

Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review - Plenary Sessions

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>PLE</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Proposed next steps</i>	<i>Action to be taken or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following Annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Draft Amended ICCAT Convention	2. Urge its Members, following the conclusion of the work of the WG on Convention Amendment, to make all necessary efforts to ensure that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention enter into force as soon as possible.	COM	X		Agreement on text has been reached. Protocol to be signed at forthcoming Commission meeting in 2019.	Article 2 of ICCAT Convention (2019).	Protocol signed, now awaiting ratification of CPs.	As of 2024, seven CPCs have ratified the Convention.
Pollution, Waste and Discarded Gears	57. The Panel notes the measures adopted by ICCAT to date and recommends that ICCAT expands the range of its measures addressing these policy matters. In this regard, the Panel would refer to CCAMLR CM 26-01 on general environmental protection during fishing.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration. FAD WG is also addressing this issue, and should be guided by Panel 4. Work also being carried out through Kobe process.	A proposal on discarded gear was adopted in 2019, Rec. 19-11. Additional proposals regarding pollution and waste will be discussed in 2024.		Status changed from red to green.

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Previously Unregulated Fisheries	58. Considering the important role played by the sport and recreational fisheries in a number of key fisheries, notably billfishes, the Panel recommends that: a) the Working Group is re-activated to complete its mandate; and	COM	X	S	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	Lack of the submission of relevant information on recreational fisheries by many CPCs has limited the utility of this Working Group.		
	b) mechanisms are developed by ICCAT to engage this sector in the deliberations of ICCAT on management and control measures for these fisheries.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.			
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Some progress has been made in individual Panels but work is ongoing in many cases.		Same situation.

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	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Has been done for some species.		Same situation.
Reporting Requirements	87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative / reporting requirements at	COM	X	S	Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	A global standard may not be appropriate. Application should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than blanket coverage for all recommendations. Appendix 7 in the IMM report 2022: This may be taken into consideration in specific measures, but no further action currently required by PWG.		See comment PWG from IMM WG.

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	short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.							
Confidentiality	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM	X	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any	All Commission documents are now open to the public. Only data sets containing fine scale data made available on the grounds of confidentiality are considered confidential, but PWG suggests that the rules be revised.		See comment PWG from IMM WG.
Cooperation with Other RFMOs and Relevant International Organisations	103. Continues and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other tuna RFMOs in the context of the Kobe process and otherwise, in particular on the harmonization of their conservation and management measures.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider ways to enhance cooperation with other tuna RFMOs.	Input from the Secretariat should help inform this discussion. Future of Kobe process discussed in 2018, and online reporting working group will take this into consideration.	Actions will be ongoing, but procedures are already in place, hence no further specific actions necessary?	

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	104. Continue and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental bodies, in particular in relation to the conservation and management of sharks.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider how to enhance cooperation with other IGOs on sharks and other matters.	Work is ongoing with GFCM, WECAFC, CCSBT and OSPAR. ICCAT will also follow UN BBNJ process, and continue to participate in the Common Oceans project of FAO. MoU with IAC to be considered in 2020. An updated MoU with CCSBT regarding southern BFT will be reviewed by the COMM in 2024.	Actions will be ongoing, but procedures are already in place, hence no further specific actions necessary?	
	105. Considers becoming a member of the IMCS Network.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	ICCAT remains an active member and the Chair of the TCN, the coordinator of which is from IMCS, but currently no discussion has taken place regarding joining IMCS Network.		

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	106. Considers making more information on its cooperation with other RFMOs and intergovernmental bodies available on a dedicated part of the ICCAT website.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider what, if any, additional information to put on the website. The Secretariat would post any identified information.	Plans to revise format of Tuna-Org website being explored with ABNJ Phase II.		
Presentation Scientific Advice	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.	Now enshrined in new Convention text.	P.A. should continue to be implemented, but will become part of Convention once Protocol enters into force.	
Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat	117. The Panel recommends that clear guidelines / processes on how the scientific resources of the Secretariat should be allocated to species should be agreed.	COM	X	S	Commission to consider appropriate action, including referring to SCRS for input on this matter.	SCRS to revisit strategic plan. Needs further consideration by STACFAD.	Ongoing, SCRS funding is considered each year.	The SCRS approved a roadmap for the development of the new SCRS Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2031.

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	118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.	COM	X	M/L	For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	See SCRS Comments. SCRS does not agree with outsourcing the full assessment but supports the incorporation of external experts.	SCRS (Species Groups) requires funding for stock assessment external expertise whenever felt necessary.	
SCRS Long-Term Strategy	122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.	COM	X	S	Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be	Linked to 117. Currently under consideration by STACFAD, including the Recommendation by SCRS to provide simultaneous interpretation for SCRS meetings. Several of the SCRS meetings now have interpretation, funding has been made available for various activities and the RMA has been adopted for bluefin tuna.		

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					funded through the regular budget.			
Decision-Making	90. Ensures that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention relating to decision-making and opt-out procedures are provisionally applied from the moment of their formal adoption.	CWG	X	M	See Recommendation 1(b) for proposed action.	To be decided once current package is adopted.		