seiners.

The Libyan Administration (Ministry of Marine Wealth) will issue fishing authorizations for these vessels for 2024 and will be reported to ICCAT in due course.

The management of fishing activity will be governed in accordance with the provisions of the ICCAT *Recommendation establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08), Law #14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya and Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #32/2022, amended by Decree #35/2023 (issued by the Government of National Unity) adopting Rec. 22-08 and amending Decree No. 205/2013, to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Rec. 22-08 has allocated a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 2,548 t to Libya for 2024 (Rec. 22-08, para. 4) for the current year (2024) in accordance with MP, 2,530 t shall be distributed to the 15 (fifteen) purse-seiners over 24m that shall be authorized to fish for BFT in 2023 and 18 t are to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse-seiner fleets. The level of 18 t was established based on past records of bycatch for the last few years, which was much lower than the reserved figure (18 t).

The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadline (Rec.22-08), and any changes to these vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately, Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) between the authorized fishing vessels shall be allowed, Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) with vessels of other CPCs are possible for 2024 with CPC that have less than five authorized purse seine in accordance with (para. 73, Rec. 22-08).

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

No carryover of under harvest from 2023 is being requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

Fish will be destined for farming in accordance with the submitted version of ICCAT forms applicable.

1 d)

Table 1. Summarizes the actions taken to implement the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	Masters of vessels active in the BFT fisher shall maintain a bound logbook and observe procedures as set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 22-08. In accordance with Para 74 of Rec. 22-08 weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.	Art. 15/ Decree #35/2023	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Purse-seiners are only authorized to catch EBFT in eastern Atlantic and Med. Sea in period (26 May - 1 July) - By derogation purse-seiners fishing in FAO zones 37.3.1 and 37.3.2 shall be authorized to fish in the period 15 May – 1 July. This shall be applicable to a maximum of three vessels selling their catches to farms of CPCs in the abovementioned zones. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 22-08, Libya may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven. Notification of close of season will be sent to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with of Rec. 22-08.	Art.12/ Decree #35/2023	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or less than 115cm fork length is prohibited as per para 33 of Rec. 22-08. Any incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg and shall be counted on Libyan quota.	Art. 31/32 Decree#35/2023	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Libyan fishing vessels should, where possible release bluefin tuna caught as bycatch. Otherwise, the amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately. All by-catch including dead fish will be deducted from the quota of Libya when it occurs.	Art. 37/ Decree #35/2023	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No recreational and sport fisheries are allowed.	Art. 7 & 8/ Decree #35/2023	
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Transshipment at sea is prohibited. BFT Fishing vessels shall only land BFT catches in ports designated by the Fishery Authority (Al-khoms, Tripoli, Misurata and Tobruk). All vessels entering any of these ports for landing shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities). All landings of BFT shall be inspected by Port and Fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report	Art. 32/ Decree#35/2023	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	All fishing vessels active in BFT fishing shall be equipped with a full active VMS; the transmission of data shall start 15 days before their period of authorization and continue 15 days after the authorization period. The fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission on basis of at least every hour (1) and any interruption of transmission will be acted upon immediately to investigate	Art 8, 34/ Decree #35/2023 (Transmission start 15 days before Authorization and continue 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	VMS canters shall regularly transmit the data to ICCAT and authority

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		and solve the problem; if said problem is not resolved within 24 hrs the vessel will be recalled to port.		
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	National observers shall cover 100% of the activity of towing and auxiliary vessels (BFT - Other Vessels if any). No national observers on board of catching vessels. For research purposes local researchers may be appointed on board some of the catching vessels.	Art.14/15 Decree #35/2023	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Regional observers shall be placed on board all catching vessels authorized to fish BFT in season 2024 on a full deployment (100%) basis.	Art.14/ Decree #35/2023	
10	Domestic legislation	Law 14/1989, the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya and Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #32/2022, amended by Decree #35/2023 (issued by the Government of National Unity) adopting Rec. 22-08 and amending Decree No. 205/2013, to establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	No Tagging Program in Libyan Sea.		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

The list of designated ports contained in CP24 is the following: Tripoli, Alkhoums, Musratah and Topruk

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

In accordance with SCRS recommendations CPC-Libya has endeavoured to keep its fishing capacity at a low level. CPC-Libya shall, in terms of Para 21 of Rec. 22-08, adjust its fishing capacity in a manner commensurate with the 'best catch rates' indicated by SCRS and the allocated quota to the particular fishing gear (**Table 2**).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

In terms of para 22-26 of Rec. 21-08 Libya has communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat three farms with a total capacity of 1,800 t; no activity however will take place in 2024 due to security situation.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Ministry of Marine Wealth (MOMW) is the control competent authority which ensures that the monitoring, control and inspection plan complies with the provisions of Rec. 22-08.

The contact points from MOMW as responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are:

- Hasan Fouzi Gafri (Head of Fishing Ports Administration)
- gafrihasan@gmail.com
- Mohamed Noor Rabeie (Head of Vessels Registration Department)
- Elrabeie.Mohamed@gmail.com

In accordance with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act. #14/1989, Decree #32/2022, amended by #35/2023 and the Coast Guard and Port Security Act. #229/2005 as modified in 2019.

Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant port authorities, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- i) estimated time of arrival;
- ii) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- iii) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

And Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

Fishing Inspectors from the Fishing Authority/Coast Guard shall be trained to this effect.

Given that the larger part of the quota is caught by the purse seine fleet on the high seas and transferred into cages of farms situated in the areas of competence of other CPCs only a minimal percentage can be inspected on arrival/landing in Libyan ports which will not allow for a reliable risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. However, CPC-Libya will seek cooperation with the farming CPCs receiving fish caught by Libyan catching vessels to obtain further statistics in this regard.

In case of landing in ports of other CPCs masters of Libyan catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to CPC-Libya. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and shall certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

In the case of landings in Libya by catching vessels of other CPCs. CPC-Libya shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

a.1) Measures to compliance with quotas

The Fishery Authority will set up a Control Unit on a 24 x 7 basis during the fishing season.

Operators and masters of the authorized fishing vessels shall adhere to ICCAT Rec. 22-08.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) and their respective allocation keys will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the stipulated time frame.

Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with ROPs on board fishing vessels.

All vessels or JFOs whose quota is exhausted shall be ordered back to port immediately.

All fishing vessels catching BFT shall adhere to the eBCD system.

Catching vessels shall be authorized to transfer their catches only to farming units in CPCs that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

a.2) Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #33/2019, amended by Decree #35/2023 from Ministry of Marine Wealth adopting Rec. 22-08 and amending Decree No. 205/2013 to establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Law # 14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.

Imposing Sanction

Any non-compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree #32/2022/Art. 20 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of individual quota). This decree is in force in this year which will give more effective measures.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Libya has no plan for participate in the international inspection program due to lack of potentials necessary for such program.

5. Others

No other matters.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	1	1	0	0	0	0		71	71	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	31	31	15	15	15	15		1543	1543	747	747	747	747
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	1	0	0	0	0		34	34	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		33	33	15	15	15	15		1648	1648	747	747	747	747
Longliner over 40m	25	5	5	0	0	0	0		125	125	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		5	5	0	0	0	0		125	125	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		38	38	15	15	15	15		1773	1773	747	747	747	747
Quota									947	947	1846	2255	2548	2548
Percentage allocated to bycatch									0	0	0	0.8% (20t)	0.7% (18t)	0.7%* (18t)
Adjusted quota (if applicable)	Note: 18 t reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse seine fleets.								1092	1092	1797	2235	2530*	2530
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)									0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity									681	681	-1050	-1488	-1783	-1783

- Percentage allocated to by catch = original quota – adjusted quota/100.
- Adjusted quota = 2,548 t - 18 t (bycatch) = 2,530 t.
- Adjusted quota = Original quota – bycatch (CPC Libya bycatch =18 t).
- “Under/overcapacity” is calculated by subtracting the figure in “Quota” or “Adjusted quota” from the one in “Total fleet/fishing capacity”.
- Under/overcapacity = Fishing Capacity – Adjusted quota (747 t - 2,530 t = -1,783 t).

Name of CPC: Morocco**Year of fishing plan: 2024****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps****1 a) Overview (para 12)**

In accordance with the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, held in New Cairo (Egypt), from 13-20 November 2023, and under paragraph 4 of Rec. 22-08, Morocco's quota is fixed at 3,700 t, which will be distributed among the different operational segments: traps, purse seine tuna vessels targeting bluefin tuna, small coastal vessels and artisanal boats that take bluefin tuna as bycatch. The quota of each segment is established according to the catch history and the number of fishing vessels in the segment.

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 10 to 13 of Rec. 22-08, as amended and supplemented, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 18 traps
- 5 tuna purse seine vessels i.e. 4 vessels with LOA > 40 m and 1 vessel with LOA between 24 and 40 m, and
- Small coastal vessels and artisanal boats with a fishing license for bycatch during its migration period, and their catches will be counted, as in the past, against the quota allocated to their segment. The fishing gears used by these small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are longline and line. The catches of these vessels are reported in the logbook as well as in the eBCD system.

The total adjusted bluefin tuna fishing quota for the 2024 fishing season is distributed as follows:

- Traps: 2588 t
- Tuna purse seine vessels (4 with LOA > 40 m and 1 with LOA between 24 and 40 m): 631 t
- Bluefin tuna bycatch reserved by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats (longline and handline (HL and LL)): 500 t, calculated based on historical bycatch statistics. It should be noted that bycatch in 2023 was 461.64 t).
- A reserve is set aside for the case of potential dead discards of bluefin tuna: 20 t.

It should be noted that the gears used to catch bluefin tuna in Morocco have specific fishing periods.

Among the five bluefin tuna farming facilities authorised, three will be operational in 2024 in accordance with specific conditions and methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of the regulatory provisions in force. These three farming facilities are linked to authorised traps and vessels.

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual management plan for the bluefin tuna fishery, which has been updated to take into account the new provisions of the eastern bluefin tuna management plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08, Morocco requests a transfer of a volume of 39 t (1.05% of the quota) of its unused quota in 2023 to 2024. Therefore, the national adjusted quota will be 3,739 t.

1 c) Destination of catch

Trap catches will be destined to authorised bluefin tuna fattening farms. Catches taken by tuna purse seines will be destined either for export or fattening farms. Catches by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats shall be destined for export.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 74-88)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuna purse seine vessels have a bound logbook. - Catches of small coastal vessels and artisanal boats with a fishing license are recorded in the logbook and in the eBCD system. - Trap catches are included in fishing logbooks as well as in the eBCD system. - Dead fish (retained or discarded) will be deducted from the quota. - Implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme/eBCD. - Transmission of bi-weekly bluefin tuna catches. - Dates of closure of the bluefin tuna fishery are reported to the ICCAT Secretariat. 	Ministerial Decision on the conditions of exploitation of bluefin tuna for the 2024 season.
2	Fishery openings (para 28-32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bluefin tuna fishing by traps is authorised from 1 April to 31 July. <p>As regards the purse seine bluefin tuna fishery, 5 purse seiners will operate within the framework of a national joint fishing operation (JFO) in the Mediterranean from 26 May to 1 July.</p>	Ministerial Decision on bluefin tuna of February 2024.
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	<p>It is prohibited to catch, retain onboard, tranship, transfer, land, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm. A 5% maximum bycatch is authorised for bluefin tunas weighing between 8 and 30 kg or 75 cm to 115 cm.</p> <p>All bluefin tuna that is smaller than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco.</p>	<p>Order of the Ministry of Fishing and Merchant Marine No. 1154-88 of 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) which fixes the minimum trade size of individuals caught in Moroccan maritime waters as amended and supplemented by Order No. 4132-19 dated 26 December 2019.</p> <p>This order is also applicable to the high seas in the ICCAT Convention area.</p>
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	Vessels that take bluefin tuna as bycatch are authorised to retain, at any time, bluefin tuna representing less than 20% of the total annual catch in weight or number of specimens.	Ministerial Decision on the conditions of exploitation of bluefin tuna for the 2024 season.

		<p>A quota of 500 t allocated to bycatch taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats, using longline and handline is calculated on an annual basis, and is counted and deducted from the national quota allocated by ICCAT.</p> <p>In 2023, the level of bycatch amounted to 461.64 t.</p> <p>A reserve of 20 t is set aside for potential dead discards of bluefin tuna.</p> <p>A total of 520 t (13.91%) of the adjusted quota (3739 t) is set aside for bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna.</p>	
5	Recreational and sport fisheries (para 38-46)	Currently sport and recreational fishing is not authorised.	
6	Transshipment (para 89-94)	<p>Prohibition on at-sea transshipment.</p> <p>Transshipment is authorised only at the ports designated to this effect, in accordance with all the provisions of ICCAT Recommendations.</p> <p>In-port transshipment operations of bluefin tuna are subject to inspection.</p> <p>Only in port transshipment is authorised in accordance with the national regulation.</p>	<p>Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 concerned with the promulgation of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing the dahir concerned with Law No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p> <p>Decree No. 455.17.2 of 26 April 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing published in the Official Bulletin dated 17 May.</p> <p>Decree No. 2.17.456 of 15 March 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Decree No. 1-73-255 dated 23 November 1973 forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p>

7	VMS (para 219-225)	<p>Obligation to have onboard a functional positioning and tracking device.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data of fishing vessels of 15 m or more registered in the ICCAT record start at least 5 days before the authorised period and continue 5 days after this period, unless the vessel is deregistered from the list of authorised vessels.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data is ensured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every hour for purse seiners and tow vessels; - Every two hours for other vessels. 	<p>Decree No. 2.18.104 of 10 December 2018 amending and supplementing Decree No. 2-09-674 of 17 March 2010 which establishes the conditions and methods for installation and use onboard of fishing vessels of a positioning and tracking system which continues to use satellite communications to transmit data.</p> <p>Decree No. 574-19 of 7 March 2019 on the fishing vessel positioning and ongoing tracking device.</p>
8	CPC observers programme (para 95-100)	<p>Mandatory presence of observers during the following operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facility; - Harvest of bluefin tuna; - Intra-farm transfers (from a floating cage to another); - Sealing and unsealing of cages. 	
9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	<p>Presence of onboard observers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facilities: 100%. - Caging and harvesting in farms: 100%. - Tuna purse seiners: 100%. 	
10	Domestic legislation	<p>Ministerial Decision on the conditions of exploitation of bluefin tuna for the 2024 season.</p>	

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

List of designated port for landing and transshipment of bluefin tuna for the 2024 season: Agadir, Casablanca, Dakhla, Kenitra, Laayoune, Larache and Tanger Ville.

List of ports designated only for landing bluefin tuna for the 2024 season: Al Hoceima, Asilah, Boujdour, Eljadida, Essaouira, Jebha, Jorf Lasfar, Ksar Sghir, Mdiq, Mohammedia, Nador, Safi, Sidi Ifni, Tarfaya, Ras kebdana and TanTan.

List of ports designated only for transshipment of bluefin tuna for the 2024 season: Tanger-Med.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 14-19)

The number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity are reported in the attached table.

This fishing capacity management plan may be revised and communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one working day before the activity corresponding to that modification is carried out, in accordance with the provisions of para 13 of Rec. 22-08.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 20 and 23 in [Rec. 23-06](#)), as applicable

Morocco hereby reserves the right to submit, if applicable, revised farming management plans to the Secretariat by 1 June 2024, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

In addition, it should be signaled that no carryover of caged live bluefin tuna is authorised.

Morocco's farming capacity management plan for 2024 is as follows:

- Farming facilities authorized to be operational: 3 farms;
- These three farms are associated to traps and authorised vessels (as indicated in the first page).

<i>Farm name</i>	<i>N° FFB ICCAT</i>	<i>Geographic coordinates</i>	<i>Wild input (t) *</i>	<i>Capacity (t)*</i>
BLUE FARM	AT001MAR00002	Point A: Lat: 35°18'17,00"N Long: 006°11'19,00"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'17,00"N Long: 006°11'19,00"W Point C: Lat: 35°19'17,00"N Long: 006°10'47,20"W Point D: Lat: 35°18'17,00"N Long: 006°10'47,20"W	1280	3000
LA LEVANTADA	AT001MAR00003	Point A: Lat: 35°18'10,00"N Long: 006°10'31,00"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'10,00"N Long: 006°10'31,00"W Point C: Lat: 35°19'10,00"N Long: 006°10'01,50"W Point D: Lat: 35°18'10,00"N Long: 006°10'01,50"W	950	1500
PESBAK FISH	AT001MAR00004	Point A: Lat: 35°19'23"N Long: 06°10'35"W Point B: Lat: 35°20'27" N Long: 06°10'30"W Point C: Lat: 35°20'24" N Long: 06°09'28"W Point D: Lat: 35°19'21" N Long: 06°09'33"W	989	1500
TOTAL			3219	6000

*Approximate and provisional estimation.

- Total amount per farm carried over from previous year: 0

Surveillance and control of bluefin tuna caging operations

- Surveillance and control of caging operations in farming facilities are supported, in particular, by the presence of regional and national observers and video recording by using conventional cameras and stereoscopic cameras, in accordance with the conditions established in Recommendation 22-08.

Random controls in farming facilities

- Random control of at least 10% of number of cages on each farm after the conclusion of caging operations. These controls are carried out on the internal traceability system implemented by the fattening farm and also by transfer operation followed by a control camera for verification of the number of bluefin tuna transferred;

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10c)

Competent control authority of Morocco, attached to the Department of Maritime Fisheries, responsible for implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan	
Directorate of Control of Maritime Fisheries Activities	
List of contacts	
Surname and first name	E-mail address
CHAFAI ELALAOUI NADIR	CHAFAI.ELALAOUI@mpm.gov.ma
BOUAAMRI MOUNIR	bouaamri@mpm.gov.ma
KECHA YOUSSEF	youssef.kecha@mpm.gov.ma

Fishery monitoring, control and observation will be carried out in accordance with the national regulation and ICCAT Recommendations in force through the use of the control and surveillance methodology for bluefin tuna fishing and fattening activities in 2024.

This methodology is part of the framework for implementation of national maritime fishery control activities. It includes measures for compliance with ICCAT provisions on control and inspection, in particular, those of Rec. 22-08 / 23-06. This methodology therefore includes measures related to the following actions:

Prior notification of landings

- Maintain records for monitoring prior notifications to port entry transmitted by all catch, transformation and support vessels that carry onboard catches equivalent or superior to three fishes or a ton;

Monitoring and control of landings

- Systematic monitoring and control of landings of the coastal and artisanal fleet which must be effectively weighed before first sale. Compliance with the catch documentation system, which is implemented nationally, is also mandatory. This national documentation system enables control through direct systematic cross-checking between the catch declaration on landing and data from first sale, and acts as an additional tool for verifying validation of documents of the eBCD process;

Monitoring and control of harvesting operations in traps and farming facilities

- Monitoring and control of harvesting operations in traps and farming facilities, in particular in the presence of regional and/or national observers in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 22-08;

Monitoring and control of live bluefin tuna transfer and caging operations

- Monitoring and control of bluefin tuna transfer operations are supported in particular by the presence of regional and/or national observers and video recording using conventional cameras and stereoscopic cameras in accordance with the conditions established in Rec. 22-08 / 23-06;

VMS

- VMS surveillance of relevant fishing vessels carried out by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with online real time availability of position data for the regional maritime fisheries administration (Maritime Fisheries Delegations);

Bluefin tuna catch documentation

- Establishment of a procedure to report and record information regarding catch, transfer and caging, in particular, through implementation of the catch documentation programme (eBCD);

Port inspection

- Compliance with provisions on port inspection measures for foreign vessels, and fulfilment of international commitments by the Kingdom of Morocco with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

At-sea surveillance

- At-sea surveillance is also performed by other authorities to which powers have been conferred by the national regulation.

Measures for sealing cages

- Morocco will implement the measures for sealing bluefin tuna cages in accordance with Recommendation 22-08 / 23-06.

b) Joint scheme of international inspection (JIS) (para 229-232)

The Kingdom of Morocco has five vessels that could operate outside the national EEZ. There will not be an inspection vessel.

It should be noted that these five vessels will embark ICCAT regional observers, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT recommendations.

5. Others

Regarding research and in accordance with paragraphs 26 and 166 of Rec. 22-08, Morocco intends to update for 2024 its study on growth rate of fattened bluefin tuna, based on measures of stereoscopic cameras and size sampling both at caging and at the end of the fattening season.

Moreover, it is foreseen that Morocco will continue the second phase of the pilot study that was started in 2022 and is based on automated size measurements and fish weights using artificial intelligence, with the objective of assessing the accuracy of the automatic system compared to the manual method recommended by ICCAT. This study will be carried out by capitalising on the expertise of an international company specialising in this area, and with the financial support of the ICCAT/JCAP project.

This project will be coordinated jointly by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and ICCAT/JCAP project.

Capacity table

Tuna vessel type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	Ref year		Number of vessels				Ref Year		Fishing capacity			
		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	1	2	4	4	4	70.7	70.7	141.4	282.8	282.8	282.8
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	3	3	0	0	0	1	149.4	149.4	0	0	0	49.78
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet			4	2	4	4	5	220.1	220.1	141.4	282.8	282.8	332.58
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	15	15	15	18	18	18	1950	1950	1950	2340	2340	2340
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (specify)	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	80*	80*	309	444.65*	524*	520*
Total fleet / fishing capacity		19	19	17	22	22	23	2250.1	2250.1	2400	3067.45	3146.8	3192.58
Quota		3177	2729	2578	3284	3700	3700	3177	2729	2578	3284	3700	3700
Percentage allocated to bycatch								3	3	11.99	13.44	14.15	13.91
Adjusted quota (if necessary)		3177	2729	2578	3308.6	3703	3739	3177	2729	2578	3308.65	3703**	3739
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity								-926.9	-478.9	-178	-241.2	-556.2	-546.42

* This amount corresponds to bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats operating off the Moroccan coasts (3500 km) (as indicated on page 1) (500 t) and 20 t is set aside for potential dead discards of bluefin tuna, i.e. a total of 520 t (13.91%) of the adjusted quota is set aside for bycatch taken by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna. The latter amount will be deducted from the national quota. It should be noted that there are specific fishing periods for the fishing gears used to fish for bluefin tuna in Morocco.

** Adjusted quota = 3739 (initial quota (3700 t)+ carryover of underharvest (39 t)).

Name of CPC: Norway**Fishing Plan Year: 2024****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps****1 a) Overview (para 12)**

According to Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 4, Norway is allocated a quota of 368 t in 2024. Regarding Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 6, Norway requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its unutilized 2023 quota to 2024. A total of 118 t of the Norwegian catch quota was utilized in 2023, and 18,4 t (5% of 368 t) may, according to paragraph 6, be transferred to 2024.

If the request is endorsed, the adjusted quota for 2024 will be 386,4 t. The allocation of the Norwegian quota in this fishing plan is calculated on the basis of a quota of 386,4 t, i.e., the Norwegian quota in 2024 including a transfer of 18,4 t from 2023.

Norway has set aside a group quota of 288 t for seven purse seiners and one longline vessel, a group quota of 40 t for small-scale coastal vessels and a group quota of 8 t for the recreational fishery. Furthermore 2 t will be set aside for the purpose of catch and release. Norway will also allocate a quota of 15 t for bycatch, and 33,4 t for research activities. Out of the research quota 30 t will be allocated to the pilot study of short-term live storage of bluefin tuna. The remaining 3,4 t will be allocated to a study by WelTuna, who's main objective is researching the welfare in conscious capture and slaughter of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna. The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the national Regulations on Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna in 2024, which will enter into force when the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Norway will authorize seven purse seiners to fish for bluefin tuna in 2024. There is still some uncertainty regarding which purse seiners will choose to participate in the bluefin tuna fishery in 2024. Of the seven vessels on the list of authorized vessels, two vessels have an overall length exceeding 40 m. The purse seiners will be given *maximum* quotas. In addition, Norway will authorize one longline vessel that will participate with the same individually allocated quota as the seven purse seiners. The exact maximum quotas may be adjusted throughout the fishing season, but at no time will the total Norwegian quota be exceeded.

Norway intends to authorize Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) in 2024. To comply with Rec. 22-08, Norway will transmit all requisite information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least five working days before the start of the purse seine vessel fishing season.

A limited number of vessels will get access to participate in the small-scale coastal fishery. In 2023, 22 small scale vessels were chosen to participate in this fishery. This number might increase slightly in 2024.

Norway will also authorize a number of vessels for a recreational fishery. A few of these vessels will also get a permit to participate in tag and release fishery of bluefin tuna. It has not yet been decided how many vessels/teams that will be allowed to participate in this fishery. In 2023 Norway authorized 58 teams for recreational fishery, of which 31 teams received authorization for tag and release fishery. We expect the number to be somewhat similar. Further details are specified in Section 2 below.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 52, Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorised to conduct this fishery to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan will be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 13.

The purse seiners, the longline vessel and small-scale coastal vessels will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken. The vessels participating in the recreational fishery and in the tag and release fishery are required to communicate the same information as the commercial vessels, they also have to stay in close contact with the Institute of Marine Research. The tag and release fishery will only take place if the masters of the vessels can document that they are able to tag the bluefin tuna with spaghetti marks, and that they have received the necessary licences to do so.

All Norwegian catching vessels with an overall length exceeding 10 meters are required to send position reports (VMS) and daily catch reports to FMC. Catching vessels with an overall length under 10 meters, which do not have an electronic logbook on board, are required to send information on catch from a phone application developed for coastal fisheries. The catch report shall be sent at least two hours before landing. All catching vessels are required to submit a landing or sales note at the time of landing.

15 t of the Norwegian quota are set aside for unintentional bycatch of bluefin tuna. This is the same quantity as in 2023. Bycatch of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of bycatch. The highest level of bycatch of bluefin tuna registered in the Norwegian economic zone in the past few years is 8.4 t in 2015. In comparison, the level of bycatch was 8 t in 2021, 5.8 t in 2022 and 2.5 t in 2023. Therefore, 15 t set aside for bycatch should be more than sufficient to cover bycatch in 2024.

If a vessel has not been allocated a quota, or if the allocated quota has been exhausted, the master of the vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of bycatch of live bluefin tuna. If such bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota.

All bycatch of bluefin tuna shall immediately be reported to the Norwegian FMC. The FMC will alert inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries who will initiate appropriate follow-up action.

The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard has access to the electronic logbooks in real time.

Further information regarding the monitoring and control of the Norwegian quota is included in the table below.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

Norway requests a transfer of 18.4 t from 2023 to 2024.

1 c) Destination of catch

All bluefin tuna caught by Norwegian vessels will be landed, except for those used for the pilot study on short-term live storage. They will be stored for a limited period of time before they are prepared for sale.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p>74. The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to keep an electronic logbook.</p> <p>75. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian towing, auxiliary or processing vessels participating in the BFT fishery.</p> <p>76. The Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken.</p> <p>The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including fish under the minimum size, shall be landed and deducted from the vessel quota.</p> <p>The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 17 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 17 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements)</p> <p>The Marine Resources Act and Regulation relating to harvesting of wild living marine resources.</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements). Regulations on Coastal fisheries</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>77. The purse seiners will be required to communicate the daily reports on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including when the catch is zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Norwegian FMC by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p> <p>78. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian traps fishing for bluefin tuna.</p> <p>79. Catching vessels other than purse seiners will be required to transmit to the Norwegian FMC by the latest Tuesday at noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.</p> <p>From 1 April 2023, all Norwegian catching vessels with an overall length exceeding 10 meters are required to send position reports (VMS) and daily catch reports to the FMC. Catching vessels with an overall length under 10 meters, which do not have an electronic logbook on board, are required to send information on catch from a phone application developed for coastal fisheries. The catch report shall be sent at least two hours before landing. All catching vessels are required to submit a landing or sales note at the time of landing.</p>	<p>phone application. Regulations on landing of catch.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 15 November, in accordance with Rec. 22-08 paragraph 28</p> <p>Fishing with longline vessels will be permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 1 August to 31 December.</p> <p>If weather conditions prevent purse seine fishing operations during the authorised fishing period, Norway may, in accordance with Rec. 22-08 paragraph 29, extend the fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days. Weather conditions which may lead to an extension of the fishing period shall correspond to wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p> <p>Norway has established a fishing season for small-scale coastal vessels in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 13 May to 31 December 2024.</p> <p>The fishing season for the recreational fishery will be from 13 May to 31 December 2024.</p>	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 3	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>The Norwegian vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will only be authorised to fish in Norwegian waters. No bluefin tuna at such low individual size has been registered in Norwegian fisheries. Nevertheless, a minimum size of 30 kilos or 115 cm applies.</p> <p>For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorised according to Rec. 22-08 paragraph 36.</p> <p>Not applicable. There are no Norwegian baitboats or trolling boats authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and no Norwegian vessels are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea or the Adriatic Sea. Not applicable. Reference is made to paragraph 34 above.</p>	Regulation relating to harvesting of wild living marine resources § 47 Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 2.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Norway has allocated a quota of 15 tonnes for bycatch of bluefin tuna in other fisheries in 2024.</p> <p>The level of bycatch in 2022 was 5.8 t and 2.5 t in 2023.</p>	Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 §§ 2 and 7	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>Bycatch of bluefin tuna in Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of bycatch.</p> <p>All bycatches of dead bluefin tuna shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota and reported on an annual basis to ICCAT.</p> <p>If no quota has been allocated to the fishing vessel concerned, or if the quota has already been exhausted, the catching vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of live bluefin tuna. If the bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and the appropriate follow-up action shall be taken in accordance with domestic law.</p> <p>For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	<p>In 2023, Norway issued fishing authorisations to 58 teams participating in a recreational fishery. 31 of these teams were also authorised to participate in a tag-and release fishery. We expect the number of vessels in 2024 to be somewhat similar.</p> <p>The tag and release-fisheries follow the requirements in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 44.</p> <p>The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by recreational and tag and release fishery, shall be landed. The Norwegian Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna contains measures which prohibit recreational and tag and release vessels to land more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day.</p> <p>Norway has prohibited the marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and tag and release fishery.</p> <p>Data, including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during recreational and tag and release fishery, will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat for the preceding year by 31 July each year.</p>	<p>Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 5.</p> <p>Regulation relating to harvesting of wild living marine resources § 47</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 13.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 13.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>Dead catches from recreational and tag and release fishery will be counted against the Norwegian quota. 8 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover catches from a recreational fishery, and 2 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover any bluefin tuna which might die during the tag and release fishery.</p> <p>Norway will take measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive in recreational fisheries if no quota has been allocated to the vessel or if the quota has been exhausted.</p> <p>Only vessels with a license issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery. The vessels must also be authorised by the competent authorities to perform the tagging process. The license to participate in the tag and release fishery, and the authorisation to perform the tagging process, will be withdrawn if the vessel does not comply with the terms of the license/authorisation.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 13.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 2.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>All vessels participating in the tag and release fishery will be closely monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries.</p> <p>Norway will report on tag and release activities in accordance with Rec. 05-09 and Rec. 66-01.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities will be reported and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>Norway will, upon request from ICCAT, make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorisation.</p> <p>The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 46.</p>		
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Not applicable. All transshipment of bluefin tuna at sea is prohibited	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 18.	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	The purse seiners, the longline vessel and the small-scale coastal vessels over 10 m authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every ten minutes to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of VMS signals will immediately be followed up by the FMC.	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 17.</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>VMS will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, every two hours for longline vessels, and every hour for purse seine vessels.</p> <p>All Norwegian catching vessels with an overall length exceeding 10 meters are required to send position reports (VMS) and daily catch reports to the FMC. Catching vessels with an overall length under 10 meters, which do not have an electronic logbook on board, are required to send information on catch from a phone application developed for coastal fisheries. The catch report shall be sent at least two hours before landing. All catching vessels are required to submit a landing or sales note at the time of landing.</p> <p>Norway does not use towing vessels in the commercial fishery. Should it be necessary to use towing vessels during the research on short-term live storage of bluefin tuna, the towing vessel(s) will be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with Rec. 18-10 and transmit messages at least once every hour.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>The VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 5 days before the vessel's period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after its period of authorisation.</p>		
<p>8</p>	<p>CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)</p>	<p>In 2024, Norway will have one longline vessel over 15 meters participating in the fisheries. We do not have any pelagic trawlers or baitboats over 15 meters.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will have an observer coverage of the authorised purse seine vessels of at least 5% measured in number of trips as required in para 4 a) in Recommendation 16-14. Furthermore, the operative unit of the Directorate of Fisheries will provide an observer coverage of at least 20 percent on the longline vessel, in accordance with para 95-100 in Rec. 22-08.</p> <p>Well in advance of the start of the fishing season, the small-scale coastal vessels, the longline and the purse seine vessels will be provided with an information sheet where they will include information regarding the scheduled start-up date, area and period for the bluefin tuna fishery. Based on this information sheet, the Norwegian Surveillance Services</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 14</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>and the Institute of Marine Research will organize their observer coverage ensuring representative temporal and spatial coverage to collect adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, in line with Rec. 22-08 and Rec. 16-14.</p> <p>All the Norwegian vessels will be required to keep close contact with the Norwegian Surveillance Services when fishing for bluefin tuna to ensure that the requirements relating to observer coverage are fulfilled.</p> <p>The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every ten minutes as well as daily reports from the electronic logbooks to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The Surveillance Services have access to this information in real time.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will provide the Norwegian Surveillance Services with relevant training and inform them of which sampling methods that must be used to collect biological data in accordance with Rec. 22-08.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	<p>The purse seine vessels will be required to have 100% observer coverage under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP).</p> <p>The vessels will be closely monitored by the FMC, and the Directorate of Fisheries will carry out landing inspections. The Institute of Marine Research will, if the situation allows it, have scientists on board several of the vessels.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 16.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024 § 17.</p>	
10	Domestic legislation	<p>The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the Regulations on Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna in 2024, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan has been approved by ICCAT.</p> <p>In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.</p> <p>The requirements regarding catch reporting and VMS is already in place in the regulations on an Electronic Reporting System.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2024.</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
	<p><i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i></p>	<p>Norway will open up for a tag and release fishery. Norway will follow the requirements in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 44.</p> <p>Only vessels with a license issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery. The vessels must also be authorised by the competent authorities to perform the tagging process. The license to participate in the tag and release fishery, and the authorisation to perform the tagging process, will be withdrawn if the vessel does not comply with the terms of the license/authorisation.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities will be reported and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>Norway will, upon request from ICCAT, make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorisation.</p> <p>The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in Rec. 22-08 paragraph 46.</p>		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

A list of designated ports for landing and transhipment through form CP24 are attached to the fishing plan.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

The best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 are based on catches from the Mediterranean Sea. These catch rates do not reflect the catch rates in the feeding areas in Norwegian waters. When bluefin tunas are feeding in Norwegian waters, they are much less aggregated than when they are spawning in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to this, the weather along the Norwegian coast in September and October often prevents the fishermen from going out to fish for bluefin tuna. As requested by the Chair of Panel 2 at the annual Commission meeting in 2019, Norway provided a paper to the SCRS in 2020 on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone. Norway also presented this paper in the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2020. For further detail see [SCRS/2020/017](#).

In accordance with Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 18 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 does not apply to Norway.

As the vessels have not been selected, information on their length is not yet available. The purse seine vessels and the longline vessel will be allocated an individual vessel quota of 36 t within the group quota of 288 t, regardless of the size of the vessel. In addition, the vessels will be given *maximum* quotas. The exact maximum quotas may be adjusted throughout the fishing season, but at no time will the total Norwegian quota be exceeded.

The small-scale coastal vessels will be allocated a specific sectorial quota of 40 t. 15 t of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental bycatches in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna, 33.4 t will be set aside for research, 2 t will be set aside for tag and release fishery, and 8 t will be set aside for the recreational fishery.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in [Rec. 23-06](#)), as applicable

Not applicable. Norway does not have any bluefin tuna farms.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries, and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08. The purse seine vessels will be required to have 100% observer coverage under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP). Furthermore, the operative unit of the Directorate of Fisheries will provide an observer coverage of at least 20 percent on the longline vessel, in accordance with para 95-100 in Recommendation 22-08.

Small-scale coastal vessels will be monitored closely. The vessels will be closely monitored by the FMC, and the Directorate of Fisheries will carry out landing inspections. The Institute of Marine Research will, if the situation allows it, have scientists on board several of the vessels.

All Norwegian vessels having catches of bluefin tuna, including as bycatch, are required to inform the Norwegian FMC. Furthermore, a minimum of 5 % of the landings of bluefin tuna by the vessels targeting this species will be inspected by inspectors from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries. These inspections will be carried out as full inspections, i.e. the inspectors will monitor the entire landing. This includes monitoring the entire weighing of the fish, cross-checking this against the prior notice of port entry, the VMS, the electronic logbook as well as the landing and sales notes. Furthermore, the inspectors shall ensure that there is no fish left on board once the landing is completed and the landing or sales notes are signed.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna is limited to the Norwegian fisheries jurisdiction, and the requirement of an inspection vessel in paragraph 231 does not apply.

The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna and the vessels with incidental bycatch of dead bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 paragraph 47, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any type of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 21-19 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and Recommendation 20-08 amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system, as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway has issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system since 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2024 in accordance with the recommendations mentioned above.

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b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Not applicable. Norway does not participate in any international inspections in accordance with paragraphs 229-232 of Rec. 22-08 and Annex 7.

5. Others

Thirty tonnes of bluefin tuna are in 2024 allocated to a scientific pilot study aimed at short-term live storage of bluefin tuna in Norway. The quota will be designated to one single vessel, and only one storage cage will be utilized. All activity carried out in relation to the pilot study will enjoy full control coverage, as both inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries and personnel from the Institute of Marine Research will be on board the vessel at all times.

According to Rec. 22-08 para 208-215 the requirement of random controls embodied in Appendix 1 para 16 Res. 22-07, confirms that at least 10 percent of the number of cages utilized shall be subject to random controls. We interpret that while we only have one storage cage, one random control is sufficient during the caging period. We can ensure that if the pilot project in 2024 is successful in capturing bluefin tuna, the cage will be under close supervision from the Directorate of Fisheries and possibly also from the Norwegian food safety authority. The requirement of random control will be accommodated.

Norway will ensure that the project is conducted in line with Res. 22-07. The vessel will have 100% observer coverage from the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme. This observer will be able to monitor transfers from the purse seine to the transport cage. The catch of bluefin tuna, as well as the transfer and storage operations, will be closely monitored, and dead or dying bluefin tuna will be removed from the purse seine/transfer/storage cage, taken to land and deducted from the vessel quota. In addition to a ROP observer being present for all the phases of the operation, Norway will report to ICCAT on the results of the implementation of the pilot project by 1 October 2024 in line with Res. 22-07 paragraph 8.

We have successfully (in 2023) explored the use of cameras during transport operations. We will continue to refine the camera usage, making a few adjustments so that the camera monitoring can be optimized in relation to Norwegian conditions, while also accommodating the requirements of Res. 22-07.

Norway wants to increase the quota allocated to the short-term live storage pilot project from 18 t to 30 t in 2024. The increase in quantity is essential to implement the market-related aspects into the project, most importantly to study how the market responds to live-stored fish. An increased allocation is also necessary to make the project more sustainable and able to meet the financial requirements of implementing the project. The pilot project is dependent on vessels having an incentive to participate in the project. An increase of 12 t is still an allocation within limited scale and in line with Res. 22-07 paragraph 5.

Norway will not allow commercial trade of bluefin tuna without an eBCD, thus following the regulation in Rec. 18-13. When the bluefin tuna is ready to be harvested from the storage cage, we will incorporate the catch in the eBCD system, and use the caging section in the system to issue and validate an electronic catch certificate as described in the discussion paper on the application of electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) in the pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna at the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on IMM.

Capacity table

Tuna vessel type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t) ²	Ref years ¹			Number of vessels			Ref years			Fishing Capacity		
		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7				1	2	2				70.7	141.4	141.4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78			2	7	6	5			99.56	348.46	298.68	248.9
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68												
Purse seine total fleet				2	8	8	7			99.56	419.16	440.08	390.30
Longliner over 40m	25						1						25
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68												
Longliner less than 24m	5												
Total longline fleet							1						25
Baitboat	19.8												
Handline	5												
Trawler	10												
Trap	130												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A				25	30	30				18	40	40
Other (please specify)	5												
Total fleet/fishing capacity				2	33	38	38			99.56	437.16	480.08	455.3
Quota										104	300	368	368
Percentage allocated to bycatch										13.5% (14t)	5.0% (15t)	4.1% (15t)	4.1% (15t)
Adjusted quota (if applicable)										90 ³	282 ⁴	350 ⁵	338 ⁶
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)											10	10	10
Under/ overcapacity										9.56	165.16	140.08	127.3

¹ Norway did not participate in the bluefin tuna fishery in 2006 and 2008.

² The figures for purse seine capacity correspond to the calculations made by the SCRS for the Mediterranean Sea. Norway provided a paper to the SCRS in 2020 (SCRS/2020/017) on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone. The paper demonstrates that the catch rates in the Norwegian EEZ are a lot lower than the catch rates in the Mediterranean Sea. The paper was also presented at the Panel 2 meeting in 2020.

³ Adjusted quota 2018: 104 t (2018 initial quota) - 14 t (bycatch) = 90 t

⁴ Adjusted quota 2022: 300 t (2022 initial quota) + 15 t (carry over from 2021) - 15 t (bycatch) - 18 t (research) = 282 t

⁵ Adjusted quota 2023: 368 t (2023 initial quota) + 15 t (carry over from 2022) - 15 t (bycatch) - 18 t (research) = 350 t

⁶ Adjusted quota 2024: 368 t (2024 initial quota) + 18.4 t (carry over from 2023) - 15 t (bycatch) - 33.4 t (research) = 338 t

List of ports contained in CP24

ANDENES	RYPEFJORD
ATLØY	SANDØY
AUSTEVOLL	SELJE
BODØ	SENJAHOPEN
BORG	SIREVÅG
BREIVIKA	SKUDENESHAVN
BREMANGER	SKUTVIK
BULANDET	SMØLA
BÅTSFJORD	SOLSTRAND
BØVÅGEN	SORTLAND
EGERSUND	STAVANGER
ELLINGSØY	STAVERN
FISKARSTRAND	STOREBØ
FLEKKERØY	TROLLEBØ
FLEM	TROMSØ
FLORØ	TRONDHEIM HØVRINGEN
FOSNAVÅG	TRÆNA
GLESVAER	UTHAUG
GOTTEBERG	VADSØ
GUNHILDVÅGEN	VARDØ
HAMMERFEST	VEDDE
HARSTAD	VÆRØY
HARØYSUND	ÅLESUND
HESTØYA	
HJØRUNGAVÅG	
HONNINGSVÅG	
HUSØY KARMØY	
VALER	
KALVÅG	
KARMSUND	
KARMØY	
KIRKENES	
KJØLLEFJORD	
KRISTIANDSUND	
KRISTIANSAND	
KÅRVIK/KÅRVIKHAMN	
KÅRVIKHAMN	
LARVIK	
LEIRVIK	
LEKNES (LOFOTTERMINALEN)	
LIAVÅGEN	
LØDINGEN	
MELBU	
MÅLØY	
OSLO	
RAUDEBERG	

Name of CPC: Syria

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

In accordance with the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission, which was held in hybrid format in Vale de Lobo (Algarve, Portugal) online, from 14 to 21 November 2022, and according to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2024, Syria has an annual quota of 129 tons of bluefin tuna catch from the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea (Rec. 22-08).

Longliner, baitboat, handboat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria for catching bluefin tuna, for that only 1 ton (0.8%) of quota will be set aside for any possible bycatch as no bycatch or discard recorded in previous years.

The total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2024 fishing season is 128 t.

Only one Syrian fishing vessel recorded in the ICCAT list of vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2024 to catch the Syrian allocated quota, and the whole quota shall be caught by one vessel taking into consideration that the fishing effort of that vessel is commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to Syria in 2024.

Each year, the fisheries authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) announces terms and conditions for the BFT fishing season based on ICCAT recommendations.

A special fishing license shall be issued by the fisheries authority for the vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in 2024.

The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.

According to Rec. 22-08, para 28 Syria officially request to start the fishing season from 15 May to 1 July 2024.

No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria.

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, and displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited,

The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour. VMS data will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to the competent authorities a daily catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish and total weight.

Bi-weekly catch reports of the active vessel for catching BFT shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

No carry-over of under harvested tuna from 2023 is being requested.

1 c) Destination of catch

The fish will be transferred for farming purposes in CPC countries.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p>The master of the catching vessel shall maintain a bound fishing logbook of his operation in accordance with ICCAT recommendations.</p> <p>The fishing operator shall by electronic or other means report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report). Syria will submit bi-weekly catch reports to ICCAT, as well as date of closure of the fisheries. Dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
2.	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	<p>The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine for fishing in eastern Mediterranean Sea. Syria officially requests to start the fishing season from 15 May to 1 July 2024.</p> <p>Syria may possibly extend its fishing period for the affected vessel for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel have been inactive.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (from 15 May to 1 July 2024) (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
3.	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited.</p> <p>Fish below the minimum size that are discarded dead shall be counted against Syrian quota.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
4.	By-catch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>1 t of quota will be set aside for any possible bycatches.</p> <p>Previously no bycatch was recorded of BFT. And no bycatch of bluefin tuna recorded in 2023.</p> <p>Therefore, on this basis, a bycatch allocation of around 1% is set aside.</p> <p>The amount of bycatch for small scale coastal vessel fleet should be calculated on an annual basis. Bycatches, including discards, should be counted against the quota.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	

		Any bycatch shall be reported to ICCAT.		
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	No activities for the recreational or sport fishery in Syria.	Not applicable	
6.	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Fishing vessel shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. No transshipment operations reported in Syria.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
7.	VMS (paras 219-225)	The vessel must be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
8.	CPC Observers programme (paras 95-100)	<p>Most of the Syrian fleet is less than 10 m and considered as small – scale coastal vessels and the possibility of catching bluefin tuna is negligible as no pelagic trawlers, longline vessels, baitboats or traps are operating in Syrian waters.</p> <p>The fishing operations of the Syrian vessel will be monitored throughout the fishing season by the CPC observer (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) which will embark onboard of the fishing vessel. He will be in charge of collecting and recording any scientific information like any accidental catch of sharks, turtles and sea birds during fishing trips. In addition, the regional observer will be embarked on the Syrian vessel for at sea transfers from neighbouring country.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing. (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
9.	Regional observers Programme (paras 101-107)	An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage on purse seine vessels authorized to catch BFT.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing (No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
10	Domestic legislation	The domestic legislation in Syria regarding BFT corresponds with the recommendations adopted by ICCAT, Every year domestic legislation is amended in accordance with ICCAT recommendations. The legislation includes all information regarding BFT fishing activity (fishing season, VMS, catch recording and reporting, minimum size, Bycatch, etc.)	(No. 1827, date 19/3/2023)	
11	<i>Ports</i>	LATAKIA port is the authorized port for any landing or transhipment of BFT		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

LATAKIA port is the authorized port for any landing or transhipment of BFT.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

Only one vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2024 to catch the Syrian allocated quota, and the whole quota shall be caught by one vessel taking into consideration that the fishing effort of that vessel is commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to Syria in 2024.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

There is no facility for farming BFT in Syrian waters yet. The fish will be transferred for farming purposes in CPC countries.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10c)

Most of Syrian fleet is considered as small – scale coastal vessels and the possibility of catching bluefin tuna is negligible as no pelagic trawlers, longline vessels, baitboats or traps are operating in Syrian waters.

General Commission for Fisheries Resources is the control competent authority for controlling and monitoring of fishing activities in cooperation with the General Directorate of Ports and the Director General of General Commission for Fisheries Resources (gcsr.syria@gmail.com) is the contact point nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan.

An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage on the purse seine vessel authorized to catch BFT.

The fishing operations of the Syrian vessel will be monitored throughout the fishing season by the CPC observer which will embark onboard the fishing vessel, in addition to the regional observer that will be embarked on the Syrian vessel for at sea transfers from neighbouring country.

In case of any violation, the fishing authorities will impose a penalty on the fishing operator.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

One Syrian vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2024 to catch Syrian quota, and no Joint Scheme of International Inspection is applied.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Refyears</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Refyears</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78													
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	1	1	0	1		0	0	33.68	33.68	0	33.68
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	1	1	0	1		0	0	33.68	33.68	0	33.68
Longliner over 40m	25													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet														
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10													
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5													
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	1	1	0	1		0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68
Quota									0	0	66	80	129	129
Percentage allocated to bycatch									0	0	0	1%	0.8%	0.8%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									0	0	66	79.2	128**	128*
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)									0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity									0	0	-32.32	-45.52	-94.32	-94.32

* 0.8% has been set aside for bycatch.

** Total quota (128 t) transferred for farming

Name of CPC: Tunisia**Year of Fishing Plan: 2024**

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, Tunisia has drawn up its Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for 2024.

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps**1 a) Overview (para 12)**

The eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing quota allocated to Tunisia for 2024 is 3,000 t (paragraph 4 of Rec. 22-08). It is adjusted to 3,030 t to take into account the carryover of the underharvest of 30 t recorded for 2023; explained below.

54 purse seiners; strictly using purse seine will actively fish for bluefin tuna during the 2024 fishing campaign. The fishing capacity remains at the same level as in 2023.

The Tunisian Administration will set individual quotas, consistent with the methodology established by ICCAT (catch levels and length ranges).

For this purpose, the Tunisian Administration will issue in a timely manner fishing authorisations for these vessels, a list of which will be transmitted to ICCAT within the established timeframes.

For compliance with ICCAT requirements, Tunisia has adopted several measures for constant and instantaneous monitoring in the course of the fishing season (paragraph 12 of Rec. 22-08) specifically including the reporting system between the fishing grounds and the competent authority. This system initially ensures:

- Establishment at central level of a database on all catches taken and the existence of a clear scheme for catch traceability.
- Compliance with quotas allocated to catching vessels.

In addition, the national regulation has taken into account management of bluefin tuna fishing through Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended and/or supplemented, in particular by Law No. 2013-34 of 21 September 2013 and Law No. 2018-30 of 23 May 2018 and their implementing texts, in particular, the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08, Tunisia intends to carry over to 2024 its bycatch underharvest for 2023, i.e. 30 t. For this purpose, the TAC for Tunisia is 3,030 t, distributed as follows.

- 3,000 t set aside for tuna purse seiners.
- 30 t set aside for bycatch in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 37 of Rec. 22-08.

1 c) Destination of catch

The estimated catch of 3,000 t for 2024 will be used for farming in Mediterranean fattening farms. However, an amount of 30 t may be landed in authorised Tunisian ports. Any additional information on this subject will be submitted to ICCAT on the relevant related forms.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 74-88)	<p>Tunisia has adopted an onboard catch documentation system covering all vessels involved in bluefin tuna activity (purse seiners, tugs and auxiliary vessels); Annex 2 of Rec. 22-08.</p> <p>In addition, catch data and data related to bluefin tuna fishing activities are recorded using bound logbooks (para 74 of Rec. 22-08). However, reporting on catches and prior transfer notification requests are made electronically between the captains of catching vessels and the competent authority (para 76 of Rec. 22-08).</p> <p>Representatives of fishing operators also transmit completed reports electronically to the competent authority in accordance with the requirements established in para 78 of Rec. 22-08.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. - Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.
2	Fisheries openings (para 28-32)	<p>The bluefin tuna purse seine fishing season begins after midnight on 25 May 2024 and ends on 1 July 2024 (para 28 of Rec. 22-08). However, the fishing period may be extended by an equivalent number of days on which the weather conditions are unfavourable, up to a maximum of 10 days (para 29 of Rec. 22-08). Weather station and VMS reports should necessarily reflect the inactivity of vessels that have not yet exhausted their individual quotas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. - Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 28 May 2019 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, amending the Decision of 21 May 2008.
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	<p>The authorised catch size for bluefin tuna is 30 kg (115 cm). Any undersized catch above 5% of the total number of bluefin tuna caught must be released after a release order has been issued by the competent authority and in coordination with the regional observer. Specimens released dead will be deducted from the individual quota of the purse seiner concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. - Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>For 2024, Tunisia has set aside 30 t for bycatch. This measure has been taken as a precaution and the method for calculating this proportion has taken into account previous bycatch statistics from vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna. In addition, if catches exceed 20% of the total catch reported during a fishing trip, these will be discarded and deducted from the Tunisian quota.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. - Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.

5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 38-46)	No sport and recreational fishing authorisation will be issued for bluefin tuna.	- Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 20 September 1994, on dive fishing and recreational underwater fishing.
6	Transshipment (para 89-94)	It is prohibited to tranship bluefin tuna at sea. It is only permitted in the authorised ports following authorisation by the competent authority in accordance with the format established by ICCAT.	- Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. - Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.
7.	VMS (para 219-225)	All Tunisian vessels (catching, towing and support) involved in bluefin tuna fishing are equipped with VMS. The transmission of position data begins 5 days before the authorisation date of the activity and continues up to 5 days after the end of the authorisation. In the event of a failure of the VMS system on board a towing vessel, the competent authority will intervene to replace the vessel and inform the Secretariat immediately.	- Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as supplemented by Law 2013-34 of 21 September 2013 and Law 2018-30 of 23 May 2018. - Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 26 June 2015 establishing the type of instruments for gathering instantaneous information on the positions of fishing vessels at sea and the type of vessels that must be equipped with them.
8	CPC observer programmes (para 95-100)	As in previous fishing seasons, the competent authority will maintain 100% coverage by national observers on board tugs. A training session for these observers is held before they are deployed.	Ministerial Decision
9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	The competent authority will ensure implementation of the regional observer programme to cover the following operations: -Activities on board purse seiners; -Transfers of live bluefin tuna to towed cages; - The first caging of live bluefin tuna in fattening farms; - Harvest of live bluefin tuna in fattening farms; - Control transfers of live bluefin tuna to fishing grounds; - Control caging of live bluefin tuna on fattening farms; - Inter-farm transfers of live bluefin tuna; - Releases from purse seines and fattening cages.	

10	Domestic legislation	Tunisia continues to make appropriate efforts to manage the bluefin tuna activity responsibly through appropriate legislative texts, for compliance and consistency with ICCAT Recommendations.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: Scientific programme (para 44) etc.</i>	A national scientific programme has been set up and covers 10% of authorised catching vessels. In addition, all harvesting operations are carried out in the presence of representatives of the competent authority and research in order to carry out the sampling required under the provisions of Rec. 22-08 and to fulfil the statistical reporting requirements related to Task 2.	

1e) Designated ports (para 80)

Landing and transshipment of dead bluefin tuna is only authorised within designated ports, the list of which will be transmitted to ICCAT within the required deadlines. There are the 12 ports located in the North, East and South areas:

- Tabarka,
- Bizerte,
- La Goulette,
- Kélibia,
- Sousse,
- Monastir,
- Tébourba,
- Mahdia,
- La Chebba,
- Sfax,
- Gabès
- Zarzis

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 14-19)

Tunisia's TAC has been adjusted to 3,030 t, of which 30 t is set aside for bycatch. The allowable quota for purse seiners is 3000 t.

The capacity table attached to this report summarises fishing capacity by vessel type. An underharvest of 30 t has been recorded.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in [Rec. 23-06](#)), as applicable

Consistent with the provisions of paragraph 23 of Rec. 22-08 and Rec. 23-06, Tunisia authorises a total input volume of bluefin tuna for 2024 of 3,000 t.

Seven (7) farms are authorised to carry out fattening activities in 2024 (see below).

It is not currently envisaged to carry over live bluefin tuna from 2023 to 2024. An updated statement in this regard will be submitted to ICCAT in accordance with para 207 of Rec. 22-08.

Nonetheless, any possible amendment to the farming plan will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadlines.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10c)

Tunisian legislation has emphasized the need to monitor the traceability of all fishing products, particularly tuna species, with the overriding aim of rationalising exploitation of bluefin tuna. Control of bluefin tuna fishing is carried out at several levels, from the point of capture to harvest in fattening farms and slaughter for export.

- Controls at fishing ports: Daily inspections are carried out throughout the year by officers who are authorised to police the fisheries and report to the regional fisheries departments. They are responsible for monitoring compliance and abundance with ICCAT management measures. In addition, all landings during the fishing season are subject to a control that includes fishing permits, catch declarations, fishing gear, transport slips, etc.

Requests for entry into Tunisian ports by vessels flying foreign flags will be issued by the competent maritime and port authorities.

- Control at sea: during the fishing season, the competent authority will carry out joint control missions with other sea authorities, such as the National Maritime Guard.

Officials from the central administration will also attend control operations in the case of sealed cages if the conditions referred to on para 128 of Rec. 22-08 are met.

- Control during caging operations: A representative of the competent authority will attend to view video footage from transfers of live bluefin tuna from towed cages to fattening cages for the first time or during control caging operations. All likely releases at this level will be documented.

In accordance with paragraphs 208-210 of Rec. 22-08, the competent authority will implement a random control programme for 10% of the number of cages in each farm after the completion of caging operations.

- Control during harvest operations: Officers from the regional fisheries services will be present at all bluefin tuna harvesting operations in farms and will ensure that the quantities harvested are consistent with the relevant eBCDs.
- Control during trade of fresh bluefin tuna in farms: Pursuant to paragraph 102 of Rec. 22-08, Tunisia will authorise harvesting operations in its farms of up to 1,000 kg per day and a maximum of 50 t per farm to supply the market with fresh bluefin tuna, in the presence of national inspectors.

Designated contact points: The competent control authority in Tunisia is the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA), under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and the Fisheries (MARHP).

The contact points designated as responsible for implementing the monitoring, control and inspection plan are as follows:

- The Director General of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr ali.cheikh Sboui)
Email: bft@iresa.agrinet.tn
Telephone: +216 71 892 253
Fax: +216 71 799 401
- The Director of the Preservation of Halieutic Resources (Ms. Sonia Nasraoui)
Email: sonia.nasraoui@iresa.agrinet.tn
Telephone number: +216 71 890 784
Fax: +216 71 799 401

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Under the provisions of paragraphs 229-232 of Rec. 22-08, it is envisaged that the vessel *AMILCAR MA 878* will continue to participate, as in previous fishing seasons, in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection during the 2024 bluefin tuna fishing season. Onboard inspectors will carry out inspection tasks for all Tunisian and foreign vessels in the Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing area during the period from 15 May to 15 July 2024.

In accordance with the requirements listed in Annex 7 of the same Recommendation, inspectors will carry out the inspection of all activities related to catching and towing of bluefin tuna, essentially covering:

- Onboard documents
- ICCAT documents
- Video recordings from catch transfer operations
- VMS
- Infractions, if any, of ICCAT conservation and management measures
- Data reporting systems for receiving prior authorisations for transfer, release, etc.

5. Others

In addition to participation in the ICCAT GBYP programme, the competent authority is cooperating with the National Institute of Sea Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) to implement scientific monitoring programmes for the species *Thunnus thynnus*, including in particular:

- The scientific observers programme, which will cover 10% of the number of authorised purse seiners. The results on catches by gear, size, fishing grounds and bycatches will be reported to the SCRS;
- The sampling programme in fattening farms during caging, using data from video recordings from stereoscopic cameras;
- The sampling programme in fattening farms during harvesting to further monitor bluefin tuna reproduction and growth cycles.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing fleet</i>						<i>Ref year</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>					
<i>Type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	31	32	32	33	34	34	1194.72	1543.18	1592.96	1592.96	1642.74	1692.52	1692.52
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	16	13	17	15	15	20	20	538.88	437.84	572.56	505.2	505.2	673.6	673.6
Purse seine total fleet		41	44	49	47	48	54	54	1804.300	1981.020	2165.52	2098.160	2147.940	23366.12	2366.120
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	Not applicable														
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		42	44	49	47	48	54	54	1809.300	1981.020	2165.520	2098.160	2147.940	2366.120	2366.120
Quota									2254.48	2400.00	2655.00	2655.00	2655.00	3000.00	3000.00
Percentage allocated for bycatch										1% (24 t)	1% (26.55 t)	1% (26.55 t)	1% (26.55 t)	1% (30 t)	1% (30 t)
Adjusted quota (if applicable) *									2364.48	2400.00	2675.40	2676.55	2679.72	2990	3000
														0	0
Under/overcapacity									-555.18	-418.98	-509.880	-578.390	-505.230	-623.880	-633.880

* Adjusted quota (3,030 t) = initial quota (3,000 t) + unused quota from 2023 (30 t), of which 30 t are set aside for bycatch and 3,000 t for vessels.

Adjustment table of farming capacity for Tunisia for 2024

<i>Name of Farm</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Farm Management</i>	<i>Farm Coordinates</i>	<i>Wild input (t)</i>	<i>Farming capacity (t)</i>
VMT	AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi Sallem	36°00'18"N - 10°34' 36" E	850	1,700
			36°00'18"N - 10°34' 55" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 00" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 37" E		
TT	AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	35°25'00"N - 11°04' 40" E	1,000	2,000
			35°25'00"N - 11°05' 04" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°04' 40" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°05' 04" E		
SAGUN-DOUSS	AT001TUN00003	Sagun-Douss Mehdi Douss, Ahmet Sagun and Sabrine Douss	35°19'00"N - 11°09' 10" E	0	0
			35°19'00"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°09' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°08' 45" E		
TFT	AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	36°01'49"N - 10°34' 00" E	750	1,500
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 00" E		
			36°01'49"N - 10°34' 37" E		
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 37" E		
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 40" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 56" E		
SNB	AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida and Sami Neifer	35°18'10"N - 11°08' 26" E	0	0
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 26" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 10" E		
THC	AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji and Mohamed Chiha	35°18'10"N - 11°08' 56" E	0	0
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 40" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 56" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 40" E		
OTHERS TO BE DETERMINED				400	800
TOTAL (t)				3,000	6,000

Name of CPC: Türkiye

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

Türkiye's 2024 annual quota for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is 2,600 t.

In addition to aforementioned annual quota, as per paragraph 8 of Rec. 22-08, like in the 2023 fishing season, Türkiye may receive quota from other CPCs.¹

The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 22-08, have been transposed into Turkish domestic regulation through "Ministerial Communiqué on Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Farming and Trading".

Fisheries and farming activities for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna (BFT-E) will be conducted in the context of Türkiye's national quota and individual quotas shall be allocated for each BFT-E catching vessel.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Notifications and the Communiqué on BFTE.

MoAF shall issue fishing permits for all BFT-E fishing vessels to be authorized for 2024. All fishing vessels authorized by MoAF shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System in line with the obligations stipulated under Section G of Rec. 22-08.

The authorized BFT-E fishing season for purse seiners shall be implemented from 15 May to 1 July in accordance with Para 28 of Rec. 22-08. MoAF will make a distinction between those fishing vessels that will carry-out BFT-E fishery in the Eastern Mediterranean and in other parts of the Mediterranean, as it was applied in the previous year. Accordingly, the open season shall be applied as 26 May - 1 July for the vessels to conduct fisheries outside the Eastern Mediterranean.

Fishing permits issued by MoAF shall be mandatory for BFT-E fishing vessels to operate for the 2024 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline, with a view to fulfil the relevant capacity adjustment provisions of Rec. 22-08 and taking into account domestic process applied by the Ministry; fishing permits are expected to be granted to maximum 30 purse seiners as BFT catching vessels for 2024 BFT fishing season. Similarly, around 48 BFT-E other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF.

MoAF plans to allocate the total quota for each authorized vessel based on a national criteria on activities and track records of the fishing vessels involved. Carry-over of unused quotas shall be authorized by MoAF.

Taking into account the catch trends pertinent to previous seasons, it is decided to allocate a specific quota level as 3 t for artisanal, coastal, recreational and sport fisheries and 10 t for bycatch in 2024. All by-catches shall be deducted from the total quota.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

No carry over of underharvest from the year 2023 is requested by Türkiye.

¹ Since the quota transfers from other CPCs are not clear until the fishing season starts, if there are any transfers, a revised plan will be submitted.

1 c) Destination of catch

Farming: 2,511.8 t (plus live BFT to be imported)²

Landing: Approximately 10 t (as BFT bycatches)

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	Recording/reporting requirements shall be implemented in line with paras 74-88 of Rec. 22-08. Both electronic and bound logbook shall be used for the recording of catch data. Dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.	Ministerial Communiqué on BFT-E Fishing, Farming and Trading	
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Paras 28-32 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required. Türkiye requests the application of the derogation in para 28 of Rec. 22-08 for open season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, as follows: Fishing for BFT-E by purse-seiners shall be allowed for the period 15 May - 01 July in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (for fishing areas 37.3.1. and 37.3.2).	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

² Since the amount of live BFT to be imported is not be clear until the fishing season starts, if there are any imports, this information will be submitted in a revised plan.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		It is expected that some E-BFT fishing operators may prefer to carry-out fisheries activities in line with Rec. 22-08 in the high seas of the Mediterranean Sea (possibly within area 37.2) within the period 26 May - 1 July.		
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	<p>Paras 33-35 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>It is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transfer, land, transport, store, sell, display or offer for sale of E-BFT less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm. Bycatch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are to be released. Dead and undersized specimens shall be discarded at sea and deducted from Türkiye's quota.</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>Para 37 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>A [10 t] (0.4%) specific quota shall be allocated for bycatch in 2024.</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>Level of bycatch in 2023 = 9 t, 0.4%, 2022 = 2.8 t, 0.1% 2021= 35 t, 1.5% 2020 = 05 t, 0.2% 2019 = 50 t, 2.7%</p> <p>The level of bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip and shall be calculated in relation with the total catches on-board as "in weight" (or "in number of species" in case of tuna and tuna like species fishery).</p> <p>All bycatches including discards shall be deducted from the total quota.</p>		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	<p>Paras 38-46 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Recreational and sport fisheries on E-BFT is subject to authorization for each vessel. Catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one E-BFT individual per vessel per day is prohibited.</p> <p>The marketing of E-BFT caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Amateur & Recreational Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		<p>Catch data obtained from the recreational fishery shall be submitted to the Ministry, all recreational catches shall be counted against Türkiye's total quota dedicated for recreational and sports fisheries.</p>		
<p>6</p>	<p>Transshipment (paras 89-94)</p>	<p>Paras 89-94 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Transshipment at sea operations of E-BFT shall be prohibited.</p> <p>E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land E-BFT catches in the ports designated for that purpose.</p> <p>List of designated E-BFT Landing and Transshipment Ports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adana Province: Karatas fishing port 2. Antalya Province: Antalya fishing port Gazipasa fishing port 3. Mersin Province: Erdemli fishing port 4. Hatay Province: Dortyol (TR HAT) fishing port 5. Canakkale Province: Kabatepe fishing port Gulpınar fishing port 6. Istanbul Province: Gulpınar fishing port Tuzla fishing port 7. Izmir Province: Karaburun fishing port 	<p>Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	<p>Paras 219-225 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2023 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoAF.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT shall be started at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall be continued at least 5 days after their period of authorisation.</p> <p>Position reporting in every one hour shall be required from the authorized E-BFT fishing vessels, including E-BFT towing vessels.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	<p>Paras 95-100 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>Presence of “CPC Observers” on all E-BFT Towing Vessels shall be ensured during the whole period of authorization.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	<p>Paras 101-107 of Rec. 22-08 shall be implemented as required.</p> <p>100% Coverage of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations) shall be mandatory.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on BFT-E Fishing, Farming and Trading.</p> <p>As a derogation to the provisions of para 101, harvesting from farms up to 1,000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market may be authorized by the Ministry without ICCAT regional observer coverage. In such cases, ministerial inspector(s) shall be present in the related farming facility for 100% of such harvests, control the entire operation and validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. It is requested that the necessary system functionality be developed and incorporated into the eBCD system for 2024.</p>	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
10	Domestic legislation	The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 22-08, have been transposed into Turkish domestic regulation through “Ministerial Communiqué on Bluefin tuna Fishing, Farming and Trading”.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Electronic Tagging of Adult Bluefin Tunas captured in the Eastern Mediterranean (Turkish Levantine Coast) Tagging Programme 2022 has been conducted in the Atlantic Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP). A tagging programme is being planned in 2024 under GBYP Programme.		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

The list of designated ports for landing and transshipment are attached on last page of plan. Türkiye has also submitted Form CP24 with the plan.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

The number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity using the template provided by the Secretariat has been provided in the last page of the plan.

Fishing permits are planned to be granted to a maximum of 30 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoAF. This figure is the ceiling for BFT Catching Vessels that can be authorized in 2024. 48 BFT-E other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to the authorized E-BFT catching vessels acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2024 E-BFT fishing season).

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

Information on the farm CPC competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation national caging activities and their control are provided as follows:

Farm CPC Competent Authority: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry / General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

List of Contact Points:

Mr Melih ER, Head of Department, melih.er@tarimorman.gov.tr
 Mr Huseyin KARCI, Coordinator, huseyin.karci@tarimorman.gov.tr
 Mr Fazli GUNGOR, Engineer, fazli.gungor@tarimorman.gov.tr

All farm activities shall be subject to regular monitoring, control and inspections by MoAF in 2024. These will be conducted on a quarterly basis in general or on caging operation, transfer operation, harvesting operation basis, whichever is applied in the context of Rec. 22-08. The inspections to be carried out by the Ministry throughout the year are planned on a farm basis and taking into account risk-based prioritization. Results of conventional and stereoscopic camera systems will be utilized by MoAF to estimate quota uptake.

Random controls will be carried-out on the basis of risk assessment and in line with paras 208-215 of Rec. 22-08. A 10% of the number of cages in each farm shall be covered in 2024 and documented data/information (cage content declared, farm schematic plans in the inventory of MoAF, related ITD(s), ICD(s), BCD, etc) will be cross-checked.

MoAF will establish protocols for the sealing of transport cages and farm cages, and require that the farm cages containing bluefin tuna will be sealed at all times in 2024.

With reference to paras 10; 20-24 of Rec. 22-08, annual farming management plan for the year 2024 is provided below:

Farming Capacity for the year 2024*					
<i>Country</i>	<i>FFB*</i>	<i>Active/ Inactive</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>	<i>Input Capacity(t)**</i>	<i>FFB Coordinates</i>
Türkiye	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	800	437.5	38 29 16,73 N, 26 23 23,12 E 38 29 22,41 N, 26 23 23,08 E 38 29 22,37 N, 26 23 15,85 E 38 29 16,69 N, 26 23 15,90 E
Türkiye	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	800	871.5	38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E 38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E
Türkiye	BASARANLAR ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	Active	900	832	38 07 49, 03N, 26 39 28,19 E 38 07 48, 05N, 26 39 33,81 E 38 07 40, 26 N 26 39 25,20 E 38 07 39, 28 N 26 39 30,83
Türkiye	KILIÇ Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	1,840	1,276	38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E 38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E
Türkiye	Sagun Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	1,000	2,190	38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E 38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E
Türkiye	AK-TUNA ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	Active	1000	718	38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E 38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E
TOTAL			6,340	6,325	
		Inactive	500 ⁽¹⁾		

* In case of any changes, final version of farming capacity plan shall be reported by 1 June.

(1) The total farm capacity of Türkiye is 6,840 t. Without any prejudice to the right of utilization at any time, the farm capacity of 500 t shown in the table above that belongs to Türkiye will not be used for the year 2024.

**The figures indicate the maximum input capacities estimated by individual BFT farming facilities based on domestically allocated quota shares (process still ongoing) and live bluefin imports planned for 2024. The estimated amounts may be updated according to the most recent administrative and operational developments.

Based on the results of carryover transfers from the 2023 season to the 2024 season, and data obtained from the Ministry's Fisheries and Aquaculture Information System (SUBIS); the estimated total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming is around 4,485 t as of 29 January 2024. An annual carry-over declaration report for all farms will be submitted as an annex to the revised farming management plan, when all carryover assessment transfers are completed.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

The CPC control competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan are provided as follows:

CPC Competent Authority: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry / General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture

List of Contact Points:

Mr Melih ER, Head of Department, melih.er@tarimorman.gov.tr

Mr Huseyin KARCI, Coordinator, huseyin.karci@tarimorman.gov.tr

Mr Fazli GUNGOR, Engineer, fazli.gungor@tarimorman.gov.tr

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT fishing and transfer operations

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System. The Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) operated by the Ministry shall continue to be utilized during the whole fishing campaign.

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoAF during 2024 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- will be commissioned by MoAF to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoAF inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoAF shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports, transport vehicles and fish markets to check and record any landing, transport or storing of E-BFT. Artisanal, coastal fisheries, recreational and sportive fisheries shall be inspected in scope of the scheduled annual inspections to be undertaken by MoAF and TCGC in territorial waters.

If the video footage does not meet the minimum standards, the donor operator will conduct voluntary transfer(s), and MoAF shall order a control transfer in case determination of the number of fish being transferred cannot be estimated through voluntary transfers.

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations

MoAF inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. All transfers from towing vessels to farm cages shall be monitored by stereoscopic cameras as well as conventional cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to MoAF for assessment. Farm operator shall communicate the results of the caging programme to ministerial inspector and ICCAT Regional Observer. Those results shall also be communicated to the catching CPC, when applicable.

In accordance with the related provisions of Rec. 22-08; farm operators shall be allowed to carry-over of non-harvested bluefin tuna prior to the beginning of the 2024 purse seiner fishing season through carry over assessment transfers of non-harvested bluefin tunas to another empty cage(s) by using stereoscopic control cameras. The carry-over assessment shall be made under the presence of ministerial inspectors and reported to ICCAT. Carry-over declaration will be transmitted as an annex to the revised farming management plan within 15 days after the end of the assessment operation.

As provided in Section 3 above, MoAF shall carry out random controls at each of the farms before the first caging of 2024 in line with the procedures set out in paras 208-215 of Rec. 22-08.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Türkiye plans to continue its longstanding voluntary contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2024. In this respect, Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) schedules to designate 79 inspection boats, 17 air control assets (helicopters / planes) and 446 inspectors on the field during the 2024 E-BFT fishing campaign. Additionally, Turkish Naval Forces Command is expected to join the inspection scheme of 2024 through assigning 13 inspection vessels and 112 inspectors during the 2024 E-BFT fishing campaign.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- that has been assigned by MoAF will also contribute to the activities under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons is planned to be focused on 2024. In this context, E-BFT fishing and transferring activities, as well as Med-SWO fishing activities will continue to be inspected on a regular throughout the upcoming fishing campaign.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored at the premises of MoAF and at Coast Guard Main Operation Centre in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centres of TCGC.

TCGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Türkiye, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of E-BFT Fishing Season.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at E-BFT and Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2023's risk assessment data.

5. Others

Türkiye will continue to support the ICCAT GBYP programme.

Electronic tagging of adult bluefin tunas captured in the eastern Mediterranean (Turkish Levantine Coast) tagging programme, 2022 Atlantic Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP) has been conducted.

A tagging programme is being planned in 2024 under the GBYP Programme.

List of authorised ports

- Adana - Karataş
- Antalya
- Antalya - Gazipaşa
- Mersin - Erdemli
- Hatay - Çevlik
- Çanakkale - Yeniköy
- Çanakkale-Gülpınar
- İstanbul - Gürpınar
- İstanbul - Tuzla
- İzmir - Karaburun

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024*		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024*
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7		41	16	20	23	24			2899	1131	1414	1626	1697
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78		49	6	6	6	6			2439	299	1296,68	299	299
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68		3	0	0	0	0			101	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet			93	22	26	29	30			5439	1430	1712,68	1925	1996
Longliner over 40m	25													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet														
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10													
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A													
Other (please specify)	5		-	-	-	-	-					3	3	3(**)
Total fleet/fishing capacity			93	22	26	30	30			5439	1430	1715,68	1928	1999
Quota										887	1414	2305	2600	2600
Percentage allocated to bycatch												10 (0.4%)	10 (0.4%)	10(***) (0.4%)
Adjusted quota (if applicable)												2295	3274.17	2590
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)														
Under/ overcapacity										4552	-16	-579,32	-1346	-591

(*) Numbers of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional based on presumptions. The definite number and breakdown of vessels will be added up by 30 April.

(**) Allocated for the purposes of artisanal and coastal, recreational and sport fisheries.

(***) 10 t has been set aside for bycatch.

United Kingdom

Year of Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

The UK has an initial quota of 63 t for 2024 as set out in ICCAT Recommendation 22-08, adjusted to 66.15 t (see below). We will use this quota in further developing our fishing activities in 2024, building on activities undertaken in previous years. In particular:

- The UK will continue to permit some limited opportunities for sale of bycaught BFT-E in commercial fisheries using certain gear types - details are set out below.
- The UK will be continuing a small-scale commercial fishery trial for BFT-E utilising highly selective gears.
- The UK intends to begin a recreational catch and release fishery in 2024.
- The UK will also continue to operate a scientific Catch and Release Tagging programme (CHART), which will be jointly delivered by specially trained skippers and scientists.

The UK will only permit commercial targeting of BFT-E with rod and reel in the continuing trial fishery. The vessels involved in this fishery will be small-scale coastal vessels only; no other commercial gears are permitted.

Our management approach will be kept under close review during the course of the year. Any refinements to that approach that require adjustments to our Fishing Plan will be notified to ICCAT in line with Paragraph 13 of Recommendation 22-08.

Bycatch coverage

Prior to 2021 UK vessels which caught BFT-E were required to release any live fish, with dead catches reported to the relevant authorities and the catch surrendered for scientific sampling. In 2022 the UK allowed limited bycatch from certain fisheries and gears to be retained and sold for the first time.

In 2024, the UK will reserve 9.15 t for accidental bycatch. Taking into account bycatches of BFT-E by UK commercial vessels in previous years (2.2 t in 2022 and 4.3 t in 2023), the UK considers 9.15 t to be sufficient to ensure we can properly account for all BFT-E bycatch.

To avoid incentivising the targeting of BFT-E in fisheries that are not part of the planned commercial trial, commercial UK vessels which are not authorised to target BFT-E will continue to be permitted to land, and sell, a maximum of one bycaught fish per trip. This will also ensure they do not exceed the 20% maximum set out in paragraph 37 of Recommendation 22-08. Any further BFT-E that are caught will be required to be released alive if possible. If dead, the vessel operator will be required to notify the relevant authorities and may be required to retain the specimen for scientific sampling, but will not be able to offer it for sale. All bycatches of dead BFT-E will be deducted from UK quota.

If UK quota is exhausted, all BFT-E that are caught that are alive will be required to be released. Under the UK Landing Obligation, any BFT-E that are caught that are dead will be required to be retained. Any such dead fish may be sent for scientific sampling but cannot be offered for sale to human consumption markets. In this scenario, landings would be accounted for by adjusting the UK's quota for 2025.

All bycaught BFT-E will be subject to the requirements of the ICCAT electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Scheme (eBCD).

Trial commercial fishery

The UK intends to continue its trial commercial fishery for BFT-E in 2024, following a successful first year in 2023. This ongoing trial is aimed at proving the viability of a small-scale, highly selective fishery sourcing large, high-quality fish for the human consumption market. The fishery will still be conducted by small vessels utilising rod and reel; no chumming of bait will be permitted. The utilisation of this gear type maximises the possibility for safe live release of any undersized fish that are caught.

In 2024 we are planning to increase the number of licences from 10 to 13. The vessels will continue to be small scale and of no more than 12 m in length. The UK will set aside 39 t of our quota for the trial commercial fishery. This fishery will be open from 01 July to 31 December (6 months).

Vessels participating in the trial commercial fishery will fall into the ‘small coastal and baitboat’ category as defined in Recommendation 22-08 (para 2DD). They will operate within UK waters only, primarily within territorial waters (0-12 nm). Their fishing trips will each be less than 24 hours and they will utilise selective gear which will have minimal impact on the wider environment.

As in previous years, we are taking a cautious approach to managing our fisheries, hence opting for a continuation of the trial fishery in 2024 rather than moving to a full-scale commercial fishery this year. Our aims in conducting the trial fishery include developing a better understanding of the market implications of a small amount of high-quality product entering the supply chain and assessing the socioeconomic benefit to the coastal communities active in the fishery. This understanding will enable us to optimise the benefits derived from this valuable resource which is now abundant in UK waters.

Catch and Release Tag Programmes

A ‘Catch And Release Tag’ (CHART) programme for BFT-E in UK waters is once again planned for 2024 and will be carried out in accordance with paragraph 44 of Recommendation 22-08. A small number of recreational fishing vessels will participate in the 2024 programme. 1 t of the UK BFT-E quota will be used to account for any at-boat incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme. This figure was established taking into consideration envisaged programme duration, number of vessels participating and our estimates of average days fished per month, Catch Per Unit Effort, weight, and at-vessel mortality. The quota will not be allocated on a vessel-by-vessel basis but will instead cover the whole CHART programme. We are setting aside a smaller amount than in recent years because the UK is transitioning from the CHART fishery to a general recreational fishery.

1 t of quota is considered suitably precautionary and more than sufficient to cover the envisaged activity, noting that in 2023 the UK tagged 1,383 fish and there were 8 mortalities (0.6%, totaling 1.021 t).

As in the past, vessels participating in the CHART programme will be authorised by the relevant UK Fisheries Administrations and will carry out fishing under strict monitoring and reporting conditions. This monitoring will be undertaken using a risk-based approach; as in previous years we will aim for approximately 5% observer coverage.

Data from the CHART programme will be reported to the scientific coordinator of the programme within 24 hours so that catches and incidental mortalities can be evaluated in near real-time. Any incidental mortalities will be recorded appropriately and counted against national quota. Mechanisms will be in operation to pause, refine and if necessary close the programme in the face of incidental mortalities to ensure that the allocated quota is not exceeded.

The presence of bluefin tuna was observed in UK waters to the end of 2023 and in early 2024. To better understand the presence and behaviour of the species in UK waters throughout the year, the UK extended its 2023 CHART programme to the end of February 2024. The UK notified the ICCAT Secretariat of its intentions before extending the programme, noting that it would account for any incidental mortality arising from this activity under its 2024 quota.

The fishing season for the 2024 CHART programme is envisaged to be August to mid-December 2024. If bluefin tuna are still being observed in UK waters at the end of 2024, the UK will decide whether to extend its tagging activities into 2025, will notify the ICCAT Secretariat of its intentions, and will account for any incidental mortality arising from this activity under the UK's 2025 quota.

Any additional fishing activities will be reflected in expedient amendments to this plan in line with ICCAT requirements.

Recreational fishery

In 2024 the UK is planning to allow catch and release recreational fisheries for BFT-E. New UK legislation is being developed in order that each UK Fisheries Administrations will be able to authorise vessels to participate in catch and release recreational fishing for BFT-E in its waters. This legislation is planned to come into force by June 2024. The UK will allocate 16 t of its quota to cover this activity. Data on size/weight of individuals, CPUE and mortality data collected from the recreational fishery will be made available to ICCAT. The UK is also currently considering what other data may be collected and be of wider interest to ICCAT.

In the event of a delay to the UK legislative process, the UK will revisit this plan and provide an update on how the UK will instead intend to use this quota.

Electronic tagging programmes

Depending on opportunity, the UK may continue its electronic tagging programmes supporting GBYP (Grand Bluefin Year Programme) with mortality covered by the Research Mortality Allowance rather than national quota. Thirty-three BFT were tagged with archival and/or acoustic electronic tags in 2023. Seven of these tags were supplied by ICCAT, while fourteen were supplied from funding provided from the UK, Wales and Jersey governments. The remainder were either supplied from the EU research project FishINTEL, or by the Danish Technical University.

Fisheries science is a devolved matter in the UK and if any UK Fisheries Administration expresses an intention to run a scientific study which is substantively different to the ones outlined above, then the UK will notify ICCAT via a modification of this plan. The UK is provisionally allocating 1 t of quota for scientific activity which falls outside the scope of GBYP and CHART.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

In accordance with paragraph 4 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 the UK's quota for 2024 is 63 t. In 2023, the UK had an underharvest of BFT-E, with 39 t of our initial quota unfished. In accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-08 the UK would like to carry over 3.15 t (5% of our initial quota) from 2023 to 2024. The adjusted quota for the UK in 2023 would therefore be 66.15 t.

1 c) Destination of catch

All of the UK's commercial related catches will be landed. The UK does not have any bluefin tuna farming activity.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	<p><i>Commercial fishery trial and bycatch</i> All commercial vessels authorised to target BFT-E will be required to keep a record of all their catches in a logbook. These logbooks will meet the requirements set out in Annex 2 of Recommendation 22-08.</p> <p>Any vessel which catches a BFT-E will be required to alert the relevant authorities four hours prior to arrival into port, or if this is impossible for practical reasons, as soon as possible.</p> <p>The UK will submit biweekly catch reports of BFT-E in accordance with para 86 of Recommendation 22-08.</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme (CHART)</i> Skippers participating in the CHART programme will be required to record specified fishing and capture data by electronic or paper-based means within 24 hours of capture. Data will include (among other things) date, time, location of effort and capture, number of bluefin tuna caught and tagged, their lengths, and any incidental mortalities.</p> <p>It will be a requirement to alert the relevant authorities of any incidental mortalities of BFT-E four hours prior to arrival at port or as soon as possible to arrange for collection or disposal. Any incidental BFT-E mortality that occurs will be counted against the UK's BFT-E quota.</p>	Retained Regulations 1224/2009, 404/2011 and 2016/1627	
2	Fisheries openings (para 28-32)	<p><i>Commercial bycatch</i> Commercial bycatch will be accounted for against the UK's 2024 BFT-E quota.</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> The CHART programme is planned to be open between August and end of December 2024. All mortalities will be accounted for within the UK's BFT-E quota.</p> <p><i>Commercial Fishery trial</i> The commercial fishery using rod and reel will be open between 01 July and 31 December. All activity will occur in UK waters. Once the quota is exhausted this fishery will be closed.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
3	Minimum size (para 33-35)	<p><i>Commercial fisheries trial and bycatch</i> UK commercial fishing vessels will be required to release any accidentally caught undersized live BFT-E (i.e. those below 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm).</p> <p>Undersized fish will not be allowed to be marketed or retained. All retained and dead discards BFT-E will be deducted from UK quota and reported to ICCAT.</p> <p><i>Catch and Release Tagging programme (CHART)</i> As no BFT-E will be landed as part of CHART, no minimum size has been established for the programme.</p>	<p>Retained Regulation 2016/1627</p> <p>Landing Obligation Regulation 2013/1380 Article 15</p>	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p><i>Commercial fisheries for other species</i> All UK landings of BFT-E will be deducted from UK quota.</p> <p>9.15 t of UK quota will be set aside to account for accidental bycatch by commercial fishing vessels targeting other species. This equates to 15% of the UK's initial quota. In 2023 4.3 t of BFT-E were caught as bycatch in UK fisheries targeting other species.</p> <p>Calculations of bycatch will be based on the proportion of BFT-E as compared to live weight of all other species on board.</p> <p>Any bycaught BFT-E will be subject to eBCD requirements.</p> <p>Only commercial fishing vessels licensed to fish other species and likely to interact with BFT-E will be permitted to sell bycaught BFT-E. They will be limited to selling a maximum of one BFT-E per trip.</p> <p>If more than one fish is caught, additional fish will be released if alive. If dead, the fish will be retained but will not be allowed to be sold. All retained fish will count towards against UK quota.</p> <p>If UK quota is exhausted, vessels will still be required to retain dead BFT-E.</p>	S.23 of Fisheries Act 2020	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
		<p>These fish cannot be sold but may be sent for sampling.</p> <p>All catch data will be provided to ICCAT.</p> <p><i>Recreational tagging programme (CHART)</i> 1 t will be allocated to account for incidental mortality in the CHART programme.</p>		
5	<p>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 38-46)</p>	<p><i>Non-tagging related recreational and sports fishing</i> The UK is putting in place legislation to enable its fisheries authorities to issue vessels with authorisations to recreationally fish for BFT-E. The UK currently expects to issue no more than 100 authorisations in 2024 however we will keep this under review and ICCAT will be updated as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> A CHART programme for BFT-E in UK waters is planned for 2024 and will be carried out in accordance with Paragraph 44 of Recommendation 22-08. These activities will be monitored by the UK's Fisheries Administrations relevant authorities.</p> <p>A maximum of 15 vessels will be authorised to participate in the CHART programme. Any incidental mortalities arising as a result of CHART activity in 2024 will be taken from the 1 t quota allocated to this activity. All obligations stated under Paragraph 44 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 will be complied with.</p> <p>Any incidental mortality arising as a result of the extension of the 2023 CHART programme to end February 2024 will be accounted for under the UK's 2024 quota. The UK will notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any intention to extend its 2024 CHART programme into 2025 and will account for any incidental mortality arising under its 2025 quota.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
6	Transshipment (para 89-94)	UK vessels are prohibited from transshipping at sea.	Article 20 of retained Regulation 1224/2009 (Commercial vessels)	
7	VMS (para 219-225)	<p><i>Commercial fisheries</i> UK commercial fishing vessels of 12 m and over in length must have an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) system to operate in UK waters, third country and/or international waters. Vessels' VMS systems must report their position every 2 hours.</p> <p>It is the UK's intention to introduce a measure to require all commercial fishing vessels under 12 m, regardless of nationality, to have an operating Inshore VMS (I-VMS) when operating in English waters. This is likely to come into force mid to late 2024. I-VMS measures have been in place in Welsh waters since February 2022. Vessels' I-VMS systems will need to report location data every 3 minutes in English Waters and every 10 minutes in Welsh Waters.</p> <p><i>Recreational tagging programme</i> Vessels will be required to keep a record of their activity for each tuna fishing day and submit those to the relevant fisheries authorities or nominated scientific bodies responsible for the CHART programme (e.g. in England the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)).</p>	Article 9 of retained Regulation 1224/2009	
8	CPC observers programme (para 95-100)	<p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> The CHART programme aims to observe up to 5% of tagging activity to ensure best practice catch, tag and release protocols are observed.</p> <p><i>Commercial fishery</i> The UK's trial commercial fishery for BFT-E will be limited to vessels under 12 m which will be using rods and reels. They will not be permitted to chum bait.</p> <p>ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 Paragraph 95 does not require vessels under 15 m to deploy observers. However, UK vessel activity is closely monitored.</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
9	Regional observers programme (para 101-107)	N/A – The UK does not plan to allow any purse seiners to fish for BFT. The UK will also not permit any traps, caging, transfers from one cage to another or farming for BFT-E.		
10	Domestic legislation	<p>The UK has in place Retained EU Regulations/2016/Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The UK is in the process of updating domestic legislation and these changes shall come into effect later this year.</p>		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	<p><i>Recreational Tagging programme</i> Conventional floy tagging will be undertaken in the CHART programme by trained skippers. This training will be overseen by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) of Cefas for England, and by the equivalent bodies in the UK's Fisheries Administrations.</p> <p>The UK is also planning to undertake continued scientific research to improve understanding of bluefin tuna movements and behaviour. This is intended to be conducted under the auspices of ICCAT GBYP; the UK will request Research Mortality Allowance on this basis.</p> <p>Any scientific activity undertaken by the UK administrations which falls outside ICCAT's GBYP specifications will be accounted for with the 1 t allowance the UK has set aside for such activities.</p>		

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

The list of UK designated ports can be found in **Annex 1**. The UK will not use any third-party ports.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 14-19)

The UK will continue its trial commercial fishery for BFT-E. Prior to 2023 we had restricted all BFT-E activity to bycatch or as part of our scientific catch and release programme. The UK will license a maximum of 13 vessels under 12 m to part take in this trial commercial fishery. Details are set out in the Capacity Table.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

N/A: the UK does not farm BFT-E.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

UK enforcement authorities - the MMO (Marine Management Organisation), Marine Scotland Compliance, the Northern Irish Sea Fisheries Inspectorate and the Welsh Government's Control and Enforcement team – have inspection teams at commercial ports and carry out regulatory inspections of landings and seagoing enforcement. The competent authorities can be contacted by emailing control.and.enforcement@defra.gov.uk.

Such inspection teams are based in or near to all commercial ports and carry out inspections of at least 5% of landings or transshipments into UK ports each year. Inspections are risk-based, intelligence-led, and annual target rates are reviewed on a regular basis. This includes recreational and commercial fishing activity and downstream market activity. Control activity will focus on ensuring that no unauthorised marketing takes place and that catches are fully documented. This will apply in respect to all E-BFT activity.

Any incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme will be notified to the relevant UK Fisheries Administration immediately and any dead BFT-E may be required to be brought to shore for biological sampling in support of research. It will not be permitted to offer any such fish for sale. A suite of monitoring measures will be in operation as part of the programme, including aiming for observer coverage of up to 5% and where possible video of the capture event. Mechanisms will be in operation to pause, refine and if necessary close the programme if there is a risk of incidental mortalities exceeding the allocated quota. Data from the CHART programme are to be reported within 24 hours so catches and incidental mortalities can be evaluated in near real-time.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (JIS) (para 229-232)

N/A. The UK does not participate in the joint inspection scheme as the UK plans to have fewer than 15 fishing vessels active in the fishery.

5. Others

The UK may continue research that will generate information and understanding of the residency, migrations and behaviour of bluefin tuna found in UK waters. Any tagging and sampling work under this programme will be conducted in accordance, and consistent with, ICCAT GBYP protocols and techniques, and contribute to the GBYP's research goals. The UK will request coverage from the ICCAT Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) to account for any mortality associated with this research.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78													
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68													
Purse seine total fleet														
Longliner over 40m	25													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68													
Longliner less than 24m	5													
Total longline fleet														
Baitboat	19.8													
Handline	5													
Trawler	10													
Trap	130													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A					10	13							39 t
Other (please specify)	5													1 t for tagging activity not related to CHART Programme
Total fleet/fishing capacity														
Quota												48.4t	63t	63 t
Percentage allocated to bycatch												41%	23%	15%
Adjusted quota (if applicable)													65.42	66.15 t
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)												10 t	10 t	16 t recreational catch and release 1 t tagging Programme
Under/ overcapacity														0 t (zero tonnes) 66.15 t, minus 39 t (commercial trial fishery) minus 16t (recreational) fishery minus 9.15 t (bycatch) minus 1 t (CHART) minus 1 t (other tagging) equals zero tonnes (66.15 - 39 - 16 - 9.15 - 1 - 1 = 0)

UK designated ports

<i>PortName</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>PortCode</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Brixham	GB-ENG	GBBRX	50.401	-3.509
Falmouth	GB-ENG	GBFAL	50.161	-5.073
Fleetwood	GB-ENG	GBFLE	53.922	-3.008
Folkestone	GB-ENG	GBFOL	51.078	1.190
Grimsby	GB-ENG	GBGSY	53.579	-0.074
Harwich	GB-ENG	GBHRW	51.945	1.280
Hayle	GB-ENG	GBHAY	50.110	-5.250
Hull	GB-ENG	GBHUL	53.742	-0.280
Immingham	GB-ENG	GBIMM	53.636	-0.185
Ilfracombe	GB-ENG	GBILF	51.210	-4.112
Liverpool	GB-ENG	GBLIV	53.422	-3.008
Lowestoft	GB-ENG	GBLOW	52.474	1.736
Looe	GB-ENG	GBLOE	50.354	-4.455
Lyme Regis	GB-ENG	GBLYR	50.720	-2.934
Mevagissey	GB-ENG	GBMVG	50.269	-4.783
Newhaven	GB-ENG	GBNHV	50.786	0.058
Newlyn	GB-ENG	GBNYL	50.104	-5.547
Newquay	GB-ENG	GBNQY	50.419	-5.083
North Shields	GB-ENG	GBNSH	55.009	-1.439
Padstow	GB-ENG	GBPAD	50.540	-4.936
Plymouth	GB-ENG	GBPLY	50.372	-4.150
Porthleven	GB-ENG	GBPLV	50.086	-5.315
Portsmouth	GB-ENG	GBPME	50.803	-1.102
Rye	GB-ENG	GBRYE	50.945	0.747
Scarborough	GB-ENG	GBSCA	54.283	-0.390
Shoreham	GB-ENG	GBSHO	50.830	-0.233
St Ives	GB-ENG	GBIVS	50.210	-5.476
Whitby	GB-ENG	GBWTB	54.485	-0.612
Whitehaven	GB-ENG	GBWHV	54.551	-3.594
Holyhead	GB-WLS	GBHLY	53.318	-4.629
Milford Haven	GB-WLS	GBMLF	51.700	-5.003
Ardglass	GB-NIR	GBAGL	54.261	-5.605
Bangor	GB-NIR	GBBNG	54.666	-5.668
Belfast	GB-NIR	GBBEL	54.619	-5.898
Kilkeel	GB-NIR	GBKLK	54.059	-5.995
Londonderry	GB-NIR	GBLDY	55.045	-7.254
Portavogie	GB-NIR	GBPVG	54.458	-5.437
Warrenpoint	GB-NIR	GBWPT	54.100	-6.260
Aberdeen	GB-SCT	GBABD	57.143	-2.079
Buckie	GB-SCT	GBBUC	57.681	-2.957
Campbeltown	GB-SCT	GBCBT	55.426	-5.600
Cullivoe	GB-SCT	GBCUV	60.700	-1.001
Eyemouth	GB-SCT	GBEYM	55.873	-2.087
Fraserburgh	GB-SCT	GBFRB	57.693	-2.000
Kinlochbervie	GB-SCT	GBKBE	58.457	-5.049
Kirkwall	GB-SCT	GBKWL	58.987	-2.959
Lerwick	GB-SCT	GBLER	60.168	-1.152
Lochinver	GB-SCT	GBLOV	58.148	-5.247
Mallaig	GB-SCT	GBMLG	57.006	-5.825
Oban	GB-SCT	GBOBA	56.414	-5.478
Peterhead	GB-SCT	GBPHD	57.498	-1.782
Pittenweem	GB-SCT	GBPWM	56.211	-2.727

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Portree	GB-SCT	GBPRT	57.411	-6.190
Scalloway	GB-SCT	GBSWY	60.135	-1.277
Scrabster	GB-SCT	GBSCR	58.611	-3.544
Stornoway	GB-SCT	GBSTO	58.207	-6.384
Troon	GB-SCT	GBTRN	55.548	-4.680
Ullapool	GB-SCT	GBULL	57.893	-5.155
Dundee	GB-SCT	GBDUN	56.463	-2.947
Grangemouth	GB-SCT	GBGRG	56.029	-3.705
Greenock	GB-SCT	GBGRK	55.948	-4.743
Invergordon	GB-SCT	GBIVG	57.687	-4.161
Leith	GB-SCT	GBLEI	55.982	-3.171
Leverburgh	GB-SCT	GBLVR	57.766	-7.026
Methil	GB-SCT	GBMTH	56.184	-3.005

Chinese Taipei

Fishing Plan Year: 2024

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

1 a) Overview (para 12)

The initial eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (BFT-E) quota allocated to Chinese Taipei in 2024 is 101 t, of which 50 t will be transferred to Korea (Rep.) pursuant to paragraph 4 of Rec. 22-08. Hence, the adjusted quota is 51 t.

Chinese Taipei has established regulations to prohibit its fishing vessels from engaging the in BFT-E fishery, and such regulations still remain in force. As a result, no fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain BFT-E in the ICCAT Convention area in 2024. In addition, the domestic regulations also require fishermen to discard BFT-E bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook and E-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. The bycatch amount in 2023 is 0. In any event, Chinese Taipei will deduct the bycatch amount from the 51 t of adjusted quota.

It should be noted that the BFT-E quota is granted to Chinese Taipei based on its previous catch records, and thus should be deemed the historical right of Chinese Taipei. The prohibition on the BFT-E fishery is implemented on a voluntary basis, and Chinese Taipei reserves the right to resume the BFT-E fishery at any time considered appropriate by the Fisheries Agency.

1 b) Carry over (para 6)

Chinese Taipei does not request carry over.

1 c) Destination of catch

Farming: N/A, as our flagged fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining BFT-E.

Landing: N/A, as our flagged fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining BFT-E.

Both: N/A, as our flagged fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining BFT-E.

1 d)

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (paras 74-88)	1. Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. 2. Any bycatch of BFT-E is required to be discarded, and the amount of discard shall be recorded on the logbook and E-logbook for submission to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. In case of bycatch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 51 t of adjusted quota.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
2	Fisheries openings (paras 28-32)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. No fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain BFT-E in the ICCAT Convention area in 2024.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
3	Minimum size (paras 33-35)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
4	Bycatch (para 37, including % to be set aside)	<p>1. Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery.</p> <p>2. Fishermen are required to discard BFT-E bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook and E-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei.</p> <p>3. In 2023, the reported bycatch amount is 0. In case of bycatch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 51 t of adjusted quota.</p>	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras 38-46)	Not applicable. Chinese Taipei does not have recreational and sports fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.	Not applicable.	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 22-08)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
6	Transshipment (paras 89-94)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
7	VMS (paras 219-225)	All Chinese Taipei's vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention area are installed with VMS, report vessel positions hourly, and are monitored by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.	Article 33 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
8	CPC observers programme (paras 95-100)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
9	Regional observers programme (paras 101-107)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
10	Domestic legislation	1. Chinese Taipei has established regulations to prohibit its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. 2. The domestic regulations also require fishermen to discard BFT-E bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook and E-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 44), etc.</i>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	

1 e) Designated ports (para 80)

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in the BFT-E fishery. As such, we do not designate ports for landing or transshipping BFT-E.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (paras 14-19)

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. The attached table is filled in accordingly.

3. Annual farming management plan (paras 20 and 23 in Rec. 23-06), as applicable

Not applicable.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 10 c)

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. In the case of bycatch, fishermen are required to discard the BFT-E, record such bycatch on the logbook and E-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (JIS) (paras 229-232)

Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in BFT-E fishery. The ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection is thus not applicable.

5. Others

None.

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel type</i>		<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Number of vessels</i>				<i>Ref years</i>			<i>Fishing Capacity</i>		
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024		2006	2008	2018	2022	2023	2024
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40m	25	8	0	0	0	0	0		200	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		8	0	0	0	0	0		200	0	0	0	0	0
Quota									480	68.71	79	90	101	101
Percentage allocated to bycatch														
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									480	68.71	29	40	51	51*
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)														
Under/ overcapacity									-280	-68.71	-29	-40	-51	-51

*Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in the BFT-E fishery. In case of bycatch, fishermen are required to discard the BFT-E, record such bycatch on the logbook and E-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency. 51 tons of adjusted quota are all reserved for bycatch.

**Requests for clarification of [Rec. 22-08](#) by the
ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT) Consortium**

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Clarification</i>	<i>Response from Panel 2</i>
ICCAT Regional Observer Programme Rec. 22-08 Para. 104	Partially Resolved	Regional Observers may be shared between neighbouring farms operating jointly as listed by the respective farm States. Currently the Consortium operates under the assumption that to ensure effective monitoring, an observer shall not monitor operations on different farms in the same day, especially if those farms in question are a considerable distance from each other. May we continue to operate under this assumption?	Sharing is allowed if the Observer can carry out all the tasks required of him/her by Annex 6 of Rec. 22-08
Sealing operations Rec. 22-08 Para. 128 Annex 14	Partially Resolved	Last year's Panel 2 provided clarification that Regional Observer may be required to provide cage seals on <i>purse seine deployments</i> outside of the scope described in the Recommendation, if requested to do so by the authorities of the purse seiner. Can the Consortium confirm if Regional Observer may be required to provide cage seals on <i>farm and trap deployments</i> outside of the scope described in the Recommendation, if requested to do so by the relevant control authorities.	Yes
Fish that die during caging Rec. 22-08 Para. 167 Annex 11 Rec. 18-13	Partially resolved	Dead tuna shall be recorded in the comments of the respective eBCD section 6. However, we would like clarification that it is the farm's responsibility to record these dead tuna, and for the observer to verify this has been recorded correctly, together with the number and weight of tuna caged before signing the eBCD.	Yes

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Clarification</i>	<i>Response from Panel 2</i>
<p>ICCAT Transfer Declaration Rec. 22-08 Para. 132 Annex 4</p>	<p>Not resolved</p>	<p>In the case of a transfer of a single catch from the purse seine vessel to more than one transport cages, this almost always involves a first transfer from the net to the first cage, which is then split into other cages with further transfers. These cages may have different farm destinations. After last year’s Panel 2 Meeting, the Consortium understands that these different destination farms shall be recorded in section 1 even in the case of further transfers.</p> <p>Under normal situations in line with para 101 of Rec. 22-08, the Regional Observer does not monitor further transfers. Should the observer monitor these further transfers when the destination farm for each cage is different, considering that details of these cages will be included above their signature?</p> <p>Correspondingly, where should the various totals transferred be recorded? Section 2 is specific to first transfers. Section 3 for further transfers is below the Observer signature.</p> <p>Should the number and weight of tuna for the first transfer as recorded in the ITD be the total transferred, or the amount remaining following the further transfer?</p>	<p>No (may need to revise ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) to include destination farm in section 3).</p> <p>All fish should be put in section 2, and corresponding amounts when split in section 3.</p> <p>The total amount.</p>

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 – HYBRID / MADRID, MARCH 2024

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Clarification</i>	<i>Response from Panel 2</i>
Farm releases Rec 22-08 : Para 155 (a) Annex 10	Not resolved	<p>While response was clear that all releases must comply with Annex 10 (specifically prior to release segregation and minimum distance from farm), some releases subsequently have been carried out, either without a prior to release segregation, and/or the tuna not being released the minimum distance from the farm.</p> <p>These releases were typically of tuna remaining following harvesting not covered by an eBCD, therefore the entire number of tuna is released and there is no need for prior to release segregation; or</p> <p>The releases were from farms associated with traps, located close to the point of capture and therefore do not require to be released far from the farm.</p> <p>Noting the above, can the Consortium confirm whether all releases from farms must comply with Annex 10, including prior to release segregation and released a minimum distance from the farm.</p>	Yes
Rec. 23-08	New request for clarification	Rec. 23-08 describes a pilot project to be carried out for the capture of a small number of tuna by purse seine vessels for farming in the Cantabrian Sea. As Regional Observer coverage is required for 100% of purse seine vessels, transfers to towing cage, cagings and harvests in line with Para 101 of Rec. 22-08 (noting that up to 50T per year and 1,000 kg may be harvested per day without a Regional Observer), will Regional Observer coverage be required for this pilot project?	ROP will be present at all stages during pilot project.
Rec. 23-06	New request for clarification	Noting that Rec. 23-06 amending 22-08 deletes 2 paragraphs (21 and 22), when referring to the Recommendation and the numbering of the paragraphs, shall the Consortium subtract 2 from each paragraph number above para 23?	Use the numbering in Rec. 22-08 .

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Clarification</i>	<i>Response from Panel 2</i>
Harvesting / processing declaration Para 193 and Annex 15	New request for clarification	<p>The Consortium notes that while a separate harvest / processing declaration must be produced each day of harvest, no unique reference number is required. However, farms may issue a harvest declaration using the harvest authorization as the identification number. This authorization number may apply to harvests over several days, rather than be a unique reference for each day.</p> <p>Should the Consortium expect that in cases that a reference number is used, this should be unique for each day for traceability purposes.</p>	There is no requirement, and hence no Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) should be issued if unique numbering is not used.
Rec. 23-06 Annex 14	New request for clarification	<p>The amended first paragraph of Annex 14 require the provider to provide seals for each Regional Observer, prior to deployment on a purse seine vessel, trap or towing vessel. However, the only instance that a Regional Observer may be present on a towing vessel is for farm releases when the cage has been towed to sea (para 101 of Rec. 22-08). As this will only involve a release and no transfer, can we have clarification what purpose the cage seals may have for towing a cage to sea release operation?</p> <p>Furthermore, farms may carry out transfers which in theory may require cages to be sealed if a definitive estimate is not made. Should Regional Observers being deployed on farms also be provided with cage seals?</p>	No need to provide to the Observers on towing vessels but should be provided to Observers on farms.