

Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 4

Colour key for column “Completion status following annual meeting” only:

Red -	Not started or little progress, requiring significant work.
Orange -	Started, progress but still requiring additional work to respect deadlines.
Green -	Completed or Significant progress made and on track for completion within deadlines.

<i>Report chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>PA4</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>Observations</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>
Trends in the Status of Non-Target Species	4. The Panel recommends that the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertainty and that their status is often poorly known.	PA4	X	M	While led by Panel 4, refer to SCRS to provide advice to assist in applying a precautionary approach to relevant non-target species.	This refers to relevant associated species as defined in the Review.	Significant progress made with respect to some shark species, but overall precautionary approach not yet applied. Precautionary approach now enshrined in new Convention text.	Ongoing

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Mediterranean Swordfish	30. The Panel encourages ICCAT to intensify its efforts to improve the scientific and fisheries database for this stock and endorses the SCRS recommendation that the fishery be closely monitored and that every component of the Mediterranean swordfish mortality be adequately reported to ICCAT by the CPCs.	PA4	X	M	Refer to Panel 4 to consider shortcomings in data collection and reporting and ways to address them.	COC, SCRS, the Secretariat, and/or CPCs may also have roles to play in implementing this Recommendation. SCRS carried out a stock assessment in 2020 and since the entry into force of Rec. 16-05, quarterly reporting of catches is required.		Ongoing

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Blue and White Marlins	38. The Panel supports the SCRS advice that ICCAT actively encourage, or make obligatory, the use of non-offset circle hooks on long line fisheries to reduce the mortality of released marlin.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration when discussing stock conservation and management based on new stock assessments.	COC developed check sheet to monitor implementation and this is updated regularly by the Secretariat in consultation with the COC and PA4 Chairs.	The billfish species group (SCRS) continues to support the use of non-offset circle hooks because it will reduce the mortality of live releases and increase the probability of fish to be alive upon, but this is not an obligatory measure.	Ongoing

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Sharks	40. The Panel recommends that ICCAT introduces catch limits as a priority for the main shark populations, in line with the SCRS advice. To ensure effective application of this measure, a quota allocation scheme should be developed.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration in light of new assessments.		TACs have been set for some species in 2020 <u>and 2022 and revised in other cases</u> , but work is continuing.	Ongoing

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	42. The Panel supports the view that shark fins should be naturally attached on landings. The shark finning practice applied to stocks already depleted or severely reduced, is but another factor negatively impacting on the shark stocks.	PA4	X	S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration and appropriate action.	The origin of this view is not clear from this statement.	No agreement on draft proposals to date.	

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Sea turtles	51. The Panel endorses the SCRS advice that the Commission consider the adoption of measures such as, the mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks.	PA4	X	S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration.	The SCRS acknowledges that while circle hooks are an effective sea turtle mitigation measure, they also have different impacts on both target and bycatch species and, therefore, circle hooks should not be considered a mitigation measure for all bycatch species (SC EGO report, 2019, adopted by SCRS in 2019 plenary).	Two measures currently exist for the conservation of sea turtles and these may <u>be</u> combined following discussion in 2022. Adopted Rec. 22-12, <u>Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bycatch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries, amended by Rec. 23-13.</u>	Done

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Seabirds	54. The Panel commends ICCAT on the measures it has introduced to date and recommends that it pursues its stated goal of further reducing bird mortality through the refinement of existing mitigation measures.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration based on input from SCRS, as needed.	The SCRS acknowledges that while circle hooks are an effective sea turtle mitigation measure, they also have different impacts on both target and bycatch species and, therefore, circle hooks should not be considered a mitigation measure for all bycatch species (SC_ECO report, 2019, adopted by SCRS in 2019 plenary).	Panel Chair has worked with the Secretariat to propose a draft combined measure, but this was not adopted. Discussion may continue in the future.	Ongoing

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Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	X	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.	Has been included for marlins but not for SWO swordfish.	Ongoing
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	X	M			See SCRS - BIL WGSG comments	Ongoing

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Rebuilding Plans	47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more proactive policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.	SWGSM	X	S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.		Harvest control rules are being introduced but further work will be carried out on the basis of experience with Panel 2 species. Work on Atlantic swordfish is well advanced, and will be was discussed at Commission level in 2023. <u>A Meeting on Northern Atlantic Swordfish MSE was held in 2024.</u>	Ongoing