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3 **Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a**  
4 **multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean**

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6 *(submitted as Appendix 4 to 2024 IMM Report presented by the Chair of Panel 2)*  
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8 *ACKNOWLEDGING* the advice from the SCRS to consider moving from the current recovery plan to a  
9 management plan and that the current status of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency  
10 measures introduced under the Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean  
11 (Recommendation 17-07 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 14-04);

12 *CONSIDERING* that the SCRS has completed a management strategy evaluation (MSE) to establish a  
13 management procedure (MP), which includes harvest control rules (HCR), and the Commission has decided  
14 on the MP at its 2022 Annual Meeting to establish TACs for 2023 and thereafter;

15 *FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* the impacts of the Recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic  
16 and the Mediterranean on the small-scale fleets, in particular with regards to the reduction of fishing  
17 capacity;

18 *CONSIDERING* the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it  
19 will be paramount to ensure that fishing capacity remains within sustainable limits and that the control of  
20 capacity remains effective;

21 *TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION* the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control  
22 measures, and reinforcing traceability of the catches, in particular with regards to the transport of live fish  
23 and farming activities;

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25 *CONSIDERING* that various provisions in Recommendation 22-08 were identified that would benefit  
26 from being clarified or otherwise improved and reinforced;

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

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31 **Part I:**

32 **General Provisions and Objectives**  
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- 34 1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities  
35 hereinafter referred to as CPCs, whose vessels have been fishing actively for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus*  
36 *thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall implement a management plan for  
37 bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2023 based on the Management Procedure (MP) as in  
38 *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used*  
39 *for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas* (Rec. 22-09).  
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41 **Definitions**  
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- 43 2. For purposes of this Recommendation:  
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- 45 a) "fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for the purposes of the commercial exploitation  
46 of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels,  
47 towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment, and transport vessels equipped for the  
48 transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
- 49 b) "catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna  
50 resources;
- 51 c) "processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or  
52 more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or  
53 processing;

- 54 d) “auxiliary vessel” means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a  
55 transport/farm cage, a purse seine vessel or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing  
56 vessel;
- 57 e) “towing vessel” means any vessel used for towing live bluefin tuna cages;
- 58 f) “support vessel” means any other vessel authorised to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery to  
59 perform support tasks, which does not fall into any of the other categories mentioned in  
60 paragraph a) above. Support vessels may not retain on board or transport bluefin tuna;
- 61 g) “fishing actively” means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a  
62 given fishing season;
- 63 h) “joint fishing operation” (hereinafter referred to in the text as JFO) means any operation  
64 between two or more bluefin tuna purse seine vessels where the catch of one bluefin tuna purse  
65 seine vessel is attributed to one or more other bluefin tuna purse seine vessels in accordance  
66 with a previously agreed allocation key. The JFO may or may not involve the active participation  
67 in bluefin tuna catching of all the purse seiners that make up the JFO;
- 68 i) “transfer operations” means:
- 69 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
  - 70 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage, independent of the  
71 presence of a towing vessel;
  - 72 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
  - 73 - any transfer of a cage containing live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing  
74 vessel;
  - 75 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna between different cages in the same farm (intra-farm  
76 transfer);
  - 77 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from a farm cage to a transport cage.
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- 79 j) “inter farm transfer” means relocation of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another farm  
80 composed of two phases, a transfer from the donor farm cage to a transport cage and a caging  
81 from the transport cage to the receiving farm cage;
- 82 k) “first transfer” means a transfer of live bluefin tuna from a purse seine net or a trap to a transport  
83 cage;
- 84 l) “further transfer” means any transfer operation that is conducted after the first transfer and  
85 before caging at the destination farm, such as splitting or merging of the contents of two transport  
86 cages but that does not include voluntary or control transfers;
- 87 m) “donor operator” means the master of the catching or the towing vessel or its representative, or  
88 the representative of a farm or a trap, from which a transfer operation originates (except for  
89 voluntary and control transfers);
- 90 n) “CPC of the donor operator” means the CPC that exercises its jurisdiction on the donor operator;
- 91 o) “voluntary transfer” means the repetition of any transfer being voluntarily implemented by the  
92 donor operator, for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of **Annex 8**;
- 93 p) “control transfer” means the repetition of any transfer being implemented at the request of  
94 control authorities;
- 95 q) “control caging” means a repetition of the caging operation being implemented at the request of  
96 the control authorities, for the purpose of verifying the number and or the average weight of fish  
97 being caged;

- 98 r) "trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin  
99 tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming;
- 100 s) "caging" means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming  
101 or fattening cages;
- 102 t) "fattening" or "farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to  
103 fatten and increase their total biomass;
- 104 u) "farm" means a marine site clearly defined by geographical coordinates, used for the fattening or  
105 farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seine vessels. A farm could have several farming  
106 locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and  
107 latitude for each one of the points of the polygon);
- 108 v) "harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps;
- 109 w) "transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another  
110 fishing vessel. However, unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seine, the trap or the  
111 towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as transshipment;
- 112 x) "sport fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport  
113 organization or are issued with a national sport license;
- 114 y) "recreational fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a  
115 national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license;
- 116 z) "stereoscopic camera" means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or  
117 film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images for the purpose of  
118 measuring the length of the fish and assisting in refining the number and weight of bluefin tuna;
- 119 aa) "control camera" means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose  
120 of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation;
- 121 bb) "BCD or electronic BCD (eBCD)" means a bluefin catch document;
- 122 cc) "lengths of vessels" means overall lengths;
- 123 dd) "small-scale coastal vessel" is a catching vessel with at least three of the five following  
124 characteristics: (a) length overall <12 m; (b) the vessel is fishing exclusively inside the territorial  
125 waters of the flag CPC; (c) fishing trips have a duration of less than 24 hours; (d) the maximum  
126 crew number is established at four persons; or (e) the vessel is fishing using techniques which are  
127 selective and have a reduced environmental impact;
- 128 ee) "farm CPC" means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the bluefin tuna farm is located;
- 129 ff) "flag CPC" means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged;
- 130 gg) "trap CPC" means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the trap is located;
- 131 hh) "input farming capacity" means the maximum amount of wild bluefin tuna in tons that a farm is  
132 allowed to cage during a fishing season.

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**Part II:  
Management measures**

**TAC and quotas and conditions associated with the allocation of quotas to CPCs**

3. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 46 a) of this Recommendation.
4. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for 2023 to 2025 shall be set at 40,570 t, in accordance with the MP. The TACs for 2026 and thereafter shall be decided at the 2025 Commission Annual Meeting in accordance with the MP.

40,570 t shall be allocated in 2023 to 2025 in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual Quota in 2023-2025 (t)</i>
Albania	264
Algeria	2,023
China	112
Egypt	513
European Union	21,503
Iceland	224
Japan	3,114
Korea	221
Libya	2,548
Morocco	3,700
Namibia	50
Norway	368
Syria	129
Tunisia	3,000
Türkiye	2,600
United Kingdom	63
Chinese Taipei	101
Subtotal	40,533
Unallocated Reserves	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,570</b>

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This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Senegal may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2023 to 2025. Recognizing the special circumstances of Iceland, Iceland may transfer up to 200 t of its quota to the European Union.

- 168 5. The flag CPC may require a catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when  
 169 the individual quota of the vessel is deemed to be exhausted.  
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- 171 6. Automatic carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a  
 172 maximum of 5% of its annual quota from one year to the following year. The CPC shall include this  
 173 request in its annual fishing/capacity plans for endorsement by the Commission.  
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- 175 7. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.  
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- 177 8. Notwithstanding the provision of Recommendation 01-12, all CPCs specifically referred to in the  
 178 table in paragraph 4, may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs  
 179 agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be  
 180 transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.  
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- 182 9. If the catch of a CPC in any given year exceeds its allocation, the CPC shall payback in the next  
 183 subsequent management period in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ICCAT  
 184 Recommendation 96-14.  
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186 **Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing and farming capacity management and inspection plans**  
 187 **and farming management plans**  
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- 189 10. By 15 February each year, each CPC with an allocated eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna  
 190 quota as well as each CPC seeking to export aquacultured bluefin tuna as referred to in Rec. 24-XX shall  
 191 submit to the ICCAT Secretariat:  
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- 193 a) An annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern  
 194 Atlantic and the Mediterranean drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 12 - 13.
- 195 b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity  
 196 is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in  
 197 paragraphs 14 - 19.
- 198 c) Monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions  
 199 of this Recommendation. This plan shall also designate the CPC control competent authority and  
 200 the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring,  
 201 control and inspection plan.
- 202 d) An annual farming management plan as appropriate, that is in line with the requirements set  
 203 out in paragraphs 20 and 21, including the authorized maximum input per farm and the  
 204 maximum capacity per farm and the total amount of fish by farm carried over from the previous  
 205 year, in accordance with paragraphs 198 - 204.
- 206 e) An annual aquaculture plan, as appropriate, to be made in accordance with Rec. 24-XX.
- 207 11. Prior to 31 March each year and in line with paragraph 232 of this Recommendation, unless  
 208 otherwise decided by the Commission, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of  
 209 Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 10. This  
 210 obligation may be done by electronic means if the Commission so decides. If the Commission finds a  
 211 serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on  
 212 the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year or export of aquacultured bluefin tuna by that CPC.  
 213 Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna  
 214 fishing in that year.  
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216 **Annual fishing plans**  
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- 218 12. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when  
 219 applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the  
 220 respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on by-  
 221 catch.

222 13. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat  
223 at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.  
224 Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers  
225 between by-catch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that  
226 information on the transfers is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest when the transfer  
227 enters into force.  
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## 229 **Capacity management measures**

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### 231 **Fishing capacity**

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#### 233 **Adjustment of fishing capacity**

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235 14. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota  
236 by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS and adopted by  
237 the Commission in 2009. Those parameters should be reviewed and each time that a stock  
238 assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates  
239 for gear type and fishing area.  
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241 15. The annual fishing capacity management plan as referred to in paragraph 10 b) shall adjust the  
242 number of catching vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing  
243 opportunities allocated to the catching vessels for the same quota period. Regarding small-scale  
244 coastal vessels, the minimum quota requirement of 5 t (catch rate defined by the SCRS in 2009) shall  
245 no longer be applicable and sectorial quotas may alternatively be applied to those vessels as follows:  
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247 a) If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a  
248 specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and  
249 inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota  
250 consumption of this fleet segment.

251 b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota  
252 may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor  
253 it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 above.

254 16. The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of  
255 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using  
256 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.  
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258 16.bis By derogation to paragraph 16, CPCs may increase the number of their purse seine vessels, provided  
259 that this increase results from a conversion from other bluefin tuna fleets, that the fishing capacity  
260 remains commensurate with available fishing opportunities, and that, overall, the final CPC fishing  
261 capacity, between purse seiners and the fleet from which the conversion is made, does not represent  
262 a capacity increase with respect to the precedent year.  
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264 16.ter The ratio for converting fleets as per the derogation set out in paragraph 16.bis, should be based on  
265 the 2009 catch rates provided by the SCRS. CPCs wishing to use this derogation must include the  
266 relevant details in their annual fishing capacity plans.  
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268 17. CPCs may authorize the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean  
269 bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.  
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271 18. The requirements for adjustments and for the number of traps defined in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17  
272 shall not apply:  
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274 a) if developing CPCs can demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully  
275 use their quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the  
276 SCRS, and if such adjustments are included in their annual fishing plan in accordance to  
277 paragraph 10;

278 b) in the Northeast Atlantic, to those CPCs that are fishing mainly in their own economic zones (the  
279 Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).

280 19. Any calculation to establish adjustments of fishing capacity shall be made in accordance with the  
281 methodology approved at the 2009 Annual Meeting and with the conditions set in paragraphs 15 and  
282 17, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Norway or  
283 Iceland.  
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#### 285 **Farming capacity**

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287 20. Each farm CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that  
288 the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount  
289 of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraph 21. Revised  
290 farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 June each year.  
291 The Commission shall ensure that the total farming and input capacity in the eastern Atlantic and  
292 Mediterranean is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the  
293 area.  
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295 21. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the  
296 level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008. If a CPC  
297 needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that  
298 increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live  
299 bluefin tuna imports.  
300

301 22. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught  
302 fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The Standing Catch  
303 Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall consider the development of such a data  
304 extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report  
305 these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website  
306 subject to confidentiality requirements.  
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#### 308 **Growth rates**

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310 23. Based on new available scientific information, including where relevant the result of the trials on  
311 Artificial Intelligence referred to in paragraph 164, the SCRS should consider reviewing and updating  
312 the growth table published in 2022, as soon as possible and present those results to the Commission.  
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314 24. Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with  
315 the growth rates published by the SCRS in 2022. If significant discrepancies are found between the  
316 2022 SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis.  
317 Import CPCs and farm CPCs shall be encouraged to cooperate in monitoring the growth rates in a  
318 comprehensive manner through exchange of relevant data, without prejudice to applicable rules on  
319 the protection of personal data, and to report the result of the monitoring to Panel 2, as appropriate.  
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321 25. A functionality within the eBCD system to automatically monitor growth rates shall be considered by  
322 the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) in 2025. The CDS WG deliberation,  
323 among other considerations, should take into account the development and maintenance costs of the  
324 proposed functionality.  
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### 326 **Part III:** 327 **Technical measures**

#### 328 **Open seasons**

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331 26. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean  
332 during the period from 26 May to 1 July.  
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334 By way of derogation, the season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1 Aegean;  
335 37.3.2 Levant), may be open 15 May if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

336 By way of derogation, the season in the Adriatic Sea (FAO fishing area 37.2.1) may be open from 26 May  
337 until 15 July, for fish farmed in the Adriatic Sea.

338 By way of derogation the purse seine fishing season in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in the  
339 Icelandic Economic Zone shall be from 25 June to 15 November.

340 By way of derogation, the purse seine fishing season in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing  
341 zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco may be  
342 open from 1 May to 15 June if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

343 27. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred  
344 under paragraph 26 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.

345  
346 28. The catching of bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by  
347 large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May  
348 with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the  
349 Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.

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351 29. CPCs shall establish open fishing seasons for their fleets other than purse seine vessels and vessels  
352 referred to in paragraph 28, and shall provide this information in their fishing plan defined in  
353 paragraph 12 to be analysed and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally.

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355 30. Not later than 2022, the Commission shall decide to what extent the fishing seasons for different gear  
356 types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified based on the SCRS advice without  
357 negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably.

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#### 360 **Minimum size**

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362 31. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be  
363 30 kg or 115 cm fork length. Therefore, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching,  
364 retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or  
365 offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm.

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367 32. By derogation from paragraph 31, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall  
368 apply to the following situations (see **Annex 1**):

- 369  
370 a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats;
- 371 b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean by the small-scale coastal fleet fishery for fresh  
372 fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners;
- 373 c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

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375 Notwithstanding the above, for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea by Croatian flag vessels for the  
376 purpose of farming, the relevant CPC may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna having a minimum  
377 weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 66 cm, provided they limit the  
378 take of these fish to a maximum of 7% by weight of the total quantities of bluefin tuna caught by those  
379 Croatian vessels. In addition, for bluefin tuna caught by French baitboat vessels with an overall length  
380 of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture up to a maximum  
381 of 100 t of bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum  
382 fork length of 70 cm.

383 33. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorizations to vessels fishing under the derogations referred  
384 to in paragraph 32. In addition, fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be  
385 counted against the CPC quota.

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**Incidental catches of fish below minimum size**

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34. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and tuna traps, CPCs may authorize an incidental catch of no more than 5% by number of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 kg and 30 kg or, in the alternative, with fork length between 75 and 115 cm.

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This percentage shall be calculated in relation to the total catches in number of bluefin tuna retained on board a vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above-mentioned weight or length categories.

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**General rules on by-catches**

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35. All CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized by-catches as well as the methodology to calculate those by-catches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens) shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation and shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. Calculation in number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. For the small-scale coastal vessel fleet the amount of by-catch can be calculated on an annual basis.

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All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to ICCAT. If by-catch of bluefin tuna occurs in waters under the fishery jurisdiction of CPCs whose current domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish must be landed, this landing obligation shall be complied with also by vessels flying foreign flags.

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If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the catching vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If, however, such bluefin tuna is dead it shall be landed, and the appropriate follow-up action taken in accordance with the national law. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to the SCRS.

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The procedures referred to in paragraphs 87 to 92 and 226 shall apply to by-catch.

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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. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 22-16).

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**Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries**

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36. When CPCs allocate, where appropriate, a specific quota to sport and recreational fisheries; that allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries to account for possible dead fish. Each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.

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37. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries.

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This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed.

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38. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.

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39. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 31 July each year.

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- 442 40. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the  
443 CPC in accordance with paragraph 4.  
444
- 445 41. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of  
446 bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing.  
447 Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.  
448
- 449 42. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the Northeast Atlantic may allow a  
450 limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without  
451 the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a  
452 scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which  
453 shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: (a) submit  
454 the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and  
455 control plans as referred under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation; (b) closely monitor the  
456 activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this  
457 Recommendation; (c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained  
458 personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and (d) annually submit a report on the scientific  
459 activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any bluefin tuna  
460 that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC's quota.  
461
- 462 43. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which  
463 have received an authorization.  
464
- 465 44. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 43 shall include the following information:  
466  
467 a) Name of vessel, register number;  
468  
469 b) ICCAT Record Number (if any);  
470  
471 c) Previous name (if any);  
472  
473 d) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s).

#### 472 Use of aerial means

- 474 45. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles  
475 to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.  
476

### 477 Part IV: 478 Control measures

#### 479 Section A – Records of vessels, traps and farms

##### 481 ICCAT Record of fishing vessels

- 482 46. CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels as defined in paragraph 2 a).  
483 That record shall consist of the following lists:  
484 a) catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as per paragraph 2 g) of this Recommendation;  
485 and  
486 b) other vessels engaged in bluefin tuna related activities, other than catching vessels.  
487
- 488 47. Each list shall include the following information:  
489  
490 a) name and registry number of the vessel;  
491  
492 b) specification of the type of vessel differentiating at least between: catching vessels, towing vessels,  
493 auxiliary vessels, support vessels, processing vessels;

- 494 c) length and gross registered tonnage (GRT) or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT);
- 495 d) IMO number (if any);
- 496 e) gear used (if any);
- 497 f) previous flag (if any);
- 498 g) previous name (if any);
- 499 h) previous details of deletion for other registers (if any);
- 500 i) international radio call sign (if any);
- 501 j) name and address of owner(s) and operator(s); and
- 502 k) time period authorized for fishing, operating and/or transporting bluefin tuna for farming.
- 503 48. For vessels over 24 metres (independently of the gear used, excluding for bottom trawlers,) and for  
504 all purse seine vessels, CPCs shall indicate the number of vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of  
505 their fishing plan defined in paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.
- 506
- 507 49. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain the ICCAT Record of all catching vessels  
508 fishing actively for bluefin tuna and all other vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the  
509 eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and take any measure to ensure availability of the record  
510 through electronic means, including by placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with  
511 confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
- 512
- 513 50. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Secretariat: (i) at the latest 15 days  
514 before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels referred to in paragraph  
515 46 a); and (ii) at the latest 15 days before the start of their operation the list of other fishing vessels  
516 referred to in paragraph 46 b). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set  
517 out in the *Guidelines for submitting data and information required by ICCAT*.
- 518
- 519 51. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the  
520 notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force*  
521 *majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Secretariat,  
522 providing:
- 523
- 524 a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included on the record  
525 referred to in paragraph 46; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on either list referred to in  
526 paragraph 46, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included on the record,  
527 provided that the CPC concerned submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a request for an ICCAT  
528 number to be given to the vessel, and the requested number has been provided;
- 529 b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting  
530 evidence or references.
- 531 The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not  
532 sufficiently justified or incomplete, it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review  
533 and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.
- 534
- 535 52. Without prejudice to paragraph 35 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not  
536 entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 46 a) and b) are deemed not to be  
537 authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic  
538 and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs  
539 whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the  
540 catch is subject to confiscation.
- 541

542 53. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending*  
543 *Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of vessels 20 metres in length*  
544 *overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area (Rec. 21-14) (except paragraph 3) shall*  
545 *apply mutatis mutandis.*  
546

#### 547 **Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

548

549 54. CPCs shall issue special authorizations and/or national fishing licenses to vessels and traps included  
550 in one of the lists described in paragraphs 43, 46 and 56. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a  
551 minimum the information set out in **Annex 13**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information  
552 contained in the fishing authorization is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag  
553 CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation and may  
554 require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed  
555 to be exhausted.  
556

#### 557 **ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

558

559 55. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for  
560 bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation,  
561 tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain,  
562 and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.  
563

564 56. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their fishing plan defined in  
565 paragraphs 12 to 13, the list (including the name of the traps, register number and geographical  
566 coordinates of the trap polygon) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 54.  
567

568 57. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of traps, of  
569 any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of traps at any time  
570 such changes occur.  
571

572 58. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic  
573 means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality  
574 requirements noted by CPCs.  
575

#### 576 **ICCAT Record of farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna**

577

578 59. The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna farms authorized to operate for  
579 bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation,  
580 tuna farms not entered into the Record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for bluefin tuna.  
581

582 60. Each farm CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their farming plan  
583 defined in paragraph 10 d), the list of its authorized bluefin tuna farms, including:  
584

585 i. the name of the farm;

586 ii. register number;

587 iii. names and addresses of owner(s) and operator(s);

588 iv. the input and total farming capacity allocated to each farm;

589 v. the geographical coordinates of the areas authorized for farming activities; and

590 vi. the status of the farm (active or inactive).

591 61. No farming activities, including feeding for fattening purposes or harvesting of bluefin tuna, shall be  
592 authorized outside of the geographical coordinates approved for farming activities.  
593

- 594 62. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any  
595 modification of the ICCAT Record of farms at any time such changes occur.  
596
- 597 63. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic  
598 means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality  
599 requirements noted by CPCs.  
600
- 601 64. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that no bluefin tuna is placed into a farm not  
602 authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT Record and that the farms do not receive bluefin tuna  
603 from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT Record of vessels referred to in paragraph 46. Each  
604 CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit any operation  
605 on farms not registered in the ICCAT Record of farms.  
606

#### 607 **Information on fishing activities**

- 608
- 609 65. By 15 July each year, or within 7 months of the completion of the fishing season for those CPCs that  
610 end their fishing campaign in July, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information  
611 on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean in the preceding quota  
612 allocation period. This information should include:  
613
- 614 a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
- 615 b) the period of authorization(s) for each catching vessel;
- 616 c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of  
617 authorization(s);
- 618 d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and the  
619 Mediterranean throughout the period of authorization(s); and
- 620 e) the total catch outside their period of authorization (by-catch).
- 621 66. For all vessels that were not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and  
622 the Mediterranean but that caught bluefin tuna as by-catch, the following information shall be  
623 provided to the ICCAT Secretariat:  
624
- 625 a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with  
626 ICCAT;
- 627 b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.
- 628 67. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in  
629 paragraphs 65 and 66 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic  
630 and the Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information without delay to the  
631 flag CPC for appropriate action, with a copy to other CPCs for information.  
632

#### 633 **Joint fishing operations**

- 634
- 635 68. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the express written consent  
636 of the CPCs concerned. To be authorized, each purse seine vessel shall be equipped to fish for bluefin  
637 tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the  
638 requirements defined in paragraphs 69 and 71. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to  
639 the total of all the quotas allocated to purse seine vessels participating in the concerned JFO.  
640 Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for  
641 purse seine vessels, as referred to under paragraph 26 of this Recommendation.  
642
- 643 69. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, and via  
644 the form developed by the Secretariat, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its  
645 purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- 646 - the period of authorization of the JFO;  
647 - the identity of the operators involved;  
648 - the individual vessels' quotas;  
649 - the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved; and  
650 - information on the farms of destination.

651  
652 Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the ICCAT Secretariat at least five  
653 working days before the start of the purse seine vessels fishing season as defined in paragraph 26.  
654

655 In the case of *force majeure*, the deadline set out in this paragraph shall not apply regarding the  
656 information on the farms of destination. In such cases, CPCs shall provide the ICCAT Secretariat with  
657 an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting  
658 *force majeure*. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information referred under this paragraph  
659 provided by CPCs for the review by the Compliance Committee.  
660

661 CPCs are allowed to transfer the unused quotas of vessels participating in a JFO to vessels participating  
662 in another JFO, provided that such transfer is necessary due to *force majeure* and made prior to the  
663 start of the JFO receiving the unused quota.

- 664 70. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations  
665 authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.  
666  
667 71. No JFOs between purse seine vessels from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with  
668 less than five authorized purse seine vessels may authorize joint fishing operations with any other  
669 CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this  
670 JFO.  
671

#### 672 **Part IV:** 673 **Control measures**

#### 674 **Section B - Catches and transshipments**

##### 675 **Recording requirements** 676

- 677  
678  
679 72. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their  
680 operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of **Annex 2**.  
681  
682 73. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in  
683 accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of **Annex 2**.  
684

##### 685 **Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators** 686

- 687 74. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to  
688 their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by  
689 electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time,  
690 location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered  
691 by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in  
692 paragraph 31. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in **Annex 2** or through the  
693 CPCs reporting requirement.  
694  
695 75. Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 74 on a fishing  
696 operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall  
697 be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.  
698  
699 76. Trap operators or their authorized representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send  
700 electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight  
701 and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours  
702 electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period  
703 they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna.  
704

705 77. For catching vessels other than purse seine vessels and traps, masters shall transmit to their control  
706 authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 74 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week  
707 ending Sunday.  
708

#### 709 **Designated ports**

710  
711 78. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or  
712 transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to  
713 the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment  
714 shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or  
715 transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the  
716 ICCAT Secretariat.  
717

718 79. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that the following  
719 conditions are met:

- 720  
721 a) established landing and transshipment times;
- 722 b) established landing and transshipment places; and
- 723 c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all  
724 landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with  
725 paragraph 83.

726 80. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from catching vessels as well as processing vessels and  
727 auxiliary vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean at  
728 any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 78 and 79. However,  
729 exceptionally, the transport of dead bluefin tuna, harvested from a trap/cage, to a processing vessel  
730 using an auxiliary vessel, is not prohibited.  
731

732 81. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 78 the ICCAT Secretariat shall  
733 maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.  
734

735 82. The provisions of this Recommendation shall not affect the entry of a CPC fishing vessel to port, in  
736 accordance with international law, for reasons of *force majeure* or distress.  
737

#### 738 **Prior notification of landings**

739  
740 83. Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary  
741 vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours  
742 before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- 743  
744 a) the external identification number and the name of the fishing vessel;
- 745 b) the date and estimated time of arrival at port;
- 746 c) the port of destination and the purposes of the call, such as landing, transshipment or access to  
747 services;
- 748 d) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- 749 e) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.  
750

751 The CPC where the landing takes place may set a shorter period for the prior notification, considering  
752 the distance between the area of activity and the port or landing site, and provided that such shorter  
753 period of prior notification does not impair the ability of that CPC to carry out inspections.  
754

755 Where catches are taken between the time of the prior notification and arrival at port, the estimated  
756 quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.  
757  
758  
759

760 CPCs may decide to apply these provisions only to catches equal to or greater than three fish or one  
761 ton provided that they include this information in their monitoring, control and inspection plan  
762 referred to in paragraph 10. CPCs that decide, pursuant to this paragraph, to set a shorter period for  
763 prior notification shall provide this information, including detail of the possible shortened period and  
764 the reasons therefore and the rest of the conditions set for the prior notification, prior to  
765 implementation in their monitoring, control, and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10. Any  
766 subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes  
767 effect.

768  
769 Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for a period of one year from the date of  
770 Port entry.

771  
772 All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected  
773 based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this  
774 control system adopted by each CPC including the target percentage of landings to be inspected shall  
775 be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.  
776 After each trip, Masters of catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the  
777 competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag CPC. The master of the  
778 authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify its completeness and accuracy of the  
779 declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and  
780 the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The  
781 relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the catching vessel,  
782 within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

783

#### 784 **Reporting of catches from CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat**

785

786 84. CPCs shall send bi-weekly catch reports by gear, covering the two weeks' activity, and through the  
787 relevant activity periods, without delay, to the ICCAT Secretariat, to ensure the data publication  
788 deadline specified below can be met. In the case of purse seine vessels and traps, the reports shall be  
789 as defined in paragraphs 74 to 76. Total reported catches will be published by the ICCAT Secretariat  
790 on a password protected area of the ICCAT web site during the second week of each month. If there  
791 are no catches over the reporting period, and for purse seiners and traps only, the bi-weekly catch  
792 report should include a notification of nil catches.

793

794 85. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been  
795 utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

796

#### 797 **Cross check**

798

799 86. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and where appropriate eBCDs,  
800 as well as the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of  
801 their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

802

803 The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks by species on all landings, transshipment,  
804 transfers and caging between the quantities recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or in the  
805 transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration,  
806 and any other relevant documentation, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

807

#### 808 **Transshipment**

809

810 87. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be  
811 allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 78 to 82.

812

813 88. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the  
814 relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the  
815 information listed in **Annex 3**, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transshipment requires  
816 the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore,  
817 the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC  
818 of the data required in **Annex 3**.



- 819 89. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the  
820 cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.  
821
- 822 90. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment  
823 declaration no later than 5 working days after the transshipment in port as per Recommendation 21-  
824 15. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment  
825 declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**. The transshipment declaration shall be  
826 linked with the eBCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.  
827
- 828 91. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC  
829 authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.  
830
- 831 92. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC  
832 authorities.  
833

834 **Part IV:**  
835 **Control measures**

836 **Section C - Observer Programmes**  
837

838 **CPC Observer Programme**  
839

- 840 93. Each CPC shall ensure that CPC observers, issued with an official identification document, are  
841 deployed on vessels flying its flag and on traps under its jurisdiction that are active in the bluefin tuna  
842 fishery, to achieve at least the following coverage rates:  
843
- 844 - 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m);
  - 845 - 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m);
  - 846 - 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m);
  - 847 - 100% of its towing vessels;
  - 848 - 100% of harvesting operations from its traps.
- 849 93bis. CPCs with less than five catching vessels of the first three segments defined above shall ensure  
850 coverage by observers 20% of the time the vessels are active in the bluefin tuna fishery.
- 851 94. In implementing this CPC observer programme, CPCs shall ensure that:  
852
- 853 a) temporal and spatial coverage is representative to ensure that the Commission receives adequate  
854 and appropriate data and information on bluefin tuna catch, effort, and other related scientific  
855 and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
  - 856 b) robust data collection protocols are implemented;
  - 857 c) the CPC observer is provided, before the start of his/her deployment, with a list of contacts within  
858 the CPC competent authority where to report observations;
  - 859 d) each CPC observer is properly trained and qualified before deployment;
  - 860 e) to the extent practicable, the operations of vessels and traps concerned suffer minimal disruption;
  - 861 f) the master of the fishing vessel or the trap operator allows the CPC observer access to the  
862 electronic means of communication on board the fishing vessel or on the trap.
- 863 95. Data and information collected under each CPC's observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS  
864 and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be  
865 developed by the Commission by 2023 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.  
866

867 96. For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by  
868 each CPC, and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that  
869 data. The SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC's  
870 observer programmes.

871  
872 97. The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the CPC observers are detailed in **Annex 6**.  
873

#### 874 **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)**

875  
876 98. The ICCAT Regional Observer Programme referred to in **Annex 6** shall be implemented to ensure  
877 100% observer coverage as follows:

- 878 - on all purse seine vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna;
- 879
- 880 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seine vessels to transport cages;
- 881
- 882 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- 883 - during all transfers from one farm cage to transport cages, which then are towed to another farm;
- 884
- 885 - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- 886 - during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms; and
- 887 - during the release of bluefin tuna from farms.

887 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 93, for releases of tuna from farms, only the regional  
888 observer, and not the national observer, shall be present on the towing vessel.

889 Notwithstanding the above, when, for reasons of *force majeure* (e.g., pandemic) duly notified to  
890 ICCAT, the deployment of a regional observer is not possible, the vessel, trap or farm may operate  
891 without the observer. In such cases, CPCs shall prioritize such vessels, farms, and traps for control  
892 and inspection.

893 In addition, CPCs shall implement a set of appropriate alternative measures aimed at achieving the  
894 objectives of the regional observer programme, including, where possible, deploying either a national  
895 inspector or a national observer to act in locum of the regional observer. The CPC concerned shall  
896 send all details of the alternative measures to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall compile and  
897 circulate all the information received on the implementation of these procedures to the Commission.  
898 Such alternative measures and the actions taken will be examined by the Compliance Committee  
899 during each annual meeting.

900 99. By way of derogation from paragraph 99, harvesting from farms up to 1000 kg per day and up to a  
901 maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market may be authorized by  
902 the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the farm CPC is onsite for 100% of such  
903 harvests, and controls the entire operation. The authorized inspector shall also validate the harvested  
904 quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature should not be required  
905 in the harvest section of the eBCD. This derogation shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the PWG,  
906 possibly through its IMM Working Group, by 2027 at the latest.

907  
908 100. Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer on board shall not be authorized to fish or to  
909 operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

910  
911 101. One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the entirety of caging and harvesting  
912 operations. In cases of *force majeure* that have been confirmed by the farm CPC authority, or in cases  
913 where neighboring farms, as authorized and controlled by the farm CPC, operate jointly as one unit,  
914 an ICCAT regional observer may be shared by more than one farm to guarantee the continuity of  
915 farming operations if so authorized by the farm CPC competent authority.

916  
917

918 102. By way of derogation from paragraph 102, in case of transfer between two different farms under the  
 919 competence of the same national authority, a single regional observer can be assigned to cover the  
 920 entire process including the transfer of fish to a towing transport cage, the towing of the fish from the  
 921 donor farm to the recipient farm and the caging of fish on the recipient farm. In this case, a regional  
 922 observer should be deployed by the donor farm and the cost shall be shared by both the donor and  
 923 receiving farms, unless otherwise determined by the farming companies.  
 924

925 103. As a matter of priority, the ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the  
 926 catching vessel, towing vessel, trap or farm, for which their services are required and, to the extent  
 927 possible, the ICCAT Secretariat and the provider responsible for the ROP shall ensure the observer  
 928 has a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel and farm or trap CPC. The  
 929 requirements that the regional observer not be of the same nationality as the observed vessel, farm  
 930 or trap will only take priority in cases where the ICCAT regional observers deployed have a  
 931 satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel, farm or trap CPC. If it is not possible  
 932 to find foreign observers with proper language skills or in case of *force majeure*, the deployment of  
 933 ICCAT regional observers of the same nationality may be allowed, provided that prior notification to  
 934 the ICCAT Secretariat is made by the provider responsible for the ROP.  
 935

936 104. The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the ICCAT Regional Observer and the flag,  
 937 trap, and farm CPCs are detailed in **Annex 6**.  
 938

#### 939 **Part IV:** 940 **Control measures**

#### 941 **Section D – Transfers of live fish**

##### 942 **General provision**

943  
 944  
 945 105. This section applies to all transfers as defined in paragraph 2 i) of this Recommendation.  
 946  
 947

948 106. In accordance with paragraph 10 c) of this Recommendation, each CPC shall nominate a single  
 949 competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “CPC competent authority”, that shall be  
 950 responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information for the control of transfers  
 951 and related transports of bluefin tuna conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and  
 952 cooperating with the CPCs whose farms will cage the fish.  
 953

954 107. Masters of catching and towing vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their transfer  
 955 activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2** (logbook).  
 956

##### 957 **Unique number assigned to cages**

958  
 959 108. All cages used in transfer operations and associated transports shall be numbered in accordance with  
 960 the unique numbering system referred to in paragraphs 145 to 148.  
 961

##### 962 **Prior Transfer Notification**

963  
 964 109. Before the start of a transfer operation, including voluntary transfers, the master of the catching or  
 965 towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in  
 966 question originates shall send to its CPC competent authority a prior transfer notification indicating,  
 967 where applicable:

- 968 - the number and the estimated weight of bluefin tuna to be transferred;
- 969 - the name of the catching vessel, towing vessel(s), farm or trap, with their respective ICCAT  
 970 number record;
- 971 - the date and the location of the catch;
- 972 - the date and estimated time of transfer;
- 973 - the estimated position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and the donor and  
 974 receiving cage numbers;

- 975 - farm of destination;
- 976 - the name and ICCAT number of the donor farm, in the case of a transfer from the farm cage to a  
977 transport cage;
- 978 - the numbers of the two farm cages and any transport cages involved, in the case of intra-farm  
979 transfers.

#### 980 **Transfer authorization**

- 981
- 982 110. Within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent  
983 authority of the donor operator shall assign and communicate to the donor operator concerned a  
984 transfer authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer authorization number shall  
985 include the three CPC letters code, four numbers for the year and three letters to indicate either  
986 positive (AUT) or negative (NEG) authorization, followed by sequential numbers.
- 987
- 988 111. The transfer operation concerned shall not start before its specific transfer authorization number  
989 has been assigned and communicated to the donor operator.
- 990
- 991 112. The transfer authorization does not prejudice the confirmation of any subsequent transfer or caging  
992 operation.
- 993
- 994 113. Voluntary and control transfers shall not be subject to a new transfer authorization.
- 995

#### 996 **Refusal of a transfer operation and consequent release of bluefin tuna**

- 997
- 998 114. A transfer operation shall not be authorized by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator  
999 if, on receipt of the prior transfer notification, it considers that:
- 1000
- 1001 a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid  
1002 authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this  
1003 Recommendation;
- 1004 b) the number and weight of fish subject to the transfer has not been duly reported by the catching  
1005 vessel or the trap;
- 1006 c) the catching vessel or the trap that has caught the fish does not have sufficient quota;
- 1007 d) the towing vessel declared to transfer and/or transport the fish is not registered in the ICCAT  
1008 Record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 46 b), or is not equipped with a fully  
1009 functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS);
- 1010 e) the farm of destination is not reported as active in the ICCAT Record of farms referred to in  
1011 paragraph 61 of this Recommendation.

- 1012 115. In case of refusal, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall:
- 1013

- 1014 a) immediately inform the donor operator of the refusal, as well as the catch, the trap or farm CPC  
1015 competent authority, if different;
- 1016 b) where applicable, issue an order to release the fish concerned into the sea, in accordance with  
1017 **Annex 10**.

#### 1018 **Monitoring of transfers operations by video camera**

- 1019 116. Except for transfers of cages between two towing vessels, which do not involve the movement of live  
1020 tuna between those cages, the donor operator shall ensure that the transfer operation is monitored  
1021 by video camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures referred  
1022 to in **Annex 8**, to determine the number of individuals of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- 1023

- 1024 117. Each donor operator CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that identical copies of the  
 1025 relevant video records are provided without delay by the donor operator:  
 1026  
 1027 a) for the first transfer operation and the eventual voluntary or control transfer, to the ICCAT  
 1028 regional observer and to the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the fishing trip, to the flag  
 1029 or trap CPC competent authority of the donor operator;
- 1030 b) for further transfers, to the CPC observer on board the donor towing vessel, to the master of the  
 1031 receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the towing trip, to the flag CPC competent authority of  
 1032 the donor towing vessel;
- 1033 c) for transfers between two different farms, to the ICCAT regional observer, to the receiving towing  
 1034 vessel and to donor farm CPC competent authority; and
- 1035 d) if a national or ICCAT inspection authority is present during the transfer operation, the  
 1036 inspector(s) shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record.
- 1037 118. The video footage concerned shall accompany the fish up to the destination farm. A copy shall be kept  
 1038 onboard the donor vessel(s), by the trap(s) or by the farm(s), and remain accessible for control  
 1039 purposes at any time during the fishing campaign.  
 1040
- 1041 119. Copies of the video records shall be provided by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator  
 1042 to the SCRS upon request. The SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.  
 1043
- 1044 120. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator and the donor operator shall retain the video  
 1045 footages related to transfers for at least 3 years, and keep them as long as necessary for control and  
 1046 enforcement purposes.  
 1047
- 1048 **Voluntary and control transfers**
- 1049 121. If the video footage does not meet the minimum standards referred to in **Annex 8**, and in particular  
 1050 if its quality and clarity are not sufficient to determine the number of fish being transferred, the donor  
 1051 operator may conduct voluntary transfer(s).  
 1052
- 1053 122. If no voluntary transfer(s) has been carried out, or if the voluntary transfer(s) still does not permit a  
 1054 determination of the number of fish being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor  
 1055 operator shall order a control transfer, which shall be repeated until the quality of the video record  
 1056 allows the estimation of the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.  
 1057
- 1058 123. The voluntary and/or control transfer(s) shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty.  
 1059 The number of fish obtained from the valid voluntary or control transfer shall be used to complete  
 1060 the logbook, the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and the relevant sections of the eBCD.  
 1061
- 1062 124. The separation of the transport cage from a purse seine, a trap, or a farm cage shall not occur before  
 1063 the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seiner, or present on the farm or trap, has carried  
 1064 out its tasks.  
 1065
- 1066 125. However, if after the voluntary transfer(s) the quality of the video still does not allow determination  
 1067 of the number of individuals being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator  
 1068 may allow the separation of the donor purse seine vessel, trap or farm from the transport cage(s). In  
 1069 such a case, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order the door(s) of the  
 1070 transport cage(s) concerned, to be sealed in accordance with the procedure set out in **Annex 14**, and  
 1071 require a control transfer(s) to be carried out at a determined time and place, in the presence of the  
 1072 flag, trap or farm competent authority.  
 1073
- 1074 126. In the event that the flag, trap or farm competent authorities cannot be present at the control transfer,  
 1075 the control transfer shall take place in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer. In this case, the  
 1076 responsibility for the regional observer deployment shall lie with the farm operator owning the  
 1077 bluefin tuna transported, who shall ensure that the regional observer is deployed to verify the control  
 1078 transfer.  
 1079

**1080 ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD)**

- 1081 127. At the end of a transfer operation, the donor operator shall complete an ITD in accordance with the  
1082 format set out in **Annex 4**. The donor operator shall transmit or make available, without delay, the  
1083 ITD to its CPC competent authority, to the ICCAT regional observer where its presence is mandatory  
1084 and, where applicable, to the master of the towing vessel or the farm receiving the fish.  
1085
- 1086 128. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall ensure that the ITD form is numbered, using  
1087 the three letters CPC code, followed by the four numbers showing the year and three sequential  
1088 numbers, followed by the three letters ITD (CPC- 20\*\*/xxx/ITD).  
1089
- 1090 129. The original of the ITD shall accompany the fish transferred up to the destination farm(s) where the  
1091 fish will be caged:  
1092
- 1093 a) at first transfer, the original of the ITD shall be duplicated by the donor operator when a single  
1094 catch is transferred from the purse seine net or the trap to more than one transport cage;
- 1095 b) in the case of a further transfer, the master of the donor towing vessel shall update the ITD by  
1096 completing part 3 (further transfers), and provide the updated ITD to the receiving towing  
1097 vessel(s). The ITD shall be duplicated by the master of the donor towing vessel if the fish subject  
1098 to further transfer is divided into more than one transport cage.
- 1099 130. A copy of the ITD shall be kept onboard the donor catching or towing vessel(s), or by the donor trap  
1100 or the donor farm, and be accessible at any time for control purposes during the duration of the  
1101 fishing campaign.  
1102

**1103 Investigation by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator**

- 1104 131. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall investigate all cases where:  
1105
- 1106 a) there is more than 10% difference between the number of fish reported in the ITD by the donor  
1107 operator and the number of fish estimated by the ICCAT regional observer, or by the CPC  
1108 national observer, as appropriate; or  
1109
- 1110 b) when the ICCAT regional observer has not signed the ITD.  
1111
- 1112 The margin of error of 10% referred above shall be expressed as a percentage of the donor operator's  
1113 figures.  
1114
- 1115 132. Where applicable, the investigation shall include the analysis of all the relevant video footages. Except  
1116 in cases of *force majeure*, the investigation shall be concluded within 96 hours of its initiation, and in  
1117 any case prior to the arrival of the transport cage to the destination farm.  
1118
- 1119 133. At the initiation of an investigation, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall inform  
1120 the flag CPC competent authority of the towing vessel(s) concerned about the investigation, and  
1121 ensure that, until the investigation is concluded, no transfer is permitted from or to the transport  
1122 cage in question.  
1123
- 1124 134. For all transfer operations where a video is required, a difference greater than 10%, between the  
1125 number of bluefin tuna reported by the donor operator in the ITD and the number determined by the  
1126 CPC competent authority of the donor operator following an investigation, shall constitute a Potential  
1127 Non-Compliance (PNC) of the fishing vessel, trap or farm concerned.  
1128

**1129 Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations**

- 1130 135. If following an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10%  
1131 different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent  
1132 authority of the donor operator to reflect the result of the investigation.  
1133  
1134

**1135 Fish that die during transfer operations and associated transport**

1136 136. The number of fish that die during a transfer operation, or during the transport of the fish to the  
1137 destination farm, shall be reported by the donor operator in accordance with the procedures and  
1138 template set out in **Annex 11**.

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**Part IV:**  
**Control measures**  
**Section E - Caging**

**General provisions**

137. Each farm CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “farm CPC competent authority”. That authority shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on national caging activities, for the control of farm activities conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC competent authorities whose flag vessels or trap caught the caged tuna.

138. Where the farms are located beyond waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC, the provisions of this section shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for the farm are located.

139. All farm activities shall be subject to the control described in the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.

140. All CPCs involved in caging related activities shall exchange information and cooperate to ensure that the number and weight of bluefin tuna intended for caging are accurate, consistent with the catch amounts reported by the purse seine vessel or trap, and declared in the relevant sections of the eBCD.

141. Farm CPCs are encouraged to exchange experience and best practices on control and inspection related to farming activities using the pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel established by the ICCAT Res. 19-17.

142. The farm CPC competent authority 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. The plan shall be made available at all times to the farm CPC competent authority for control purposes. Any modification to the schematic plan is subject to prior notification to the farm CPC competent authority. The schematic farming plan shall be adapted any time the number and/or distribution of farm cages is modified.

143. The farm CPC competent authority and the farm operator shall retain all the information, documentation and material related to caging activities conducted in farms under its jurisdiction for at least 3 years, and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

**Unique number assigned to cages**

144. Before the start of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign, the farm CPC competent authority shall assign a unique and identifiable number to each cage associated to farms under its jurisdiction, including those cages used to transport the fish to the farm.

145. Each cage shall be identified with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code, followed by three numbers. The unique cage numbers shall be stamped or painted on two opposite sides of the ring of the cage and above the water line, in a color contrasting with the background on which they are painted or stamped, and must be visible and legible at any time for control purposes.

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1191 146. The height of the letters and numbers shall be at least 20 centimeters with a line thickness of at least  
1192 4 centimeters.

1193  
1194 147. Alternative methods to mark the unique number on the cage are allowed, providing they offer the  
1195 same guarantee of visibility, legibility and inviolability.

1196  
1197 **Caging authorization**

1198 148. Each caging operation is subject to a caging authorization issued by the farm CPC competent  
1199 authority. The following procedure shall apply:

1200  
1201 a) the farm operator requests a caging authorization to the farm CPC competent authority,  
1202 specifying in particular the number and weight (as referred to in the ITD) of fish to be caged.  
1203 This request shall be accompanied by:

1204 i. the relevant ITDs;

1205 ii. the eBCD(s) reference concerned, as confirmed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC  
1206 competent authority;

1207 iii. all the reports of fish that die during transport, duly recorded in accordance with **Annex 11**.

1208 b) the farm CPC competent authority notifies the information under subparagraph a) to the relevant  
1209 catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies), and asks for confirmation that the caging  
1210 operation can be authorized;

1211 c) within 3 working days, the catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies) notifies the farm  
1212 CPC competent authority that the caging operation concerned can be authorized or must be  
1213 refused. In the case of refusal, the flag or trap CPC competent authority shall specify the reason(s)  
1214 for the refusal, and the refusal shall include the consequent release order;

1215 d) the farm CPC competent authority issues the caging authorization immediately after receipt of  
1216 the confirmation by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned. The caging  
1217 operation shall not be authorized by the farm CPC competent authority in the absence of this  
1218 confirmation.

1219 149. No caging shall be authorized if the complete set of documentation required under paragraph 149 a)  
1220 does not accompany the fish subject to the caging authorization.

1221  
1222 150. Pending the results of the investigation referred to in paragraphs 132 to 135 conducted by the catching  
1223 flag or trap CPC competent authority, the caging operation shall not be authorized and the relevant  
1224 catch and live trade sections of the eBCD shall not be validated.

1225  
1226 151. If the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month  
1227 after the request for a caging authorization by the farm operator, the farm CPC competent authority  
1228 shall order and proceed to release all the fish contained in the transport cage concerned, in accordance  
1229 with **Annex 10**. The farm CPC competent authority shall accordingly inform without delay the catching  
1230 flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned, and the ICCAT Secretariat of the release.

1231  
1232 **Refusal of a caging authorization by the flag or trap CPC**

1233  
1234 152. If, on receipt of the information referred to in paragraph 149 a) the catching flag or trap CPC competent  
1235 authority considers that:

1236  
1237 a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had insufficient quota to cover the  
1238 bluefin tuna to be caged;

1239 b) the fish to be caged has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, and has not been  
1240 taken into account for the calculation of any quota uptake that may be applicable;



1241 c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization  
1242 to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this Recommendation;

1243 it shall determine the number of fish for which caging is refused and request without delay the farm  
1244 CPC competent authority to proceed to seize the fish concerned and immediately release them into the  
1245 sea, in accordance with **Annex 10**.

### 1246 1247 **Caging operations**

1248  
1249 153. At arrival of the towing vessel in the vicinity of the farm, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure  
1250 that:

1251  
1252 a) the towing vessel and cage concerned are maintained at a distance of minimum 0.1 nautical mile  
1253 from any facility of the farm until the farm CPC competent authority is physically present; and

1254  
1255 b) the position and activity of the relevant towing vessels is monitored at all times.

1256  
1257 154. No caging operation shall start:

1258  
1259 a) before it has been duly authorized by the farm CPC competent authority;

1260  
1261 b) without the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and the ICCAT regional observer;

1262  
1263 c) before the catch and live trade sections of the eBCD have been completed and validated by the  
1264 catching flag or trap CPC competent authority(ies).

1265  
1266 155. The anchoring of transport cages as farm cages, without movement of fish to allow stereoscopic  
1267 camera recording is prohibited.

1268  
1269 156. After transfer of the bluefin tuna from the towing cage to the farm cage, the farm CPC control  
1270 authority shall ensure that farm cages containing bluefin tuna are sealed at all times. Unsealing will  
1271 only be possible in the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and following its authorization.  
1272 The farm CPC control authority shall establish protocols for the sealing of farm cages, ensuring the  
1273 use of official seals and that these seals are placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of  
1274 doors without the seals being broken.

1275  
1276 157. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages, or series of cages,  
1277 and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC of origin and catch year. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna has  
1278 been caught in the context of a JFO, the catches concerned shall be placed in separate cages or series  
1279 of cages and partitioned on the basis of the JFOs and catch year.

1280  
1281 158. All the caging operations shall be completed before 22 August of each year, unless the farm CPC  
1282 receiving the fish provides valid reasons, including *force majeure*. Those reasons shall be documented  
1283 and reported in the caging report referred to in paragraph 184. The above deadlines do not apply in  
1284 case of inter-farm transfers.

### 1285 1286 **Recording of the caging operation by control cameras**

1287  
1288 159. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that each bluefin tuna caging operation in its farms  
1289 is recorded by the farm operator using both conventional and stereoscopic cameras. All video  
1290 footages shall comply with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**, except point 1d for  
1291 stereoscopic camera footages.

1292  
1293 160. If the quality of the control camera video footage used to determine the number and/or weight of the  
1294 bluefin tuna caged does not comply with the minimum standards of **Annex 8**, the farm CPC  
1295 competent authority shall order a control caging until the determination of the number and/or  
1296 weight is possible. The repetition of the caging operation shall not be subject to a new caging  
1297 authorization.

1298 160bis. In the event of persistent turbidity conditions in the farm area, the farm CPC competent authority  
1299 may authorise the control caging to take place outside the farm, in an adjacent area where there is  
1300 sufficient visibility. CPCs shall document the measurement of the turbidity according to standard  
1301 methods.

1302  
1303 161. In the case of control caging, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the donor farm cage  
1304 is sealed and that the cage cannot be manipulated prior to the new caging operation. The receiving  
1305 farm cage(s) used in the control caging shall be empty.

1306  
1307 162. At the completion of the caging operation, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the  
1308 ICCAT regional observer has immediate access to all stereoscopic and conventional camera video  
1309 footage(s), and is allowed to make a copy if it intends to complete its task of analysing the footage at  
1310 another time or place.

1311  
1312 163. CPCs with active bluefin tuna farms and the SCRS are encouraged to participate in trials using  
1313 Artificial Intelligence (AI), including under the framework established by Resolution 22-07, for the  
1314 analysis of stereoscopic camera footages, with a view to automating the determination of the number  
1315 and/or weight of caged tuna, in order to reduce workloads and avoid possible human bias.

#### 1316 1317 **Fish that die during a caging operation**

1318 164. All bluefin tuna that die during a caging operation shall be reported by the farm operator, in  
1319 accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 11**.

#### 1320 1321 **Caging declaration**

1322  
1323 165. Each farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that, for each caging operation, the farm operator  
1324 submits a caging declaration within 1 week after the actual caging operation has taken place, using  
1325 the form set out in **Annex 12**.

#### 1326 1327 **Analysis of the stereoscopic video footage by the farm CPC competent authority**

1328  
1329 166. The farm CPC competent authority shall determine the number and weight of bluefin tuna being  
1330 caged, by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation provided by the farm operator. To  
1331 carry out this analysis, the authorities shall follow the procedures set out in point 1 of **Annex 9**.

1332  
1333 167. When there is a difference of more than 10% between the number and/or the weight determined by  
1334 the farm CPC competent authority and the corresponding figures reported in the caging declaration,  
1335 the farm CPC competent authority shall launch an investigation to identify the reasons for the  
1336 discrepancy, and make the eventual adjustment to the number and/or weight of fish that has been  
1337 caged.

1338  
1339 168. The margin of error of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the farm  
1340 operator's figures.

1341  
1342 168 bis. As soon as the technological developments are considered robust and ready for commercial  
1343 scale-up, as well as the SCRS establishes the technical criteria, and guidelines for their selection, the  
1344 SCRS shall evaluate the accuracy of video analysis software that incorporates Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
1345 and estimates the bluefin tuna length, and make advice to the Commission for its consideration.

#### 1346 1347 **Communication of caging results to the catching flag or trap CPC**

1348  
1349 169. After the completion of a caging operation or, in the case of a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member  
1350 State, of the last caging operation associated to that JFO or those traps, the farm CPC competent  
1351 authority shall send to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority the results of the caging  
1352 operations referred to in **Annex 9**, point 2 under a and b.

1353  
1354

1355 170. Each farm CPC competent authority shall submit the procedures and results related to the  
1356 stereoscopic camera programme (or alternative methods) to the SCRS by 31 October annually. The  
1357 SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission at the next Annual  
1358 Meeting.  
1359

#### 1360 **Investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority**

1361  
1362 171. When, for a single catching operation, the number of bluefin tuna being caged as communicated by  
1363 the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 170, differs by more than 10% from  
1364 those reported in the ITD or eBCD as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC  
1365 competent authority shall initiate an investigation to determine the accurate catch weight that shall  
1366 be deducted from the national bluefin tuna quota, in accordance with paragraphs 178 to 180 (quota  
1367 uptake).  
1368

1369 172. In support of this investigation, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall request all  
1370 the complementary information and the results of the relevant video footage analysis conducted in  
1371 accordance with this Recommendation by the flag and farm CPCs competent authority(ies) that have  
1372 been involved in the transport and the caging operation concerned.  
1373

1374 173. All CPCs competent authorities, including those whose vessels have been involved in the transport of  
1375 the fish, shall cooperate actively, including through the exchange of all information and  
1376 documentation at their disposal.  
1377

1378 174. The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall conclude the investigation within 1 month  
1379 from the communication of the caging results by the competent authority of the farm CPC.  
1380

1381 175. A difference greater than 10% between the number of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel or  
1382 trap concerned and the number determined by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority as  
1383 result of the investigation shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) of the vessel or trap  
1384 concerned.  
1385

1386 176. The margin of error of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the figures  
1387 reported by the fishing vessel master or trap representative and shall be applicable at the level of  
1388 individual caging operation.  
1389

#### 1390 **Quota uptake**

1391  
1392 177. The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall determine the weight of bluefin tuna to be  
1393 deducted from its national quota taking into account the quantities caged, calculated in accordance  
1394 with the provisions of **Annex 9**, which ensures that weight at caging is calculated based on the  
1395 length-weight relationship for wild fish, and the reported mortalities, in accordance with the  
1396 provisions of **Annex 11**.  
1397

1398 178. However, for those cases where the investigation referred to in paragraph 172 concludes that bluefin  
1399 tuna individuals were missing within the meaning of paragraph 2 of **Annex 11**, the weight of the  
1400 missing fish shall be deducted from the national quota in accordance with **Annex 11**, by applying the  
1401 average individual weight at caging communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, to the  
1402 number of bluefin tuna in the catch as determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority  
1403 resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.  
1404

1405 179. Notwithstanding paragraph 179, after the consultation of the CPC competent authority(ies) involved  
1406 in the transport of fish up to the destination farm, the flag or trap CPC competent authorities may  
1407 decide not to deduct from the national quota the fish determined in the investigation as having been  
1408 lost, when the losses have been duly documented as "*force majeure*" by the operator (i.e., pictures of  
1409 the damaged cage, meteorological reports), the relevant information has been communicated to its  
1410 CPC competent authority immediately after the event and the losses did not result in known  
1411 mortalities.  
1412  
1413

1414 **Releases associated to caging operations**

1415  
1416 180. The determination of the fish to be released shall be done in accordance with the provisions of  
1417 **Annex 9** paragraph 4.

1418  
1419 181. If the weight of bluefin tuna being caged is in excess of what had been declared as caught and/or  
1420 transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall issue a release order and  
1421 communicate it without delay to the farm CPC competent authority concerned. The release order  
1422 shall follow the provisions of **Annex 9** paragraph 4, taking into account the possible compensation  
1423 at the JFO or trap level, in accordance with **Annex 9** paragraph 5.

1424  
1425 182. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with the protocol set out in **Annex 10**.

1426  
1427 **Caging report**

1428  
1429 183. Within 15 days after the completion of the release orders, the farm CPC competent authority shall  
1430 issue a caging report for each single caging operation, or in the case of a JFO or traps of the same  
1431 CPC/EU Member State, for the complete set of caging operations related to that JFO or those traps.  
1432 The caging report shall include the information referred to in **Annex 9** paragraph 3, and be  
1433 communicated to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority and to the ICCAT Secretariat.

1434  
1435 **Part IV:**  
1436 **Control measures**

1437  
1438 **Section F. Harvesting**

1439  
1440 184. Processing vessels intending to operate in farms or traps shall send a prior notification to the farm  
1441 or trap CPC competent authorities at least 48 hours before arrival of the vessel to the farm/trap area.  
1442 The prior notification shall at least include the date and estimated time of arrival and information as  
1443 to whether the processing vessel already has bluefin tuna on board, and, if so, provide details on the  
1444 cargo, including quantities in processed weight and live weight and details of the origin of the bluefin  
1445 tuna on board (farm/trap and CPC).

1446  
1447 185. Any harvesting operation in farms or traps shall be subject to an authorisation by the farm or trap  
1448 CPC competent authority. To this end, the farm or trap operator intending to harvest bluefin tuna  
1449 shall submit to its CPC competent authority a request, which shall include at least the following  
1450 information:

- 1451  
1452 - date or period of harvesting;  
1453 - estimated quantities to be harvested in number of individuals and kg;  
1454 - eBCD number associated with the bluefin tuna to be harvested;  
1455 - details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;  
1456 - destination of harvested tuna (processing vessel, export, local market, etc.).

1457  
1458 186. Except for individuals of bluefin tuna which are close to dying, no harvesting operation shall be  
1459 authorized before the results of the quota uptake in accordance with paragraphs 178 to 180 has been  
1460 determined, and the associated releases have been conducted.

1461  
1462 187. Harvesting operations shall not take place without the presence of a CPC observer in the case of traps,  
1463 or an ICCAT regional observer in the case of harvesting on farms. For fish delivered to a processing  
1464 vessel, the CPC or ICCAT regional observer may conduct its relevant tasks from the processing vessel.

1465  
1466 188. Farm or trap CPC control authorities shall verify and cross-check the results of all harvesting  
1467 operations taking place in farms and traps under its authority, using all relevant information in its  
1468 possession. Farm or trap CPC control authorities shall inspect all harvesting operations of bluefin  
1469 tuna destined for processing vessels and a percentage of the rest of harvesting operations based on  
1470 risk analysis.

1471

- 1472 189. When the destination of the bluefin tuna is a processing vessel, the master or representative of the  
1473 processing vessel shall complete a processing declaration. When the harvested bluefin tuna is to be  
1474 landed directly into port, the farm or trap operator shall complete a harvesting declaration. The  
1475 processing and harvesting declarations shall be validated by the ICCAT regional or CPC observer  
1476 present at the harvesting operation.  
1477
- 1478 190. The processing declaration and harvesting declaration shall contain at least the following  
1479 information using **Annex 15**:  
1480
- 1481 - date of harvesting;
  - 1482 - farm or trap;
  - 1483 - cage(s) number(s);
  - 1484 - number of individuals harvested;
  - 1485 - live weight and processed weight in Kg of the harvested bluefin tuna;
  - 1486 - eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested;
  - 1487 - details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;
  - 1488 - destination of the harvested tuna (i.e., export, local market, or other);
  - 1489 - validation by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate.
- 1490
- 1491 191. The processing and harvesting declarations shall be sent by e-mail to the farm CPC competent  
1492 authorities within 48 hours of the harvesting operation.  
1493
- 1494 192. The Commission shall consider reflecting "Processing on board" in the eBCD at its 2023 Annual  
1495 Meeting. To this end, IMM WG and then eBCD TWG shall discuss the technical, administrative and  
1496 control requirements and report the results to the Commission.  
1497  
1498

#### Part IV:

#### Control measures

#### Section F – Control activities in farms after caging

##### Intra-farm transfers

- 1499
- 1500
- 1501
- 1502
- 1503
- 1504
- 1505 193. Intra-farm transfer shall not take place without the authorization of the farm CPC competent authority.  
1506 Each transfer shall be recorded by control cameras to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals  
1507 transferred. The video footage shall comply with the minimum standards as laid down in **Annex 8**. The  
1508 farm CPC competent authority shall monitor those transfers, including by verifying the video footage  
1509 and ensuring that each intra-farm transfer is recorded in the eBCD system.  
1510
- 1511 193bis. A difference by number of bluefin tuna individuals between the number resulting from the  
1512 intra-farm transfer and the expected number shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC competent  
1513 authority and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent  
1514 authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release operation shall be  
1515 conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the  
1516 farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of up to 5% between the number of individuals resulting  
1517 from the intra-farm transfer and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC  
1518 competent authority.  
1519
- 1520 194. Notwithstanding the definition of caging in paragraph 2 s), the relocation of bluefin tuna between two  
1521 different locations on the same farm (intra-farm transfer) using a transport cage, shall not be  
1522 considered caging for the purposes of the requirements set out in Section E.  
1523
- 1524 195. During intra-farm transfers, regrouping fish of the same flag origin and the same JFO, may be  
1525 authorised by the farm CPC competent authority, providing that traceability, as established in  
1526 paragraph 158, and the applicability of SCRS's growth rates, are maintained.  
1527

1528 196. The farm CPC competent authority and the farm operator shall retain the video footages from intra-  
1529 farm transfers undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years and keep the  
1530 information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.  
1531

### 1532 **Carry-over**

1533  
1534 197. Prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner and trap fishing seasons, the farm CPCs competent  
1535 authority shall thoroughly assess the live bluefin tuna carried-over in the farms under their  
1536 jurisdiction. To this end, the live bluefin tuna concerned shall be transferred to an empty cage and  
1537 monitored using control camera(s), to determine the number and the weight of fish transferred.  
1538

1539 198. By way of derogation, the carry-over of bluefin tuna from years and cages where no harvest occurred  
1540 shall be controlled annually by applying the random control procedure referred to in paragraphs 206  
1541 to 213.  
1542

1543 199. The live bluefin tuna carried-over shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm, on  
1544 the basis of the catch year and JFO/same CPC trap of origin.  
1545

1546 200. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the control camera video footage from the carry-  
1547 over assessment transfers comply with the relevant requirements of **Annex 8**, and the determination  
1548 of the number and weight of carried-over fish is in accordance with **Annex 9** point 1 of this  
1549 Recommendation.  
1550

1551 201. Until the SCRS develops an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish,  
1552 the determination of the weight of the carried-over fish shall be estimated using the most updated  
1553 growth rates tables produced by the SCRS.  
1554

1555 202. A difference by number of bluefin tuna individuals between the number resulting from the carry-over  
1556 assessment and the expected number after harvest shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC  
1557 competent authority and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC  
1558 competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release  
1559 operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between  
1560 different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of up to 5% between the number  
1561 of individuals resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number in the cage, may  
1562 be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by  
1563 the IMM by 2027 at the latest. The Commission shall consider revising the percentage based on the  
1564 recommendation from the IMM.  
1565

1566 203. The farm CPC competent authority shall retain the video footage and all the relevant documentation  
1567 from carry-over assessments undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years,  
1568 and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.  
1569

### 1570 **Carry-over declaration**

1571  
1572 204. Farm CPCs shall complete and transmit, as an annex to the revised farming management plan, an  
1573 annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after the end of the assessment  
1574 operation. Such declaration shall include:  
1575

- 1576 a) Flag CPC;
- 1577 b) Name and ICCAT number of the farm;
- 1578 c) Year of catch;
- 1579 d) References of the eBCD corresponding to the catches carried over;
- 1580 e) Cage numbers;
- 1581 f) Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish carried over;
- 1582 g) Average weight;
- 1583 h) Information of each of the carry-over assessment operations: date and cage numbers;
- 1584 i) Information on previous intra-farm transfers, when applicable.  
1585

1586 The stereoscopic camera report, when applicable, shall be attached to the carry-over declaration.

**1587 Random controls**

1588  
1589 205. The farm CPC competent authority shall carry out random controls in farms under their jurisdiction.  
1590 The minimum random controls referred to in paragraph 207 shall take place in farms between the  
1591 time of completion of the caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Such controls  
1592 shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other farm cage(s) in order that  
1593 the number of bluefin tuna individuals can be counted by way of control video record(s).

1594  
1595 206. Each farm CPC shall set a minimum number of random controls to be performed on each farm under  
1596 its sovereignty. The number of random controls shall cover at least 10% of the number of cages in  
1597 each farm after completion of caging operations, always involving at least one control per farm and  
1598 rounded up where needed. The selection of cages to be controlled shall be based on risk analysis. The  
1599 planning for random controls to be carried out shall be reflected in the CPC control plan referred to  
1600 under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.

1601  
1602 207. Although not required, the farm(s) concerned may be informed by the farm CPC competent authority  
1603 with a maximum prior notice of two calendar days that random control(s) shall take place. The  
1604 selected cage(s) shall only be communicated by the farm CPC competent authority to the farm  
1605 operator upon arrival at the farm concerned.

1606  
1607 208. Where prior notice is given, farm operators shall ensure that all means are in place in order that  
1608 random controls can be carried out by the farm CPC competent authority at any time, and in any cage  
1609 on the farm. If prior notice is not provided, farm operators must still take all appropriate steps to  
1610 facilitate the random control operations.

1611  
1612 209. The farm CPC competent authority shall strive to reduce the timeframe between the ordering of the  
1613 random controls and when the control operations is carried out. The farm CPC competent authority  
1614 shall ensure that all necessary measures are taken to ensure that the operator does not have the  
1615 possibility to manipulate the cages concerned until the random control takes place.

1616  
1617 210. Following the random control, any difference between the number of bluefin tuna determined by the  
1618 random controls and the number expected to be present in the cage shall be duly investigated and  
1619 recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall  
1620 order the release of the corresponding number(s). The release operation shall be conducted in  
1621 accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall  
1622 not be allowed. A margin of error of 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the control  
1623 transfer and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This  
1624 percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the IMM at the latest by 2027. The Commission shall  
1625 consider revising the percentage based on the recommendation from the IMM.

1626  
1627 211. The farm CPC competent authority shall retain all video footage from random controls undertaken  
1628 in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years, and keep this information as long as  
1629 necessary for enforcement purposes.

1630  
1631 212. The results of the random controls shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat before the start  
1632 of the new purse seine fishing season applicable to each CPC in accordance with paragraph 26, for  
1633 transmission to the Compliance Committee.

**1634 Inter-farm transfers**

1635  
1636  
1637 213. The transfer of live bluefin between two different farms shall not take place without the prior written  
1638 authorisation by the CPC competent authorities of both farms.

1639  
1640 214. The transfer from the donor farm cage to the transport cage shall comply with the requirements of  
1641 Section D (Transfers of live fish), of this Recommendation, including a video record to confirm the  
1642 number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred, the completion of an ITD and the verification of the  
1643 operation by an ICCAT Regional Observer. Notwithstanding the above, in cases where the entire farm  
1644 cage is to be moved to the receiving farm, it shall not be necessary to video record the operation and  
1645 the cage shall be transported sealed to the destination farm.

- 1646 215. The caging of the bluefin tuna at the farm of destination shall be subject to the requirements for  
 1647 caging operations laid down in paragraphs 154 to 169, including a video record to confirm the  
 1648 number and weight of the bluefin tuna caged and the verification of the operation by an ICCAT  
 1649 Regional Observer. The determination of the weight for caged fish from another farm, shall not apply  
 1650 until the SCRS has developed an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed  
 1651 fish.  
 1652

1653 **Part IV:**  
 1654 **Control measures**

1655 **Section G - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**  
 1656

- 1657 216. CPCs shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for their fishing vessels with a length equal  
 1658 to or greater than 15 m referred to in paragraph 2 a) of this Recommendation, in accordance with  
 1659 the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the*  
 1660 *ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-10), including the obligation to transmit at least once every hour for  
 1661 purse seine vessels and at least once every two hours for all other fishing vessels.  
 1662
- 1663 217. Notwithstanding the above, all towing vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna shall, irrespective  
 1664 of their length, install and operate a VMS, in accordance with Rec. 18-10, and transmit messages at  
 1665 least once every hour.  
 1666
- 1667 218. The transmission of VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat by each authorized fishing vessel subject to  
 1668 VMS under this Recommendation shall:  
 1669
- 1670 a) start at least 5 days before and continue at least 5 days after their period of authorization, unless
  - 1671 the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC competent authority;
  - 1672 and
  - 1673 b) not be interrupted when the vessel is in port, for control purposes, unless there is a system of
  - 1674 hailing in and out of port.  
 1675
- 1676
- 1677 219. The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform the flag CPC of any delays or non-receipt of VMS  
 1678 transmissions, and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and  
 1679 the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.  
 1680
- 1681 220. Referring to towing vessels during the transport of bluefin tuna to a farm, in the event of a technical  
 1682 failure of its VMS, the towing vessel concerned shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully  
 1683 functioning VMS. If no other towing vessel is available, a new operative VMS system shall be installed  
 1684 on board or used if already installed, as soon as feasible and not later than 72 hours, except in case  
 1685 of *force majeure*, that should be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. In the meantime, the master  
 1686 or his representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected and/or informed,  
 1687 communicate to the control authorities of the flag CPC every 1 hour the up-to-date geographical  
 1688 coordinates of the towing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.  
 1689

1690 **Use of VMS data for control and inspection purposes**  
 1691

- 1692 221. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available without delay the information received under this  
 1693 section G to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean  
 1694 and to the SCRS, at its request.  
 1695
- 1696 222. On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance  
 1697 with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 227 to 230 of this  
 1698 Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received from all fishing  
 1699 vessels under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 07-08*  
 1700 *concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for*  
 1701 *the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 21-16).  
 1702  
 1703



1704 **Part IV:**  
1705 **Control measures**

1706  
1707 **Section H - Enforcement**

1708  
1709 **Enforcement**

1710  
1711 223. CPCs shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been  
1712 established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the  
1713 provisions of this Recommendation.

1714  
1715 The measures shall be commensurate with the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the  
1716 pertinent provisions of national law in such a way as to make sure that they effectively deprive those  
1717 responsible of the economic benefit derived from their infringement without prejudice to the exercise  
1718 of their profession. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the  
1719 seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.  
1720

1721 224. The farm CPC shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been  
1722 established, in accordance with its law, that the farm does not comply with the provisions of this  
1723 Recommendation.

1724  
1725 Depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national  
1726 law such measures may include, in particular, suspension of the authorization or withdrawal from the  
1727 ICCAT Record of Bluefin Tuna Farming Facilities established in accordance with paragraph 59 and/or  
1728 fines.  
1729

1730 **Part IV:**  
1731 **Control measures**

1732  
1733 **Section I - Market measures**

1734  
1735 **Market measures**

1736  
1737 225. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs  
1738 shall take the necessary measures:

1739  
1740 - to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and  
1741 transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by  
1742 accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation, the  
1743 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna*  
1744 *catch documentation program* (Rec. 23-21) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending*  
1745 *Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 22-16) on the Bluefin Tuna Catch  
1746 Documentation Programme.

1747  
1748 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-  
1749 exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean  
1750 bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC does not have a quota or catch limit for  
1751 that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC's  
1752 fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in  
1753 paragraph 3 are exhausted.

1754  
1755 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of eastern Atlantic and  
1756 Mediterranean bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with the provisions related to farming  
1757 specified in this Recommendation.  
1758  
1759  
1760  
1761  
1762

**Part V:****ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

- 1763  
1764  
1765  
1766 226. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each Contracting Party  
1767 agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT  
1768 Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November  
1769 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.  
1770  
1771 227. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 227 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and  
1772 surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on  
1773 the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by*  
1774 *ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (Res. 00-20).  
1775  
1776 228. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in eastern  
1777 Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the Contracting  
1778 Party shall, on the basis of risk assessment have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall  
1779 cooperate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel. If a Contracting  
1780 Party does not deploy its inspection vessel or conducting joint operations, the Contracting Party shall  
1781 report the result of the risk assessment and its alternative measures in its inspection plan referred  
1782 to in paragraph 10.  
1783  
1784 229. In cases where enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement  
1785 powers of the flag Contracting Party inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection  
1786 shall always prevail in their territory, in their jurisdictional waters and on board their inspection  
1787 platform.

**Part VI:****Final provisions****Availability of data to the SCRS**

- 1791  
1792  
1793 230. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with this  
1794 Recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.  
1795

**Review clause**

- 1796  
1797  
1798 231. In accordance with paragraph 11, ICCAT will hold an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 each year in  
1799 March in order to:  
1800  
1801 a) review, and if appropriate, endorse the annual fishing, capacity management, farming and  
1802 inspection plans as well as the aquaculture plan sent to ICCAT under paragraph 10 of this  
1803 Recommendation;  
1804  
1805 b) discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and, as appropriate,  
1806 propose draft amendments to it for consideration at the Annual Meeting.  
1807

**Evaluation**

- 1808  
1809  
1810 232. All CPCs shall submit at the request of the ICCAT Secretariat regulations and other related documents  
1811 adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in  
1812 implementing this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall elaborate biennially a report on the  
1813 implementation of this Recommendation.  
1814  
1815  
1816  
1817  
1818  
1819

1820 **Exemptions for CPCs with a landing obligation for bluefin tuna**  
1821

1822 233. The provisions in this Recommendation prohibiting retention on board, transshipping, transferring,  
1823 landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of bluefin tuna do not apply to  
1824 CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be  
1825 landed, provided that the value of such fish is confiscated in order to prevent the fishermen from  
1826 drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs concerned shall take necessary measures to  
1827 prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs. The quantities of bluefin tuna in  
1828 excess of the quota allocated to the CPC, in accordance with this derogation shall be deducted the  
1829 following year from the CPC quota in accordance with paragraph 9.  
1830

1831 **Repeals**  
1832

1833 234. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the*  
1834 *Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern*  
1835 *Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* and *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the*  
1836 *Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern*  
1837 *Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 23-06).*  
1838

1839  
1840

1841 **Specific conditions applying to the catching vessels fishing under paragraph 32**  
1842

1843 1. CPCs shall limit:  
1844

1845 – The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively for bluefin  
1846 tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006;  
1847

1848 – The maximum number of its small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in  
1849 the Mediterranean to the number of its vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in  
1850 2008; with the exception of small-scale coastal vessels operating in the Gulf of Lion, whose  
1851 number may increase by up to 10% compared to the number of vessels recorded in 2008;  
1852

1853 – The maximum number of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the  
1854 Adriatic to the number of the vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each  
1855 CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.  
1856

1857 CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this **Annex**. Such  
1858 vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 46 a) of this  
1859 Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.  
1860

1861 2. Each CPC may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling  
1862 boats.  
1863

1864 3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal  
1865 vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean. However, in the Gulf of Lion, this percentage may go up to  
1866 4%.  
1867

1868 Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessels in the  
1869 Adriatic for farming purposes.  
1870

1871 4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna  
1872 in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:  
1873

1874 a) tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading;  
1875

1876 b) each tail tag shall have a unique identification number, which shall be included on bluefin tuna  
1877 catch documents and written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing tuna.  
1878  
1879

1880  
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## Logbook requirements

### 1884 A - Catching vessels

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#### 1886 Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

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1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (by midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

#### Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

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1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number, international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type by FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
  - c) Record of catches including:
    - i. FAO code
    - ii. round (RWT) weight in kg per day
    - iii. number of pieces per day

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6. Master signature
  7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
  8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation
- For purse seine vessels this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.

1932 **Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:**

1933

1934 1. Dates and port of landing/transshipment

1935 2. Products

1936 a) species and presentation by FAO code

1937 b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg

1938 3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

1939 4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

1940 **Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:**

1941

1942 1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer

1943 2. Products:

1944 a) Species identification by FAO code

1945 b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages

1946 3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number

1947 4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number

1948 5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters  
1949 shall record in their logbook:

1950 a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:

1951

1952 - amount of catches taken on board

1953

1954 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota

1955

1956 - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO

1957

1958 b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:

1959

1960 - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and  
1961 ICCAT numbers

1962

1963 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages

1964

1965 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas

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1967 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in a)

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**B - Towing vessels**

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1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
  2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessels shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
  3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

**C - Auxiliary vessels**

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1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
  2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

**D - Processing vessels**

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1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transhipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
  2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transhipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
  3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
  4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transhipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transhipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

No. Document

ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

Carrier vessel		Fishing vessel	Final destination:
Name of vessel and radio call sign:		Name of the vessel and radio call sign:	Port:
Flag:		Flag:	Country:
Flag CPC authorization No.		Flag CPC authorization No.	State:
National Register No.		National Register No.	
ICCAT Register No.		ICCAT Register No.	
IMO No.		External identification: Fishing logbook sheet No.	

	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_	F.V. Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Departure					From:		
Return					To:	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.							

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kg or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit | | Kg.



LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea Lat.	Sea Long.	Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

## ICCAT Transfer Declaration

Document No.		ICCAT Transfer Declaration			
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>					
Fishing vessel name:  Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transfer authorization No.: Fishing logbook No.: JFO No.: eBCD No.:	Trap name:  ICCAT Register No.:	1st towing vessel name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm:  ICCAT Register No:		
		2nd towing vessel name (2): Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm (3):  ICCAT Register No:		
	Donor farm name (1):  ICCAT Register No.:	3rd towing vessel name (2): Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm (3):  ICCAT Register No:		
<b>2 - FIRST TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>					
Date: __/__/----		Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:
First transfer No.1 No. individuals and estimated weight (kg) in first cage (4): First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer (5):	First transfer No.2 No. individuals and estimated weight (kg) in second cage: First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer (5):	First transfer No.3 No. individuals and estimated weight (kg) in third cage: First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer (5):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature: 1st receiving vessel:	Observer Name, ICCAT No. and signature:			

		2nd receiving vessel: 3rd receiving vessel:			
Presence of Observer: (Y/N)		Reasons for disagreement:		Rules or procedure not respected:	
Estimated No. of individuals Regional Obs:					
Seals Numbers (6):					
<b>3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS (7)(8)</b>					
<b>First transfer number:</b>					
<b>FURTHER TRANSFER 1</b>					
Date: __/__/____ ITD number:			Place or position: Port:                      Lat:                      Long:		
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	Name destination farm:	
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag	ICCAT Register No.:	ICCAT Register No:	
Transfer authorization No.:		External identification:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:	
			Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:	
No. individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg)(4): Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer: i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:			Number of BFT that died during transfer:		
<b>FURTHER TRANSFER 2</b>					
Date: __/__/____ ITD number			Place or position: Port:                      Lat:                      Long:		

Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.	Name destination farm:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization no:		External identification:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
			Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
N° individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg)(4) Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:			Number of BFT that died during transfer:	
<b>FURTHER TRANSFER 3</b>				
Date: __/__/____ ITD number			Place or position: Port:	Lat:                      Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	Name destination farm:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization No.:		External identification:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
			Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No. individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg)(4) Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name:			Number of BFT that died during transfer:	

Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:	
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- (1) To be completed in case of transfers between two different farms.
- (2) To be completed if the catch is transferred to more than one transport cage.
- (3) To be completed in case the transport cages are destined for more than one farm.
- (4) Number of individuals and weight estimated by the donor operator for the transfer considered valid. In case the operation has to be repeated, indicate as N/A in the relevant row (e.g. in case the first transfer and voluntary transfer did not provide an adequate video: First transfer: N/A, voluntary transfer: N/A, control transfer: 1030 pieces, 123,600 kg).
- (5) Number of individuals that died and estimated weight.
- (6) To be completed by the ICCAT Regional Observer in case the transport cage is to be sealed in accordance with paragraph 126 and **Annex 14**.
- (7) To be completed by the master of the donor towing vessel for each of the transfers between towing vessels, which take place after the first transfer.
- (8) This section shall be completed for each first transfer. If more than one first transfers are divided into multiple transport cages, the master of the donor towing vessel shall duplicate the original ITD so that one copy of the ITD will accompany the cage(s) for the same destination farm.

**Joint Fishing Operation (JFO)<sup>1</sup>**

Flag CPC	Vessel Name	ICCAT No.	Start date of authorization of joint operation	End date of authorization joint operation	Duration of the operation (total number of days)	Identity of the operators	Vessels individual quota	Allocation key per vessel	Fattening and farming farm destination	
									CPC	ICCAT No.

Date:

Validation of the flag CPC:

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<sup>1</sup> See **Attachment 1**.

## Observer Programmes

### CPC Observer Programme

1. The CPC observer tasks shall be, in general, to monitor the compliance of fishing vessels and traps with this Recommendation;
2. When deployed on board a catching vessel, the CPC observer shall record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
  - i. their own estimation of the number and weight of bluefin tuna catches (including by-catch);
  - ii. disposition of the catch, such as retained on board, discarded dead or released alive;
  - iii. area of catch by latitude and longitude;
  - iv. measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears;
  - v. date of catch;
  - vi. verify consistency of entries made in the logbook with its own catch estimation.
3. When deployed on a towing vessel:
  - a) in the event of a further transfer involving movement of fish between two transport cages:
    - i. without delay, analyze the video footage of the further transfer concerned, to estimate the number of individuals that have been transferred;
    - ii. communicate immediately to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel his/her observations, including the number of individuals estimated by the CPC observer and the corresponding number reported on the ITD by the master of the donor towing vessel; and
    - iii. include the results of its analysis in its observer report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel.
  - b) record and report in its observer report all bluefin tuna observed dead during the transport trip;
  - c) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures; and
  - d) communicate the observer report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel without delay at the end of the towing trip.
4. When deployed on a bluefin tuna trap:
  - a) verify the harvesting authorisation issued by the trap CPC competent authority;
  - b) validate the information in the processing and/or harvesting declarations made by the master or representative of the processing vessel or the trap operator.
5. In addition, the CPC observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting all the necessary data required by the Commission, based on recommendations of the SCRS.

### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

- Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels to deploy an ICCAT regional observer, as referred to in paragraph 99.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall appoint the ICCAT regional observers before 1 April or as soon as practical each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme. An ICCAT regional observer card shall be issued for each observer.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the ICCAT regional observer and the master of the vessel, farm, or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

#### **Qualification of the ICCAT regional observers**

- The ICCAT regional observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - the ability to analyze video record footage;
  - to the extent possible, a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, the vessel, the farm or the trap observed.

#### **Obligations of the ICCAT regional observers**

- The ICCAT regional observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the ICCAT Secretariat;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations conducted by the purse seine vessels, the farms and the traps, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition to be appointed as an ICCAT regional observer.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the ICCAT regional observer is assigned.



- The ICCAT regional observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the ICCAT regional observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel, farm and trap personnel set forth in this **Annex**.

#### **Tasks of the ICCAT regional observer**

- The ICCAT regional observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

##### ***General tasks***

- i. observe and monitor compliance of the bluefin tuna fishing and farming operations with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- ii. carry out such scientific work, such as collecting samples or Task 2 data, as required by the Commission, based on the recommendations of the SCRS;
- iii. sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- iv. verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
- v. exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission;

##### ***As regards purse seine vessels or trap catching activity***

- vi. observe and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
- vii. observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;

##### ***As regards first transfers from a purse seine vessel or trap to transport cage(s)***

- viii. record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
- ix. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in a transfer;
- x. review and analyze all the video footages related to the transfer operation concerned, where applicable;
- xi. estimate the number of fish transferred and record the result in the ITD;
- xii. issue a daily report of the transfer activities of purse seine vessels;
- xiii. record and report upon the result of such analysis;
- xiv. verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization referred to in paragraph 110, in the ITD referred to in paragraphs 128 to 131, and in the eBCD;
- xv. verify that the ITD referred to in paragraphs 128 to 131 is transmitted to the master of the towing vessel or to the representative of the farm or trap;
- xvi. in relation to control transfers, verify the seals identification number and ensure that the seals are placed in such a way to prevent the opening of the doors without the seals being broken;

##### ***As regards caging operations***

- xvii. Review the camera video footages at caging to estimate the number of fish caged, in due time to allow the farm operator to complete the related caging declaration;

***As regards verification of data***

- xviii. verify and certify the data contained in the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, including through the analysis of video records;
- xix. issue a daily report of the purse seine vessels', farms' and traps' transfer activities;
- xx. sign the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, with clearly written name and ICCAT number, when the relevant operation is in accordance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures and the information contained within these documents is consistent with his/her observations. In case of disagreement, the ICCAT regional observer shall indicate his/her presence on the relevant ITD and caging declarations and/or the eBCD concerned, and the reasons of disagreement, quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that in his/her view has(ve) not been respected;

***As regards releases***

- xxi. as regards releases before caging, observe and report on the release operation from the purse seine net or the transport cage, in accordance with the release protocol in **Annex 10**;
- xxii. as regards releases after caging, observe and report on the prior segregation of fish and the subsequent release operation, in accordance with the release protocol in **Annex 10**, including verifying that the quality of the video footage of the prior segregation satisfies the minimum standards of **Annex 8** and estimating the number of fish released;
- xxiii. in both cases, verify the release order issued by the competent authority and validate the information in the release declaration made by the donor or farm operator;

***As regards harvesting operation in farms***

- xxiv. verify the harvesting authorisation issued by the farm CPC competent authority;
- xxv. validate the information in the processing and harvesting declarations made by master or representative of the processing vessel or by the farm operator;

***As regards reporting***

- xxvi. register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals. For all individuals tagged with electronic tags, conduct full biological sampling (otoliths, spine and genetic sample) following guidelines by the SCRS;
- xxvii. establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
- xxviii. submit the aforementioned general report to the provider responsible for the ROP, for subsequent transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
- xxix. in cases where the ICCAT regional observer observes a potential non-compliance with an ICCAT Recommendation, he/she shall submit this information without delay to the provider responsible for the ROP who shall forward it without delay to the flag, trap or farm CPC competent authority concerned, and to the ICCAT Secretariat. For this purpose, the provider responsible for the ROP shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
- xxx. obtain, as far as possible, evidence (i.e. photos, videos) of potential non-compliance detected and attach them to his/her report.

### Obligations of the flag, trap and farm CPCs

- The flag, farm and trap CPCs shall ensure that, notably, the ICCAT regional observer:
  - a) is allowed access to the purse seine vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages equipment, and stereoscopic camera and conventional video camera footage;
  - b) upon request and in order to carry out their duties set forth in this Programme, is allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned:
    - i. Satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii. Radar display screens when in use;
    - iii. Electronic means of communication.
  - c) is provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) is provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
- The flag, trap and farm CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an ICCAT regional observer in the performance of his/her duties.
- The ICCAT Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag, trap or farm CPC, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The ICCAT Secretariat shall submit the ICCAT regional observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.
- The flag, farm or trap CPC competent authority where the ICCAT regional observer is providing his/her services, may request that the observer be replaced if they have evidence that the ICCAT regional observer does not meet its obligations or adequately carry out the tasks set out in this Recommendation. Any such cases shall be reported to Panel 2.

### Fees and organization

- The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and the purse seine vessel owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program, and paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;

No ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap or farm for which the fees, as required under this **Annex**, have not been paid.

### ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

#### I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
  - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
  - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
  - c) fishing in a closed area;
  - d) fishing during a closed season;
  - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
  - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
  - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
  - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
  - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
  - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
  - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
  - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
  - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
  - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
  - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
  - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
  - q) transshipment at sea;
  - r) not providing to ICCAT inspectors a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) to facilitate safe access to any fishing vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more.

2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1 of this **Annex**, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this **Annex**, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 18-08\*), taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

## II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this **Annex** shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this **Annex**.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this **Annex**, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 of the **Annex** and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master\*\* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this **Annex**, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21), to facilitate safe and convenient access to any vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more. For compliance with the requirements of boarding ladders, a transitional period is allowed for vessels operating in the Atlantic, until January 2024.

The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.

10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this **Annex** safely and securely.

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\* Replaced by Rec. 21-13.

\*\* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this **Annex**. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board. Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he/she may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies inspection reports with apparent infringements to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT Recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
- 12bis. CPCs deploying inspection vessels under this scheme shall submit each year by 15 September in relation to activity occurring between 1 January and 31 December of the previous year a list of the inspections carried out in the form to be provided by the Secretariat.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag CPC of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this Recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Rec. 19-09 and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
  - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
  - b) the arrangements set out in this Recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
16.
  - a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
  - b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
17. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his/her report.

18. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag CPC.
19. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.
20. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS</b></p> <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p><b>INSPECTOR IDENTITY CARD</b></p> </div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; margin-top: 20px; margin-left: 10px;"></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Card No.:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b> _____      <b>Validity five years</b></p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>CPC Authority</p> <p>Inspector</p> </div>
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**Minimum standards for video recording procedures  
applicable to transfer, caging and/or release operations**

1. Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall ensure that the following procedures apply to all video recordings of transfer, caging and/or release operations referred to in this Recommendation:
  - a) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, where requested, the ICCAT transfer or caging authorization number or release order shall be displayed;
  - b) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record;
  - c) The video record shall be continuous without any interruptions and cuts, and cover the entire transfer, caging and/or release operation;
  - d) Before the start of the transfer, caging and/or release operation, the video record shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and, for transfers and caging operations, show whether the receiving and donor cage(s) already contain bluefin tuna;
  - e) The video record shall be of sufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released;
  - f) A copy of the video record shall be kept on board the donor vessel, or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization to operate;
  - g) The distribution of copies of the video records shall follow the provisions referred to in paragraphs 118 to 121 of this Recommendation;
  - h) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be immediately provided to the ICCAT regional and/or CPC national observer after the end of the transfer, caging and/or release operation. The ICCAT regional observer and/or CPC observer shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
2. Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

**Insufficient quality of the video record**

3. If the video record is of insufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released, the operation shall be repeated until the quality of the video is adequate, following the procedures below:
  - a) for a transfer, the transfer operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 122 to 127 of this Recommendation (voluntary and control transfers). This voluntary or control transfer shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty.

For those transfers where the origin of the fish is a trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the trap to the receiving cage could be sent back to the trap and the voluntary transfer is cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer;
  - b) for a caging operation, the caging operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 161 and 162 of this Recommendation.



The new caging operation must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving farm cage into another farm cage, which must be empty;

- c) for releases, the segregation of the fish to be released shall be repeated in accordance with the release Protocol set out in **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

## Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

### 1. Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations shall be conducted in accordance with the following provisions:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish for length measurement shall not be below 20% of the number of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. Validation of the stereoscopic individual length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- iv. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation.
- v. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS using the length-weight relationship for wild fish shall be used to convert the fork length into weight, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- vi. The margin of error for determining weight, inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vii. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). The SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.

### 2. Caging results

At the completion of a caging operation, or the complete set of caging operations under a JFO or under the traps of the same CPC/EU Member State, the farm CPC competent authority shall communicate the following information to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority:

- a) a technical report related to the stereoscopic camera system, which shall contain in particular:
  - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
  - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution;
  - the algorithm used to convert length into weight;
  - the margin of error of the stereoscopic camera system used. In the case where the camera software does not have an automatic method to calculate this margin of error, it shall be calculated as detailed in points 1 to 4 of the **Appendix** to this **Annex**.
- b) a factual report related to the caging operation, which shall contain in particular:
  - detailed results of the sampling programme, with the total number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, and the size and weight of every fish that was sampled;

- the relevant caging declarations;
- indication of cases where discrepancies of more than 10% between the number of individuals being caged and the number reported as caught on the ITD require investigation by the flag or trap CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 172, and cases where the caging results indicate that catch is not in line with paragraphs 31 to 33;
- general information on the caging operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, eBCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic camera system operation and footage filename;
- comparison between the amounts declared in the eBCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic camera system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be:  $(\text{Stereoscopic System-eBCD})/\text{Stereoscopic System} * 100$ ).

### 3. Caging Report

The caging report referred to in paragraph 184 of this Recommendation shall include:

- a) the caging results referred to in point 2;
- b) the relevant reports of the release operations, conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**;

### 4. Use of the outcome of the stereoscopic camera systems

By applying the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system used, the farm CPC competent authority shall determine the range (lowest and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged, in accordance with point 5 of the **Appendix** to this **Annex**.

When receiving the results of the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video footage and the range (lower and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged, communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, the catching flag or trap CPC/EU Member State competent authority shall take the following measures:

- a) apply the following measures as regards releases and adaptation of the eBCD sections for catching vessels operating within the framework of an individual fishing operation (outside a JFO);
  - i. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD is within the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
    - no release shall be ordered;
    - the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
  - ii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
    - a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results;
    - the release operations shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in **Annex 10**;

- after the release operations took place, the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
  - the eBCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the stereoscopic camera system), and average weight accordingly.
- b) ensure that for any relevant modification of the eBCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall not be higher to those in Section 2.

## 5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps

1. Decisions consequent to differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic camera system programme shall be taken by the flag or trap CPC competent authority:
  - a) based on comparison between the total of the weights resulting from the stereoscopic camera system programme of all the bluefin tuna caging operations from a JFO / traps, with the total of the weights of catches declared by vessels participating in that JFO or by those traps and, in the case of JFOs and traps involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State;
  - b) at the level of the caging operations for JFOs involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/EU Member State competent authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
2. In case of compensation of differences in weight between what has been determined by the stereoscopic camera and the correspondent catch found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member State, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant eBCD shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic camera system results.
3. The eBCD related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight and the corresponding number of fish released. The eBCD related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic camera systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.
4. The eBCD relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.
5. CPC farm authorities may authorize the harvesting of fish from some of the cages, after analysing the videos of those cages and before the completion of the verification of all cages from that JFO. To proceed, the eBCD of the cage to be harvested shall be adjusted within the lower range of the results of the stereoscopic camera system. Any discrepancy from the initially declared quantity will be taken into account when analysing all data from that JFO.

**Method for the calculation of a margin of error  
and range of the stereoscopic camera system**

In accordance with what was agreed at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (March 2020), the following method is applied for the calculation of the margin of error and the range of the stereoscopic camera system:

1. Calculation of the fork length (FLi) range for each sample (i) taking into account the margin of error FL provided by the system (error%):

The length range is identified for each sample (i) by **[FL<sub>min,i</sub> , FL<sub>max,i</sub>]**

**FL<sub>min,i</sub> = FLi - (FLi \* error%)**: is the minimum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

**FL<sub>max,i</sub> = FLi + (FLi \* error%)**: is the maximum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

2. Conversion of the length range to a round weight (RTW) range for each sample (i) applying the algorithm used to convert length into weight:

The round weight range is identified for each sample (i) by **[RTW<sub>min,i</sub> , RTW<sub>max,i</sub>]**

**RTW<sub>min,i</sub>**: is the minimum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

**RTW<sub>max,i</sub>**: is the maximum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

3. Calculation of the average round weight range:

the average round weight range for «n» samples is identified by

**[RTWaverage<sub>min</sub>, RTWaverage<sub>max</sub>]**

**RTWaverage<sub>min</sub>** =  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{min,i}$ , i : is the minimum value for the average round weight range

**RTWaverage<sub>max</sub>** =  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{max,i}$ , i : is the maximum value for the average round weight range

4. Calculation of the margin of error percentage (%) of the system:

$$\frac{(RTWaverage_{max} - RTWaverage_{min})/2}{RTWaverage} * 100$$

**RTWaverage**: is the average weight provided by the stereoscopic camera

5. Deduction of the stereoscopic camera system range:

The range of the stereoscopic camera system is defined by:

**[The lowest figure of the range, The highest figure of the range]**

*Previously, the total weight is calculated by multiplying the average weight provided by the stereoscopic camera by the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera, i.e. **RTWtotal = (RTWaverage \* Number BFT)***

Thus, the range limits are calculated as follows:

**The lowest range figure = RTWtotal - (margin of error system \* RTWtotal / 100)**

**The highest range figure = totalRTW + (margin of error system \* RTW total / 100)**

## Release Protocol

### Issuing of release orders

1. Release orders before caging shall be issued:
  - a) by competent authority of the donor operator when, on the basis of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator refuses the transfer operation as per paragraph 115; or
  - b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, in accordance with paragraph 152, the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month after the request for a caging authorization.
2. Release orders after caging shall be issued:
  - a) by the flag or trap CPC competent authority when, following procedures in paragraph 178 to 180 it is established that the weight caged exceed that reported caught. The release order shall be notified to the farm CPC competent authority, which shall transmit it to the farm operator concerned; or
  - b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, after harvest, the remaining fish is not covered by an eBCD, or when a carry-over assessment or control transfer has identified an excess of fish.

For cases under section 2 a) above, the total weight of bluefin tuna to be released shall be converted into a corresponding number of individuals by applying the average weight resulting from the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video footages related to the relevant caging operation, made by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 167 of the Recommendation.

### Segregation of fish prior to the release operation

3. Prior to the release from a farm cage, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:
  - the fish to be released is segregated and moved to an empty transport cage, and the transfer of the fish to the transport cage is monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**;
  - the number of fish segregated for release corresponds to the release order.
4. The prior segregation of the fish shall be conducted in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer.

### Record of the release operation by video camera

5. The release of bluefin tuna from transport or farm cages into the sea shall be recorded by control camera. All release operations into the sea shall be observed by a national observer in case of releases from a transport cage before caging, or an ICCAT regional observer in case of releases after caging.

### Reporting

6. For each release operation performed, the donor or farm operator responsible for the release shall complete a release report, using the template attached to this **Annex**.
7. The ICCAT regional observer shall validate the information in the release declaration. The donor or farm operator shall submit the release declaration to its authorities within 48 hours of the release operation taking place for transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat.

**General provisions**

8. Release operations from purse seine nets, traps or transport cages must be executed immediately after receipt of the release order.
9. Release operations from farms must be executed within 3 months of the last caging operation of the fish concerned and at a minimum distance of 10 miles from the farm. For releases of less than 5 tonnes of bluefin tuna, the farm CPC competent authority may set a shorter distance, of minimum 5 miles, for the release.
10. The master of the towing vessel or the farm operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place.
11. The farm CPC competent authority might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock.
12. The provisions of this **Annex** shall not apply to release of bluefin tuna from traps as a result of lifting of the gear at the end of the activity.
13. By way of derogation from paragraph 3 first bullet, for farms directly connected to traps, the fish to be released shall be segregated and moved to an empty cage or connected trap pool. The transfer of the fish to the empty cage or to the connected trap pool shall be monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**.
14. By way of derogation from paragraph 9, the minimum distance measures shall not apply to farms directly connected to traps.

<b>ICCAT Release Report</b>		<b>Document No:</b>
<b>1 - CATCHING/CAGING DETAILS</b>		
Farm/catching vessel/trap/towing vessel carrying out the release:		
ICCAT Register number:		
Release order reference:		
Catching vessel(s)/trap <sup>(1)</sup> :		
JFO number:		
Caging authorisation(s) number <sup>(1)</sup> :		
Release cage(s) number:		
eBCD(s) reference(s):		
Release authorization number:		
<b>2 - DETAILS OF THE RELEASE OPERATION</b>		
Type of release <sup>(3)</sup> :		
Date of the operation:		
Towing vessel name:		
ICCAT Register number:		
Flag:		
Segregation of fish prior to the release operation:		
Verification cage number:		
Release cage number:		
Number of BFT individuals released:		
Weight of BFT released (kg):		
Operator name, date and signature <sup>(2)</sup> :		Observer name, ICCAT No., date and signature:
Presence of Observer (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:

(1) Only for releases from farms

(2) Signature of the farm operator for releases from farms, or of the fishing vessel master for releases ordered to catching vessels or towing vessels

(3) Release after completion of caging reports (**Annex 9**, paragraph 3); BFT remaining after harvesting that is not covered by an eBCD; excess of BFT found following a control transfer or carry-over assessment.



## Treatment of dead and/or lost fish

### Record of dead or lost bluefin tuna

1. The number of bluefin tuna that die during any operation regulated in this Recommendation shall be reported by the donor operator in the case of a transfer operations and associated transport, or the farm operator in the case of a caging operation or farming activities, and deducted from the relevant CPC's quota.
2. For the purposes of this **Annex**, lost fish refers to the missing bluefin tuna individuals that, after the potential differences detected during the investigation referred to in paragraph 172, have not been justified as mortalities.

### Treatment of fish that die during the catch and first transfer

3. The bluefin tuna that die during the catch and first transfer from a purse seine vessel or trap shall be recorded in the purse seine vessel logbook or the trap daily catch report, and reported on the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and on the transfer section of the eBCD.
4. The eBCD shall be provided to the towing vessel(s) with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.
5. Section 2 shall include all individuals caught. The total quantities reported in Sections 3 (Live fish trade) and 4 (Transfer) of the eBCD (including dead individuals) shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2, after deductions of all the mortalities observed between the catch and completion of the transfer.
6. The eBCD shall be accompanied by the ITD in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation.
7. A split of the eBCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel or the trap if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split eBCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
8. With regard to eBCD, the dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch or, in the case of JFOs, either to participating catching vessels or flags.

### Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during further transfers and transport operations

9. Towing vessels shall report, using the template attached to this **Annex**, all bluefin tuna dead during transport. Individual lines shall be completed by the master each time the dead or lost event has been detected.
10. In case of further transfers, the master of the donor towing vessel must provide the original of the report to the master of the towing vessel receiving the bluefin tuna, keeping a copy on board for the duration of the campaign.
11. At arrival of a transport cage to the destination farm, the master of the towing vessel shall deliver the complete set of reports of dead fish using the template attached to this **Annex** to the farm CPC competent authority.
12. For a given caging operation, 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.

13. For the purpose of the quota uptake to be determined by the flag or trap CPC, the weight of fish that die or are lost during transport shall be evaluated as follows:
- a) for dead fish
    - i. in the case of landing, the effective weight at landing shall be applied;
    - ii. in the case that the dead fish is discarded, the average weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals discarded;
  - b) for fish otherwise considered as lost at the moment of the investigation referred to in paragraph 172, the average individual weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals considered as being lost, as determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.

#### **Treatment of fish that die during caging operations**

14. The fish that die during caging operations shall be reported by the operator on the caging declaration. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the number and weight of the fish that die is reported in the relevant field of Section 6 of the eBCD.

#### **Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during farming activities**

15. Dead or lost fish in farms or those that disappear from farms, including allegedly stolen or escaped fish, shall be reported by the farm operator to the farm CPC competent authority immediately after the event has been detected. The farm operator's report shall be accompanied by the necessary supporting evidence (complaint filed about the stolen fish, damage report in case of damage to the cage, etc.). After receipt of such report, the farm CPC competent authority shall apply the necessary changes or cancellation of the eBCD concerned (following the necessary developments in the eBCD system).

Reporting of fish that die during further transfers and towing operations			
Towing vessel	Name		
	ICCAT N° and Flag		
	ITD N° and Cage N°		
	Master's name		
Catching vessel(s)/trap	Name of vessel(s)/trap		
	ICCAT number and JFO N°		
	eBCDs number(s)		
Previous towing vessel (if any)	Name		
	ICCAT N° and Flag		
	ITD N° and Cage N°		
	Total number of BFT reported dead (*)		
Farm of destination	CPC / Name / ICCAT N°		
Date	N° of dead BFT	Destination of dead fish (discarded or landed)	Master's signature
<b>TOTAL</b>			

(\*) In case of further transfers, the Master of the donor towing vessel shall deliver the original of the mortalities report to the Master of the receiving towing vessel.

### ICCAT Caging Declaration

<b>ICCAT Caging Declaration</b>		<b>Document No:</b>	
<b>1 - CAGING OF BLUEFIN TUNA</b>			
Farm name:	Towing vessel name:		
ICCAT Register number:	ICCAT Register number:		
Caging authorization number:	Flag:		
Transport cage number:	JFO number:		
Farm cage number:	eBCD number(s):		
Date of caging:	Transfer declaration (ITD) number(s):		
Bluefin tuna that die during transport <sup>(1)</sup> :			
<b>2 - CAGING INFORMATION - FARM OPERATOR AND ICCAT OBSERVER <sup>(2)</sup></b>			
	Farm Operator	ICCAT Observer	
Number individuals:			
Quantities in kg:		Not applicable	
Number and weight (kg) of BFT dead during caging:			
Farm operator name, date and signature:		Observer Name, ICCAT No, date and signature:	
Presence of Observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:	
<b>3 - CAGING INFORMATION - CPC FARM AUTHORITIES <sup>(3)</sup></b>			
Number individuals:		Quantities in kg:	
CPC authorities officer, date and signature:			

<sup>(1)</sup> Total number and weight (kg) of BFT reported dead by the master(s) of the towing vessel(s) which have transported the caged fish.

<sup>(2)</sup> Quantities determined by the farm operator and ICCAT observer after analysing the stereoscopic camera footage of the caging operation.

<sup>(3)</sup> Quantities established by the CPC farm authorities for the actual caging operation when data are available.

**Minimum Information for Fishing Authorizations**

## A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and numbers)
4. IMO number, if any

## B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorization, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this Recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>
<b>Zones</b>					
<b>Species</b>					
<b>Fishing gear</b>					
<b>Other conditions</b>					

### Procedure for sealing operations of transport cages

Prior to their deployment on a purse seine vessel, a trap, or a farm, the provider responsible for the ROP shall provide a minimum of 25 ICCAT seals to each ICCAT regional under their responsibility and maintain a record of the seals provided and used.

The donor operator shall be responsible for sealing the cages. For this purpose, a minimum of three seals, placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of doors without breaking the seals, shall be put on each cage door.

The sealing operation shall be video recorded by the donor operator and shall allow the identification of the seals and verification that the seals have been properly placed. The video shall comply with paragraph 1 a), b), c) of **Annex 8**. The video footage concerned shall accompany the fish up to the destination farm. A copy shall be kept onboard the donor vessel(s) or the trap(s) and remain accessible for control purposes at any time during the fishing campaign. A copy of the video footage shall be made available to the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seine or on the trap, or to the national observer on the receiving towing vessel, for transmission to the CPC competent authority or regional observer present at the subsequent control transfer.

The video footage of the subsequent control transfer shall include the unsealing operation, which shall be undertaken in such a way as to allow the identification of the seals and verification that the seals have not been tampered with.

**Template for a processing declaration and harvesting declaration**

Processing / Harvesting (please circle either)
Date of harvesting(d/m/y):    /    /
Farm / Trap (please circle either)
Cage(s) number(s):
Number of individuals harvested:
Live weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:
Processed weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:
eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested:
Details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation: Name: Flag: ICCAT Registration No.:
Destination of the harvested tuna (export, local market, or other) (please circle) In case of other, please specify:
Validation by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate: Observer Name: ICCAT No.: Signature: