

Cover sheet to accompany new proposals

(submitted by the European Union)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-10 for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues: *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 22-10)*

1. Does it create new **reporting obligation(s)** for CPCs? Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

2. Does it require additional input or **work by the SCRS**? Yes No

Is this work already included in the current SCRS workplan Yes No

Brief description of new scientific work required (i.e. stock assessment, analysis, external consultant):

3. Does it involve the creation of a **new working group or intersessional process**? Yes No

4. Does it require a new **programme or additional activities to be managed by the Secretariat**?

Yes No

Brief description of new Secretariat work required:

There will not be any new tasks. However, the number of CPCs reporting within the BFT reporting obligations will increase by the number of CPCs that participate in the western BFT fishery.

5. What is the proposed timeframe for implementation, and are there different specific timeframes for certain CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.:

Entry into force 2025.

6. Is there any other relevant information regarding the resource and workload implications of the proposal:

Applies to CPCs with a western bluefin tuna allocation.

Explanatory note on Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-10 for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
(submitted by the European Union)

The adoption of the bluefin tuna management procedure (*Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas (Rec. 22-09)*), which applies to both eastern and western stocks, brings about a common set of management objectives for both stocks, and the interdependence of TAC setting for each area. It is therefore logical that the underpinning of that management procedure acts as a level playing field in the management, control, and inspection of both stocks.

The current fishing plans for the eastern stock alone do not provide a complete picture of bluefin tuna fisheries. A similar annual plan is therefore required for the western stock to ensure effective management, monitoring, and inspection of fishing activities across both regions.

In addition, new challenges have emerged due to bluefin tuna aquaculture, as presented at recent ICCAT Commission meetings. These challenges, particularly around the certification and monitoring of catches, require more comprehensive control measures to accurately track the origin of fish.

The *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* introduced a comprehensive set of measures for the eastern stock. To establish a fair and uniform management framework, these measures should be incorporated into the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 22-10)*, with a phased implementation starting with the key management, monitoring and control provisions.

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-10 for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

(submitted by the European Union)

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY);

MINDFUL that, in anticipation of completing a 20-year rebuilding program in 2018, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 17-06);

RECALLING that the SCRS, being unable to resolve recruitment uncertainty, provided short-term management advice in 2017 based on a fishing mortality rate ($F_{0.1}$) that the SCRS considered to be a reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} and that accounted for the effect of recruitment changes on stock biomass, which provided the basis for interim stock management pending development of a Management Procedure (MP) through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process;

RECALLING FURTHER that Rec. 17-06 was amended and extended through 2021 by the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 20-06) and that it was amended and extended again through 2022 by the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 21-07), which included an increase in the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) after taking into consideration SCRS advice in 2021;

FULLY AWARE of the intention to replace the interim conservation and management plan first adopted in 2017 with a conservation and management plan based on an MP tested through MSE in order to manage bluefin tuna fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

APPRECIATING the substantial work undertaken by ICCAT to advance MSE for bluefin tuna, including adoption of the *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for eastern and western bluefin tuna* (Res. 18-03), and intersessional activities aimed at finalizing these management objectives consistent with the Convention and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

RECOGNIZING the completed MSE framework developed by the SCRS that has been used to test candidate MPs to demonstrate tradeoffs between management objectives identified by Panel 2 with regard to stock status, safety, stability, and yield and considering the outcome of that testing, which also included examination of 2- and 3-year management cycles and the possible establishment of a minimum TAC change threshold;

WELCOMING the adoption of an MP in 2022 to establish TACs for both the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic bluefin tuna management areas starting in 2023;

RECOGNIZING that an important element of the MP is its review and that the SCRS has recommended that the first review be completed by 2028 to ensure the MP is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that warrant reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing MP; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or a new, full MSE;

HIGHLIGHTING the value of continued research on the stock, including increased fisheries and biological sampling, to provide additional support toward addressing some key uncertainties in the stock assessment and the MSE, including size structure of catches and releases, genetic samples for stock identification and genetic mark-recapture studies, age and growth estimation, and electronic tagging for monitoring stock migrations and rates of mixing;

RECOGNIZING the Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Res. 15-13);

RENEWING the commitment to the full implementation of existing mandatory reporting obligations including those in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area (Rec. 03-13);

MINDFUL that with the adoption of the Bluefin Tuna Management Procedure, as laid down by ICCAT Rec. 22-09, applicable to both eastern and western stocks, including a common set of management objectives and the interdependence of total allowable catch (TAC) setting for each area, there is a need for a level playing field in management, control, and inspection activities carried out in the context of the fisheries management of each stock;

RECOGNIZING that fishing plans for the eastern stock alone do not allow for a comprehensive understanding of bluefin tuna fisheries, fishing seasons, operating fleets, or the management, control, and inspection plans implemented by each CPC and therefore a similar annual plan is needed for western stock as well;

CONSIDERING the new challenges in securing comprehensive control, monitoring, and certification of bluefin tuna catches brought about by bluefin tuna aquaculture, as presented to the ICCAT Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2022 and further detailed in subsequent meetings in 2023 and 2024, which will require increased comprehensiveness of the monitoring and control measures in place to allow for full distinction of fish origin;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the comprehensive set of additional measures implemented by ICCAT Recommendation 22-08 for the eastern bluefin stock, which in the interest of creating a level playing field, should be incorporated into this Recommendation. The incorporation will be phased in progressively, starting with an initial set of management measures and key monitoring measures;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement the following conservation and management plan starting in 2023, including establishing TACs based on the application of the bluefin tuna management procedure (MP) adopted in *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas* (Rec. 22-09).

Effort and capacity limits

2. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, CPCs shall continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to the western Atlantic.

TACs, TAC allocations, and catch limits

3. In accordance with the application of the MP established in Rec. 22-09, an annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 2,726 t is established for 2023, 2024, and 2025. The TACs for the 2026-2028 period shall be established at the 2025 ICCAT annual meeting, in accordance with the application of the MP.
4. CPCs shall update abundance indices and fishery indicators annually and provide them to the SCRS when requested in support of the annual assessment by the SCRS of the occurrence of exceptional circumstances, as specified in Rec. 22-09 and for other relevant scientific purposes as determined by the SCRS.
5. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, shall be as follows:

- a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
USA (bycatch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (bycatch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

- b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 5 a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

CPC	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<2,413 t (A)	2,413 t (B)	>2,413-2,660 t (C)	>2,660 t (D)
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1,303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

- c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 5 b), the annual TACs for 2023-2025 result in the following CPC-specific quota allocations, not including bycatch allowances listed in 5 a):

Annual TAC for 2023-2025: 2,726 t

United States	1,316.14 t
Canada	543.65 t
Japan	664.52 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	6.18 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	6.18 t
Mexico	149.34 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) be less than 4 t each in any single year unless the fishery is closed.

- d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to 149.34 t of its adjusted quota in each year of 2023-2025 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 14.
- e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each year of 2023-2025 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 14.
- f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each year of 2023-2025, to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 14.

- g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 5 d), 5 e), and 5 f) above shall: notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence and present the results of the research to the SCRS.
6. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 5, adjusted for underharvest or overharvest consistent with the remainder of this paragraph. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the remainder of this paragraph.
- a) Any underharvest of a CPC's total quota in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. However, in no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 10% of the CPC's initial quota allocation under paragraph 5, with the exception of the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda), France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), and Mexico (i.e., those with initial allocations of 149.34 t or less), for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 5 (i.e., the total quota for such CPC shall not exceed twice its annual quota in any given year).
- b) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its total quota, its initial quota for the next subsequent management period will be reduced by 100% of the excess of such total quota, and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 6 b), if a CPC has an overharvest of its total quota during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's total quota equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing capacity management and inspection plans

7. By 15 February each year, each CPC with an allocated western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat:
- a) An annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10.
- b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in paragraph 5.
- c) Monitoring, control, and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. This plan shall also designate the CPC control competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan.
8. Prior to 31 March, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 7. If the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the automatic suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC. Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year. The Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 10 and the Plans due for the East and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, as per ICCAT Rec. 22-08. This obligation may be done by electronic means if the Commission so decides.

Annual fishing plans

9. The annual fishing plan shall identify, inter alia, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on bycatch.
10. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification. Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers between bycatch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that information on the transfers is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest when the transfer enters into force.

Capacity management measures

11. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear. These parameters should be provided by the SCRS by the 2025 Annual Meeting, and each time that a stock assessment for western bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.

Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish

12. CPCs shall prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
13. Notwithstanding the above measures, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota for each CPC, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish. Any overharvest of such tolerance limit from one year must be subtracted from the tolerance limit applicable in the next year or the year after that. CPCs granting such a tolerance will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna having a fork length of less than 67 cm, except as the subject of a research project notified to the SCRS, developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS, and conducted by individuals duly permitted by the CPC to undertake such research.
14. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size.
15. CPCs will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length less than 115 cm and report on steps taken in this regard in their Annual Report.

Area and time restrictions

16. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico). In light of advice received from the SCRS pursuant to paragraph 18, the Commission shall consider revising this measure and the need for alternative management actions, taking into account the efforts of Mexico and other CPCs to conserve western Atlantic bluefin tuna, including reducing bycatch.

Transshipment

17. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.
18. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 68 to 72.
19. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant CPC port authorities.

General rules on bycatches

20. CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for bycatch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized bycatches as well as the methodology to calculate those bycatches 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 9 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 bycatch can be calculated on an annual basis.
21. All bycatches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to ICCAT. If bycatch 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.
22. 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 bycatch 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.
23. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 17 to 19 and 73 shall apply to bycatch.
24. 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.
25. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of the Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System (Rec. 22-16).

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

26. 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.
27. 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. 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.
28. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
29. 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.
30. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.
31. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.

32. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the Northwest Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation; b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC's quota.
33. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
34. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 36 shall include the following information:
- Name of vessel, register number;
 - ICCAT Record Number (if any);
 - Previous name (if any);
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s).

Use of aerial means

35. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

Records of vessels and traps

ICCAT Record of fishing vessels

36. CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels.
37. That record shall consist of the following lists:
- Catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna; and
 - Other vessels engaged in bluefin tuna related activities, other than catching vessels.
38. Each list shall include the following information:
- Name and registry number of the vessel;
 - Length and gross registered tonnage (GRT) or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT);
 - IMO number (if any);
 - Gear used (if any);
 - Previous flag (if any);
 - Previous name (if any);
 - Previous details of deletion for other registers (if any);
 - International radio call sign (if any);
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s); and
 - Time period authorized for fishing, operating and/or transporting bluefin tuna for farming.
39. For vessels over 24 meters (independently of the gear used, excluding for bottom trawlers,) and for all purse seine vessels, CPCs shall indicate the number of vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.

40. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain the ICCAT Record of all catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and all other vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including by placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
41. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Secretariat: (i) at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels referred to in paragraph 48 a); and (ii) at the latest 15 days before the start of their operation the list of other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 37 b). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the *Guidelines for submitting data and information required by ICCAT*.
42. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*.

In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Secretariat, providing:

- a) Full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included on the record referred to in paragraph 37; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on either list referred to in paragraph 37, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included on the record, provided that the CPC concerned submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a request for an ICCAT number to be given to the vessel, and the requested number has been provided;
- b) A comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not sufficiently justified or incomplete, it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.

43. Without prejudice to paragraphs 20 to 25 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 37 a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation.
44. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area (Rec. 21-14)* (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

45. CPCs shall issue special authorizations and/or national fishing licenses to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 33, 37 and 47. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 1**. The flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorization is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The flag CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

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

47. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 9 to 10, the list (including the name of the traps, register number and geographical coordinates of the trap polygon) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 46.
48. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of traps, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of traps at any time such changes occur.
49. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

ICCAT Record of farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna

50. The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna farms not entered into the Record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for bluefin tuna.
51. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of farms at any time such changes occur.
52. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirements

53. Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico, and, as appropriate, other CPCs harvesting western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall continue to collaborate in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices.
54. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic should make every effort to contribute to priority research and other scientific activities, including that being undertaken through or in collaboration with the ICCAT GBYP. With a view to facilitating the reconditioning of the MSE operating models and supporting review of the MP by 2028, CPCs should support the SCRS in carrying out the four strategic initiatives it has identified in the SCRS report:
 - Coordination of BFT tagging,
 - Coordination of larval surveys,
 - Coordination of BFT biological sampling,
 - Advanced genomic approaches to population size estimation (CKMR/Gene tagging).
55. In carrying out the work specified in paragraph 52, as contributions to SCRS research, CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries sampling, including: providing information on fish lengths and/or weights by fleet, month, and area; and, the collection of biological samples, including tissue and otoliths, which are critical for genetic close-kin mark-recapture and stock of origin analyses.
56. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
57. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels landing bluefin tuna are subject to a data recording system, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 03-13).

58. Further to paragraph 16, the SCRS shall review any new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, including from those CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and advise the Commission on the results of this review for its consideration. Concerned CPCs are encouraged to work through the SCRS to develop advice for managing any identified times and specific areas under a precautionary approach. In addition, the SCRS shall advise on the efficacy of the Gulf of Mexico directed fishery restriction to reduce mortality of spawning age bluefin tuna.

[...]

[...]

59. All CPCs shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by the SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of all age classes encountered in their fisheries, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
60. SCRS should provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.

Information on fishing activities

61. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
62. The ICCAT Secretariat shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
63. By 31 July each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the western Atlantic in the preceding quota allocation period. This information should include:
- a) The name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
 - b) The period of authorization(s) for each catching vessel;
 - c) The total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorization(s);
 - d) The total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean throughout the period of authorization(s); and
 - e) The total catch outside their period of authorization (bycatch).
64. For all vessels that were not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic but that caught bluefin tuna as bycatch, the following information shall be provided to the ICCAT Secretariat:
- a) The name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
 - b) The total catches of bluefin tuna.
65. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraphs 37 and 38 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information without delay to the flag CPC for appropriate action, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Recording requirements

66. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2.

Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators

67. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 13. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in Annex 2 or through the CPCs reporting requirement.
68. Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 67 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.
69. Trap operators or their authorized representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in Annex 2 to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna.
70. For catching vessels other than purse seine vessels and traps, masters shall transmit to their control authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 67 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

Designated ports

71. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat.
72. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that the following conditions are met: a) established landing and transshipment times; b) established landing and transshipment places; and c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with paragraph 85.
73. It shall be prohibited to land or transship any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the western Atlantic at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 68 and 72.
74. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 68 the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.
75. The provisions of this Recommendation shall not affect the entry of a CPC fishing vessel to port, in accordance with international law, for reasons of *force majeure* or distress.

Prior notification of landings

76. Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
 - a) Estimated time of arrival;
 - b) Estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
 - c) The information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

77. If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Market measures

78. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:
- To prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of western Atlantic bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation, the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program (Rec. 23-21)* and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System (Rec. 22-16)* on the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
 - To prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of western Atlantic bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC does not have a quota or catch limit for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC's fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 3 are exhausted.
 - To prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of western Atlantic bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with the provisions related to farming specified in this Recommendation.
79. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 22-10)*.

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.

	<u>From...</u> <u>to</u>	<u>From...</u> <u>to</u>	<u>From...</u> <u>to</u>	<u>From...</u> <u>to</u>	<u>From...</u> <u>to</u>
<u>Zones</u>					
<u>Species</u>					
<u>Fishing gear</u>					
<u>Other</u>					

Logbook requirements

A - Catching vessels

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

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:

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

For purse seine vessels this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.
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

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

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipment
2. Products
 - a) Species and presentation by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number
- the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in A