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**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION  
for the  
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS**

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**R E P O R T  
for biennial period, 2012-13  
PART II (2013) - Vol. 1  
English version           **COM****

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MADRID, SPAIN

2014

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

## CONTRACTING PARTIES

(as of 31 December 2013)

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela

## COMMISSION OFFICERS

### Commission Chairman

S. DEPYPERE, EU  
(since 25 November 2013)

### First Vice-Chairman

R. DELGADO, Panamá  
(since 25 November 2013)

### Second Vice-Chairman

A. KRAINIY, Russian Federation  
(since 25 November 2013)

### Panel No.

### PANEL MEMBERSHIP

### Chair

-1- <i>Tropical tunas</i>	Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Côte d'Ivoire
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Venezuela.	Japan
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	Belize, Brazil, China, European Union, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, United States, Uruguay.	South Africa
-4- <i>Other species</i>	Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Brazil

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	Chair S. LAPINTE, Canada (since 15 November 2009)
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS) Sub-Committee on Statistics: G. SCOTT (United States), Convener Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: S. CASS-CALAY, A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners	J. SANTIAGO, EU (since 8 October 2010)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	D. Campbell, United States (since 25 November 2013)
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	T. EL KTIRI, Morocco (since 19 November 2011)
STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM)	M. TSAMENYI, GHANA (since 25 November 2013)

## ICCAT SECRETARIAT

*Executive Secretary:* MR. D. MESKI  
*Assistant Executive Secretary:* DR. P. PALLARÉS  
*Address:* C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid 28002 (Spain)  
*Internet:* <http://www.iccat.int> - *E-mail:* [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int)

## FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "*Report for the Biennial Period, 2012-2013, Part II (2013)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the second half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission (Cape Town, South Africa, November 18-25, 2013) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention area.

The Report is published in four volumes. *Volume 1* includes the Proceedings of the Commission Meetings and the reports of all the associated meetings (with the exception of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics-SCRS). *Volume 2* contains the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and its appendices. *Volume 3* includes the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission. *Volume 4* includes the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, the Secretariat's Administrative and Financial Reports, and the Secretariat's Reports to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC), and to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). Volumes 3 and 4 of the Biennial Report are only published in electronic format.

This Report has been prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 9, and Article IV, paragraph 2-d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

MASANORI MIYAHARA  
*Commission Chairman*

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**  
(Cape Town, South Africa – 18-25 November 2013)

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Commission Chair, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, opened the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission and first of all thanked the Government of South Africa for hosting the meeting in the historic city of Cape Town, which was a major hub of the tuna industry. The Chair also congratulated the delegates on their inter-sessional work and for their increasing sense of responsibility in the management of tuna and tuna-like stocks, but expressed caution when considering catch levels for the next few years. He noted that there was still much work to do at the 2013 meeting, expressing his full confidence in the delegations to achieve the adoption of measures based on scientific advice and urged all CPCs to ensure that their scientists fully participated in the SCRS process.

Mr. Desmond Stevens, the Deputy Director General of the South African Fisheries Department, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the South African Government. The Chair later introduced the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms. Tina Joemat-Petterson, who addressed the meeting and reiterated the importance of fisheries management given the pressure, from various quarters, on fish stocks, and recalled that South Africa was committed to the objectives of ICCAT. The Minister stressed the need for sound measures based, *inter alia*, on scientific advice and regional cooperation.

The opening addresses are attached as **ANNEX 3.1**.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 1**. The Secretariat served as rapporteur.

### **3. Introduction of Contracting Party delegations**

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced the following 43 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Republic, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

The following Ministers of Contracting Parties addressed the Plenary Session of the Commission: the Hon. Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the Hon. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Côte d'Ivoire, the Hon. Nayon Bilijo, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana, and the Hon. Andrey Krainiy, Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation.

The addresses by the above Ministers and the opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the plenary session are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**.

### **4. Introduction of Observers**

The Executive Secretary introduced the observers that had been admitted to the meeting. A Representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), depository of the ICCAT Convention, attended the meeting. Chinese Taipei, Curaçao, El Salvador and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Argentina and Bolivia attended the meeting as non-Contracting Parties. The inter-governmental organizations also in attendance were: Secretariat for the Agreement

on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), INFOPÊCHE; Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: Association Euro-Méditerranéenne des Pêcheurs Professionnels de thon (AEPPT); Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR); Birdlife International; Bluewater Fishermen's Association; International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS), Defenders of Wildlife; Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD); Federazione Nazionale delle Imprese di Pesca (FEDERPESCA); Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP); Greenpeace; International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Medisamak; National Coalition of Marine Conservation (NCMC); Oceana, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Pew Environment Group, The Ocean Foundation; US-Japan Research Institute (USJI); Varda Foundation, and World Wide Fund (WWF).

The list of observers is included in the List of Participants.

The statements made to the plenary session, submitted in writing by the observers, are attached as **ANNEXES 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5**.

## **5. Summary Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, informed the Commission that the 2013 SCRS meeting had been held in Madrid, Spain from 30 September to 4 October 2013. He presented a summary of the Report of the SCRS and indicated that the specific recommendations by species would be presented in the appropriate Panels, particularly for those species for which updated assessments had been conducted, i.e., north and south albacore and north and south swordfish, as well as those species about which the Commission had made specific requests.

Dr. Santiago expressed his thanks for the work of the SCRS scientists and the Secretariat and summarized the Committee's main work and its recommendations in 2013. He noted that while extra-budgetary funds had helped to increase participation in SCRS meetings, the proportion of CPCs in some meetings was still worrying low. He urged all CPCs to ensure that their scientists could fully participate in the work of the Committee. The lack of participation in the work placed extra strain on the Secretariat resources, which were already fully utilised. He recognised, however, that the number of meeting days and the increasing workload of the SCRS was becoming difficult to sustain and contributed in some cases to low participation. He appealed to the Commission to try to reduce the number of requests and questions posed each year in order to be able to dedicate sufficient time and resources to answering them fully.

The SCRS Chair outlined the Strategic Plan which was being developed for 2015-2020, which would help determine the role and functions of the SCRS, define the goals and objectives, as well as pinpointing strengths and weaknesses. He noted that improved dialogue with the Commission would be essential for this purpose.

Following a brief presentation by the SCRS Chair on reference points, harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation, which was much appreciated by all present, the Commission requested the SCRS to include these in the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Santiago also called for strengthened cooperation with other international organisations to enhance capacity, information and analysis available for scientific advice, as well as a continuation of the peer review process.

The Commission thanked Dr. Santiago for his presentation. Ghana, on behalf of the CPCs members of ATLAFCO expressed concern that the structure and process of the SCRS side-lined scientists from developing countries. Although some assistance for meeting attendance had been provided, little had been done to avoid the marginalisation of scientists from countries with few resources. Ghana also questioned the role of the NGOs on scientific reports. While it was recognised by all that inclusiveness and transparency were vital, it was suggested that some rules may be necessary to limit excessive external influences on ICCAT science.

Several delegates agreed that the number of meeting days was too high, which made it difficult for developing country scientists, and even developed country scientists, to participate fully. Several delegates from developing countries echoed the concerns expressed by Ghana, and indicated their wish to fully participate in the scientific work, not just as spectators.

Some Contracting Parties also highlighted the need to reduce uncertainties from stock assessment models and suggested that there may be a disconnection between the stake holders and the SCRS. There was general agreement that better communication between the SCRS and the Commission would be beneficial to all.

Ghana, on behalf of the of the ATLAFCO Members of ICCAT put forward the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)* [Rec. 13-12]

This proposal was adopted by consensus and is contained in **ANNEX 5**

The EU presented two proposals relating to the issues discussed:

- *Resolution by ICCAT to Complete the Standardization of the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report* [Res. 13-15]

Following some discussion, this proposal was adopted by consensus and is contained in **ANNEX 6**. Brazil noted in the context of this Resolution, however, that during 2014, the SCRS should develop a general framework of Harvest Control Rules to be applied to the stocks managed by ICCAT, including the stock assessment of skipjack scheduled for 2014, taking into account the discussions to take place within the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM).

- *Recommendation by ICCAT for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers* [Rec. 13-18]

Given that the proposal had not outlined the mandate of the Chair, and although some CPCs indicated that they would prefer that the Standing Working Group be co-chaired by a scientist and a manager, it was agreed that there should be one Chair and that his/her mandate should be in line with the Chairs of other bodies, with elections every two years. With this understanding, the proposal was adopted by consensus and is contained in **ANNEX 5**.

Dr. Martin Tsamanyi (Ghana) was unanimously elected as first Chair of the SWGSM. Dr. Tsamanyi thanked the Commission for its confidence in him and assured those present that he fully understood the importance of science and the need to bridge the gap between science and management.

The 2013 Report of the SCRS was adopted.

## **6. Review of the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 2 and the Compliance Committee and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chair directed the Compliance Committee and Panel 2 to review this report and discuss any issues arising from it. Following the reports of these bodies, the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 2 and the Compliance Committee was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 4.1**.

## **7. Consideration of the Report of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment and any necessary actions**

This report was referred to Panel 2 for consideration, following which the Report of the Report of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment was adopted by the Commission as is contained in **ANNEX 4.2**.

## **8. Consideration of the Report of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and any necessary actions**

The Commission Chair noted that this report contained several important proposals and instructed the various subsidiary bodies, particularly the PWG, to work on these in order to reach agreement on final texts.

The Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures was adopted by the Commission as is contained in **ANNEX 4.3**.

## **9. Review of the Report of the Working Group on the Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions**

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Working Group, presented the findings of the first Working Group on the Convention Amendment which recommended to the Commission that further work of this Group be carried out. The main areas to be considered include the following: Broadening the scope of the Convention in particular with regard to shark conservation and management; decision making issues, including entry into force provisions for Recommendations adopted the Commission; voting rules/quorum and dispute settlement, and non-party participation.

Ghana indicated that there were several issues which should be added to the list already being discussed, particularly with regard to Exclusive Economic Zones, a new concept since the signing of the Convention and which had not been taken into account in the formulation of the Allocation Criteria.

Canada presented two draft Recommendations arising from the discussions of the Working Group, in the belief that Convention Amendment should only be considered where issues could not be resolved through other means, e.g., through the adoption of Recommendations. The Commission discussed the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management" and the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Use of the Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures". Although there was some support for these proposals, it was determined that consensus could not be reached and further discussion should be deferred until the next meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.

The Report of the Working Group on the Convention Amendment was adopted by the Commission as is contained in **ANNEX 4.4**.

## **10. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)**

The Chair of STACFAD, Mrs. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), reported to the Commission that the Committee had reviewed and adopted the 2013 Administrative Report and the 2013 Financial Report. Noting the "Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT CPCs and Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions", STACFAD called on those with accumulated debt to submit Payment Plans of past-due contributions. It was noted that voting rights could be suspended for CPCs with more than two years arrears.

The STACFAD Chair reported that it had been agreed that the Secretariat could select the auditors for the next five-year period from among the offers received.

The Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2014/2015 were presented by the Secretariat, and amended by STACFAD. The revised budget and corresponding contributions were adopted by the Commission (see **Tables 1 to 7 to ANNEX 8**). The budget included the hire of one additional staff member for the Compliance Department, starting in 2014.

In 2013, the SCRS had put forward several requests for additional funding for various research activities. Given the difficulties faced by CPCs to accept large increases in the budget, it was decided that some of these could be financed from the Working Capital Fund. Although a full-time hire for the Department of Statistics was not approved, the Executive Secretary would determine exact needs and explore the possibility of short-term contracts as necessary.

Based on a proposal from the European Union, STACFAD had approved the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 13-19], which was adopted by the Commission and is included in ANNEX 5.

During 2013, a virtual working group to consider the issue of a Communications Policy had been established, comprising representatives from Equatorial Guinea, Morocco and USA. A draft discussion document had been circulated, but all concurred that inter-sessional work should continue through email on this.

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) was re-elected Chair of STACFAD.

It was agreed to adopt the STACFAD Report by correspondence (attached as ANNEX 8).

## 11. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

The reports of the Panels were presented by their respective Chairs. The Commission reviewed the reports and the Recommendations proposed by the Panels.

### *Panel 1*

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Helguile Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) presented the report of Panel 1 to the plenary session of the Commission. He noted that the Republic of Guinea had expressed its wish to join Panel 1. The Panel had discussed the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* [Rec. 13-01] but no consensus had been reached in the Panel. Following further discussion, this Recommendation was adopted by the Commission is included in ANNEX 5.

The Chair of Panel 1 also reported that difficulties of vessels in relation to the boarding of Regional Observers had been raised by some CPCs during the Panel meeting, as the fishing plans of the tropical fleets did not coincide with the closed area season and some vessels had already left port or were about to do so. The Secretariat had indicated that training would not be finished until the end of the first week of December. The Commission agreed that national observers could be used for the 2014 closed season. It was also agreed that the contract with the current agency would remain valid and that this agency would provide the Regional Observers in 2015, and that work already undertaken would be financed by the initial start-up funds already lodged by the vessels. Any refinements to the programme for future years would be discussed at the inter-sessional meeting of the IMM Working Group.

Côte d'Ivoire was unanimously re-elected as Chair of Panel 1.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 1 by correspondence. The Report is attached as ANNEX 9.

### *Panel 2*

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Aronne Spezzani (European Union), reported that two new Panel members, Mauritania and Venezuela, were welcomed to Panel 2, effective from 2013.

Mr. Spezzani informed the plenary that the Panel had reached consensus on a *Recommendation Complementing Rec 12-03 which Established a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 13-08] in order to ensure that the all CPCs implemented the requirements of the stereoscopic camera systems in a uniform manner, and introducing changes in the fishing season for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic. This Recommendation was adopted by the Commission and is included in ANNEX 5.

The Panel Chair also reported that the Panel had adopted, by vote, the Proposal for Amendment to Recommendation 12-03 Establishing a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna. This proposal was incorporated into the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCA T to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 13-07], which was adopted by the Commission and is included in ANNEX 5.

Turkey objected to the catch limits and allocation key contained in the Recommendation [13-07] and repeated the questions which it had raised in Panel 2:

- How have the current quota allocations keys of the CPCs been set up?
- Which criteria and procedures have been used for allocation of E-BFT catch quotas?
- Have the allocation criteria been equally applied for Turkey?

Turkey also requested reconsideration and rectification of Turkey's allocation key for E-BFT, taking into account the historical catches for reference years, at the upcoming Commission meeting in 2014.

Algeria and Egypt expressed their reservations regarding paragraph 9 of the Recommendation and Korea also expressed its concern over quota allocation. Both Libya and Syria requested that their petitions for carry-over of unused quotas due to exceptional circumstances be considered in 2014, and expressed their dissatisfaction over the failure to consider this issue at the 2013 meeting. Although Albania could not be present, their written request to maintain the Albanian quota had been presented to the Panel.

The following proposals, which had been presented by the European Union and agreed by the Panel, were also put forward by the Panel 2 Chair for formal adoption by the Commission:

- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program [Rec. 13-05],*
- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 13-09].*

Both proposals were adopted by the Commission and are included in **ANNEX 5**.

Neither the "Proposal on Scientific Research Plan of Western Bluefin Tuna Stock" nor the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Scheme for the Funding of the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)" reached consensus in the Panel and were not adopted by the Commission.

With regards to the implementation of the Regional Observer Programme, the informal working group presented the draft terms of reference for future tenders. In order to ensure sufficient time to receive tenders and effect a smooth change-over if necessary, the extension of the current contract for one more year was approved. The Call for Tenders would be issued early in 2014 to allow for the final selection of an agency or consortium at the forthcoming Commission meeting.

Mr. Spezzani also reported that Panel members had some questions relating to the interpretation of management measures that had arisen during 2013, and that CPCs had been invited to send their responses in writing.

Japan was elected Chair of Panel 2.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 2 by correspondence. The report is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

### ***Panel 3***

The Chair of Panel 3, Dr. Johann Augustyn (South Africa), presented the report of the Panel. Dr. Augustyn reported that Honduras had been welcomed as a new member effective from 2013. China and Panama had also expressed their wish to join the Panel, and Korea expressed its interest in becoming a member in 2014. A stock assessment of albacore had been carried out in 2013, on the basis of which the Panel put forward a *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2014 to 2016 [Rec. 13-06]* for approval by the Commission. This was adopted and is included in **ANNEX 5**.

South Africa was re-elected to Chair Panel 3.

It was agreed to adopt the report of Panel 3 by correspondence. The Report is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

**Panel 4**

The Chair of Panel 4, Dr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), informed the Commission that Panel 4 had three new members: Republic of Guinea, Mauritania and Panama. He presented the proposals from the European Union which had been discussed and approved within Panel 4:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits [Rec. 13-03]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT [Rec. 13-04]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 13-11]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Biological Sampling of Prohibited Shark Species by Scientific Observers [Rec. 13-10]*

Full consensus on the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish [Rec. 13-02]* had not been reached during the Panel and was forwarded to the Plenary for consideration. The Commission adopted this Recommendation.

The above proposals were adopted by the Commission, and are contained in **ANNEX 5**. In relation to the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish [Rec. 13-02]*, Mauritania raised the principle of coastal States having the right to fish in their waters, and requested that this issue be discussed at the relevant inter-sessional meetings to be held in 2014.

Dr. Hazin reported that the following proposals had been discussed but had not reached consensus in the Panel, and hence were not being put forward for adoption by the Commission:

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT;

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries; and

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries.

The Panel 4 Chair also reported on a request for cooperation by CITES in the context of CITES-listed shark species, and that areas for mutual cooperation would be explored at the 2014 Commission meeting. Two other Memoranda of Understanding, relating to seabirds and sea turtles, had been briefly discussed within the Panel, but these had been left open for discussion under Item 15 of the Commission Agenda.

Brazil was re-elected as Chair of Panel 4.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 4 by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

## **12. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendation therein**

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Dr. Chris Rogers (United States), informed the Commission that the Compliance Committee (COC) had approved the following, which were adopted by the Commission:

- Compliance Tables (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**);
- Compliance Summary Tables (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**); and
- Task I submission status for 2012 data (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**).

Dr. Rogers informed the Commission that the practice of constituting a small informal group represented by geographical area to review the information used to compile the Summary Table and to assist in recommending actions had been continued, and that this had been very helpful.

Based on the Summary Table and on Task I submission status, the Commission determined that the Compliance Committee Chair would send letters of concern or letters of identification to the CPCs as determined in the

Compliance Summary Table and agreed that such CPCs should be requested to send written replies to those letters.

With regard to non-Contracting Parties, it was concluded that the cooperating status of Colombia should be withdrawn and the identification of Cambodia should be maintained as no reply to the Commission's letter had been received.

The Compliance Committee agreed to renew the Cooperating Status of Chinese Taipei, Curaçao, El Salvador and Suriname. Bolivia was also granted Cooperating Status for the first time. Given the late application by Guyana for reinstatement of cooperating status, the Compliance Committee deferred consideration of this matter until 2014. The Commission approved these decisions.

Mr. Derek Campbell (USA) was elected Chair of the Compliance Committee. Mr. Miyahara, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his thanks to Dr. Rogers, the outgoing Chair, for his hard work to improve compliance and streamline the work of the Committee. He noted the significant progress in the work of the Committee under his leadership. All delegates expressed their appreciation for the work performed by Dr. Rogers in his role as Compliance Committee Chair over the years.

It was agreed that the Report of the Compliance Committee would be adopted by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 10**.

### **13. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendation therein**

The PWG Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco), reported to the Commission on the work of the PWG, which had agreed on the "2013 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area", and this was adopted by the Commission. The adopted ICCAT IUU list is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 11**.

The Model Forms for Port Entry Prior Notification and Port Inspection Report, approved by the PWG, were also adopted and are attached as **ANNEXES 7.1 and 7.2**, respectively.

The PWG reported on progress made with regard to the implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch document scheme as well as other issues which had arisen from the IMM Working Group, and had deferred to STACFAD the possible extension of the contract with TRAGSA/The Server Labs for further developments and refinements to the eBCD system. The PWG put forward the following Recommendations for approval by the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 13-13]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering [Rec. 13-14]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Annex 1 of Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 13-16]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System [Rec. 13-17]*

These proposals were adopted by the Commission and are attached in **ANNEX 5**. The EU welcomed the adoption of the proposal regarding the eBCD system which ensured the continuing development of the programme. The European Union underlined the importance of the ongoing work of the technical working group during 2014 and the submission of all the necessary elements to ensure the full functionality of the programme. He stressed that, with regard to the specificity and the very nature of some sectors such as small- scale fisheries, the modalities to fully implement the eBCD programme for such sectors shall continue to be explored in view of ensuring that their specificities are fully reflected in the decisions that shall be taken at the 2014 Annual meeting.

The PWG had also discussed the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements", which was deferred for further discussion at the next meeting of the IMM Working Group, together with the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 01-21 on Establishing Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program" and the "Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning

Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area". The PWG also referred the request from Suriname for technical assistance in implementing Recommendation 12-07 to the IMM Working Group meeting, as well as the Secretariat's request for clarification regarding rules for submitting vessel lists.

Mr. El Ktiri was unanimously re-elected Chair of PWG.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of the PWG by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

#### **14. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building**

The Commission took note of the ICCAT Secretariat document summarizing the assistance provided in 2013 to developing coastal States. All Parties were in agreement that such initiatives were of great importance, and it was noted that such assistance should not be limited to meeting attendance but should include training and other means of improving the skills of developing Contracting Party scientists. The funds allocated for providing funds to the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) were welcomed, as was the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties [Rec. 13-19]* which had been adopted through STACFAD.

#### **15. Cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations**

Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary, informed the Commission of the cooperation during the year with other international organisations [PLE-109], and possible memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to be signed between ICCAT and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and between ICCAT and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC).

Statements from ACAP and IAC were circulated to explain the advantages of signing these MOUs. Although there was strong support expressed by many CPCs for these MOUs, consensus could not be reached. The United States noted that the SCRS had endorsed the signing of these MOUs, asked that the CPCs' general support for this type of cooperation be noted for the record, and urged that such cooperation continue to the maximum extent possible.

#### **16. Inter-sessional meetings in 2014**

The Commission agreed to hold the following inter-sessional meetings:

- An inter-sessional joint meeting of the Compliance Committee / Panel 2
- An inter-sessional meeting of the PWG

These two meeting will be held consecutively in early March.

- The Second Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment;
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures
- The First Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers

These three meetings will be held consecutively in late May.

- The 2nd Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment

This meeting will be held in July, at the invitation of Canada. If sufficient additional information and data had been received on recreational fisheries from at least 15 CPCs before that time, a meeting of the Recreational Fisheries Working Group could be held at the same venue and 'back to back' with the WBFT meeting.

It was agreed that all CPCs would be informed of the exact timing and venues of these meetings as soon as possible by correspondence.

### **17. Election of Chair and vice-chairs**

Mr. Stefaan Depypere (European Union) was unanimously elected Chair of the Commission for a two-year term. In order to foster the spirit of inclusiveness, it was agreed, at the election of the next Chair, priority should be given to candidates from African Contracting Parties.

Mr. Raul Delgado (Panama) and Mr. Andrey Krainiy (Russian Federation) were elected First and Second Vice Chairs, respectively.

The Commission expressed its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Masanori Miyahara, the outgoing Chair, for his service to the Commission.

### **18. Other matters**

#### ***Request for information for an advisory opinion from ITLOS***

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea had requested response to some questions from ICCAT in order to form an advisory opinion. Although some CPCs were of the view that ICCAT, as an international organisation, had the obligation to respond to a request from another international body, it was concluded that, given the possible legal implications of the questions, each CPC should respond directly to ITLOS rather than sending a Commission response.

### **19. Tentative date and place of the next meeting of the Commission**

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that he would investigate the possibilities for the hosting of the annual meeting in 2014, and would make preliminary contact with Italy in this regard. The dates for the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission were established as 10 to 17 November 2014.

### **20. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The Commission agreed that the report of the plenary session would be adopted by correspondence.

The Chair thanked all the delegates, the interpreters and the Secretariat for their work, and expressed his gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting the meeting. The Executive Secretary also thanked all delegates, the Government of South Africa, the interpreters, and the Secretariat staff for their contribution to the meeting.

Special thanks were reiterated to the outgoing Chair for his hard work and dedication. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that Mrs. Philomena Seidita, English translator and Technical Officer, was due to retire in 2014. Mrs. Seidita received a standing ovation for her many years of dedicated and loyal service to the Commission.

The 2013 Commission meeting was adjourned on 25 November 2013.

**COMMISSION AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Summary Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the report of the joint Panel 2/Compliance Committee Inter-sessional meeting (Seville, Spain, 18-21 February 2013) and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of the report of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment (Montreal, Canada, 26-28 June 2013) and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of the report of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions (Sapporo, Japan, 7-9 July 2013)
9. Review of the report of the Working Group on the Convention Amendment (Sapporo, Japan, 10-12 July 2013) and consideration of any necessary actions
10. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
11. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Assistance to developing coastal states and capacity building
15. Cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations.
16. Inter-sessional meetings in 2014
17. Election of Chair and vice-chairs
18. Other matters
19. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
20. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS\*****CONTRACTING PARTIES****Commission Chairman****Miyahara**, Masanori

Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907; Tel: +81 3 3591 2045, Fax: +81 3 3502 0571, E-Mail: masanori\_miyahara1@nm.maff.go.jp

**SCRS Chairman****Santiago Burrutxaga**, JosuSCRS Chairman - Head of Tuna Research Area, AZTI-Tecnalia, Txatxarramendi z/g, 48395 Sukarrieta (Bizkaia) España  
Tel: +34 94 6574000 (Ext. 497); 664303631, Fax: +34 94 6572555, E-Mail: jsantiago@azti.es; flarrauri@azti.es**ALBANIA****Grabocka**, Denis S. \*Pergjegjes i GIS dhe Arkives Elektronike, Drejtoria e Politikave dhe Manaxhimit te Ujerave, Ministria e Mjedisit, Pyjeve dhe Administrimit te UjeraveRruga e Durrësit, Nr. 27, 1001 Tiranë  
Tel: +355(0)672040040, E-Mail: denis.grabocka@moe.gov.al**ANGOLA****Talanga**, Miguel \*Assesseur auprès du Cabinet de la Coopération Internationale, Ministère de la Pêche, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, 26 - Edifício Atlântico, Luanda  
Tel: +244 923 606656, Fax: +244 912 488340, E-Mail: talangamiguel@hotmail.com; dielobaka@hotmail.com**Kilongo N'singi**, KumbiInstituto Nacional de Investigaçao Pesqueira, Rua Murthala Mohamed; C. Postal 2601, Ilha de Luanda  
Tel: +244 2 30 90 77, Fax: E-Mail: kkilongo@gmail.com**ALGERIA****Neghli**, Kamel \*Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et Océaniques, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Rue des Quatre Canons, 16000 Alger  
Tel: +213 21 43 3946, Fax: +213 21 43 3938, E-Mail: cc@mpeche.gov.dz; kamel.neghli.ces@gmail.com**Aggab**, ChoaiBPrésident de la Chambre Algérienne de la Pêche et Aquaculture, BP 197, Alger Port, Alger  
Tel: +213 661 701 360, Fax: +213 4338 1819, E-Mail: mohamed.kacher@gmail.com**Kacher**, MohamedDirecteur du Centre National de la Recherche et de Développement de la Pêche et de l'Agriculture, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Centre National de la Recherche et du Développement de la Pêche et de L'Agriculture 11, Bd. Colonel Amirouche, Bou Isrnail Tipaza  
Tel: +213 661 612 638; 0777960227, Fax: +213 244 62377, E-Mail: mohamed.kacher@gmail.com**Lounis**, SamiaSous-directrice de L'Aménagement et de la Gestion des Ressources Halieutiques, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Rue des Quatre Canons, 16000 Alger  
Tel: +213 21 43 39 42, Fax: +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz; abdounsamia@yahoo.fr**BELIZE****Robinson**, Robert \*Deputy Director, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks, Belize City  
Tel: +501 22 35026, Fax: +501 22 35070, E-Mail: deputydirector.bhsfu@gmail.com; bhsfu.gob@gmail.com**Corrado**, DiegoAmaro Pesca SeaFood, Southern Hemisphere Delegation, Mones Roses 5929, 11500 Carrasco, Montevideo, Uruguay  
Tel: +598 9371 0333, Fax: +5982 508 9821, E-Mail: diegocorrado@etcharat.com.uy

\* Head Delegate.

**Etchart Miranda, Jorge Nelson**

Amaro Pesca SeaFood, Southern Hemisphere Delegation, Mones Roses 5929, 11500 Carrasco, Montevideo, Uruguay  
Tel: +598 2 915 2235, Fax: +5982 915 2236, E-Mail: etchart@amaro.es

**Pinkard, Delice**

Senior High seas Fisheries Officer, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize Suite 204  
Marina Towers, Newtown Barracks, Belice City  
Tel: +1 501 22 35026, Fax: +1 501 22 35070, E-Mail: fishingadmin@immarbe.com; sr.fishofficer.bhsfu@gmail.com

**Velasquez, Patricia**

Macosnar Corporation, Ricardo J. Alfaro Ave., El Dorado 16 West Street, Office 16, Panamá  
Tel: +5072790145, Fax: +5072364591, E-Mail: patriciavelasquez@macosnar.com

**BRAZIL****Boëchat de Almeida, Barbara \***

Ministry of External Relations, Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco G, Brasília  
Tel: 55 61 20308622, E-Mail: barbara.boechat@itamaraty.gov.br

**Dias Neto, José**

Coordenador-Geral, Directoria de Fauna e Recursos Pesqueros, Instituto Brasileiro del Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos  
Naturales Renováveis SCEN Trecho 02 Edifício Sede do IBAMA, Bloco "B" - Terreo, CEP: 70818-900 Brasília Lago Norte  
Tel: +55 61 3316 1685, Fax: +55 61 3316 1238, E-Mail: jose.dias-neto@ibama.gov.br

**Filho, Mutsuo Asano**

Head of the Department of Planning and Management for Industrial Fishing, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, SBS,  
Quadra 02 Lote 10 Bloco "J", Ed. Carlton Tower-5º Andar, CEP: 70070-120 Brasília, DF  
Tel: +55 61 2023 3569, Fax: +55 61 2023 3907, E-Mail: mutsuo.filho@mpa.gov.br; correspondente.estadistico@mpa.gov.br

**Hazin, Fabio H.V.**

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Rua Desembargador  
Célio de Castro Montenegro, 32 - Apto 1702, Monteiro Recife Pernambuco  
Tel: +55 81 3320 6500, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@depaq.ufrpe.br; fvhvazin@terra.com.br

**Hazin, Humberto Gomes**

Associate Professor, Universidade Federal Rural do Semi-Árido - UFRSA, Departamento de Licencias Animais SBS  
Quadra 02 lote 10 bloco "J" - Ed. Carlton Tower, CEP: 59 625-900 Massoró - RN  
Tel: +55 81 3320 6500, Fax: +55 81 3320 6501, E-Mail: hghazin@hotmail.com

**Travassos, Paulo**

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE, Laboratorio de Ecologia Marinha - LEMAR, Departamento de Pesca  
e Aqüicultura - DEPAq Avenida Dom Manoel Medeiros s/n, Dois Irmaos, CEP 52.171-900 Recife Pernambuco  
Tel: +55 81 3320 6511, Fax: +55 81 3320 6515, E-Mail: p.travassos@depaq.ufrpe.br

**CANADA****Scattolon, Faith \***

Regional Director-General, Maritimes Region, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 176 Portland Street, Dartmouth, Nova  
Scotia B2Y 1J3  
Tel: +1 902 426 2581, Fax: +1 902 426 5034, E-Mail: scattolonf@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Anderson, Lorraine**

Legal Officer, Oceans and Environmental Law Division, Foreign Affairs Trade, and Development, Canada, 125 Sussex,  
Drive, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0G2  
Tel: +1 613 944 0747, Fax: +1 613 992 6483, E-Mail: lorraine.Anderson@international.gc.ca

**Drake, Kenneth**

Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Associations, P.O. Box 154, 43 Coffin Rd., Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island COA  
ISO  
Tel: +1 902 961 3341, Fax: +1 902 961 3341, E-Mail: kendrake@eastlink.ca

**Elsworth, Samuel G.**

South West Nova Tuna Association, 228 Empire Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia B4V 2M5  
Tel: +1 902 543 6457, Fax: +1 902 543 7157, E-Mail: sam.fish@ns.sympatico.ca

**Fraser, James Douglas**

Industry Commissioner, Huntley R.R. #2 - Alberton, Prince Edward Island  
Tel: +1 902 853 2793, Fax: +1 902 853 2793, E-Mail: dougfraser@bellaliant.com

**Lapointe, Sylvie**

Director, Fisheries Management Plans, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 6853, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: sylvie.lapointe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Lester, Brian**

Manager, Fisheries Management Plans, 200 Kent Street, Station 135026, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 990 0090, Fax: +1 613 990 7051, E-Mail: brian.lester@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**MacLean, Allan**

Director General, Conservation & Protection, Fisheries & Oceans Maritimes Region, 200 Kent Street, 13th floor; Station, 13 w 116, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 1414, Fax: +1 613 941 2718, E-Mail: allan.maclean@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Melvin, Gary**

Biological Station - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 2L9  
Tel: +1 506 529 5874, Fax: +1 506 529 5862, E-Mail: gary.melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Norton, Brett**

Advisor, International Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 1860, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: Brett.Norton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Walsh, Ray**

Regional Manager, Newfoundland and Labrador Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 80 East White Hills Road, P.O. Box 5667, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5X1  
Tel: +1 709 772 4472, Fax: +1 709 772 3628, E-Mail: ray.walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Whelan, Christie**

Center for Science Advice, Maritimes Region, Fisheries and Oceans, 1 Challenger Drive, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4A2  
Tel: +1902 426 9920, E-Mail: christie.whelan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**CAPE VERDE**

**Tavares, Antonio Carlos \***

Conseiller auprès du Secrétaire d'Etat des Ressources Marines, Praia  
Tel: +238 260 8326, Fax: +238 262 1453, E-Mail: antonio.c.tavares@mtie.gov.cv;

**Marques da Silva Monteiro, Vanda**

Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento das Pescas, Cova de Inglesa, C.P. 132, Mindelo Sao Vicente  
Tel: +238 232 13 73, Fax: +238 232 16 16, E-Mail: vanda.monteiro@indp.gov.cv

**CHINA (People's Rep.)**

**Liu, Xiaobing \***

Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Division of International Cooperation, Bureau of Fisheries, No. 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing  
Tel: +86 10 591 92928, Fax: +86 10 59192973, E-Mail: inter-coop@agri.gov.cn; Xiaobing.Liu@hotmail.com

**Bai, Guang**

General Director of Tuna Longliner Dept., China National Fisheries Corp., Building 19, Block 18, 188 West Road, South 4th Ring Road, 100070 Beijing Fengtai District  
E-Mail: guosihua@cnfc.com.cn

**Liu, Yu**

Qingdao Furui Fisheries Co., Ltd, 2-1502, 19 Fuzhounan Rd., 266071 Qingdao  
Tel: +86 532 203 2962, Fax: +86 532 289 4024, E-Mail: yuki-l@hotmail.com

**Sun, Renan**

Second Secretary, Department of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs No.2 Chao Yang Men Nan Da Jie, Beijing  
E-Mail: admin1@tuna.org.cn

**Wei, Xi Feng**

Vice- General Manager, Fuzhou Honglong Deep-Sea Fisheries Co., Ltd., 2-1502, 19 Fuzhounan Rd., 266071 Qingdao  
Tel: +86 532 8585 3551, Fax: +86 532 8585 3552, E-Mail: weixifen@vip.163.com

**Wu, Chenqi**

Third Secretary, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, No. 2 Chao Yang Men Nan Da Jie, Beijing  
E-Mail: admin1@tuna.org.cn

**Zhang, Yun Bo**

Assistant to Secretary-General, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room 1216, Jing Chao Mansion, No 5, Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing  
Tel: +86 10 6585 0667, Fax: +86 10 6585 0551, E-Mail: admin1@tuna.org.cn

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE****Shep, Helguilè \***

Directeur de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques, Rue des Pêcheurs, B.P. V-19, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 21 35 61 69 / 21 35 04 09, Mobile:+225 07 61 92 21, E-Mail: shelguile@yahoo.fr;

**Kouakou Kouassi, André**

Chargé de Mission du Ministre, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, B.P. V-82, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 20 22 99 27, Fax: +225 20 229 919, E-Mail: kouassikandre@yahoo.fr

**Adjoumani, Kobenan Kouassi**

Ministre des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, B.P. 5521, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 20 22 99 27, Fax: +225 20 224 156, E-Mail: adjoumane.kouassi@yahoo.fr

**Ceverin, Yoboua Kouabenan****Diaha, N'Guessan Constance**

Chercheur au Centre de Recherches Océanologiques, Ministère l'Enseignement Supérieur et Recherche Scientifique, 29 Rue des Pêcheurs, B.P. V-18, Abidjan 01  
Tel: +225 2135 5880, Fax: +225 2135 1155, E-Mail: diahaconstance@yahoo.fr;constance.diaha@cro-ci.org

**Fofana, Bina**

Sous Directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, B.P. V19, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr

**Gago, Chelom Niho**

Directeur du Service des Affaires Juridiques et de la Coopération Internationale, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 0621 3021, Fax: +225 21 35 63 15, e-mail: gagoniho@yahoo.fr

**Kadjo, Bomo Solange**

Chef de Département, Direction du Port de Pêche Abidjan, Port Autonome, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 21 23 89 40, Fax: +225 07 03 75 19, e-mail: aka.marina@yahoo.fr

**Kesse Gbéta, Paul-Hervé**

Coordinateur du Programme d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Ressources Halieutiques (PAGDRH), Ministère des Ressources et Halieutiques, B.P. V19, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 21 25 28 83//225 0806 1029, Fax: +225 21 350 409, E-Mail: paul\_kesse1@yahoo.fr

**Koffi, Amani Georges Lopez**

Chargé de Communication du Ministre, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, B.P 5521, Abidjan  
E-Mail: secagri@africaonline.co.ci

**Yao Datté, Jacques**

Secrétaire Exécutif du Comité d'Administration du Régime Franc, 20 B.P. 947, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 21 252646, Fax: +225 2125 2446, E-Mail: dattejy@gmx.net

**EGYPT****Mohamed Ahmed, Mahmoud Hussein \***

Chairman, General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4, Tayaran St., Nasr City, El Cairo  
Tel: +202 22620130, Fax: +202 22620117, E-Mail: gafrd\_eg@hotmail.com

**AbdEl Nabi**, Mohamed Ibrahim

General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4 Tayaran St., Nasr City, El Cairo  
Tel: +202 226 20118, Fax: +202 226 20117, E-Mail: agre\_gafrd@yahoo.com

**Kamal Mikhail**, Magdi

General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4 Tayaran St., Nasr City, El Cairo  
Tel: +202 226 20117, Fax: +202 226 20130, E-Mail: agre\_gafrd@yahoo.com

**Mahmoud**, M. Ali Madani

G.D.of the International Agreements Dept., General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4 Tayaran St., Nasr City, El Cairo  
Tel: +202 222620130, Fax: +202 222620117, E-Mail: madani\_gafrd@yahoo.com

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

**Nguema Asangono**, Mariano \*

Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente, Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros Zona Malabo II (Edificio Ministerial), Bloko Norte, Malabo  
Tel: +240 222 201072, E-Mail: marianonguemaasangono@yahoo.es

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**Depypere**, Stefaan \*

Director, International Affairs and Markets, European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Rue Joseph II 99; 03/10, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: + 322 299 07 13, Fax: +322 296 59512, E-Mail: stefaan.depypere@ec.europa.eu

**Addison**, James

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 07584 509 548, E-Mail: james.addison@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**Alcaraz Sanchez**, Yves Raymond

Federation of European Aquaculture Producers - FEAP Secretariat, Los Marines - La Palma Km. 7, 30593 Cartagena, España  
Tel: +34 609 676 316, E-Mail: ivo@ricardofuentes.com

**Aldereguía**, Carlos

Executive Secretary, Consejo Consultivo Regional de Flota Comunitaria de Aguas Lejanas, C/ Doctor Fleming, 7, 2º Dcha., 28036 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 4323623, Fax: E-Mail: carlos.aldereguia@lrdac.eu

**Amigo Chouciño**, Genaro

Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores, c/Barquillo, 7 - 1º dcha., 28004 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 531 9804, Fax: +34 91 531 6320, E-Mail: fncp@fncp.e.telefonica.net

**Ansell**, Neil

European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain  
Tel: +34 986 120 658, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

**Aroca Labernia**, Anna-Maria

European Commission DG MARE-B1, Office J 99 - 03/10, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 1303, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: anna-maria.aroca-labernia@ec.europa.eu

**Azkue Mugica**, Leandro

Federación de Cofradías de Guipúzcoa, Paseo Miracóncha, 9 Bajo, 20007 Donostia, Spain  
Tel: +34 943 451782, Fax: +34 943 455833, E-Mail: leandro@fecopegui.net; fecopegui@fecopegui.net

**Azzopardi**, Charles

Managing Director, Malta Federation of Aquaculture Producers, Mosta Road, St. Paul's Bay, SPB 3111 Valletta, Malta  
Tel: +356 2157 1148; +356 9949 6706, Fax: +356 2157 6017, E-Mail:

**Barbat**, Marie

Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Voltaire, Place des Degrés, 92055 Cedex La Défense, France  
Tel: +33 1 49 558 285; +33 670 479 224, Fax: E-Mail: Marie.Barbat@developpement-durable.gouv.fr  
Marie.Barbat@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

**Batista, Emilia**

Direção Geral dos Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Av. De Brasília, 1449-030, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 21 303 5850, Fax: +351 21 303 5922, E-Mail: ebatista@dgrm.min-agricultura.pt

**Belardinelli, Mauro**

European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, ATR 01 K 89, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 228 4826, Fax: +32 228 4909, E-Mail: mauro.belardinelli@ep.europa.eu

**Berenguer, Ana Rita**

Direção de Serviços de Recursos, Av. Brasília, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351213035885, Fax: +351213035965, E-Mail: aveiga@dgrm.mamaot.pt

**Bigot, Cécile**

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, 3 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 01 4955 8202, Fax: +33 1 4955 8210, E-Mail: cecile.bigot@agriculture.gouv.fr

**Boy Carmona, Esther**

Jefa de Servicio de la SG de Inspección de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca C/ Velázquez, 144 - 3º, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 1835, Fax: +34 91 3471512, E-Mail: esboycarm@magrama.es

**Brull Cuevas, Mª Carmen**

Panchilleta, S.L.U.; Pesquerías Elorz, S.L.U., Cala Pepo, 7, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar, Spain  
Tel: +34 977 456 783, E-Mail: carne@panchilleta.es

**Cárdenas González, Enrique**

Subdirector General de Protección de los Recursos pesqueros, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca C/ Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 6110, Fax: +34 91 347 6037, E-Mail: edecarde@magrama.es

**Ciuraneta Riu, Jordi**

Dirección General de Pesca y Asuntos Marítimos, Generalitat de Catalunya, Avda. Diagonal, 523 - 5ª planta, 08029 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: +34 93 4445002, Fax: +34 93 419 3205, E-Mail: dg05.daam@gencat.cat

**Conte, Fabio**

Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC VIViale dell'Arte 16, 00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5908 4915, Fax: +39 06 5908 4176, E-Mail: f.conte@mpaaf.gov.it

**Costa, Luís**

Secretaria Regional Recursos Naturais, Direção Regional das Pescas 9900-014 Horta, Portugal  
Tel: +351 916180447, E-Mail: luis.fm.costa@azores.gov.pt

**Crespo Sevilla, Diego**

Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almadra, c/Luis de Morales 32 - Edificio Forum - Planta 3; mod 31, 41018 Seville, Spain  
Tel: +34 95 498 7938, Fax: +34 95 498 8692, E-Mail: opp51@atundealmadraba.com

**D'Ambrosio, Marco**

European Commission, DG MARE-B1, Rue Joseph II - 99; 03/66, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 299 3765, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marco.DAMBROSIO@ec.europa.eu

**Daniel, Patrick**

Commission européenne - DG Mare Unité - B3, J-99 02/53, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 229 554 58, Fax: E-Mail: patrick.daniel@ec.europa.eu

**De Lambert des Granges, Philippe**

Direction de Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture; Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire, 3 Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris 07 SP, France  
Tel: +33 1 49 55 8221, Fax: +33 1 4955 8200, E-Mail: philippe.de-lambert-des-granges@developpement-

**Debieuvre, Marie**

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG MARE B1, Rue Joseph II, 99/03/62, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 2184, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marie.DEBIEUVRE@ec.europa.eu

**Domínguez Díaz, Carlos**

Secretario General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca c/Velázquez 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 6010, Fax: +34 91 347 6012, E-Mail: sgpesmar@magrama.es

**Donatella, Fabrizio**

European Commission, Head of Unit DG MARE-D2 (Conservation and control - Mediterranean and Black Sea), Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II, 99 6/61, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 8038, Fax: +322 295 1433, E-Mail: fabrizio.donatella@ec.europa.eu

**Earle, Michaël**

Green Group in the European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, 1047 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 284 2849, E-Mail: michael.earle@europarl.europa.eu

**Fenech Farrugia, Andreina**

Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ghammieri, Marsa, Malta  
Tel: +356 22031 248, Fax: +356 220 31246, E-Mail: andreina.fenech-farrugia@gov.mt

**Fernández Aguirre, Antonio**

European Commission, DG MARE-B1, Rue Joseph II - 99; 03/54, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 295 1611, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: antonio.fernandez-aguirre@ec.europa.eu

**Fernández Asensio, Pablo Ramón**

Xefe de Coordinación da Área do Mar, Xunta de Galicia, Consellería do Medio Rural e do Mar, Avenida Ramón Canosa, s/n, 27863 Celeiro-Viveiro, Spain  
Tel: +34 982 555 002; móvil 650 701879, Fax: +34 982 555 005, E-Mail: pablo.ramon.fernandez.asensio@xunta.es

**Folque Socorro, Miguel Raul**

Real Atunara, SA, Av. Da República, Lote 2 R/C B, 8700-281 Olhao, Portugal  
Tel: +351 963 559562, E-Mail: m.r.f.socorro@hotmail.com; geral.atunara@hotmail.com

**Fonteneau, Alain**

9, Bd Porée, 35400 Saint Malo, Francia  
Tel: +33 4 99 57 3200, Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95, E-Mail: alain.fonteneau@ird.fr

**Fraga Estévez, Carmen**

Presidenta de la Comisión de Pesca del Parlamento Europeo, Parlamento Europeo, Rue Wiertz 60, ASP 11E 102, 1047 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 284 5239, Fax: +322 284 9239, E-Mail: carmen.fragaestevez@ep.europa.eu

**Franicevic, Vlasta**

Head of Unit Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries Ivana Mazuranica 30, 23000 Zadar, Croacia  
Tel: +385 23 309 820, Fax: +385 23 309 830, E-Mail: mps-uprava-ribarstva@zd.t-com.hr

**Fuentes García, José**

Ricardo Fuentes e Hijos, S.A., Plaza del Rey, 8 -6º, 30201 Cartagena, Spain  
Tel: +34 968 520 582, Fax: +34 968 505 481, E-Mail: rfuentes@ricardofuentes.com

**Gaertner, Daniel**

I.R.D. UR n° 109 Centre de Recherche Halieutique Méditerranéenne et Tropicale, Avenue Jean Monnet - B.P. 171, 34203 Sète Cedex, France  
Tel: +33 4 99 57 32 31, Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95, E-Mail: gaertner@ird.fr

**Gatto, Emilio**

Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC VIViale dell'Arte 16, 00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 0646656618, Fax: E-Mail: e.gatto@mpaaf.gov.it

**Giovannone, Vittorio**

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generali della Pesca Marittima e dell'acquacoltura - PEMAC VIViale dell'Arte 16, 00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5908 4915, Fax: +39 06 5908 4176, E-Mail: v.giovannone@mpaaf.gov.it

**González Gil de Bernabé, José Manuel**

Secretario General, Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores, C/ Barquillo, 7 - 1º Dcha., 28004 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 531 9801, Fax: +3491 531 6320, E-Mail: fncp@fncp.e.telefonica.net

**Goujon, Michel**

ORTHONGEL, 11 bis Rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France  
Tel: +33 2 9897 1957, Fax: +33 2 9850 8032, E-Mail: orthongel@orthongel.fr

**Hahn, Hanna**

European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit D2, Mediterranean and Black Sea  
J99/6-72 – 56, Rue de lo Loi, 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 296 0337, E-Mail: hanna.hahn@ec.europa.eu

**Jansons, Nils**

1 Greenpark Estates, 27 George Storrar Drive, Groenkloof, 0181, South Africa  
Tel: +073 204 1924, Fax: +27 12 460 9923; E-Mail: nils.jansons@eeas.europa.eu

**Kucic, Ljubomir**

Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Directorate of Fisheries Ulica Grada  
Vukovara, 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 1 610 6577, Fax: +385 1 610 6558, E-Mail: miro.kucic@mps.hr

**Labanauskas, Aivaras**

Deputy Director, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of Agriculture of the  
Republic of Lithuania, Fisheries Department Gedimino Av. 19, LT-01103 Vilnius, Lithuania  
Tel: +370 5 239 8403, Fax: +370 5 239 1212, E-Mail: aivaras@zum.lt

**Lanza, Alfredo**

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generali della Pesca Marittima e dell'acquacoltura -  
PEMAC VIViale dell'Arte 16, 00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5908 4915, Fax: +39 06 5908 4176, E-Mail: a.lanza@mpaaf.gov.it

**Larzabal, Serge**

Président, Commission Thon Rouge, CNPMEM Syndicat Marins CGT, 12 Quai Pascal Elissalt, 64500 Ciboure Cedex,  
France  
Tel: +33 6 80 21 19 95, Fax: +33 5 59 47 05 39, E-Mail: serge.larzabal@yahoo.fr

**Le Compte, Triene-Mie**

Council of the European Union, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175, B-1048 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 473 85 22 54, E-Mail: triene.mie.le-compte@consilium.europa.eu

**Lesueur, Sylvain**

European Fisheries Control Agency - CFCA, Senior Coordinator of Operations C/García Barbon, 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain  
Tel: +34 986 120 660, E-Mail: sylvain.lesueur@efca.europa.eu

**Lizcano Palomares, Antonio**

Subdirector Adjunto de la Subdirección General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Ministerio de  
Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, c/Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 5079, E-Mail: alizcano@magrama.es

**Longueira Suarez, Jesús Ramón**

Muelle Pesquero, Puerto del Son, 15970 La Coruña, Spain  
Tel: 0034 981 76 73 21, Fax: 0034 981 76 75 67, E-Mail: fpcpcoruna@telefonica.net

**Martín Fragueiro, Juan Carlos**

Puerto Pesquero s/n, 36900 Marin, Spain  
Tel: +34 986 882 169, Fax: +34 986 880750, E-Mail: jcmartin@opromar.e.telefonica.net

**Martínez Cañabate, David Ángel**

ANATUN, Urbanización La Fuensanta 2, 30157 Algeciras, Spain  
Tel: +34 968 554141, Fax: +34 91 791 2662, E-Mail: es.anatun@gmail.com

**Mato Adrover, Gabriel**

Chair of the Fisheries Committee, Member of the European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, ASP 11E102, 1047 Brussels,  
Belgium  
Tel: +322 284 5237, Fax: +322 284 9237, E-Mail: Gabriel.mato@ep.europa.eu

**Mc Caffrey, Lesley Ann**

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Park Road, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, Ireland  
Tel: +353 87 692 4142, Fax: +353 23 885 9720, E-Mail: lesley.mccaffrey@sfpa.ie

**Moreno Blanco, Carlos**

Subdirector General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente C/ Velázquez 144, 2ª planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 6041, Fax: +34 91 347 6042, E-Mail: cmorenob@magrama.es

**Morikawa, Hirofumi**

TUNIPEX, Apartado 456, 8700-914 Olhão, Portugal  
Tel: +351 28 972 3610, Fax: +351 28 972 3611, E-Mail: info@tunipex.eu

**Morón Ayala, Julio**

Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores-OPAGAC, c/Ayala, 54 - 2ªA, 28001 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 435 3137, Fax: +34 91 576 1222, E-Mail: opagac@arrakis.es

**Nader, Gelare**

Dutch National Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Directorate-General AgroPrins Clauslaan 8, 2595 AJ The Hague, Netherlands  
Tel: +3170 3785457, E-Mail: g.nader@mineleni.nl

**Navarro Cid, Juan José**

Grupo Balfegó, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó43860 L'Ametlla de Mar, Spain  
Tel: +34 977 047700, Fax: +34 977 457 812, E-Mail: juanjo@grupbalfego.com

**Oberholzer, Frank**

1 Greenpark Estates, 27 George Storrar Drive, Groenkloof, 0181, South Africa  
Tel: +012 452 5200, E-Mail: frank.oberholzer@eeas.europa.eu

**Olaskoaga Susperregui, Andrés**

Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Guipúzcoa, Paseo de Miraconcha, 29, 20007 San Sebastian, Spain  
Tel: +34 94 345 1782, Fax: +34 94 345 5833, E-Mail: fecopegui@fecopegui.net

**Papaconstantinou, Andreas**

Membre du Cabinet, Commission européenne CAB Damanaki - Affaires Maritimes et Pêche, Berl 09/127, Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 298 2008, Fax: +322 298 2098, E-Mail: andreas.papaconstantinou@ec.europa.eu

**Paz Setién, Enrique**

Federación, C/ Andrés del Río, 7 - P2-B, 39004 Santander, Spain  
Tel: +34 942 215970, Fax: +34 942 212487, E-Mail: federacion@fecopesca.es

**Pereira, Joao Gil**

Universida de dos Açores, Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas 9900 Horta, Azores, Portugal  
Tel: +351 292 200 406, Fax: +351 292 200 411, E-Mail: pereira@uac.pt

**Pérez Martín, Margarita**

Directora General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Consejería de Agricultura y Pesca, Junta de Andalucía, c/Tabladilla, s/n, 41071 Sevilla, Spain  
Tel: +34 95 503 2262, Fax: +34 95 503 2142, E-Mail: margarita.perez.martin@juntadeandalucia.es

**Peyronnet, Arnaud**

European Commission DG MARE D2, JII - 99 06/56Rue de lo Loi, 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

**Piccinetti, Corrado**

Director, Laboratorio di Biologia Marina e Pesca di Fano; Dip. To B.E.S., Università degli Studi di Bologna Viale Adriatico, 1/n, 61032 Fano (PU), Italy  
Tel: +39 329 221 0854, Fax: +39 0721 801654, E-Mail: corrado.piccinetti@unibo.it

**Pilz, Christiane**

Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz Wilhelmstrabe 54, 10117 Berlin, Germany  
Tel: +49 301 8529 3236, Fax: +49 228 99 529 4084, E-Mail: Christiane.Pilz@BMELV.Bund.de

**Pintos López, Juan Antonio**  
 ORPAGU, c/ Manuel Álvarez 16 - bajo, 36780 La Guardia, Spain  
 Tel: +34 986 611341, Fax: +34 986 61 1667, E-Mail: direccion@orpagu.com

**Portelli, Susan**  
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Ghammieri, Ngiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta  
 Tel: +356 229 21259, Fax: +356 229 21222, E-Mail: susan.a.portelli@gov.mt

**Riva, Yvon**  
 ORTHONGEL, 11bis, Rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France  
 Tel: +33 2 9897 1957, Fax: +33 2 9850 8032, E-Mail: orthongel@wanadoo.fr

**Roche, Thomas**  
 Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Voltaire, Place des Degrés, 92055 Cedex La Défense, France  
 Tel: 0033 1 40 81 97 51, Fax: 0033 1 40 81 86 56, E-Mail: thomas.roche@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

**Rodríguez-Sahagún González, Juan Pablo**  
 Gerente Adjunto, ANABAC, c/ Txibitxiaga, 24, entreplanta apartado 49, 48370 Bermeo, Spain  
 Tel: +34 94 688 2806; 627454864, Fax: +34 94 688 5017, E-Mail: anabac@anabac.org

**Romeva i Rueda, Raül**  
 Parlamento Europeo, PE - ASP 8G253, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium  
 Tel: +322 2845645, Fax: +322 284 9645, E-Mail: raul.romevairueda@ep.europa.eu

**Romiti, Gérard**  
 134 Avenue Malakoff, 75116 Paris, France  
 Tel: +33 17 271 1800, Fax: +33 17 271 1850, E-Mail: egelard@comite-peches.fr

**Santos, Miguel Neves**  
 Instituto Portugues do Mar e da Atmosfera -I.P./IPMA, Avenida 5 Outubro s/n, 8700-305 Olhão, Portugal  
 Tel: +351 289 700 504, Fax: +351 289 700 535, E-Mail: mnsantos@ipma.pt

**Santos Padilla, Ana**  
 Org. Prod. Pesqueros de Almadraba (OPP-51), Avda. Luis de Morales, 32 - Planta 3ª - Modulo 31, 41018 Sevilla, Spain  
 Tel: + 34 954 987 938; 672 134 677, Fax: +34 954 988 692, E-Mail: anasantos@atundealmadraba.com

**Scannapieco, Raphaël**  
 Vice-Président de la Commission Thon rouge du CNPMM, Organisation des producteurs SATHOAN, Société Coopérative maritime des Pêcheurs de Sète-Mole28 Promenade JB Marty, 34200 Sète, France  
 Tel: +33 4 67 46 0415, Fax: +33 4 67 74 90 71, E-Mail: raphael.scannapieco@wanadoo.fr

**Spezzani, Aronne**  
 Head of Sector, Fisheries Control in International Waters - DG MARE-B3 J79-2/214, European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
 Tel: +322 295 9629, Fax: +322 296 3985, E-Mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

**Ulloa Alonso, Edelmiro**  
 ANAPA/ARPOAN Puerto Pesquero, Edificio Cooperativa de Armadores, Puerto Pesquero s/n, 36202 Vigo, Spain  
 Tel: +34 986 43 38 44, Fax: +34 986 43 92 18, E-Mail: edelmiro@arvi.org

**Van de Geer, Roeland**  
 1 Greenpark Estates, 27 George Storrar Drive, Groenkloof, 0181, South Africa  
 Tel: +27 21 788 040 037, Fax: +27 12 460 9923

**Vázquez Pérez, Iván**  
 Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, C/ Velázquez, 147, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
 Tel: +34 6226 88289, E-Mail: ivazquez@magrama.es

**Veits, Veronika**  
 Head of Unit MARE-B1, European Commission, Rue Joseph II Office J-99, 03/92, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium  
 Tel: +32 2 296 7224, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: veronika.veits@ec.europa.eu

**Vidal Martínez Anido, Irene**  
 European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, 60 ASP 11E140, 1047 Brussels, Belgium  
 Tel: +322 283 7239, Fax: +322 284 9239, E-Mail: irene.vidal@ep.europa.eu

**Vidovic, Bozena**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Ulica Grada Vukovara 78 -P.O. 1034, 10000 Zagreb, Croacia  
Tel: +385 21 308 202, Fax: +385 21 308 218, E-Mail: bozena.vidovic@mps.hr

**Vizcarro Gianni, Marius**

Federació Nacional Catalana de Confraries de Pescadors, C/ Casanova, 3 -5- 7 entresol 3ª, 08011 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: +34 934 260289, E-Mail: fbcco@fnccp.e.telefonica.net

**Wall, Frank**

Director, Council of the European Commission, 175 Rue de la Loi, Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 281 8055, Fax: E-Mail: frank.wall@consilium.europa.eu

**Wendling, Bertrand**

SaThoAn - Cap St. Louis 3B, 29 Promenade JB Marty, 34200 Sète, France  
Tel: +33 6 0332 8977, Fax: +33 4 6746 0513, E-Mail: bwen@wandoo.fr

**Weynants, Lucy**

PA to Director S. Depypere, Directorate International Affairs And Markets, European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG MARE-B, Rue Joseph II, 99 - 3/16, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 295 43 62, Fax: +32 2 296 5951, E-Mail: lucy.weynants@ec.europa.eu

**FRANCE (ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON)**

**Artano, Stéphane \***

Président du Conseil Territorial de St. Pierre & Miquelon, Conseil Territorial, Place François Maurer, B.P. 4208, 97500 St. Pierre et Miquelon  
Tel: +5 08 41 01 02, Fax: +5 08 41 22 97, E-Mail: president@ct975.fr; sram.pole-maritime.dtam-975@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr; rachel.disnard@ct975.fr

**Avallone, Jean-Marie**

Route Du Sucre, 34300 Le Grau d'Agde Agde  
Tel: +33 4 67 210034, Fax: +33 4 67 210034, E-Mail: armement.avallone@hotmail.fr

**de Guillebon, Amaury**

Chef du Pôle Maritime, Direction des Territoires, de l'Alimentation et de la mer de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, 1, rue Gloanec B.P. 4206, 97500 Saint Pierre et Miquelon  
Tel: 508 551556, Fax: 508 414834, E-Mail: amaury.de-guillebon@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr

**Fages, Matthieu**

Pêcheur, Armement Avallone, Route Du Sucre, 34300 Le Grau d'Agde, France  
Tel: 0033 6 19 630362, E-Mail: armementavallone@orange.fr

**Gelard, Emilie**

Chargée de Mission au Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins, CNPMM, 134, Avenue Malakoff, 75016 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 1 7271 1806, Fax: +33 1 7271 1850, E-Mail: egelard@comite-peches.fr

**Philippeau, Jean-Marc**

Chargé de mission affaires internationales, DPMA - Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture, Subdirector for Fisheries Resources, European and International Tour Voltaire, 1 place des Degrés, 92055 Cédex La Défense, France  
Tel: +33 1 40818986, Fax: +33 1 40818656, E-Mail: jean-marc.philippeau@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

**Piton, Aldwin**

Armement Avallone, Pêcheur, Route Du Sucre, 34300 Le Grau d'Agde, France  
E-Mail: alwinpiton@hotmail.fr

**GABON**

**Doumambila, Jean de Dieu \***

Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, B.P. 9498, Libreville  
Tel: +241 76 80 07, E-Mail: doumambila\_bantsantsa@yahoo.fr

**Emane, Yves Armand**

Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, B.P. 9498, Libreville  
E-Mail: agpechegabon@netcourrier.com

**Philippe, Gourel de Saint Pern**

Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, B.P. 9498, Libreville  
Tel: +33608737739, E-Mail: philippe.saintpern@gmail.com

**Pulcherie**, Mengue M'adzaba Maganga  
 Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, B.P. 9498, Libreville  
 Tel: 00241 04411643, E-Mail: pulednam@yahoo.fr

#### **GHANA**

**Quaatey**, Samuel Nii K. \*  
 Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Commission, Ministry of Fisheries & Aquaculture Development, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra  
 Tel: +233 302 67 51 44, Fax: +233 302 675146, E-Mail: samquaatey@yahoo.com

**Aboagye**, Rebecca Amooh  
 Chief Director, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra  
 Tel: 233 277550445, Fax: E-Mail: sikadodoo54@yahoo.co.uk

**Agah**, Simon  
 National Fisheries Association of Ghana, P.O. Box Co 1157, Tema  
 Tel: +233 208 140 374, Fax: +233 303 204 137, E-Mail: simonagah@yahoo.com

**Agbeny**, Marian  
 Clear Skies Company Limited, P.O. Box SC 171, Tema  
 Tel: +233 262 312 211, Fax: +233 303 202 613, E-Mail: clearskies111@yahoo.com

**Asante**, Emmanuel  
 Myroc Food Processing Company Limited, P.O. Box SC 171, Tema  
 Tel: +233 244 335 285, Fax: +233 303 202 613, E-Mail: kofiacquah44@yahoo.co.uk

**Ayertey**, Samuel Boye  
 Trust Allied Fishing Ventures Ltd., P.O. Box CO-1384, Tema  
 Tel: +233 208 132660, Fax: +233 302 207826, E-Mail: ayerteysam@yahoo.com; trustallied@yahoo.co.uk

**Baidoo-Tsibu**, Godfrey  
 Ministry of Fisheries, Fisheries Commission P.O. Box GP 630, Accra  
 Tel: 233-24-4544204, E-Mail: godfreytsibu@yahoo.com; godfreytsibu.gbt@gmail.com

**Bannerman**, Paul  
 Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Fisheries Research Division P.O. Box BT 62, Tema  
 Tel: +233 244 794859, Fax: +233 302 208048, E-Mail: paulbann@hotmail.com

**Bilijo**, Nayon  
 Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra  
 Tel: +233244316832, E-Mail: bilijo@ymail.com

**Blankson**, Emmanuel  
 G.L Fisheries Ltd., P.O. Box CE 11992, Tema  
 Tel: +233 208 129 647, Fax: +233 303 201 214, E-Mail: emmanuelblankson70@yahoo.com

**Danso**, Emmanuel  
 Secretary, Ghana Tuna Association GTA, D-H Fisheries Co. LTD, P.O. Box 531, Tema, New Town  
 Tel: +233 303 216 733, Fax: +233 303 216 735, E-Mail: danso\_2@yahoo.com

**Elizabeth**, Nichol  
 P.O. Box 40 c/o Pioneer Food Cannoly, Ltd., Tema  
 Tel: +233 30 32 03442, Fax: +233 3032 04117, E-Mail: nichol.elizabeth@mwbrands.com

**Farmmer**, John Augustus  
 Executive Member, Ghana Tuna Association, Managing Director Agnespark Fisheries, P.O. Box CO1828, Tema  
 Tel: +233 202 113230, Fax: +233 303 301820, E-Mail: Johnebus63@gmail.com

**Hohagen**, Augusto  
 Fleet Director, Fishing Harbour, TTV Limited, P.O. Box CE 11254, Tema  
 Tel: +233544310593, E-Mail: augusto.hohagen@mwbrands.com

**Iriarte**, Federico  
 TTV Limited, Fishing Harbour Tema  
 Tel: 233 (0) 303205403, Fax: 233 (0) 303206218, E-Mail: federico.iriarte@mwbrands.com

**Kim, Sung Chul**

Ghana Tuna Association, Panofi Company, Ltd., P.O. Box TT 581, Tema  
Tel: +233 244 321 365, Fax: E-Mail: sancho@panofi.com

**Kwesi Aihoon, Frank**

Panofi Company Limited, P.O. Box TT-581, Tema  
Tel: +233 244 121221, Fax: +233 22 206435, E-Mail: fotcepain@yahoo.com

**Lee, Dong Uk**

Trust Amer Fishing Venturs. Ltd.  
Tel: +233 54 308 9508, Fax: +233 303 207826, E-Mail: trustallied@gmail.com

**Lee, Jae Weon**

D-H Fisheries Company Ltd., P.O. Box TT 531, Tema  
Tel: +233 303 216 733, Fax: +233 303 216 735, E-Mail: dhfjwlee@naver.com

**Mensah, Charles Yao**

Myroc Food Processing Ltd.  
Heavy Ind. Area  
Tel: 00244227070, E-Mail: ahdodri@yahoo.com

**Nketsia, Joseph Kow**

Treasurer, National Fisheries Association of Ghana, P.O. Box CS 8008, Tema  
Tel: +233 208 239126, Fax: +233 303 206 534, E-Mail: jknketsia@gmail.com

**Okyere, Nicholas**

Managing Director, Panofi Company Ltd., President, Ghana Tuna Association, P.O. Box TT-581, Tema  
Tel: +233 22 210061, Fax: +233 22 206101, E-Mail: nkokyere@yahoo.com.uk

**Okyere, Prince**

Panofi Fishing Company, Ltd., P.O. Box TT 581, Tema  
Tel: +233 542 523 895, Email: nkokyere@yahoo.co.uk

**Peng-Yir, Nemorius**

Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra  
Tel: +233 208 149 687, E-Mail: npengyir@yahoo.com

**Tackey, Andrews**

Afko Fisheries Company, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 688, Tema  
Tel: +233 244 387 186, Fax: +233 264 116 316

**Tackey, Miltiades Godfrey**

President, National Fisheries Associations of Ghana, P.O. Box CO 1157, Tema  
Tel: +233 20 8111530, Fax: +233 27 7602 834, E-Mail: niitackey@nafagfish.org; nokoitackey@gmail.com

**Teiko Okai, John**

Rico Fisheries Limited, P.O. Box CO 2038, Tema  
Tel: +233 303 212 862, Fax: +233 303 213 012, E-Mail: ricofisheries@gmail.com

**Tsamenyi, Martin**

Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra  
Tel: +614 19257322, Fax: +61 2 422 15544, E-Mail: tsamenyi@uow.edu.au

**GUATEMALA**

**Marín Arriola, Carlos Francisco \***

Director de la Dirección de Normatividad de la Pesca y Acuicultura, DIPESCA, Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Km 22 Carr. al Pacífico, Ed. La Cieba, 3er nivel, Bárcenas, Villanueva  
Tel: +205 6640 9334, E-Mail: cfmarin1058@gmail.com;dipescaguatemala@gmail.com

**Méndez, William René**

Asesor Despacho del Viceministro de Sanidad Agropecuaria y Regulaciones del Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación VISAR MAGA, 7a. Av. 12-90, zona 13, Edificio Monja Blanca  
Tel: +502 241 37035, Fax: +502 241 370 036, E-Mail: wrmyjamp@hotmail.com

**GUINEA (Rep.)****Tall, Hassimiou \***

Directeur National de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Av. De la République, Commune de Kaloum, B.P. 307, Conakry  
Tel: 00 224 622 09 58 93, Fax: +224 3045 1926, E-Mail: tallhassimiou@yahoo.fr

**Camara, Youssouf Hawa**

Directeur Général Adjoint, Centre National des Sciences Halieutiques de Boussoura (CNSHB), B.P. 3738/39, Conakry  
Tel: +224 62 53 2210, E-Mail: youssoufh@hotmail.com; youssoufh@yahoo.fr

**ICELAND****Benediktsdottir, Brynhildur \***

Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture Iceland, Skulagata 4, 150 Reykjavik  
Tel: +354 5459700, Fax: +354 552 1160, E-Mail: brynhildur.benediktsdottir@anr.is

**JAPAN****Miyahara, Masanori \***

Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3501 3009, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: masanori\_miyahara1@nm.maff.go.jp

**Hatakeyama, Masaaki**

Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81 3 0226 24 4500, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

**Hirayama, Tatsuo**

Director, Fishery Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Kasumigaseki 2-2-1, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8919  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8338, Fax: +81 3 5501 8332, E-Mail: tatsuo.hirayama@mofa.go.jp

**Hiwatari, Kimiyoshi**

Technical Official, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, E-Mail: kimiyoshi\_hiwatari@nm.maff.go.jp

**Hosokawa, Akiyoshi**

c/o OFCF, Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan, 3-2-3, Toranomon, Tokyo Minato-ku 105-0001  
Tel: +81 3 6895-5383, Fax: +81 3 6895-5388, E-Mail: hosokawa@ofcf.or.jp

**Itoh, Tomoyuki**

Chief Scientist, Bluefin tuna Resources Division, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-Ku, Shizuoka-City, Shizuoka 424-8633  
Tel: +81 543 36 6036, Fax: +81 543 35 9642, E-Mail: itou@fra.affrc.go.jp

**Kadowaki, Daisuke**

Assistant Director, Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 1-3-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901  
Tel: +81 3 3501 0532, Fax: +81 3 3501 6006, E-Mail: Kadowaki-daisuke@meti.go.jp

**Kaneko, Morio**

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: morio\_kaneko@nm.maff.go.jp

**Miura, Nozomu**

Manager, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: miura@japantuna.or.jp;gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

**Ogura, Miki**

Director of Tuna and Skipjack Resources Division, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-Ku, Shizuoka-City, Shizuoka 424-8633  
Tel: +81 54 336 6000, Fax: +81 54 335 9642, E-Mail: ogura@fra.affrc.go.jp

**Ohashi, Reiko**

Chief, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-Ku, Tokyo 135-0034  
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

**Ota, Shingo**

Director of Ecosystem Conservation Office, Resources and Environment Research Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 0736, Fax: +81 3 3502 1682, E-Mail: shingo\_ota@nm.maff.go.jp

**Shimizu, Michio**

National Ocean Tuna Fishery Association, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81-3-3294-9634, Fax: +81-3-3294-9607, E-Mail: ms-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

**Suzuki, Ziro**

Global Guardian Trust, Higashikanda, 1-2-8, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0031  
E-Mail: zsuzuki@affrc.go.jp

**Takagi, Yoshihiro**

Interpreter, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1, Koto-ku, Tokyo 107-0052  
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

**Tanaka, Kengo**

Senior Fisheries Negotiator, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: kengo\_tanaka@nm.maff.go.jp; kengo\_tanaka@hotmail.co.jp

**Tanaka, Nabi**

Official, Fishery Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kasumigaseki 2-2-1 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8338, Fax: +81 3 5501 8332, E-Mail: nabi.tanaka@mofa.go.jp

**Uetake, Hideto**

Vessel Owner, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-Ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

**Wada, Masato**

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8204, Fax: +81 3 3591 5824, E-Mail: masato\_wada@nm.maff.go.jp

**Yamada, Tomohide**

First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in the Republic of South Africa, Economic Division, 259 Baines Street, Corner Frans Oerder Street, 0108 Groenkloof, Pretoria, South Africa  
Tel: +27 12 452 1543, Fax: +27 12 460 3800, E-Mail: tomohide.yamada@mofa.go.jp

**Yamashita, Jun**

President, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-Ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81 3 5646 2380, Fax: +81 3 5646 2651, E-Mail: yamashita@japantuna.org.jp

**Yoshida, Hiroyuki**

Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-Ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81-3-5646-2382, Fax: +81-5646-2652, E-Mail: yoshida@helms.co.jp

**KOREA (Rep.)**

**Park, Jeong Seok \***

Fisheries Negotiator, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Distant-Water Fisheries Division Government Complex, Bldg. 5 #94, Dason2-Ro, 339-012 Sejong-City  
Tel: +82 44 200 5312, Fax: +82 44 200 5319, E-Mail: jeongseok.korea@gmail.com; icdmomaf@chol.com

**Jun, Yeon Mi**

Senior Inspector, National Fishery Products Quality Management Service (NFQS) Incheon Regional Office, 1701 Jongsandong Il-San dong gu, Goyangsi, Kyeonggido  
Tel: +82 32 881 6066, Fax: +82 32 881 6069, E-Mail: Ym0406@korea.kr

**Kim, Zang Geun**

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, 216, Gijanghaeanro, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, 619-705m, Busan  
Tel: +82 51 720 2310, Fax: +82 51 720 2337, E-Mail: zgkim@korea.kr

**Lee, Jae Young**

Advisor, National Fishery Products Quality Management Ser., 1701 Jongsandong II San dong gu, Goyangsi, Gyeonggi-do  
Tel: +82 31 929 4705, Fax: +82 31 929 4777, E-Mail: beach001@korea.kr

**Lee, Young Woo**  
Staff, Dongwon Industries, Co. Ltd.  
Tel: +82 2589 4075, Fax: +82 2589 4397, E-Mail: bruce2891@dongwon.com

**Na, Il Kang**  
Korea Overseas Fisheries Association, 6th floor, Samho Center Building "A", 275-1 Yangjae-Dong, Seocho-Ku, Seoul  
Tel: +822 5891613, Fax: +822 589 1630, E-Mail: ikna@kosfa.org

**Song, Jun Su**  
Assistant Manager, Sajo Industries Co. Ltd., 157, Chungjeongno 2-ga, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul  
Tel: +82 2 3277 1655, Fax: +82 2 365 6079, E-Mail: jssong@sajo.co.kr

#### **LIBYA**

**Khattali, Aribi Omar \***  
General Authority of Marine Wealth, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dahra  
Tel: +218 21 3340932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: Arebi57@Gmail.com

**Abou Sbie, Abdalah**  
General Authority of Marine Wealth, Addahra, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 21 334 0932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail:

**Anhaysi, Omar**  
Albaher Alhader Company, Gaser Ahmed, Misurata  
E-Mail: albahralhader@yahoo.com

**El Miladi, Mohamed**  
General Authority of Marine Wealth, Aljala Street Souk al Joma, Addahra, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 21 8913201337, E-Mail: northafricawavesfishingco@yahoo.com

**El Toruk, Abdulhakim**  
General Authority of Marine Wealth, Addahra, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 21 334 0932, Fax: +218 21 333 0666, E-Mail: info@gam-ly.org

**Elfargani, Ali**  
Chairman, ALMAHARI Holding Company, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 91 213 04 14, E-Mail: info@almahari.com.ly

**Etorjmani, Elhadi Mohamed**  
General Authority of Marine Wealth, Addahra, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 213 340 932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: torgmani\_hadi@yahoo.co.uk

**Fares, Khalid**  
General Authority of Marine Wealth, Addahra, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 21 334 0932, Fax: +218 21 333 0666, E-Mail: info@gam-ly.org

**Khalifa, Abdurahman**  
SAFA Company for Fishing, Sour Street, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 21 361 3371, Fax: E-Mail: safacompany11@gmail.com

**Khalifa Megbri, Abdulaziz**  
Al Saffa Fishing Co., P.O.Box 83400, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 9121 63365, Fax: +218 21 335 1102, E-Mail: safacompany11@gmail.com

**Nuttah, Mohamed**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Tripoli  
Tel: + 218 91 213 0678, E-Mail: mareconsult@yahoo.com

**Wefati, Aladdin M.**  
President, Manager Director Nour Al-Haiat Fishery Co., P.O. Box 1154, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 91 2104856, Fax: +218 21 361 5209, E-Mail: a\_wefati@yahoo.co.uk

**Zgozi, Salem Wniss**  
Marine Biology Research Center, P.O. Box 30830, Tajura, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 92 527 9179, Fax: +218 21 369 0002, E-Mail: salemzgozi@yahoo.com

## **MAURITANIA**

### **Mint Jiddou, Azza \***

Directrice d'Aménagement des Ressources et de l'Océanographie (DARO), Ministère des Pêches et de l'Economie Maritime, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et de l'Océanographie (DARO), B.P. 137, Nouakchott  
Tel: +222 2242 1007, Fax: +222 45 253 146, E-Mail: azzajiddou@yahoo.fr

### **Ahmed Babou, Dedah**

Chef du Service des Statistiques, IMROP, B.P. 22, Nouadhibou  
Tel: +222 22621041, Fax: +222 4574 5081, E-Mail: abambad@gmail.com

### **Taleb Ould Sidi, Mahfoud**

Directeur adjoint de l'Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches, Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches (IMROP), B.P. 22, Nouadhibou  
Tel: +222 646 3839; 2421006, Fax: +222 5745 081, E-Mail: mahfoudht@yahoo.fr; mahfoudht@imrop.mr

## **MEXICO**

### **Estrada Jiménez, Martha \***

Subdirectora de Seguimiento Técnico, Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca, Municipio Libre 377, Piso 4, ala "A"; Col. Santa Cruz Atoyac; Delegación Benito Juárez, México, D.F.  
Tel: +5255 3871 1000, Fax: E-Mail: mestradaj@conapesca.gob.mx

### **Ramírez López, Karina**

Jefe de Departamento DGAIPA-INAPESCA, Instituto Nacional de Pesca - SAGARPA, Av. Ejército Mexicano No.106 Colonia Exhacienda, Ylang Ylang, C.P. 94298 Boca de Río, Veracruz  
Tel: +52 22 9130 4518, Fax: +52 22 9130 4519, E-Mail: kramirez\_inp@yahoo.com;

## **MOROCCO**

### **Driouich, Zakia \***

Secrétaire Général du Département des Pêches Maritimes, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Quartier Administratif Place Abdellah Chefchaouni, B.P. 476 Agdal, Rabat  
Tel: +212 5 37 688 2461/62, Fax: +2125 3768 8263, E-Mail: driouich@mpm.gov.ma

### **El Ktiri, Taoufik**

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime Nouveau Quartier Administratif; BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat  
Tel: +212 5 37 68 8244-46, Fax: +212 5 37 68 8245, E-Mail: elktiri@mpm.gov.ma

### **Abid, Noureddine**

Chercheur au Centre Régional de Recherche Halieutique de Tanger, Center Régional de L'INRH à Tanger/M'dig, B.P. 5268, 90000 Drabed, Tanger  
Tel: +212 53932 5134, Fax: +212 53932 5139, E-Mail: abid.n@menara.ma; noureddine.abid65@gmail.com

### **Ben Bari, Mohamed**

Chef de l'Unité d'Appui à la Coordination du Contrôle, DPMA, Nouveau Quartier Administratif; BP 476, Agdal Rabat  
Tel: +212 537 688 254, Fax: +212 537 688 382, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

### **Ben Cherifi, Salah**

Chef du Département des Ressources Halieutiques, Institut National de Recherches Halieutiques  
Tel: +212 522 220245, Fax: +212 52 26 88 57, E-Mail: bencherifi1979@gmail.com

### **Benjelloun, Youssef**

Vice-président de la FPMA, Fédération de la Pêche Maritime et de l'Aquaculture (F.P.M.A.), Représentant la Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée (Tanger) Port de Pêche Magazin, 1, Tanger  
Tel: +212 561 174782, Fax: +212 539 370492, E-Mail: fpmacontact@gmail.com

### **Benmoussa, Abderraouf**

Chef du Service de la Coopération Multilatérale, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche, B.P. 476, Haut Agdal, Rabat  
Tel: +212 5376 88153, Fax: +212 537 688194, E-Mail: benmoussa@mpm.gov.ma

### **Benmoussa, Mohamed Karim**

Administrateur, Maromadra/Maromar, Concessionnaire de madragues, B.P. 573, Larache  
Tel: +212 661 136 888, Fax: +212 5 39 50 1630, E-Mail: mkbenmoussa@gmail.com

**Bennouna, Kamal**

Président de l'Association National des Palangriers, Membre de la chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée/Tanger, JNP Maroc, Fédération de la Pêche Maritime et de l'Aquaculture Port de Pêche, Agadir  
Tel: +212 561159580, Fax: +212 528843025, E-Mail: lamakes@yahoo.es

**Bensaid, Mohammed Mehdi**

Parlementaire à la Chambre des Représentants du Maroc, Chambre des Représentants, Rabat  
Tel: 00212 6 61401050, E-Mail: mmbensaid@gmail.com

**Boulaich, Abdellah**

La Madrague Du Sud, 23, Rue Moussa Ibnou Nouseir, 1er étage no. 1, Tanger  
Tel: +212 39322705, Fax: +212 39322708, E-Mail: a.boulaich@hotmail.fr; madraguesdusud1@hotmail.com

**El Bakkali, Mohamed**

Directeur Technique, Société Atuneros del Norte, Zone Portuaire Larache, BP 138, Larache  
Tel: +212 539 914 249, Fax: +212 539 914314, E-Mail: ma.elbalekali@gmail.com; exploitation@ansa.net.ma

**El Idrissi, Moulay Abdallah**

Directeur du Pôle Exploitation et Animation Commerciale à L'Office National des Pêches, Office National des Pêches  
Tel: +212 522 24 20 84, Fax: +212 522 24 20 05, E-Mail: a.elidrissi@onp.ma

**El Marhoume, Samira**

Ingénieur à la Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Service de l'Application de la Réglementation et de la Police Administrative, Département de la Pêche Maritime, B.P. 476, Agdal, Rabat  
Tel: +212 066 137 9157, Fax: +212 0637 688089, E-Mail: elmarhoum@mpm.gov.ma

**Faraj, Abdelmalek**

Directeur d l'Institut National de Recherche Halieutique, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique, Département des Ressources Halieutiques Centre de Sidi Abderrahmane, 20000 Casablanca  
Tel: +212 6 61079909, Fax: +212 6 61649185, E-Mail: faraj@ihrh.org.ma;abdelmalekfaraj@yahoo.fr

**Hassouni, Fatima Zohra**

Chef du Service de la Gestion et de l'Aménagement des Pêcheries, Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Département de la Pêche maritime Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal, Rabat  
Tel: +212 537 688 118, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: hassouni@mpm.gov.ma

**Kamel, Mohammed**

Délégation des Pêches Maritimes de Tanger  
Tel: +212 670 448 111, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: kamelmed@gmail.com; m\_kamel@mpm.gov.ma

**Oukacha, Hassan**

Société Marocoturc Tuna Fisheries SA, Agadir Port, Agadir  
Tel: +212 661 202216, E-Mail: manuload@iam.net.ma

**Rouchdi, Mohammed M.**

Secrétaire Général, Association Marocaine des Madragues (AMM), Zone Portuaire Larache, B.P. 138, Larache  
Tel: +212 539 91 43 13;+2126 61 63 02 67, Fax: +212 539 91 43 14, E-Mail: rouchdi@ylaraholding.com

**Saous, Mustapha**

Société Marocoturc Tuna Fisheries SA, Agadir  
Tel: +212 561 180680, Fax: +212 58 823 122, E-Mail: salyfishsarl@gmail.com

**Saous, Zineb**

Société Marocoturc Tuna Fisheries, S.A., Immeuble des Habous, 15ème étage, Avenue des Fars, Casablanca  
Tel: +212 61 40 4831, E-Mail: zsaous@yahoo.com

**NAMIBIA****Hiveluah, Ulitala \***

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Brendan Simbwaye Square Uhland Str. Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek  
Tel: +264 61 205 3007, Fax: +264 61 224 566, E-Mail: uhiveluah@mfmr.gov.na

**Amutenya, Peter**

Director of Fisheries Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek  
Tel: +264 61 205 3116, Fax: +264 61 240 412, E-Mail: pamutenya@mfmr.gov.na

**Bester, Desmond R.**

Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz  
Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: dbester@mfmr.gov.na;desmondbester@yahoo.com

**D'Almeida, Graça Bauleth**

Director: Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek  
Tel: +264 61 205 3114, Fax: +264 61 220 058, E-Mail: gdalmeida@mfmr.gov.na

**Erastus, Anna**

Director - Policy, Planning and Economics, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek  
Tel: +264 61 205 3127, Fax: +264 61 244 161, E-Mail: anerastus@mfmr.gov.na

**Holtzhausen, Johannes Andries**

Chief Fisheries Biologist, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, NatMIRC, Box 912, Swakopmund  
Tel: +264 64 410 155, Fax: +264 64 404 385, E-Mail: hholtzhausen@mfmr.gov.na

**Kruger, Elwin C.F.**

Fisheries Observer Agency, Namfi Complex, Industrial Road, P.O. Box 1124, Luderitz  
Tel: +264 63 203 658, Fax: +264 63 203 548, E-Mail: ekruger@foa.com.na

**Laufer, Kurt**

Large Pelagic Association, Industry Road, Luderitz  
Tel: + 264 63 203 341, Fax: + 264 63 203 196, E-Mail: kurtl@marcofishing.com.na

**Louw, Appie**

Marco Fishing, P.O. Box 29, Luderitz  
Tel: + 264 63 203341, Fax: + 264 63 203196, E-Mail: appie1@telkomsa.net

**Shooya, Olivia Ndapewa**

Personal Assistant to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek  
Tel: +264 61 205 3007, Fax: +264 61 224 566, E-Mail: oshooya@mfmr.gov.na

**Shuuluka, Olivia**

Economist, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek  
Tel: +264 61 205 3018, Fax: +264 61 244161, E-Mail: oshuuluka@mfmr.gov.na

**Van Zyl, James W.**

Secretary, Large Pelagic Association, No 54, Esplanade Road, Walvis Bay  
Tel: +264 81 128 8560, Fax: +264 64 209 099, E-Mail: jw2s@mweb.com.na

**NICARAGUA**

**Blandon Bojorge, Ibrahina \***

Responsable de Políticos y Normas – Inpesca, Km 3 1/2 carretera norte, Managua  
Tel: +505 224 42401, E-Mail: iblandon@inapesca.gob.ni

**Guevara, Julio César**

Director de Operaciones, INATUN. S. A, Managua/Nicaragua, Km 2,5; Carretera Masalla, Plaza Basilea, Managua  
Tel: + 507 204 4600, E-Mail: juliocgq@gmail.com; juliocgq@hotmail.com

**Marenco Urcuyo, Miguel Angel**

Presidente, Nicatun S.A., Km 4 1/2 Carretera Masaya 2 Cuadras Este Edificio Imsa-Argo, 2020 Managua  
Tel: +505 227 04992, E-Mail: lobodemar59@gmail.com

**NIGERIA**

**Ayeni, Samuel Ola \***

Deputy Director of Fisheries - MCS, Federal Department of Fisheries, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Area 11, Garki, Abuja  
Tel: +234 80 370 70 228, E-Mail: samolayeni@yahoo.co.uk

**Emuze, Peters**

Deputy Director, International Organisation Dept., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja  
Tel: +2348106220677, Fax: E-Mail: peteremuze@yahoo.com

**Okpe, Hyacinth Anebi**

Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Resources Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS) Division, Federal Department of Fisheries, Victoria Island, Lagos  
Tel: +234 70 6623 2156, Fax: +234 09 314 4665, E-Mail: hokpe@yahoo.com

**Solarin, Boluwaji Bashir**

Director (Fisheries Resources), Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, P.M.B. 12729, Lagos, Victoria Island  
Tel: +234 8034669112, E-Mail: bolusolarin@yahoo.com

**NORUEGA****Holst, Sigrun M.\***

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, P.O. Box 8118 Dep, 0032 Oslo  
Tel: +47 918 98733, Fax: +47 22 24 26 67, E-Mail: sigrun.holst@fkf.dep.no

**Haukeland, Vegard**

Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, P.O. Box 8118 Dep, 0032 Oslo  
Tel: +47 92 616 615, E-Mail: vegard.haukeland@fkf.dep.no

**Nottestad, Leif**

Principal Scientist, Institute of Marine Research, P.O. Box 1870, Nordnesgaten, 33, NO-5817 Bergen  
Tel: +47 55 23 68 09, Fax: +47 55 23 86 87, E-Mail: leif.nottestad@imr.no

**Ognedal, Hilde**

Senior Legal Adviser, Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, Postboks 185 Sentrum, 5804 Bergen  
Tel: +47 920 89516, Fax: +475 523 8090, E-Mail: hilde.ognedal@fiskeridir.no

**Sandberg, Per**

Director, Statistics Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229; Box 185, 5804 Bergen  
Tel: +47 03495, Fax: +47 55 23 8141, E-Mail: per.sandberg@fiskeridir.no

**Skagestad, Odd Gunnar**

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.O. Box 8114 Dep, 32 Oslo  
Tel: +47 2395 0656, Fax: +47 2394 3419, E-Mail: ogs@mfa.no

**PANAMA****Morales, Maricel \***

Sub-Administradora General, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Calle 45, Bella Vista Edif. Riviera, Panamá  
Tel: +507 511 6015, Fax: +507 511 6071, E-Mail: mmorales@arap.gob.pa;maricel0416@gmail.com

**Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto**

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Calle 45, Bella Vista, Edif. Riviera, 0819-05850 Panamá  
Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

**Cummings Pinilla, Jorge Luis**

Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, Dirección de Marina Mercante, ALBROOK, Avenida Omar Torrijos, Plaza Pan Canal Building, 3rd Floor - Oficina 313, Panama  
Tel: +507 501 5205, Fax: +507 501 5045, E-Mail: jcummings@amp.gob.pa; jorgecummings@hotmail.com

**Fabrega, Juan Pablo****Quirós, Mario**

Director General Encargado de Ordenación y Manejo Integral, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá  
Tel: +507 511 6052, Fax: +507 511 6032, E-Mail: mquiros@arap.gob.pa; ordenacion@arap.gob.pa

**PHILIPPINES****Tabios, Benjamin F.S. Jr \***

Assistant Director for Administrative Services, Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, PCA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel: +632 454 8457, Fax: +632 929 8390, E-Mail: tabios.bfar@yahoo.com.ph; benjo\_tabios@yahoo.com; gerald-benjamin@enrd.gov.ph

**Sy, Richard**

OPRT Philippines Inc., Suite 701, Dasma Corporate Center 321, 1006 Manila Damarinas St., Binondo  
Tel: +632 244 5565, Fax: +632 244 5566, E-Mail: syrcharld@pltdsl.net

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

### **Krainiy, Andrey \***

Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography-AtlantNIRO, 5, Dm. Donksoy Str., 236022 Kaliningrad  
Tel: +7 495 926 5030, Fax: +7 495 926 5037, E-Mail: atlant@baltnet.ru

### **Biryukov, Alexander**

Expert, Head of Federal Agency for Fisheries in the Republic of Senegal, Federal Agency for Fisheries, Senegal  
Tel: +221 777406199, E-Mail: inform@fishcom.ru

### **Bogulev, Pavel**

Expert, Adviser of the Acting General Director of FSUE, Natsrybresource, The National Fish Resources 13, Hohlovskiy Per., 109028 Moscow  
Tel: +7 495 771 3801, E-Mail: nfr@nfr.ru

### **Buduratskiy, Maxim**

Director of West-Baltic Territorial, Department of Federal Agency for Fisheries, 15 Kirov St., Kaliningrad  
Tel: +7 4012 993 849, Fax: +7 4012 992221, E-Mail: oms@atlant.baltnet.ru

### **Leontiev, Sergei**

Expert, Head of the Laboratory, FSUE - VNIRO, Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries & Oceanography 17, V. Krasnoselskaya, 107140 Moscow  
Tel: +7 499 264 9465, Fax: +7 499 264 9465, E-Mail: leon@vniro.ru

### **Nesterov, Alexander**

Head Scientist, Atlantic Research Institute of Marine, Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO) 5, Dmitry Donskoy Str., 236022 Kaliningrad  
Tel: +7 (4012) 925322/925457, Fax: + 7 (4012) 219997, E-Mail: nesterov@atlant.baltnet.ru;

### **Sanko, Maxim**

Expert, Director of FGFI "CFMC", Fisheries Monitoring and Communication System Centre, Moscow  
E-Mail: info@cfmc.ru

### **Simakov, Sergey**

Expert, Head of International Cooperation, Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, 1, Dmitry Donskoy Str., 236007 Kaliningrad  
Tel: +7 401 464 648, Fax: +7 401 463 862, E-Mail: atlant@baltnet.ru

### **Standrik, Stanislav E.**

General Director, Federal Agency for Fisheries, Federal State Unitary Enterprise, National Fish Resources, Rozhdestvensky Boulevard, 12, 107996 Moscow  
Tel: +7 495 771 3801; +7 903 722 8484, Fax: +7 495 771 3801, E-Mail: standrik@nfr.ru; stas.04@mail.ru

### **Zubarev, D.**

Tel: 0795267788, E-Mail: corruszdv@gmail.com

## **SAO TOME & PRINCIPE**

### **Anibal, Olavio\***

Inspector Sanitario, Direcção das Pescas, C.P. 59, Sao Tomé  
Tel: +239 2 22091, Fax: +239 222828, E-Mail: olavoanibal@hotmail.com; etybi@yahoo.fr

## **SENEGAL**

### **Manel, Camille Jean Pierre \***

Directeur des Pêches maritimes, Ministère de la Pêche et des Affaires maritimes, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, Rue Joris, B.P. 289, Dakar  
Tel: +221 823 0137, Fax: +221 821 4758, E-Mail: cjpmanel@gmail.com; infos@dpm.sn

### **Adama, Faye**

Chef de Division de Pêche, Direction Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cite Fenêtre Mermoz, B.P. 3656, Dakar, Corniche Ouest  
E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

### **Dione, Mamadou Ibra**

Chargé de Statistiques, Direction des Industries de Transformation de la Pêche, Quai de Pêche mole, 10, Dakar  
Tel: +221 77 172 2536, Fax: +221 33 823 0757, E-Mail: ibramamadou@hotmail.com

**Diouf, Abdoulaye**

Président, Fédération Sénégalaise de Pêche Sportive (FSPS), 1, Rue de la Libération, B.P. 22568, Dakar  
Tel: +221 7763 94302, Fax: +221 33 821 4376, E-Mail: fsp@orange.sn

**Ndaw, Sidi**

Chef du Bureau des Statistiques à la Direction des Pêches, Ministère de la Pêche et des Affaires Maritimes, Direction des Pêches Maritimes 1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar  
Tel: +221 33 823 0137, Fax: +221 33 821 4758, E-Mail: sidindaw@hotmail.com; dopm@orange.sn

**Sow, Fambaye Ngom**

Chercheur Biologiste des Pêches, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye, CRODT/ISRALNERV, Route du Front de Terre, B.P. 2241, Dakar  
Tel: +221 3010 81104, Fax: +221 33 832 8262, E-Mail: famngom@yahoo.com

**Talla, Marième Diagne**

Conseiller Juridique du Ministère de la Pêche et des Affaires Maritimes, Building administratif 4<sup>e</sup> Étage, Dakar  
Tel: +221 33 849 5079, Fax: +221 33 823 8720, E-Mail: masodiagne@yahoo.fr

**SIERRA LEONE****Bangura, Alpha A. \***

Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Office of the Director of Fisheries 7th Floor, Youyi Building, Brookfields, Freetown  
Tel: +232 7667 4658, E-Mail: aabangura54@yahoo.com

**Cole, Mohamed Bushura**

Assistant Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Office of the Director of Fisheries Youyi Building, 7th floor, Brookfields, Freetown  
Tel: +232 22 76 619 641, E-Mail: bushuracole@yahoo.com

**Sei, Sheku**

Senior Fisheries Research Officer, Statistics and Research Unit, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources 7th Floor, Youyi Building, Brookfields, Freetown  
Tel: +232 78 111077, E-Mail: seisheku@yahoo.com

**SYRIA****Darwish, Bassam \***

Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, 963 Frances Baard Str., Pretoria Arcadia, South Africa  
Tel: 012 342 4701, Fax: 012 342 4702, E-Mail: syriaemb@telkomsa.net

**SOUTH AFRICA****Stevens, Desmond \***

Deputy Director General, Fisheries Management, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, P/Bag X2, Rogebaa, Cape Town 8012  
E-Mail: DesmondS@daff.gov.za

**Augustyn, Carel Johann**

Chief Director, Fisheries Research and Development, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Private Bag X2, 8012 Rogebay, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 402 3102, Fax: +27 21 402 3639, E-Mail: JohannAu@daff.gov.za

**Bartlett, Andrew**

Ministry, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
E-Mail: cosmin@daff.gov.za

**Bodenham, Clyde Jerome**

South African Tuna Association, Office 705, 7th Floor, 47 on Strand, Strand Street, 8000 Cape Town  
Tel: +272 14 236 592, Fax: +272 14 265 436, E-Mail: clyde@molimoman.co.za

**Brophy, Bianca**

South African Tuna Longline Association, 7 Neptune Street, Paarden Island, 8000 Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 510 7924, Fax: +27 21 510 1268, E-Mail: bianca@tunasa.co.za

**Cameron-Dow, Steve**

Fresh Tuna Exporters Association, 11 Barlinka Way, Cape Town Meadowridge  
Tel: +27 83 7111 072, E-Mail: stevecd@rsaweb.co.za

**Cockroft, Andy**

Specialist Scientist, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012  
Tel: +27 21 4023132, Fax: +27 21 4023639, E-Mail: andrewc@daff.gov.za

**Correia, Adelina Maria**

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**Da Silva, Charlene**

Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, P/Bag X2, Roggebaai, Cape Town 8012,  
Tel: +27 74 589 2790, Fax: +27 21 4033034, E-Mail: CharleneD@daff.gov.za

**Da Silva, Monique**

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**De Kock, Carol Yvonne**

Fresh Tuna Exporters Associations, P.O. Box 26973, Hout Bay 7872, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 790 5113, Fax: +27 21 790 5113, E-Mail: longfin@iafrica.com

**De Pao, Carla**

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**Diest, Celeste**

South African Tuna Longline Association, 5th Avenue & Italian Road, Grassy Park, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 706 2858, Fax: +27 21 7055583, E-Mail: celeste@impalafishing.co.za

**Frantz, Theresa**

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Private Bag X7, 7735 Claremont  
Tel: +27 21 799 8831, E-Mail: t.frantz@sanbi.org.za

**Fredericks, Dennis**

Chief Director, Marine Resource Management, Hammerslag way, Forestrust Building, Cape Town  
Tel: 021 402 3187, Fax: 021 402 3734, E-Mail: DennisF@daff.gov.za

**Goordeen, Sohana**

Director, Fisheries Legal Support, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai 8012, Cape Town  
Tel: + 021 402 3183; 071 861 7314, E-Mail: sohanag@daff.gov.za

**Haider, Alieyah**

Assistant Director, Communications  
Tel: +27 21 402 3250, Fax: +27 21 425 8635, E-Mail: alieyah@daff.gov.za

**Hector, Andre**

Shark Longline Association, 33 Voortrekker Road, Goodwood, Western Cape  
Tel: 021 591 6571, Fax: 021 591 3789, E-Mail: longline@mweb.co.za

**Hindle, Duncan**

Ministry, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Tel: +27 21 012 3196879, E-Mail: hindled@daff.gov.za

**Holmes, Mujahida**

Office of DDG Fisheries & Protocol, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012  
Tel: 021 402 3098, Fax: 021 419 1350, E-Mail: mujahidah@daff.gov.za

**Kashorte, Marisa**

Policy Analyst, International Relations for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, 8012 Roggebaai, Cape Town  
Tel: +2121 402 3558, Fax: +2721 425 3626, E-Mail: marisak@daff.gov.za

**Leseke, Suzen Morongoa**

Chief Director, Forestry Operations MSL, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, 8012 Roggebaai  
Tel: +2721 402 3558, Fax: +2721 425 3626, E-Mail: morongoal@daff.gov.za

**Liederma**n, Bernard John

Director, Fisheries Protection Vessels, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, 8000 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 4023535, Fax: 021 402 3073, E-Mail: BernardL@daff.gov.za

**Lucas**, Don

S.A. Tuna Longline Association, 7 Neptune Street, Paarden Island, 8000 Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 510 7924, Fax: +27 21 510 1268, E-Mail: comfish@mweb.co.za; don@tunasa.co.za

**Lucas**, Gomolemo Archie

Ministry, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Tel: +27 21 467 45 02, Fax: +27 21 465 6550, E-Mail: gomolemoL@daff.gov.za

**Matiwane**, Lindelwa

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**Middleton**, Sue

Chief Director, Fisheries Operations Support, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Private Bag X2, 8001 Cape Town, Roggebaai  
Tel: +27-21-402-3564; 082 371 6088, Fax: +27-21-419-6942, E-Mail: SueM@daff.gov.za

**Mlozana**, Mayedwa

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**Mngxe**, Yamkela

Control Environmental Officer, Department of Environmental Affairs, Ocean and Coasts Branch , Ocean Conservation Strategies, East Pier Building, East Pier Road V&A Waterfront, Cape Town 8002  
Tel: 021 405 94 38, Fax: 021 819 2449, E-Mail: Ymngxe@environment.gov.za

**Mntonintshi**, Sandisiwe

Deputy Director, Stakeholder Management  
Tel: 0828324848, E-Mail: sandisiweM@daff.gov.za

**Mokomela**, Palesa

Ministry, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Tel: +27 21 467 6000, E-Mail: palesam@daff.gov.za

**Moniz**, Antoinette

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**Mtoba**, Ceba

Chief Director, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 Cape Town  
Tel: 27214023550, E-Mail: CebaM@daff.gov.za

**Mullins**, Pheobius

Assistant Director, Pelagic & High Seas Fisheries Management, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012 Cape Town  
Tel: + 27214023633, E-Mail: pheobiusM@daff.gov.za

**Ngadlela**, Mqondisi

Compliance Director, Monitoring Control & Surveillance, Fisheries Management, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 402 3020, Fax: +27 21 402 3433, E-Mail: mqondisiN@daff.gov.za

**Nkosi**, Mzwakhe

Protocol460, Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria  
Tel: 012-351 1975, Fax: 012-329 1163, E-Mail: nkosip@dirco.gov.za

**Nomxego**, Lungelwa

Offshore Resources Research, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 Cape Town  
Tel: +27 021 402 3556, Fax: +27 021 402 3694, E-Mail: lungelwaN@daff.gov.za

**Ntlopo, Donald**

South African Tuna Association, 2nd Floor, Medic Alert Building, 109 Hertzog Boulevard, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town  
Tel: 021 418 2696, Fax: 021 418 2689, E-Mail: leandria@molimoman.co.za

**Penglides, Alex**

South African Tuna Longline Association, 33 Voortrekker Road, Goodwood, Western Cape  
Tel: 021 591 6571, Fax: 021 591 3789, E-Mail: longline@mweb.co.za

**Pheeha, Saasa**

Director, Offshore and High Seas Fisheries Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, 8012 Roggebaai  
Tel: +27 21 402 3563, Fax: +27 21 402 3618, E-Mail: saasap@daff.gov.za

**Prochazka, Kim**

Director Inshore and Offshore Fisheries Research, Foretrust building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town  
Tel: +27-21-4023546, E-Mail: KimP@daff.gov.za

**Semoli, Belemane**

Director, Aquaculture Research, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, P/Bag X2, Roggebaai, Cape Town 8012  
E-Mail: BelomaneS@daff.gov.za

**Share, André**

Chief Director, Department of Environmental Affairs, Oceans and Coastal Research, 2nd Floor, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, 8002 Foreshore, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 402 3021, Fax: +27 86 662 4135, E-Mail: ashare@environment.gov.za

**Sibiya, Sandile**

Director, Small-Scale Fisheries Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 402 3344, Fax: +27 21 402 3622, E-Mail: sandileS@daff.gov.za

**Smith, Craig**

Deputy Director, Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 402 3048, Fax: +27 21 402 3622, E-Mail: CraigS@daff.gov.za

**Tanci, Tembaletu**

Director, Inshore Fisheries Management DAFF, Hammerschlag way, Foretrust Building, Cape Town  
Tel: 021 402 3075, Fax: 021 402 3734, E-Mail: TembaletuT@daff.gov.za

**Walker, Sean**

Fresh Tuna Exporters Association, 5, Brink Lane, Ruyteplaats Estate, 7806 Hout Bay  
Tel: +27 828 82 9232, Fax: E-Mail: swalker@breakwaterproducts.com

**Wellem, Xolela**

Directorate: Compliance, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, Cape Town 8012  
Tel: +021 402 3476, Fax: +021 402 3476, E-Mail: XolelaW@daff.gov.za

**West, Wendy**

Inshore Resources Research, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Fore trust Building, 9 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 21 4023120, E-Mail: WendyW@daff.gov.za

**Wilson, Trevor**

South African Tuna Longline Association, 4 South Arm Road, Table Bay Harbour  
Tel: 021 372 1102, Fax: 021 371 4900, E-Mail: trevor@selectafish.co.za

**TUNISIA**

**Hmani, Mohamed \***

Directeur de la Conservation des Ressources Halieutiques, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Direction Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis  
Tel: +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 892 799, E-Mail: m.hmani09@yahoo.fr

**Ben Hmida, Jaouhar**

Fédération de la Pêche du Thon en Tunisie, 11 Nouveau Port de Pêche SFAX, 3065 Tunis  
Tel: +216 98 319 885, Fax: +216 74 497704, E-Mail: jaouhar.benhmida@tunet.tn; amorsamet@gmail.com

**Ben Romdhan, Hassen**

Gérant de la Société TBFF, Mahdia

Tel: +216 22 200 400, Fax: +216 73 695 112, E-Mail: amorsamet@gmail.com

**Chiha, Mohamed**

Armateur de Pêche ou Thon, Av. H. Bourguiba, 5170 Chebba, Mahdia

Tel: +216 9840 8952, Fax: +216 73642382, E-Mail: bokadewaterKant@hagescommwww.due

**Chouayakh, Ahmed**

Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis

Tel: +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: chouayakh.ahmed@yahoo.fr

**Darouich, Sajir**

Société d'engraissement de thon rouge THC, 169 AV Habib Bourguiba 5170 Chebba Mahdia

Tel: +216 23 28 96 55, Fax: +216 74 498 307, E-Mail: sajirdarouich@yahoo.com

**Haji, Tahar**

Gérant de la Société de pêche SPAC SERVICES, Rue Chames Jara 6000 Gabes

Tel: +216 26 32 23 70, Fax: +216 75 278 495, E-Mail: khaled-33@hotmail.fr

**Mehrez, Besta**

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère d'Agriculture, Tunis

Tel: +216 71 890 593, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: mehrez.best@iresa.agrinet.tn

**Samet, Amor**

Directeur de Tunisia Tuna, Tunisia Tuna, Zi Rejiche Mahdia, 5100 Mahdia

Tel: +216 214 13099, Fax: +216 73 695112, E-Mail: amor.samet@tunet.tn;amorsamet@gmail.com

**Souiai, Slim**

Ingenieur Société Geomatix, Avda. l'Independence, Zaghonimi

Tel: +216 2034 18 38, Fax: +216 71 233 255, E-Mail: selim.souiani@geomaitix-international.com

**TURKEY****Türkyilmaz, Turgay \***

Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara

Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr

**Basaran, Ergün**

Cihangir Mah.- Basaran Fisheries, Burnaz Cao. No 22/A, Avcilar, Istanbul

Tel: +90 212 517 7046, Fax: +90 212 517 7048, E-Mail: ergun@basaranbalikcilik.com

**Basaran, Fatih**

Fisheries Marketing No. 27, Istanbul

Tel: +90 212 517 7046, Fax: +90 212 517 7048:

**Çakmak, Mehmet**

Engineer, Department of Fisheries and Control, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara

Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: Mehmet.CAKMAK@tarim.gov.tr

**Elekon, Hasan Alper**

Engineer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara

Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

**Iskender Dügencioglu, Burcu**

Foreign Trade Specialist, Ministry of Economy, General Directorate of Exports, Ekonomi Bakanligi Inonu Bulvari No. 36 Kat 8 Oda 838 Emek, 06510 Ankara

Tel: +90 312 2047 680, Fax: +90 312 212 88 81, E-Mail: iskenderb@economy.gov.tr

**Kocaman, Osman**

**Kurtar, Korkut Gökhan**

Eskisehir yolu 9. Km Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı AB ve Dis İlişkiler Gen. Müd.  
Tel: +90 312 287 3360/3062, Fax: +90 312 2879468, E-Mail: gokhankurtar@gmail.com

**Özgün, Mehmet Ali**

Sagun Group, Osmangazi: mah, Battalgaz: Cad. Sagun Plaza, 34887 Samandira Kartal, Istanbul  
Tel: +90 216 561 2020, Fax: +90 216 561 0717, E-Mail: sagun@sagun.com

**Sagban, İzzet Selçuk**

Deputy Secretary General, Istanbul Exporter's Associations, Dis Ticaret Kompleksi C Block, Cobançesme Mevki Sanayi  
Cad, 34196 Istanbul Yenibosna  
Tel: +90 212 454 07 31, Fax: +90 212 454 05 01-02, E-Mail: ssagban@iib.org.tr

**Sagun, Ahmet Tuncay**

Sagun Group, Osmangazi: mah, Battalgaz: Cad. Sagun Plaza, 34887 Samandira Kartal, Istanbul  
Tel: +90 216 561 2020, Fax: +90 216 561 0717, E-Mail: sagun@sagun.com

**Ültanur, Mustafa**

Sur Koop, Konur Sok. 54/8 Kizilay, Fisheries Cooperatives Association, Park CAD. Atabilge Sitesi, 36.Blok, D: 28,  
Cayyolu-Ankara  
Tel: +90 533 4240 827, Fax: +90 312 419 2289, E-Mail: ultanur@gmail.com

#### **UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)**

**Trott, Tammy M. \***

Senior Marine Resources Officer, Department of Environmental Protection, #3 Coney Island Road, CR04 St. George's,  
Bermuda  
Tel: +441 293 5600, Fax: +441 293 2716, E-Mail: ttrott@gov.bm

**Benjamin, Gerald**

Senior Fisheries Officer, Government of Sta. Helena, Scotland  
Tel: +290 24724, Fax: +290 24900, E-Mail: gerald.benjamin@enrd.gov.sh

**Henry, Lawson**

Chair, Economic Development Committee  
E-Mail: Lawson\_henry@gmail.com

**Luckhurst, Brian**

2-4 Via Della Chiesa, 5020 Acqualoreto (TR) Umbria, Italy  
Tel: +39 0744 958 667, E-Mail: brian.luckhurst@gmail.com

**Midwinter, Robert**

Director, Enterprise St. Helena  
Tel: +290 22920, Fax: +290 22166, E-Mail: robert.midwinter@esh.co.sh

**Richards, Terrence**

General Manager, St. Helena Fisheries Corporation  
Tel: +290 22430, Fax: +290 22252, E-Mail: shfc@cwimail.sh

**Roe, Howard**

Barton Mere, Barton Court Avenue, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 7HD, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 1425 622092, E-Mail: howard\_roe@hotmail.com

**Thomas, Trevor**

Chairman, St. Helena Fishermen's Association  
Tel: +290 22192

#### **UNITED STATES**

**Smith, Russell \***

Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, Office of the Under Secretary, Room 6224, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503  
Tel: +1 202 482 5682, Fax: +1 202 482 4307, E-Mail: russell.smith@noaa.gov

**Blankenbeker, Kimberly**

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

**Brown, Craig A.**

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149  
Tel: +1 305 361 4590, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: craig.brown@noaa.gov

**Campbell, Derek**

Office of General Counsel, International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 7837, Washington, D.C. 20031  
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

**Dawson-Guynn, Kimberly**

National Marine Fisheries Service, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567  
Tel: +1 228 769 8964, Fax: +1 228 762 7144, E-Mail: kim.dawson.guynn@noaa.gov

**Devnew, Jack**

Compass Insurance Solutions, 201 E. City Hall Ave. Suite 700, Norfolk, Virginia 23510  
Tel: +1 757 641 7830, Fax: +1 757 457 8377, E-Mail: jdevnew@mdpins.com

**Díaz, Guillermo**

NOAA-Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149  
Tel: +1 305 361 4277, Fax: +1 301 713 1875, E-Mail: guillermo.diaz@noaa.gov

**Dubois, Todd C.**

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, 1315 East West Hwy, SSMC3 Room 3309, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 4272300, Fax: +1 301 427 2055, E-Mail: todd.dubois@noaa.gov

**Fordham, Sonja V**

Shark Advocates International, President, c/o The Ocean Foundation, suite 250, 1990 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036  
E-Mail: sonja@sharkadvocates.org

**Gershman, David**

Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520  
Tel: 202-647-3464, E-Mail: GershmanDJ@state.gov

**Graves, John E.**

Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062  
Tel: +1 804 684 7352, Fax: +1 804 684 7157, E-Mail: graves@vims.edu

**Hogan, LeAnn**

Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-SF1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: leAnn.southward-Hogan@noaa.gov

**King, Melanie Diamond**

NOAA - National Marine Fishery Service, Office of International Affairs, 1315 East West Highway F/IA, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8366, E-Mail: melanie.king@noaa.gov

**Leape, Gerald**

Senior Officer, Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street NE, Suite 700, Washington D.C. 20004  
Tel: +1 202 887 1346, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: gleape@pewtrusts.org

**McGowan, Michael**

Bumble Bee Seafoods, 1262 Kettner Blvd. Unit 901, San Diego, California 92101  
Tel: +1 858 232 7713, E-Mail: bgtuna1@gmail.com

**McLaughlin, Sarah**

Fishery Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930  
Tel: +978 281 9279, Fax: +978 281 9340, E-Mail: sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov

**O'Malley, Rachel**

Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway - Room 10653, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8373, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: rachel.o'malley@noaa.gov

**Pearsall, Patrick W.**

United States Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037  
Tel: +1 202 647 0835, E-Mail: pearsallpw@state.gov

**Piñeiro Soler, Eugenio**

Chairman, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 723 Box Garden Hills Plaza, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00966  
Tel: +1 787 234 8403, Fax: +1 787 834 8102, E-Mail: iris-oliveras@yahoo.com; gpsfish@yahoo.com

**Rijal, Staci**

NOAA Office of International Affairs, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20230  
Tel: 202-482-0265, E-Mail: staci.rijal@noaa.gov

**Rogers, Christopher**

Chief, Trade and Marine Stewardship Division, Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA (F/IA), U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8350, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: christopher.rogers@noaa.gov

**Ruais, Richard P.**

Executive Director, American Bluefin Tuna Association-ABTA, 28 Zion Hill Road, Salem, New Hampshire 03079  
Tel: +1 603 898 8862, E-Mail: rruais@aol.com

**Schulze-Haugen, Margo**

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Rm. 13458, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: margo.schulze-haugen@noaa.gov

**Soltanoff, Carrie**

Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: 301-427-8361, E-Mail: carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov

**Walline, Megan J.**

Office of the General Counsel for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC-III, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +301 713 9695, Fax: +1 301 713 0658, E-Mail: megan.walline@noaa.gov

**Warner-Kramer, Deirdre**

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878  
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@state.gov

**Weber, Rick**

South Jersey Marina, 1231 New Jersey 109, Cape May, New Jersey 08204  
Tel: +1 609 884-2400, Fax: +1 609 884 0039, E-Mail: rweber@southjerseymarina.com

**URUGUAY**

**Domingo, Andrés \***

Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA, Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497, 11200 Montevideo  
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16, E-Mail: adomingo@dinara.gub.uy

**Esponda, Cecilia**

Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos, Constituyente, 1497, 11200 Montevideo  
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16, E-Mail: cesponda@dinara.gub.uy

**VANUATU**

**Parenté, Laurent \***

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the International Maritime Organization, P.O. Box 1435, Port Vila  
Tel: +33 6 99 51 12 07, E-Mail: laurentparente-vanuatu-imo@hotmail.com

**Taleo, Wayne Tony**  
National Tuna Coordinator, Vanuatu Department of Fisheries PMB 9045, Port Vila  
Tel: +678 533 3340, E-Mail: ttaleo@gmail.com

**VENEZUELA**

**Giménez, Carlos \***  
Director Ejecutivo, Fundación para la Pesca Responsable y Sostenible de Túnidos (FUNDATUN), Avenida Francisco Miranda, Multicentro Empresarial del Este, Torre Miranda, Piso 10, Oficina 103, 1060 Municipio Chacao- Caracas  
Tel: +58 212 267 6666, Fax: +58 212 267 0086, E-Mail: cegimenez@fundatun.com; cegimenezb@gmail.com

**OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES**

**CHINESE TAIPEI**

**Lin, Ding-Rong**  
Director, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, 70-1 Sec. 1, Jinshan S. Rd., 100 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6185, Fax: +886 2 3343 6128, E-Mail: dingrong@ms1.fa.gov.tw

**Chou, Shih-Chin**  
Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Taipei Branch of Fisheries Agency 70-1, Sec. 1 Jinshan S. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6175, Fax: +886 2 3343 6097, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

**Hsia, Tracy, Tsui-Feng**  
Specialist, OFDC, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, No. 19, Lane 113, Sec.4 Roosevelt Road, 106 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2738 1522; Ext 111, Fax: +886 2 2738 4329, E-Mail: tracy@ofdc.org.tw

**Hsieh, Wen-Jung**  
President, Taiwan Tuna Association, 3F-2 No.2 Yu-Kang Middle 1st Road, Chien Jehn District, Kaohsiung  
Tel: +886 7 841 9606, Fax: +886 7 831 3304, E-Mail: wenjung@tuna.org.tw

**Hsu, Pei-Lin**  
F.C.F Fishery Co., Ltd, 28th Flr, N08, Min Chuan 2nd Road, Chien Chen District, Kaohsiung  
Tel: +886 7 339 1636, Fax: +886 7 330 5611, E-Mail: chris@fcf.com.tw

**Huang, Chao Chin**  
General Secretary, Taiwan Tuna Association, 3F-2, No2 Yu-kang Middle 1st Road, Chien Jehn district, 80672 Kaohsiung  
Tel: +886 7 831 3304, Fax: +886 7 841 9606, E-Mail: edward@tuna.org.tw

**Huang, Julia Hsiang-Wen**  
Associate Professor, Institute of Marine Affairs and Resources Management, National Taiwan Ocean University, 2 Pei-Ning Road, 20224 Keelung  
Tel: +886 2 2462 2192, Fax: +886 2 2463 3986, E-Mail: julia@ntou.edu.tw

**Kao, Shih-Ming**  
Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of Marine Affairs and Resource Management, National Taiwan Ocean University, 2 Pei-Ning Road, 20224 Keelung  
Tel: +886 2 2462 2192 Ext. 5030, Fax: +886 2 2463 3986, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.ntou.edu.tw

**Lee, Guann-Der**  
Section Chief, Department of International Organizations, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048, Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2526, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: gdlee@mofa.gov.tw

**Tai, Chung-Chun**  
Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 70-1, -sec, 1, Jinshan S. Rd. Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6062, Fax: +886 2 3343 6128, E-Mail: jungchun@ms1.fa.gov.tw

**Wang, Hsin-Chen**  
Assistant, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, No. 70-1, Sec. 1, Jinshan S.Rd., 100 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6055, Fax: +886 2 3343 6097, E-Mail: hsinchen@ms1.fa.gov.tw

**Wu, Tsung-Han**  
Officer, Department of International Organizations, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2534, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: thwu01@mofa.gov.tw

## **CURAÇAO**

**Cardose, Richard**

Ministry of Economic Development, Sector Foreign Economic Cooperation Molenplein z/n, Curaçao  
Tel: +5999 462 1444, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: richard.cardose@gobiernu.an

**Girigorie, Luelo**

Director of Policy Department of Industry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development, Pietermaai 25 B, Willemstad

Tel: +5999 462 1444, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: Luelo.girigorie@gobiernu.cw; luelo.girigorie@curacao

**Mambi, Stephen A.**

Business Administration, Senior Policy Advisor, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao Pietermaai 25-B, Molenplein, Willemstad Curaçao

Tel: +5999 560 6038, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: stephenmambi@yahoo.com

## **EL SALVADOR**

**Álvarez Colmenarejo, Oscar Gustavo**

Operations Manager, Calvopesca, Pza. Carlos Triás Bertrán 7, 6th floor, 28020 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 782 3300, Fax: +34 91 782 33 12, E-Mail: oscar-gustavo.alvarez@calvo.es

**Osorio Gómez, Juan José**

Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura (CENDEPESCA) Final 1º Av. Norte y Av. Manuel Gallardo, Santa Tecla, La Libertad

Tel: +503 2210 1921, Fax: +503 2534 9885, E-Mail: juan.osorio@mag.gob.sv

## **SURINAME**

**Lieveld, Rene B.L.**

Director of Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Cornelis Jongbawstr 50, Paramaribo

Tel: +597 476 741, Fax: +597 424441, E-Mail: visserijdienst@sr.net

**Tong Sang, Tania**

Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Cornelis Jongbawstraat # 50, Paramaribo

Tel: +597 476741, Fax: +597 424441, E-Mail: tareva@hotmail.com

## **OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES & PETRELS - ACAP**

**Wolfaardt, Anton**

Convener of ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), 27 Salamanca Square, Battery Point, 7004 Tasmania, Australia

Tel: +61 3 6233 3123, E-Mail: acwolfaardt@gmail.com

### **CITES**

**De Meulenaer, Tom**

International Environment House, 11-13 ch. des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: 41229178131, Fax: 41227973417, E-Mail: tom.de-meulenaer@cites.org

### **COMHAFAT**

**Benabbou, Abdelouahid**

Executive Secretary, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique/COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Ben Darkoul Ain khalouiya Souissi, BP 1007, Rabat, Morocco

Tel: +212 530774 221, Fax: +212 530 774 242, E-Mail: secretariat@comhafat.org

**Laamrich, Abdennaji**

Cadré a la Direction de la Coopération et des Affaires Juridiques, Département des Pêches Maritimes, B.P. 476, Rabat, Morocco

Tel: +212 537 688 200, Fax: +212 537 688 134, E-Mail: laamrich@mpm.gov.ma; laamrichmpm@gmail.com

**Oikawa, Masaki**

Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique - COMHAFAT, 2 Rue Ben Darkoul Ain khalouiya Souissi, BP 1007, Rabat, Morocco

Tel: +212 530 774 225, Fax: +212 530 174 242, E-Mail: secretariat@comhafat.org;oikawamasakichofu@yahoo.co.jp

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

**Anganuzzi, Alejandro**  
Victoria, Seychelles  
E-Mail: alejandro.anganuzzi@gmail.com

**Chopin, Francis**  
FAO, Via delle Termi di Caracalla, Rome, Italy  
E-Mail: francis.chopin@fao.org

**COMMISSION GENERALE DES PECHEES POUR LA MEDITERRANEE - GFCM**

**Srour, Abdellah**  
Secrétaire Exécutif, Commission Générale des Pêches pour la Méditerranée - GFCM, Palazzo Blumenstihl, Via Vittoria Colonna 1, 00193 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +3906 5705 4055, Fax: +39 06 5705 6500, E-Mail: abdellah.srour@fao.org; gfc-secretariat@fao.org

**IAC**

**Cáceres, Verónica**  
Secretaría Pro Tempore, Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas - IAC, 4401 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, Virginia 22203, United States  
Tel: +1 703 358 1828, E-Mail: secretario@iacseaturtle.org

**IATTC**

**Delgado, Alvin**  
Chairman, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
IATTC, Av. Principal El Dique Edf. San Pablo P.H., Estado- Sucre Cumaná, Venezuela  
Tel: +582 934330431, Fax: +582 934330431, E-Mail: adelgadonov@cantv.net; fundatunpnov@cantv.net

**INFOPÊCHE**

**El Malagui, Mohamed**  
INFOPÊCHE, Cité Administrative, Tour C 10ème Etage -Plateau; 01 B.P. 1747, Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire  
Tel: +225 2022 8980, Fax: +225 2021 8054, E-Mail: infopeche@aviso.ci; infopech@gmail.com; elmalagui@hotmail.fr

**UNEP/CMS**

**Pauly, Andrea**  
Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10, 53113 Germany Bonn, Germany  
Tel: +492288152477, Fax: +492288152449, E-Mail: apauly@cms.int

**WCPFC**

**Manarangi-Trott, Lara**  
WCPFC - Compliance Manager, Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Kaselehia Street, P.O. Box 2356, FM 96941 Pohnpei State Kolonia, Federal States of Micronesia  
Tel: +691 320 1992, Fax: +691 320 1108, E-Mail: Lara.Manarangi-Trott@wcpfc.int

**OBSERVERS FROM NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES****ARGENTINA**

**Navarro, Gabriela**  
Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura, Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca, Paseo Colón 982 -1º piso, Oficina 74, 1063 Buenos Aires  
Tel: +54 11 434 92590, Fax: +54 11 434 92321, E-Mail: ganava@minagri.gob.ar

**Remes Lenicov, Mauricio**

Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura, Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca, Paseo Colón 982 -1º piso, Oficina 74, 1063 Buenos Aires  
Tel: +54 11 434 92354, Fax: +54 11 434 92321, E-Mail: mremes@minagri.gob.ar

**BOLIVIA**

**Flores Castro, Alfredo**  
Jefe de Unidad boliviana de Pesca Marítima, Autoridad Marítima de Bolivia, Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos, Ministerio de Defensa, Av. 20 de Octubre 2502 esq. Pedro Salazar, 8447 La Paz  
Tel: +591 2 261 0418, Fax: +591 2 261 0469, E-Mail: pescamar@mindef.gob.bo;alfredoflo70@hotmail.com

**OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**ASSOCIATION EURO-MEDITERRANEENNE DES PECHEURS PROFESSIONNELS DE THON – AEPPT**

**Kahoul, Mourad**

Association Euro-méditerranéenne des Pêcheurs Professionnels de Thon-AEPPT, 39 rue de la Loge, 13002 Marseille, France  
Tel: +33 609 535 603, Fax: +39 06 4820696, E-Mail: bluefintuna13@yahoo.fr

**Lubrano, Jean-Gerald**

AEPPT, 39 rue de la Loge, 13002 Marseille, France  
Tel: +33 6 09 53 56 03, E-Mail: bluefintuna13@yahoo.fr

**ASOCIACIÓN DE PESCA, COMERCIO Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLE DEL ATÚN ROJO – APCCR**

**Balfegó Laboria, Manuel Juan**

APCCR, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar, Tarragona, Spain  
Tel: +34 977 047700, Fax: +34 977 457812, E-Mail: manel@grupbalfego.com

**Serrano Fernández, Juan**

Grupo Balfegó - Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo responsable del Atún Rojo, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó43860 L'Ametlla de Mar, Tarragona, Spain  
Tel: +34 977 047708, Fax: +34 977 457812, E-Mail: juanserrano@grupbalfego.com

**BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL**

**Maree, Bronwyn**

19A Foregate Square, Heerengracht Street, Foreshore, 8001, Cape Town, South Africa  
Tel: +27 21 419 7347, Fax: +27 21 86 545 4319

**Small, Cleo**

Senior Policy Officer, BIRDLIFE International Global Seabird Programme RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 1767 693 586, Fax: +44 1767 692 365, E-Mail: cleo.small@rspb.org.uk

**Wanless, Ross**

BIRDLIFE INT., 19A Foregate Square, Heerengracht Street, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town, South Africa  
Tel: +27214197347, Fax: +27 21 86 545 4319, E-Mail: ross.wanless@birdlife.org.za

**BLUE WATER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**Delaney, Glenn**

Blue Water Fishermen's Association, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 900 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20004, United States  
Tel: +1 202 434 8220, Fax: +1 202 639 8817, E-Mail: grdelaney@aol.com

**CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PECHE SPORTIVE – CIPS**

**Matteoli, Ugo**

Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive, 135 Avenue Clot Bey, 13008 Marseille, France  
Tel: +33 4 9172 6396, Fax: +33 4 91 72 63 97

**Ordan, Marcel**

President of CIPS, Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive, 135 Avenue Clot Bey, 13008 Marseille, France  
Tel: +33 4 9172 6396, Fax: +33 4 91 72 63 97, E-Mail: ffpmpaca@free.fr

**DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE**

**Goyenechea, Alejandra**

1130 17th Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20036-4604, United States  
Tel: 202-7723268, Fax: 202-6821331, E-Mail: agoyenechea@defenders.org

**ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE - EAC**

**Bello, Maximiliano**

Ecology Action Centre, 40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011, United States  
Tel: +56 9 7 516 4960, E-Mail: mbello-consultant@pewtrusts.org

**Fabra Aguilar, Adriana**

Girona 85, 3, 08009 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: +34 655 770442, E-Mail: afabra@yahoo.es

**Schleit, Kathryn**

Ecology Action Centre - EAC, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax B3K 4L3, Canada  
Tel: +1 902 488 4078, E-Mail: kschleit@gmail.com

**EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT – EBCD****Symons-Pirovolidou**, DespinaEuropean Bureau for Conservation and Development, E.B.C.D., Rue de la Science, 9, Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 4783 37154, Fax: +32 2 230 3070, E-Mail: [despina.symons@ebcd.org](mailto:despina.symons@ebcd.org); [ebcd.info@ebcd.org](mailto:ebcd.info@ebcd.org)**FEDERPESCA****Nannucci**, Lapo

FEDERPESCA, Viale Liegi, 41, 00198 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 3396 86 7730, Fax: +39 06 853 52992, E-Mail: [lapo.nannucci@federpesca.it](mailto:lapo.nannucci@federpesca.it); [federpesca@federpesca.it](mailto:federpesca@federpesca.it)**FEDERATION OF MALTESE AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS – FMAP****Azzopardi**, David

Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers, Tarxion Road, GXQ 2901 Ghaxaq, Malta

Tel: +356 21 809 460, Fax: +356 21 809 462, E-Mail: [dvd@maltanet.net](mailto:dvd@maltanet.net); [david.azzopardi@ffmalta.com](mailto:david.azzopardi@ffmalta.com)**Caruana**, Joseph

Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers, Tarxion Road, GXQ 290 Ghaxaq, Malta

Tel: +356 21 809 460, Fax: +356 21 809 462, E-Mail: [joseph.caruana@ffmalta.com](mailto:joseph.caruana@ffmalta.com)**Deguara**, Simeon

Research and Development Coordinator, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers-FMAP, 54, St. Christopher Str., VLT 1462 Valletta, Malta

Tel: +356 21223515, Fax: +356 2124 1170, E-Mail: [sdeguara@ebcon.com.mt](mailto:sdeguara@ebcon.com.mt)**GREENPEACE****Losada Figueiras**, Sebastián

Oceans Policy Adviser, Greenpeace International, Ronda de Nelle, 96 - 9 Izq., 15004 A Coruña, Spain

Tel: +34 626 998 254, E-Mail: [slosada@greenpeace.org](mailto:slosada@greenpeace.org)**INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION– ISSF****Jackson**, Susan

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation - ISSF, 805 15th Street N.W. Suite 650, Washington 20005, United States

Tel: +1 703 226 8101, Fax: +1 703 226 8100, E-Mail: [sjackson@iss-foundation.org](mailto:sjackson@iss-foundation.org)**Restrepo**, Victor

Chair of the ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee, ISS-Foundation, 805 15th Street N.W. Suite 650, Washington 20005, United States

Tel: + 946 572 555, E-Mail: [vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org](mailto:vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org); [vrestrepo@mail.com](mailto:vrestrepo@mail.com)**MEDISAMAK****Klibi**, Mohieddine

MEDISAMAK, 39 Rue de la Loge, 13002 Marseille, France

Tel: +33609535603, E-Mail: [bluefintuna13@yahoo.fr](mailto:bluefintuna13@yahoo.fr); [contact@cingpluscing](mailto:contact@cingpluscing)**Perez**, Serge

MEDISAMAK, 54 Route de Palau, 66690 Sorede, France

Tel: +33 6 0779 3354, Fax: +33 4 6889 3415, E-Mail: [armement.sam@wanadoo.fr](mailto:armement.sam@wanadoo.fr)**OCEANA****Cornax Atienza**, María José

Fundación Oceana Europa, c/ Leganitos, 47 - 6º, 28013 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 911 440880, Fax: +34 911 440 890, E-Mail: [mcornax@oceana.org](mailto:mcornax@oceana.org)**Perry**, Allison

Oceana, C/ Leganitos, 47, 6º, 28013 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 144 0880, Fax: +34 91 144 0890, E-Mail: [aperry@oceana.org](mailto:aperry@oceana.org)**ORGANIZATION FOR PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE TUNA FISHERIES – OPRT****Ito**, Kenichi

9F Sankaido Bldg. 9-13, Akasaka 1-chome, Tokyo Minato-ku, Japan

Tel: +81 80 1020 0047

**Nagahata**, Daishiro

Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, 9F Sankaido Bldg. 9-13, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku 107-0052, Japan

Tel: +81 3 3568 6388, Fax: +81 3 3568 6389, E-Mail: [nagahata@iprt.or.jp](mailto:nagahata@iprt.or.jp)

**PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**Gibbon, James**

Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, United States  
Tel: +1 202 540 6447, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: [jgibbon@pewtrusts.org](mailto:jgibbon@pewtrusts.org)

**Griffin Wilson, Elizabeth**

Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, United States  
Tel: +1 202 540 6755, Fax: +1 202 833 2070, E-Mail: [ewilson@pewtrusts.org](mailto:ewilson@pewtrusts.org)

**Warwick, Luke**

Pew Environment Group, Square du Bastion 1 A boîte 5, 1050 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 741 5056 940, E-Mail: [lwarwick@pewtrusts.org](mailto:lwarwick@pewtrusts.org)

**THE OCEAN FOUNDATION**

**Miller, Shana**

The Ocean Foundation, 1990 M Street NW, Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20036, United States  
Tel: +1 631 671 1530, E-Mail: [smiller-consultant@pewtrusts.org](mailto:smiller-consultant@pewtrusts.org)

**THE VARDA FOUNDATION**

**Bard, Dave**

The Varda Group for environment and sustainability, Dufaystraat, 8, 1075 GT Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Tel: +1 202 486 4426, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: [dbard@pewtrusts.org](mailto:dbard@pewtrusts.org)

**DeBey, Henry**

The Varda Group for Environment and Sustainability, Dufaystraat, 8, 1075 GT Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Tel: +1-650-714-1944, E-Mail: [hdebey@gmail.com](mailto:hdebey@gmail.com)

**USJI**

**Ishii, Atsushi**

U.S.-Japan Research Institute - USJI, 41, Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8576, Japan  
Tel: +81 22 795 6076, Fax: +81 22 795 6010, E-Mail: [ishii@cneas.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:ishii@cneas.tohoku.ac.jp)

**Okubo, Ayako**

U.S.-Japan Research Institute - USJI, Tokai University, 3-20-1 Orido Shimizu, Shizuoka 424-8610, Japan  
Tel: +81 54 334 0411, Fax: +81 54 337 0216, E-Mail: [okubo@tokai-u.jp](mailto:okubo@tokai-u.jp)

**WWF MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME – WWF**

**Kuruc, Michele**

Senior Fishery Industry Officer (FIRO), Fisheries and Aquaculture Department – FAO, 1520 24th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, United States  
Tel: +1 202 495-4140, E-Mail: [michele.kuruc@wwfus.org](mailto:michele.kuruc@wwfus.org)

**Ménard, Chantal**

WWF Mediterranean Programme, Via Po 25c, 00198 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 8449 7227, Fax: +39 06 8413866, E-Mail: [cménard@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:cménard@wwfmedpo.org)

**Sainz-Trápaga, Susana**

WWF Mediterranean, World Wide Fund for Nature c/Canuda, 37, 3º, 8002 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: +3493 305 6252, Fax: +3493 278 8030, E-Mail: [ssainztrapaga@atw-wwf.org](mailto:ssainztrapaga@atw-wwf.org)

**Spurrier, Lauren**

Managing Director Latin America Marine, World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, United States  
Tel: +1 202 495 4146, E-Mail: [lauren.spurrier@wwfus.org](mailto:lauren.spurrier@wwfus.org)

**Tudela Casanovas, Sergi**

WWF Mediterranean Programme Office Barcelona, Carrer Canuda, 37 - 3º, 1º, 08013 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: +34 93 305 3243, Fax: +34 93 278 8030, E-Mail: [studela@atw-wwf.org](mailto:studela@atw-wwf.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**ICCAT SECRETARIAT**

C/ Corazón de María 8 - 6th fl. 28002 Madrid - Spain

**Meski**, Driss  
**Pallarés**, Pilar  
**Ortiz**, Mauricio  
**Moreno**, Juan Antonio  
**Ochoa de Michelena**, Carmen  
**Cheatle**, Jenny  
**De Andrés**, Marisa  
**García-Orad**, María José  
**Seidita**, Philomena  
**Cartuyvels**, Etienne  
**Fiz**, Jesús  
**Gallego Sanz**, Juan Luis  
**García Piña**, Cristóbal  
**Martín**, África  
**Moreno**, Juan Ángel  
**Peña**, Esther  
**Pinet**, Dorothee

**GBYP/ICCAT**

**Di Natale**, Antonio

**JDMIP/ICCAT**

**Mishima**, Mari

**ICCAT Interpreters**

**Amari**, Jaafar  
**Failace**, Linda  
**Gzour**, Aomar  
**Hof**, Michelle  
**Liberas**, Christine  
**Linaae**, Cristina  
**Meunier**, Isabelle  
**Reymond**, Rima  
**Sánchez del Villar**, Lucía

## OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

### 3.1 OPENING ADDRESS

#### By Mr. Masanori Miyahara, ICCAT Chairman

I should like to thank the honorable Minister Ms. Tina Joemat-Peterson and her team particularly the Local Organizing Committee for all the efforts made to make this meeting successful. The honorable Minister was unable to be here at this moment because of a very urgent matter, but we expect her to be here at 11:00 to open our annual meeting. Mr. DESMOND STEVENS the Deputy Director General of South African Fisheries Department is here with us this morning and I should like to express my gratitude to him for joining us.

I should like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the Government of South Africa for their invitation to host this 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of our Commission in this beautiful city of Cape Town, which in addition to being such a charming and picturesque venue, is one of the most important ports in the world, with a long history of fishery related activities. I trust we will all have an opportunity to visit some of its historic sites and appreciate why Cape Town has been nominated the World Design Capital for 2014. My thanks go especially to the honourable Minister of Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for joining us here today.

As we start this new meeting, I should like to ask all delegates to continue on the path of heeding scientific advice, a strategy which seems to be paying off for our most important species. But at the same time, I call on all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to realize that such scientific advice should be the result of the concerted efforts of scientists from all CPCs. I would urge you all to do your utmost to ensure that your scientists not only supply, in a timely manner, the data needed for analyses, and not only attend the meetings of SCRS, but also participate fully in all aspects of the work to be carried out during the year. Only in this way can we assure ourselves that we receive the best scientific advice through an inclusive and transparent process, and to reduce as far as possible uncertainties in the results of stock assessment. In this respect, I would remind you that the Commission has the special fund to assist developing Parties.

The continued demands on the SCRS and on reporting on the implementation of management measures and the introduction of new programmes and schemes create additional burdens on scientists and the Secretariat, which can only function well if sufficient resources are allocated, at national level as well as through the Commission. I would urge you all during the course of this week to consider carefully before making requests to the SCRS, taking into account that the ever-increasing demands and *ad hoc* requests undermine the strategic plan being designed by SCRS. A clearly defined plan of work, with tasks to be shared out among all CPC scientists, will not only lead to sounder advice, but will also alleviate the unsustainable pressure on Secretariat staff resources. It should be borne in mind that the SCRS is requesting additional resources for the increase in tasks which we have been adopting in recent years, and any further workload will only add more strain on our budget and human resources, which could be a constraint for almost all of our CPCs.

At this meeting, I should like to make sure that there is ample time for discussion on measures relating to those species for which assessments have been carried out or for which fishing possibilities need to be allocated. Priority will therefore be given to albacore, swordfish and bluefin tuna. Our scientists have advised caution with regard to setting the TACs for these species, and it is my belief that their advice should be taken. Notwithstanding, there are several other important issues to discuss, particularly issues arising from the inter-sessional meetings such as Convention amendment issues as well as IMM issues including progress to be made in catch certification schemes; actions required for the full implementation of the eBCD programme; UVI and VMS.

As is obvious, the fisheries sector of the economies of all parties present today is of vital importance, and in a world economy which at last shows signs for optimism, we need to increase our vigilance to ensure that the old ghosts of large-scale IUU fishing do not return. Our fight against this scourge must continue as intensely as ever, as must our improvements to MCS measures and our assistance to those developing countries which need help to improve control in their fisheries and enable them to comply with all the ICCAT measures.

The Compliance Committee will once again face a daunting task, but improvements in compliance in recent years are encouraging, and it is my sincere hope and firm belief that this trend will continue, not only this year but well into the future.

I look forward to working with you all on these important issues during the week ahead. As always, we have a lot of work to do, but I have no doubt that, as always, through cooperation and our usual constructive spirit, we can achieve all our objectives. And finally I would like to ask your special cooperation for efficient use of the meeting time this week so that all of us here can have some free time on Sunday to enjoy this fascinating city of Cape Town.

**By the Hon. Ms. Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa**

On this very auspicious occasion of the very first ICCAT Commission meeting to be held in South Africa, I warmly welcome you to our country, the Republic of South Africa.

As a nation, South Africa has always strongly supported the efforts of the United Nations-Food and Agriculture Organisation to enhance global food security and international governance. We have therefore actively participated in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations such as ICCAT, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and we are in the process of acceding to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

South Africa has a long history with ICCAT as one of the first countries to ratify the ICCAT Agreement in 1967. As a founding member, we have long since wanted to have the privilege of hosting the Commission. However, during the decades of oppressive Apartheid rule South Africa had to be excluded from the fraternity of nations. As such the prospect of hosting the Commission only became a possibility after 1994 when Apartheid was banished and we became a nation free to look the world in the face.

In our view ICCAT can today be held up as a model which other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations can aspire to emulate. Over the years ICCAT has grown and matured as an international organisation that conducts excellent scientific research. It anchors its management on a transparent process of integrating scientific, social, economic and political considerations in a balanced way and upholds the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in all its dimensions (ecological, human and governance).

ICCAT has shown that declining fish stocks can be rebuilt, such as the recent evidence-based success story on the rebuilding of the North Atlantic swordfish stock. ICCAT has also adopted stringent conservation and management measures to rebuild the iconic North Atlantic bluefin stocks, which is once again a testimony to the level of responsibility and maturity displayed by Member Parties of this organisation.

ICCAT has taken the lead in the protection of ecologically important and threatened shark species and the protection of seabirds with effective mitigation measures. To this end we have strengthened the conservation of seabirds in South Africa with a National Plan of Action that dates to as far back as 2008. This plan includes measures that are currently being adopted by this Commission. And lastly, our NPOA on sharks will be launched this evening.

The South African government has adopted a long-term plan, aptly called the National Development Plan, and I am proud to say that ICCAT fits into that.

ICCAT has also shown a determination to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing by implementing effective measures such as:

- Catch document schemes for bluefin;
- Blacklisting vessels engaged in IUU fishing;
- Minimum standards for inspection in port, and,
- An at sea trans-shipment programme.

We consider that ICCAT as a best proctor of international collaboration and applaud all parties for making ICCAT what it is today.

South Africa is proud to be a member of ICCAT. We view ourselves as an exemplary and committed ICCAT member and have introduced a range of measures which embodies the Commission's Resolutions

We have developed an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) which includes mitigation of bycatch species such as sharks, turtles and seabirds. We are also implementing strong measures to combat IUU fishing by way of a range of flag and port State measures.

Despite fiscal constraints we have always sent a delegation to participate and to represent our interests and will in future be extending the range of ICCAT activities in which we participate, such as full participation in relevant stock assessment and other scientific meetings and participation in policy formulation and content issues.

We are grateful to have the privilege of hosting this meeting as it provides a unique opportunity to expose many of our departmental officials and industry members to the workings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and allows for capacity building within the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are fully aware of the rights that the ICCAT Convention confers on coastal states and that ICCAT supports developing coastal states in a number of ways. However, we should further address how coastal States, especially those in Africa which have been disadvantaged through their colonial legacy, can gain equitable access and the full economic benefits and capacity to which they are entitled.

Through a rights allocation process that places these fishers at the forefront, South Africa is now, in 2013, attempting to right some of the wrongs of the past. We would like to see that international commissions such as ICCAT also take such issues into account when country quotas are being allocated. As such, large and rich fishing nations have ensured that they receive the lion's share of quotas and sharing arrangements and there should be more equity in future.

Delegates, despite the many successes and milestones which have been recorded by ICCAT, there remain a number of tasks that require our attention.

Starting with the meetings this week, we believe that ICCAT should further strengthen its Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) efforts to combat IUU fishing by implementing the Electronic Bluefin Catch Document and to continue the work to develop Unique Vessel Identifiers for all authorized vessels. Proposals for high seas boarding and inspections at sea and increased frequency of Vessel Management System (VMS) reporting are also commendable for improving MCS standards.

We also note that over the past few years the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has recommended the establishment of a large-scale tagging programme in order to improve their advice to the Commission. We acknowledge that this is a costly exercise, but if we are to remain true to the goals and objectives of this organisation, then we would need to prioritize this work so as to ensure that management recommendations are made on the best available science. A programme of this nature has already provided invaluable information to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

This year we find ourselves again in a challenging situation with regard to adopting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and sharing arrangements for a number of stocks, including swordfish and albacore. The world is once again watching to see whether we are responsible in adhering to scientific recommendations in setting the TACs for these stocks. We also hope that the spirit of co-operation and mutual respect between parties that has been built up over recent years would prevail when addressing the sensitive issues of sharing arrangements.

We also need to maintain our efforts in addressing the Ecosystems Approach to Fishing issues. Given all the other challenges of the organisation it could be easy to lose sight of the importance of ecosystem considerations. We believe the best approach in dealing with the very broad nature of EAF while considering limited resources is through the process of prioritization of issues. Some of the urgent EAF issues that require strengthening at ICCAT are for parties to improve their submission of shark statistics, the management of mako and porbeagle sharks and the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), particularly with respect to their high bycatch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and to improve observer coverage on their vessels.

Honourable ICCAT Chairman, Committee and Panel Chairs, these requests may appear to be a tall order, but we have complete confidence in your abilities to chair these meetings and thereby ensure that the time spent in deliberations would result in fruitful outcomes for this organisation.

Lastly, distinguished delegates, Chairperson, Executive Secretary, delegates and Secretariat, I welcome you to our beautiful country with open arms. May you have productive meetings with excellent outcomes, and may you find the time to explore and enjoy the natural beauty, diverse cultures and hospitality of Cape Town, the Western Cape and South Africa.

May your visit to our shores be a memorable one.

I hereby officially declare the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas open.

### ***3.2 ADDRESSES BY CONTRACTING PARTY MINISTERS & OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES***

#### **By The Honourable Maria Damanaki, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

It is a pleasure to be here. I know our time is precious and every ICCAT meeting is particularly busy. Hence, there's no time for complacency. But this year I think we can just take a moment and be proud of ourselves.

In the last couple of years, we have engaged in an intense collective effort. We have improved scientific advice; we have improved compliance; we have improved our recovery plans. We have made and enforced tough decisions. We have become more efficient.

Today we reap the benefits of that effort. Bluefin tuna is officially recovering. This emblematic stock, utterly overfished and almost doomed in 2010, is likely to continue towards recovery.

Today, this organization is becoming top of the class and a model of best practice among RFMOs. Hopefully, it will inspire other regional bodies to undertake equally ambitious tasks.

So, to begin with, I want to say "well done"! to you: fisheries managers from 47 countries, inspectors, scientists, the ICCAT Secretariat and fishermen: thank you for your efforts and sacrifices.

But while I wanted to share my renewed enthusiasm with you, I do not want you to think that it is all downhill from here, or that we can rest on our laurels.

On the contrary: The stakes are still high and we still need the same rigor, on tuna as well as on other species. And now that we have set such high standards, proper control, administration and data collection will be more crucial than ever.

For Atlantic bluefin tuna, we were able to grant a slightly higher TAC last year. Let us make sure the recovery is quantifiable before we rush into another peak.

We need to continue to ensure full compliance with the rules and to monitor the stock closely, because these are the key elements for its recovery. Luckily, electronic traceability should now make this easier.

We also need to continue our work to improve our scientific knowledge on the state of stocks.

And when we do have new scientific advice, as is the case this year for Atlantic albacore and Atlantic swordfish, we need to re-align our management decisions; whereas if we do not have a full picture and there are still uncertainties, like for eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, then the precautionary approach should guide us.

This is precisely the direction the EU has taken domestically and internationally. Everywhere, with no exception, we are practicing what we preach.

At home, we are cutting down exploitation to levels determined by scientists. Long-term plans allow for the recovery of weakened stocks. Discards are being phased out through a series of tools and technical solutions. Management is carefully tailored to each sea basin and region.

When we fish outside the EU, we only fish within scientifically safe margins and only once the local populations have satisfied their seafood needs.

There is no way around it. For bluefin tuna, like for other species, the key underlying cause for overfishing is overcapacity.

And I will have the honour to host an international conference next March in Thessaloniki, Greece, because I am determined to renew momentum on effective capacity management at the global level.

This, of course, goes hand in hand with our policy of “zero tolerance” on illegal fishing. We are using both our political weight and our market weight on this fight, and this too is now starting to pay off.

I am glad we are on the same page as ICCAT on certification and IUU fishing. I hope that soon we will be able to tell the world that, just like we have ensured the recovery of bluefin tuna, we have defeated illegal fishing on the species in our purview.

At the end of the day, all our consumers should know that the fish they buy is sustainable. They should be reassured that there are people like us taking care, day by day, of the health of ocean life.

If wish you a constructive meeting. Thank you.

**By the Honourable M. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of Côte d’Ivoire**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ICCAT Executive Secretary and the South African Authorities for the excellent organization of this 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of ICCT in this magnificent city of Cape Town.

Let me also to wholeheartedly thank all the Contracting Parties that are present here.

Recent studies have shown that our organization is a successful model of tuna management among the four Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

I wish to thank the Chairman of ICCAT, the ICCAT Secretariat and all those who have worked towards achieving this remarkable success.

Côte d’Ivoire strongly supports the COMHAFAT’s concerns raised by Ghana, the country that holds the presidency of that organization.

The work of the ICCAT’s Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates great uncertainty, particularly at the level of the assessment of the various stocks.

These uncertainties constitute obstacles for the development of the tuna industry of the Contracting Parties of our organization.

However, I must point out that for some countries the ICCAT recommendations and resolutions are very difficult to implement since they require mobilizing many resources.

I would like reiterate my appreciation to some Contracting Parties, particularly the European Union (EU), Japan, United States and other countries as well that continue to aid all the developing countries.

I reassure you that Côte d’Ivoire will make all the necessary arrangements for the effective implementation of all the recommendations since the tuna industry is an important component of the fishing sector in my country, which generates more than 70,000 direct jobs and 400,000 indirect jobs.

In my capacity as President of the Council of Administration of the Intergovernmental Organization for Information and Cooperation for the Marketing of Fishing Products in Africa (INFOPECHE), I must inform the Contracting Parties of ICCAT that INFOPECHE has proven expertise than can be used for the development of the fishing sector.

Let me iterate my encouragement to ICCAT and invite all the States to fully collaborate in active synergy against IUU fishing.

Our meeting agenda includes the election of a new Chairman to head ICCAT as well as the Chairs of the Panels. I cannot end my remarks without expressing the hope that these elections will enable electing or reappointing competent persons, capable of continuing the excellent work already accomplished. Thank you.

**By the Honourable Nayo Bilijo, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana**

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana, I wish, first and foremost, to express my appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa for the hospitality extended to us on the occasion of the 23rd regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). I also wish to thank the Chairman and Secretariat of ICCAT for their hard work and efficient running of our organization.

Ghana has been an active contracting party to ICCAT since 17 April, 1968. We take our ICCAT obligations and commitments seriously because tuna resources are significant to Ghana's economy and food security needs. Ghana also firmly believes that in view of their migratory nature, tuna stocks are shared by many countries and require international and regional cooperation to manage them.

The sustainable management of our shared tuna resources is threatened by many challenges, including capacity limitations on many countries, particularly the developing ones, pressures of globalisation and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is of particular concern to Ghana.

In particular, my Government is committed to full cooperation and transparency with the international community and countries in the West African sub-region to find a lasting solution to the IUU fishing challenges. In this respect, Ghana has taken a number of bold initiatives in recent times, in full cooperation with, and support of the industry to deal firmly with IUU fishing. To name just a few, these include imposition of severe sanctions for IUU fishing activities, strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance measures, fleet capacity management, enhanced port State measures and institutional strengthening and capacity building initiatives.

As the current Chair of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT), I also wish to draw to your attention efforts being made by our members, in cooperation with industry, to foster regional cooperation not only to fight IUU fishing, but also to promote food security for its members. Through the collective endeavours of the members of ATLAFCO, we have embarked on a number of initiatives, including capacity building for our members, cooperation to combat IUU fishing and initiatives to develop frameworks for bilateral and regional access agreements. ATLAFCO members count on your support and full cooperation.

I wish you a very fruitful meeting.

**By The Honourable Andrey Krainiy, Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO)**

I would like to start by expressing my appreciation to the Party of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of ICCAT in one of the most beautiful cities in the world – Cape Town. I would also like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for excellent work they have done to arrange the meeting. I am attending the ICCAT Meeting for the first time, however, I have learned a great deal from my colleagues about challenging and efficient work of this international organization being among the oldest international organizations in the world. I would like to recall the fact that the Soviet Union (and later on the Russian Federation) was at the origins of this organization being among the founders of ICCAT in 1966.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to tell you very briefly about the current state of fisheries in the Russian Federation in general, prospects for tuna fisheries as well as Russia's activities in ICCAT.

In 2012 a total catch of aquatic water resources by Russian fishermen in all areas of the World Ocean and in inland freshwater bodies made up over 4.2 million tons. The major share of catches was accounted for by Far Eastern seas of Russia (coastal areas, the Sea of Okhotsk and Barentz Sea) – 68.5%. The share of the seas in the north of Russia was 13.3%. National catch shares for the Baltic, Azov and Black Seas was about 1% each. Besides the share of EEZ of coastal states and in the world's oceans was 12.4%. Thus, the main fish supply base for Russia's fisheries is formed by aquatic bioresources of exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation. However, considerable amounts of Russian catches were accounted for by catches from EEZ of coastal states as well as convention areas and mid-ocean. North-east Atlantic – a NEAFC convention area – is one of the key fishing grounds for Russia. Russia's presence in the north-west Atlantic (which is a NAFO-regulated area) has been stabilized in recent years. A national quota of pelagic species in Morocco EEZ in 2011/2012, in compliance with Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the

Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the Field of Marine Fisheries of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, was utilized to the full extent. About 11 Russian vessels carried out fishery of pelagic species in EEZ of Mauritania in 2012. Trawl fishing was implemented in the EEZs of Senegal, Namibia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Angola. It is worth noting that Russian vessels fishing in EEZs of West African states regularly find in their catches tunas and tuna-like species as well as various species of sharks, that is, the species to which ICCAT Convention is applied.

In Russia tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean was carried out extensively by various types of long-liners and seiner-net boats from late 1960s till the middle of 2000. At the moment tuna fishery is practically terminated due to the fleet obsolescence.

Scientific and technological potential plays an important role in a sustainable development of the Russian fishing industry because it is characterized by the state of science, engineering development, material and technical resources available in the industry in order to meet its current challenges.

In 2012 scientific and research institutions of “Rospybolovstvo” carried out over valuable amount expeditions, collected extensive material on biology and condition of fish stocks for all commercial species in Russia’s EEZ on the continental shelf, in territorial seas and inland water bodies of the Russian Federation. Moreover, in 2012 experts from “Rospybolovstvo” participated in activities of global and local organizations such as the UN, FAO, CITES, NEAFC, NAFO, CCAMLR, SPRFMO, ICCAT, NASCO, NPAFC, APEC, PICES and many others.

As concerns our activities in ICCAT, Russian experts participate in the work of ICCAT Scientific Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) on a regular basis. The activities include collecting, processing and analyzing material on tuna fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area, providing data on catches of tunas and tuna-like species, on species composition of catches and presenting a National Report on Statistics and Research.

Besides, Russia always delivers varied information and statistical data in response to operative queries of the ICCAT Secretariat.

Russia endorses and consistently implements recommendations and resolutions adopted by ICCAT. This concerns measures on IUU fishing, compulsory use of VMS, registration of vessels involved in fisheries, by-catch registration, and introduction of electronic documentation.

As regards the development of Russian tuna fishery, energetic efforts are currently being made in order to revive this type of fishery using new types of vessels and advanced technologies.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you successful work at this ICCAT meeting.

## **Algeria**

The delegation of Algeria thanks the Government of South Africa for hosting the 23rd Regular Meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful city of Cape Town and for its warm hospitality.

Thanks to the efforts and the understanding of all the ICCAT Contracting Parties Grace which are reflected in encouraging provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 adopted in 2012, Algeria can recover the hope of exploiting its tuna fishery under normal conditions, after its historical quota of 5.073% of the eastern bluefin tuna TAC was unfairly reduced by 4/5 in 2010.

This wise decision taken at the 2012 meeting to initiate a solution to the problem caused to Algeria not only had a beneficial effect on the Algerian tuna fleet which could catch in 2013 the entire quota allocated to Algeria, but also has the virtuous effect of encouraging the Algerian fishing administration to double its efforts to strengthen and improve the Algerian scientific contribution to the work of our Organization. These positive results are manifested in the various reports and consolidated information and data that will be reviewed during this ICCAT meeting.

Besides, Algeria in calling upon the sense of responsibility of all the Parties so that the wrong that was done in 2010 be fully repaired, through the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 12-03, which will no doubt strengthen Algeria’s role in the progress of our Organization.

In wishing all the delegations a pleasant and fruitful stay in the city of Cape Town, the Algerian delegation reiterates its availability to work with all the Parties in a spirit of cooperation and responsibility to ensure this ICCAT meeting is a success.

### **Brazil**

On behalf of the Brazilian Government our delegation would like to express our gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission and for the warm hospitality of the South African people. We also would like to commend the ICCAT Secretariat for the hard work in the preparation of this meeting and for its excellent organization.

We are confident that this ICCAT meeting will reinforce and strengthen the measures so far adopted by the Commission for the conservation of the species under its mandate, in particular with regard to the eastern and western bluefin tuna, North and South Atlantic swordfish as well as North and South Atlantic albacore, the stocks with regard to which new measures will be required. With regard to the southern albacore, Brazil does have the expectation that not only the TAC recommended by the SCRS will be respected, but also that the present system may be changed to a more clear sharing arrangement with fixed quotas to all participants in this fishery, which is so important to South Atlantic coastal States. As Brazil has also stated in many previous instances, we do hope that whatever measures might come out of the necessary negotiations they will be in full conformity with the scientific advice. In this regard, Brazil also expects that a significant progress may be achieved in terms of adopting a Harvest Control Rules framework which is much needed in order to put ICCAT in line with the principles of contemporary fisheries management.

Another issue which continues to be very important to the Brazilian delegation is the urgent need to reform the ICCAT Convention, in order to include concepts such as the Precautionary Approach, the Ecosystem Approach, the Objection Procedures, and the decision-making process, in particular the time for adopted measures to enter into force and voting rules, including required quorum. In this regard, Brazil greatly welcomes the progress so far achieved by the Working Group and looks forward to continue this crucial work intersessionally.

In spite of our very heavy agenda, Mr. Chairman, which will also include the election of the Chairman and other ICCAT officers, we are confident that under your leadership we will successfully address all the challenges in front of us. With this aim, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reaffirm the disposition of the Brazilian delegation to fully cooperate with you and with all delegations to make this meeting a very successful one.

### **Canada**

Canada would like to thank the Government of South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission in this wonderful city of Cape Town. We would also like to express our appreciation for the extensive efforts by the Secretariat and the local organizing committee in preparing for this meeting.

With new stock assessments in 2013 for albacore and swordfish, as well as several proposals related to monitoring, control, and surveillance of fisheries, the agenda for this year's Commission meeting is certainly ambitious.

Canada welcomes the results of the SCRS stock assessment for North Atlantic swordfish. The rebuilding of this stock is a success story for the Commission, one which is based on significant sacrifices made by our fishermen. As an ICCAT species, the TAC for this fishery should be set within the science advice. In the negotiations on a new management plan, Canada will be seeking the adoption of an interim limit reference point for the stock, based on the advice of the SCRS.

Concerning Atlantic bluefin tuna, there has been significant scientific research and analysis undertaken since the 2012 stock assessment update; however, there is no new advice that would merit significant changes in the total allowable catch levels.

Canada was pleased to host the first meeting of western Atlantic bluefin tuna scientists and managers in June 2013. The meeting highlighted several of the uncertainties in the current stock assessment and steps that can be taken to address these uncertainties. The meeting also highlighted the importance of developing ways of providing science advice when uncertainties cannot be resolved, and was a positive step forward in improving the dialogue between scientists and managers that will strengthen the 2015 stock assessment.

A strong dialogue between scientists and managers is a critical component of effective fisheries management, and Canada will be exploring options on how best to ensure this continues on a regular basis.

Related to this is the increasing concern regarding the extensive workload of the SCRS. The multitude of SCRS meetings and documents makes it difficult for many delegations to participate actively and fully in all Committee meetings. As such, Canada encourages the Commission to collaborate with the SCRS in setting priorities.

Given the increasing interest, and catches, in sport and recreational fisheries for ICCAT-managed species by many CPCs, Canada is interested in continuing the work that began at the first meeting of the ICCAT Sport and Recreational Fishing Working Group in 2009. We note the letter from the Working Group Chair to the Chairman of the Commission and look forward to advancing this issue during the meeting.

Domestically, Canada continues to take the conservation of sharks very seriously. We were pleased to support the CITES Appendix 2 listing for porbeagle shark and we have also discontinued our directed porbeagle shark fishery in 2013. The practice of shark finning has been illegal in Canada since 1994. While Canada does not require all fins to be naturally attached when sharks are landed, Canada advocates against shark finning and has strong measures in place to prevent this practice. All shark landings in Canada observed by independent, government certified monitors to verify compliance with Canada's requirements for the 5% rule and for the number of fins to match the corresponding number of carcasses.

Finally, on Convention amendment Canada was pleased with the progress made by the Working Group meeting in Sapporo, based on the terms of reference agreed last year in Agadir. As we committed to do, Canada has developed two draft Recommendations that would enshrine the Commission's current practice of adopting management decisions consistent with the precautionary and ecosystem approaches. Canada views these proposals as practical measures, and looks forward to discussing these proposals in detail.

The Canadian delegation wishes all a successful Commission meeting.

## **European Union**

The European Union would like to express its deep appreciation to South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular ICCAT Meeting in this stunning city of Cape Town. We would also like to praise the hard and excellent work done by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Meski, and the Secretariat throughout the year and for the preparation of this meeting, as well as wish all the best to our Chair, Mr Miyahara.

In the last couple of years, ICCAT and its CPCs have engaged in considerable efforts at all levels. As a result, ICCAT has become today a model of best practice in the RFMOs world and it has delivered on a broad range of issues. As such, it has rightfully raised high expectations from the civil society and the fishing industry on its role and capacity to manage fish stocks under its competence. The European Union firmly believes that ICCAT should keep up the momentum and continue promoting ambitious measures that further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organisation, and thus the sustainable management of resources under its purview.

At European level, we have also committed ourselves those last few year towards science-based management, better monitoring and compliance, and the fight against illegal fishing. This vision is reflected in the fully-fledged reform of our common fisheries policy that was adopted this year. One key aspect of our policy is that we are bound by the same principles when fishing inside and outside EU waters.

Two domestic issues are of particular relevance to ICCAT. First, the European Union is proud to welcome Croatia as the 28th Member State of the Union. As such, Croatia has withdrawn from ICCAT as a CPC and joined the EU delegation instead. Second, the EU has adopted new legislation on the prohibition of shark finning on board vessels. Such prohibition applies immediately to all EU vessels fishing in internal and international waters.

Willing to promote the same principles and actions internally and externally, the European Union believes that ICCAT should give priority to the core element of a sound fisheries management system: *Science*. ICCAT showed its commitment over the past few years in getting the best possible science, and the SCRS is providing managers with high quality scientific advice based on best data. This does not mean that we cannot do better and we should make sure that ICCAT lives up to its commitments, in particular by improving the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists, identifying better uncertainties and getting better data on FADs.

On the conservation side, we expect ICCAT to focus on those stocks where new scientific advice has been released, i.e. Atlantic Swordfish and Albacore. The European Union believes that for those stocks where no new advice is available, management decisions should be guided by the precautionary approach. In this regard, The European Union welcomes the fact that the positive signs concerning the recovery of the Eastern bluefin stock are confirmed. This means that the current management measures and the substantial efforts undertaken by the Contracting Parties are paying off. However, in view of the many uncertainties that remain and the updated assessment foreseen for 2014, we believe that stability is needed until the recovery is quantifiable. Also, launching the implementation of an electronic catch documentation scheme (eBCD) in a flexible way will be an important step and pave the way for similar traceability schemes for other species.

Still, on the conservation side, we hope that ICCAT will continue promoting the protection of vulnerable sharks species, in particular porbeagle and shortfin mako. Following the adoption of its new domestic legislation, the European Union is happy to join other Contracting Parties in promoting a fins naturally attached policy in ICCAT. Its adoption would further uphold our Organization as the lead RFMO in the management of sharks.

To make sure that conservation measures yield success, the European Union expects ICCAT to further enhance monitoring and control measures this year and commends the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures for the proposals submitted to the ICCAT Commission. In particular, increasing the transparency of access arrangements, clarifying the provisions on chartering and adopting standard forms for notifications prior to port entry will further advance ICCAT in its fight against IUU. In addition, progress on a Unique Vessel Identifier would be welcome.

In the same vein, the European Union attaches the utmost importance to the compliance process: a high degree of compliance with adopted measures is a sine qua non condition for achieving our targets and objectives. The European Union has worked hard itself in order to respect ICCAT requirements and to improve our data submissions, despite the EU being a complex Contracting Party in terms of composition and role in the ICCAT fisheries.

Finally, the European Union would like to thank the Working Group on the Convention Amendment for the very efficient work it carried out at its first meeting in Sapporo. We are confident that this process will continue to be guided by a solution-oriented and pragmatic approach in order to further enable ICCAT to stand by its global mission.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at this 23<sup>rd</sup> ICCAT Regular Meeting.

## **Japan**

On behalf of the Government of Japan, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting this important meeting in Cape Town, one of the most beautiful and energetic cities of the world. We also thank Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary, as well as the other ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements.

There are many challenging and important issues on the table again at this meeting. Among others, Japan gives priority to the following issues.

The first issue is the conservation and management of bluefin tuna. The SCRS again this year confirmed remarkable recovery of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock despite the fact that there are some uncertainties. The recovery is even more obvious than last year, looking at good performance in various fisheries in the Mediterranean. Japan would like to stress once again that such recovery is the result of effective conservation and management measures that ICCAT has introduced in recent years. At the same time, we are concerned that the SCRS is struggling to overcome uncertainties and cannot make clear recommendation on TAC increase. If this situation continues, as the performance of fisheries is improving, fishery-dependent stock indices will become less reliable, uncertainties will increase and enforcement will become more difficult. While ICCAT should continue to make efforts to achieve the objective of the Convention based on scientific research and findings, due consideration should be given to rewarding fishermen, which would also contribute to overcoming uncertainties.

We are also concerned about the western stock for a different reason, that is, the SCRS is stuck with a two extreme scenario approach, namely, the Low and High Recruitment Scenarios, and cannot provide the Commission with appropriate advice on whether the stock is healthy or not. In order to overcome this problem, Japan has submitted a research proposal. We believe that this research will provide useful information to the SCRS without undermining the stock status.

The second issue is strengthening of traceability for tuna species. ICCAT has been successfully operating Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (BCD) for several years. In order to make it more useful and to reduce the workload of its users and the Secretariat, we should introduce an electronic BCD system as soon as possible. ICCAT has already postponed the launch of the scheme one year and we cannot accept for further delay.

The success of BCD sets a good example for measures to strengthen traceability of tuna species. In the past several years, Japan has been advocating expansion of the catch documentation scheme to other species such as bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack. This year we changed our approach, taking into account difficulties of some members in implementing this scheme. While our ultimate goal is the expansion of the scheme to other species, we propose, as an interim step toward this goal a slight expansion of the scope in the bigeye statistical documentation system, namely, deletion of exemptions in the current recommendation.

The third issue is compliance of conservation and management measures for species other than bluefin tuna. ICCAT has been spending so much time on compliance of bluefin tuna. Now that the compliance of measures on bluefin tuna fisheries has been greatly improved, ICCAT should pay more attention to compliance of measures on other fisheries. Japan does not intend to accuse other members that are not necessarily complying with ICCAT measures. Even Japan has some non-compliance issues. Rather, ICCAT should consider why members cannot implement measures and how ICCAT could help members, particularly developing members, implement them, rather than piling up many new binding measures every year, which is likely to result in more non-compliance cases.

Although there are differences of views on many important issues, Japan would like to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this annual meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

## **Libya**

It is with great pleasure and commitment that the Libyan Delegation is attending this 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of ICCAT.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Chair of the Commission Mr. Miyahara and the Secretariat (Mr. Driss Meski) and in a particular manner to the Government of South Africa for hosting this meeting in this beautiful city of Cape Town.

ICCAT has made a good progress in the past several years in improving conservation and management of tuna and tuna -like species.

We must emphasize that there are still many issues to work on and fix here in Cape Town.

The measures we have all agreed to implement have grown more and more stringent over the years. We, as CPCs, have tried carefully to do better, to control better, to report better.

Libya believes that the results are becoming visible, and that there are good indications that things have started moving along an upward path, several independent fisheries indicators, including a significant and strong increase in bluefin tuna in many areas all along Mediterranean, have shown important positive outcomes from the recent management measures that included, among others, a substantial decrease in catch and minimum size regulation measures, and this is probably the one thing we all really want to see.

At the Commission meeting in Turkey in 2011, Libya raised the issue of its bluefin tuna fishing industry that was forced to forfeit the 2011 season due to the circumstances beyond its or anybody else`s control. This has caused great hardship to the various social sectors concerned.

Since that was discussed by the Commission at its meeting 2012 and agreed to be considered on 2013 meeting as indicated in Rec.12-03, we are therefore submitting to this meeting a request to allow our industry to re-coup the 2011 quota which it had forfeited and we suggest that it be distributed over the next two years of this 2013 fishing plan.

Libya will thus continue to support all the well-conceived measures adopted by Commission at this meeting, and would like to wish for every success in the work of this meeting.

### **Mexico**

The Mexican delegation expresses its appreciation to the Government and Authorities of the Republic of South Africa for hosting this 23rd Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

Likewise, it wishes to thank the Secretariat for its work and dedication in organizing and coordinating this meeting which, without a doubt, will contribute to its success and to reaching consensus on the fishing management measures that the Commission will be adopted this year, under the efficient and professional leadership of our Chairman, Mr. M. Miyahara.

The Mexican delegation recognizes the need and importance of strengthening cooperation and cooperation in order to work in benefit of the sustainable development of the species under ICCAT mandate and to successfully confront the commitments acquired by the CPCs. In this sense, we are here in the hopes that we can agree on measures based on the best scientific evidence available and the need to adopt measures for the protection of those species that required special attention.

On the other hand, Mexico expresses its commitment and firm intention to comply with each and every one of the measures agreed by the Commission. For this, we are working on the updating and incorporating in the national management measures on northern swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin all the provisions established by the Commission which, among others, include setting minimum sizes for catch and landing, catch quotas, the requirements for the release of bycatches and establishing an on-board observers program.

We are conscious that an efficient Commission requires a Budget that will enable it to operate efficiently. However, we are confident that together can find measures of an administrative nature that will enable the Commission to carry out its work while at the same time the CPCEs comply with their contractual obligations.

Lastly, please allow us to reiterate Mexico's interest in continuing to work within the framework of the Commission by fully implementing the provisions evolving from the best scientific evidence in favor of responsible and sustainable fishing, in the conviction that the work results in attaining consensus and commitments, not only of the Commission but also for the conservation of the species, recognizing their value for the marine ecosystems and at the same time promoting alternatives for the stocks that depend on the sea for their subsistence.

### **Namibia**

The Namibian Delegation expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful, historic city of Cape Town. The serenity of its ancestral beauty sets the scene for pragmatic deliberations and successful outcome of this meeting. We would like to reiterate our appreciation to the Executive Secretary for its continuous cooperation and assistance in organizing this important meeting. We would also like to express our appreciation for your firm leadership, Mr. Chairman which has been crucial in the strengthening of ICCAT. Under your wise stewardship; we are assured that during this meeting ICCAT will not fall short in fulfilling its obligations to conserve the Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species.

Namibia is proud to be a member of ICCAT and party to the crafting and implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Furthermore, Namibia is pleased to note the tremendous growth in membership and data submission. This has provided an excellent basis for Namibia to put management and conservation measures in place to ensure the sustainability of extremely important migratory fish stocks in keeping with the objectives of ICCAT.

Mr Chairman this year we have noted with concern the pressure on certain fish stocks that were highlighted in the SCRS report and find ourselves in a challenging situation with regard to adopting the Total Allowable Catch and sharing arrangements for a number of stocks and other conservation measures for tuna and tuna-like species

in the Atlantic. We trust that the Commission will take effective action to protect and rebuild these resources for future generations. Namibia urges the Commission, to maintain catch quotas for Bluefin tuna at their 2013 levels. This will allow for the recovery of overfished tuna populations in the region and we urge all ICCAT members to reaffirm our commitment to take into consideration the scientific advice in setting the TACs, or developing certain conservation measures. Maintaining the catch limits for Atlantic Bluefin tuna at the current levels will allow the population to recover and grow.

We are therefore looking forward to the fruitful discussions over the next few days and to build upon the outcomes to improve the management of ICCAT fish stocks for the benefit of all members. The Namibian Delegation takes this opportunity to wish the Commission and all participants' constructive deliberations. Namibia reiterates its commitment and full support of the ICCAT management and conservation measures.

## **Nigeria**

Nigeria wishes to express her appreciation to the Republic of South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful city of Cape Town and the wonderful reception feted to the delegates last night.

Nigeria would also like to appreciate and thank the ICCAT Secretariat for its usual quick response to correspondences and excellent work done to arrange this meeting.

As earlier reported during the 18<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the commission in November, 2012, in Agadir, Morocco, Nigeria still has not developed her tuna fishery. Therefore, no tuna fishing boat has been licenced to fish in the Nigerian territorial waters and EEZ. Nigeria also has no Access Agreement with any country on fisheries matters.

The current status of the tuna fisheries resource in Nigeria is still being determined. Therefore the proposal by ICCAT for the Large Scale Tropical Tuna Tagging Program in the Gulf of Guinea would be of great importance to Nigeria as it would improve our knowledge on the biology and population dynamics of the tuna stock.

As regards the data reporting deficiencies raised against Nigeria, the industrial fishing fleet does not target ICCAT species. However the data currently submitted to ICCAT are by-catch of tuna mainly (skipjack yellowfin and bigeye) caught and landed by registered industrial inshore fishing boats and these by-catches are consumed locally.

Available Data of the by-catch landings from the industrial fishing vessels have already been forwarded to ICCAT Secretariat. These include:

- Yearly catches of tuna by species from 2010 to 2012 and up to September, 2013.
- Yearly catches of sharks 2010 to 2012 and up to September, 2013
- Catch and effort data.
- Full annual report was also submitted, though it was said to have been received after the SCRS meeting had taken place and we sincerely apologize for that.

The issues of quota and catch limit are not applicable to Nigeria yet as our tuna fisheries have not been developed.

Nigeria is currently reviewing its data collection and reporting procedures with regards to ICCAT requirement. Serious efforts are being made to improve the quality of data collection and reporting procedures. To that effect our data formats have been redesigned and up-graded to cover the coastal artisanal fisheries sub-sector with a special team mandated to take charge of data specifically required by ICCAT.

This requires personnel that are properly trained and efficient to carry out these duties. Our fisheries inspectors in charge of data collection and reporting continue to face difficulties which would require the intervention of ICCAT in terms of technical assistance for capacity building and skills acquisition in order to meet up with these challenges.

Nigeria has conservation and management measures in place for other fisheries which include the following:

- Use of Turtles Excluder Devices (TEDs) on all shrimp trawl nets.
- Other By-Catch Reduction Device (BRDs) is also installed on shrimp trawl nets.

- The EU Catch Certification Scheme is also being implemented as required.

Noting that Nigeria is yet to develop her tuna fisheries resources and efforts made so far to satisfy ICCAT requirement especially on data reporting within the limits of Nigeria's circumstances, we hereby appeal to the Commission to lift the Letter of Identification issued to Nigeria in 2012 in order to allow Nigeria move forward.

### ***3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY COOPERTING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES***

#### **Chinese Taipei**

First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the 23rd Regular Meeting of the Commission. I would also like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat and the Chairman of ICCAT for their hard work in preparing this meeting.

Recently, the modernization of the ICCAT Convention has been recognized as an important issue by most CPCs of ICCAT. Proposed by the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT and adopted by the Commission last year, the Working Group on Convention Amendment is established to make amendments to the ICCAT Convention within a specific timeframe and with the participation of all CPCs, the first meeting of such Working Group has been held in Sapporo, Japan in July this year.

Chinese Taipei would like to express our emphasis for the amendment of the ICCAT Convention. We welcome such a development, and would like to urge all the CPCs continue their efforts on this issue. We further believe that with the collective wisdom and spirit of cooperation shown by all parties, fruitful outcomes for bringing the existing ICCAT Convention in harmony with the recent development of international fisheries legal instruments and accommodating the participation of all CPCs that have real fisheries interests in this region can be expected in the near future.

In addition, Chinese Taipei considers that the existing conservation and management measures of ICCAT for some tuna fisheries in the competence area of ICCAT need to be strengthened in view of the results of the latest resources assessments as well, such as those for the albacore, swordfish, and bluefin tuna. We would like to see the Commission making further progress to update those related conservation and management measures for each of those fisheries in order to achieve the conservation and optimal utilization of those resources.

### ***3.4 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS***

#### **Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)**

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), serves to formalise the collaboration between ICCAT and ACAP on matters relating to seabird bycatch. The objective of the proposed MoU is to facilitate scientific collaboration between the two organisations, with a view to supporting ICCAT's efforts to reduce and monitor incidental bycatch of seabirds, and particularly albatrosses and petrels, in its fisheries.

The SCRS has noted that input from seabird experts is critical to support its work on seabirds, and the proposed MoU responds to this need. The proposed MoU will facilitate a range of issues relating to the management and monitoring of seabird bycatch (and mitigation), on which ACAP and ICCAT can usefully collaborate. Importantly, the MoU will provide a formal framework for the exchange of information and data between the two organisations, which would be difficult in the absence of a MoU. The MoU is not legally binding, and would not require ICCAT to commit additional resources. In fact, the collaboration will facilitate extra support and capacity in respect of efforts to reduce and monitor seabird bycatch in ICCAT fisheries.

The proposed MoU is very similar in scope and content to MoUs that have already been established between ACAP and other fisheries management organisations, such as CCSBT, IOTC, IATTC, WCPFC and CCAMLR. It is hoped that this mechanism can also be adopted in the case of ICCAT.

## **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

On behalf of the Secretary-General of CITES, John Scanlon, we would like to sincerely thank the Commission Chairman for giving us the floor, and express our profound gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of ICCAT in the wonderful city of Cape Town.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a legally binding international agreement between 179 countries. CITES and ICCAT have participated in one another's meetings over the past few years. Our interactions are now led by the *Guidelines on Cooperation Between ICCAT and CITES* that were agreed by each entity, and came into effect in July 2012.

This cooperation has taken on new significance with the CITES listing of several shark species, that have been discussed here and fall under the purview of ICCAT. At the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16) in Bangkok in March 2013 and because they met specific trade and biological listing criteria, porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*S. mokarran*) and smooth hammerhead shark (*S. zygaena*), as well as all manta rays (*Manta* spp.), were included in CITES Appendix II - meaning that international trade is strictly regulated and controlled to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival, but is not prohibited.

The entry into effect of these listings has been delayed by 18 months until 14 September 2014 to enable CITES Parties to resolve technical and administrative issues related to their implementation. From 14 September 2014 onward, any international trade in specimens of these species will need to be accompanied by CITES permits and certificates confirming that they have been harvested sustainably and legally, and this trade will also need to be reported to the CITES Secretariat.

The collaboration between CITES authorities and fishery agencies at national and regional levels will be essential for the effective implementation of these requirements, and this will need to get assistance where required. National and regional fishery management agencies and organizations have the main responsibility for managing fishery resources, including sharks and rays. CITES, as a global instrument for regulating international trade in listed wild species, can complement fishery management to encourage fishery stakeholders - managers and fishers alike - to implement and follow sustainable and legal fishing practices for international commercial trade. Good fishery management measures based on the best scientific information available play a major role in the implementation of CITES requirements for international trade in commercially-exploited aquatic species.

To effectively implement the CITES CoP16 decisions for the 5 sharks and the manta rays, the involvement of, and support for a wide-range of stakeholders will be needed. The response to this challenge has been remarkable, with a flurry of activities being put in place since March 2013, for which we are particularly grateful. Just to name a few: Australia and New Zealand, Brazil, China and Germany, as well as several NGOs, are planning regional capacity building workshops dealing with specific aspects of the CITES shark listings; identification materials are being developed; targeted needs assessments are being made; guidelines to determine that proposed trade levels are sustainable are being established; and the European Union and the USA, amongst others, have pledged financial support for assisting these and other efforts.

The CITES Secretariat is also committed to assist CITES Parties, especially developing countries, in being able to comply with the CITES requirements by 14 September 2014. The European Union has generously provided 1.2 million Euro to the CITES Secretariat to enhance the implementation of the legally binding CITES regulatory measures for sharks. We are closely cooperating with the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in this initiative. Our joint actions are aimed at enhancing the efforts of Regional Fishery Management Organizations, and at developing countries that are key shark fishing nations which need to strengthen their scientific, institutional or enforcement capacities.

This initiative also involves outreach and communication. The Secretariat has just launched a dedicated webpage on sharks and CITES, with comprehensive and up to date information on a broad range of range of issues such as the CITES/FAO collaboration and access to capacity building tools. The webpage is a work in progress and will be further developed over time. We invite you to visit it through our homepage at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org). and will be happy to provide further assistance and help if and when required.

Finally, the CITES Secretariat would greatly appreciate if this Commission could consider at one of its future meetings a dedicated discussion on how ICCAT and CITES could collaborate on issues and species of common interest, including the sharks just mentioned. We would be prepared to work together with the ICCAT secretariat and its Parties in this regard, and within the overall context of our joint *Guidelines on Cooperation*.

### **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) welcomes ICCAT's ongoing efforts to prohibit the finning of sharks and notes, that requiring sharks to be landed with each fin naturally attached, conforms with the provisions of the Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks under the CMS Sharks MOU.

It also welcomes the elaboration of a Shark Research and Data Collection Programme, as proposed by the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the ICCAT Shark Species Group in 2013 aimed at filling knowledge gaps on fisheries and biological issues by improving data collection, cooperation and capacity building.

We also note that, where scientific certainty is missing, applying the precautionary and ecosystem approach in the management of porbeagle, longfin and shortfin mako sharks, based on the best available science, would meet the objectives of the Sharks MOU and its Conservation Plan, and we support the adoption of the MOU between ICCAT and ACAP on the conservation of seabirds.

The Secretariat of the UNEP Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is pleased to have been admitted as an observer to the 23rd regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). We would like to express our interest to contribute expertise, practices and experience and in following these discussions, especially with respect to the conservation of sharks and seabirds.

CMS is the only existing global convention that aims to comprehensively address the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, avian and marine migratory species and their habitats across their entire migratory range. It establishes the fundamental principle that its 119 contracting Parties, 27 of which are also members to ICCAT, act to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered, even when the species' range includes areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

#### ***1. Conservation of sharks***

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which was concluded under the auspices of the Convention, is the first global instrument for the conservation of migratory species of sharks. The MOU aims to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for migratory sharks based on the best available scientific information and taking into account the socio-economic value of these species for the people in various countries. Seven species of shark are currently listed in Annex 1 of the MOU, namely the northern hemisphere population of the spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*), basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) and great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*).

The 27 Signatories to this MOU are conscious that Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) need to be actively involved in the implementation of the MOU by virtue of their mandate to bring fishing nations together to work collaboratively to promote the conservation and management of migratory sharks; their knowledge and experience of migratory shark catches; and their scientific expertise; all of which are critical to the development of sound conservation and management decisions.

A Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks was adopted at the 1st Meeting of the Signatories to the CMS Sharks MOU in 2012 and can be accessed at [www.sharksmou.org](http://www.sharksmou.org).

##### ***a) Strengthening the ban on the finning of sharks***

The Signatories to the Sharks MOU have committed themselves, inter alia, to prohibit the finning of sharks. This is in recognition of the critical role that migratory sharks play in marine ecosystems and local economies, and being concerned about the significant mortality of sharks arising specifically from the trade in shark fins.

The Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks calls upon Signatories to:

“Where not already in place, consider enacting legislation or regulations requiring sharks to be stored on board and landed with each fin naturally attached in line with applicable UN General Assembly Resolutions, including 62/177, and 66/68 and with applicable decisions from IUCN, including motion 4.114 , and relevant RFMOs.”

Therefore, welcoming ICCAT's ongoing efforts to prohibit the finning of sharks, the Secretariat of CMS notes, that requiring sharks to be landed with each fin naturally attached, would be in line with the provisions of the Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks under the CMS Sharks MOU.

*b) Improving knowledge*

Being aware that, despite past and ongoing scientific research and monitoring, knowledge of the biology, ecology, and population dynamics of many migratory sharks is still deficient, Signatories to the MOU have committed themselves to improve the understanding of migratory shark populations through research, monitoring and information exchange and to ensure, that directed and non-directed fisheries for sharks are sustainable. In pursuing this, Signatories should endeavour to cooperate, inter alia, through RFMOs, as appropriate

In the light of the above, the CMS Secretariat welcomes the elaboration of a Shark Research and Data Collection Programme, as proposed by the Inter-sessional Meeting of the ICCAT Shark Species Group in 2013 aimed at filling knowledge gaps on fisheries and biological issues by improving data collection, cooperation and capacity building.

*c) Applying the precautionary approach*

According to the MOU, sharks should be managed to allow for their sustainable harvest, where appropriate, through conservation and management measures based on the best available scientific information. In implementing the measures outlined in the Conservation Plan the Signatories should apply widely both an ecosystem and a precautionary approach. Lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to enhance the conservation status of sharks.

Based on the results of the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA), which was conducted by the ICCAT Shark Species Group in 2012, longfin and shortfin makos, as well as the porbeagle, were amongst the most vulnerable stocks in terms of their capture and mortality in pelagic longline fisheries.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature assessed the conservation status of the porbeagle shark in the Red List of Threatened Species in 2006 as Critically Endangered in the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, Endangered in the northwest Atlantic, and Vulnerable globally.

The Atlantic subpopulation of the shortfin mako shark was assessed as Vulnerable, as well as the longfin mako shark globally, both with decreasing population trends.

At the last Conference of the Parties of CITES (COP16) in Bangkok in March 2013, the porbeagle shark was listed on Appendix II, requiring fisheries managers to prove a non-detriment finding for this species before it enters international trade.

Consequently, the CMS Secretariat notes that, where scientific certainty is missing, applying the precautionary and ecosystem approach in the management of porbeagle, longfin and shortfin mako sharks, based on the best available science, would meet the objectives of the Sharks MOU and its Conservation Plan.

## **2. Conservation of seabirds**

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and ICCAT, in accordance with the template adopted by ACAP's Meeting of the Parties (MOP) was presented to this meeting for consideration by the Commission.

ACAP was concluded under the auspices of the CMS Convention and came into force in 2004. The legally binding Agreement aims to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels and requires its Parties to widely apply the precautionary approach.

The proposed MOU is very similar in scope and content to those that have been agreed between ACAP and other fisheries management organizations, such as CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, IOTC, OLDEPESCA and WCPFC.

Adopting the MOU would facilitate greater cooperation between the two organizations and formalize arrangements for the exchange of information and data.

As such, the CMS Secretariat supports the adoption of the MOU between ICCAT and ACAP on the conservation of seabirds.

### **Inter-American Convention for the Protection & Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)**

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) would like to express its gratitude to the ICCAT Commission for the opportunity to participate in their 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

The IAC recognizes that ICCAT is an important partner in improving sea turtle conservation in the Atlantic. Furthermore, the IAC welcomes the 2012 and 2013 recommendation by SCRS that ICCAT collaborate with the IAC in the areas of sea turtle by-catch assessment and mitigation by means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In addition, the SCRS has noted that input from sea turtle experts is critical to support its work on the Ecosystem Risk Assessment (ERA) for sea turtles.

With that goal in mind, the IAC presented for consideration to the Commission an MOU with the purpose of strengthening the cooperation between ICCAT and IAC. The MOU outlines our interest in supporting the scientific work of the SCRS and the Commission to mitigate sea turtle by-catch consistent with ICCAT Recommendation 10-09.

The IAC has taken into consideration the comments from ICCAT's Contracting Parties and would like to reiterate that formalizing our collaboration through a non-binding MOU would assure that our work with ICCAT is included in the IAC biannual work plan. Further, the MOU would facilitate the cooperation of the IAC Scientific Committee with the ICCAT SCRS on such important matters as the sea turtle ERA. IAC scientists have over 30 years of experience working with sea turtle matters, such as fisheries interactions impacts and by-catch mitigation, genetic studies, and population assessment. This expertise can aid ICCAT in following up on recommendations made by the SCRS in relation to the ERA for sea turtles without any budgetary implications for the Commission. For instance, the IAC can provide support/training in relation to best practices to reduce sea turtle mortality during fishing operations.

We look forward to continue our dialogue and we are hopeful that through this MOU the IAC and ICCAT can work together to reduce sea turtle by-catch and improve their conservation and recovery.

### **3.5 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Ecology Action Centre (EAC)**

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) is pleased to be participating once again as a Canadian civil society observer to ICCAT. The EAC calls on ICCAT to take the following actions to continue to set precautionary catch limits for Atlantic bluefin tuna and to address bycatch issues in the ICCAT Convention area, especially the management of shark species.

*Maintain current quotas for western Atlantic bluefin tuna:* Given the strong scientific advice, and the possibility of resolving the high and low recruitment debate, we urge the Commission to maintain the current catch limit at 1,750 metric tons (t) for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna population, inclusive of any scientific research quota.

*Maintain current quotas for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna:* ICCAT adopted a 2014 eastern quota in 2012 and there is no new stock assessment on which to base an increase. Further the SCRS has concluded that there is not enough certainty to support a substantial change in quota. The Commission should once again maintain the eastern Atlantic bluefin quota at 13,400 t for 2014 and 2015.

*Fully implement the eBCD by March 2014 to track all catch of bluefin tuna, including fish caught in recreational fisheries:* The eBCD has the potential to help combat the serious problem of illegal fishing in the eastern Atlantic bluefin fishery as well as the non-reporting of recreational catch in both the east and west. However, the eBCD implementation has already been postponed twice. We urge the Commission to remain committed to the March 2014 eBCD implementation deadline and to agree to track all catch, including recreational fisheries, regardless of origin or destination.

*Prohibit the retention of porbeagle shark in the ICCAT Convention area:* Current fishing mortality, mostly from bycatch fisheries, in the North West Atlantic adds decades to the already slow recovery trajectory pushing it to upwards of 100 years for this vulnerable shark. There is a need for a Convention-wide consensus on conservation for porbeagles. We urge the Commission to take the most precautionary action possible to ensure the shortest recovery time for porbeagles by banning retention in the ICCAT area.

*Establish science based catch limits science for shortfin mako and blue sharks:* ICCAT should ensure that fishing mortality does not increase for shortfin mako. The Commission also needs to act with precaution to ensure sustainable harvest of blue sharks is maintained before this species becomes as depleted as other shark species in the convention area. The Commission should establish precautionary catch limits for shortfin mako and blue sharks.

*Improve the existing finning ban by moving to a 'fins naturally attached' rule:* Requiring sharks to be landed with fins attached at the first point of landing is the most straightforward way of enforcing the finning ban and will greatly improve species-specific data collection. The Commission should therefore support a proposed 'fins attached' regulation.

### **International Game Fish Commission (IGFA)**

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers throughout the world. IGFA was established in 1939, has active members in over 100 countries, is the governing body for international recreational fishing, and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Many of IGFA's members target the highly migratory species managed by ICCAT, especially marlin, sailfish and spearfish (i.e., billfish) which are primarily caught and released.

IGFA continues to have great concern about how many highly migratory species are being managed on a global level. The lack of data and accurate reporting on billfish catch is of particular concern. As an organization that is committed to the conservation of game fishes and obtaining more and better data on them, IGFA has deployed 81 pop-up satellite archival tags in marlin around the world in the last two years, many of which have been in waters under this organization's purview. The information gained from this exercise is open access and available to your scientific committee and others who wish to utilize it for management purposes.

### ***Billfish***

The most recent stock assessments for blue marlin, white marlin, and eastern Atlantic sailfish indicate that all three stocks are currently still overfished with overfishing occurring in blue marlin and eastern Atlantic sailfish. ICCAT Recommendation 11-13 states *"that for stocks that are subject to overfishing, the Commission shall immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, inter alia, the biology of the stock and the SCRS advise, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a time as possible."* Yet all three of these stocks have been in alternating states of being overfished and/or experiencing overfishing for nearly three decades.

While positive steps were put in place during last year's commission meeting, IGFA does not feel that the TAC structure implemented in blue and white marlin/spearfish is sufficient to rebuild these stocks in a timely manner, especially given their protracted history of overfishing. The 2013 SCRS assessment reported that the established TAC of 2,000 t for blue marlin only gives a 32% chance that the stock will not be overfished with overfishing not occurring by 2026. The established TAC for white marlin is worse, giving it a 0% chance of being rebuilt with overfishing not occurring by 2022. No ICCAT regulations for sailfish are in effect.

- IGFA recommends reducing harvest of blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish and eastern and western Atlantic sailfish.
- IGFA further recommends implementing a prohibition on Atlantic billfish entering into international trade. Similar legislation has recently been passed, at the request of IGFA, in the United States that now

bans importation of all marlin, sailfish and spearfish into the continental United States.

- We also recommend that all countries be required to use circle hooks in their longline fisheries

### ***Bluefin tuna***

The 2012 stock assessment showed modest improvements to both eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks. Last year, following the advice of the SCRS, the commission established a quota of 13,400 t for the eastern stock and 1,750 t for the western stock. In order to allow both of these stocks to continue rebuilding, it is imperative that the commission take a precautionary approach in their management. IGFA recommends that the commission continue to heed the recommendations of the SCRS including:

- Not exceeding the western quota of 1,750 t, inclusive of any possible scientific research quota, for 2014 and 2015.
- No increase in the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota for 2014-2015
- Cancel the 2014 eastern Atlantic bluefin stock assessment update. The SCRS believes that a benchmark mixed stock assessment to be conducted in 2015 would provide better data for future management considerations.
- Address illegal fishing by fully implementing the electronic bluefin catch document (eBCD) system by the March 2014 deadline.

### ***General***

Recreational angling is a growing and economically vibrant entity in many countries and we wish that ICCAT recognize both its relevance and that it may necessitate alternate management objectives than those used in commercial fisheries. IGFA kindly offers its consultation to ICCAT on recreational fisheries issues.

- Current ICCAT quota allocation and reallocation policies do not take into consideration the economic value of catch and release recreational fisheries. ICCAT Contracting parties should be free to utilize quota as they desire, even if it is not fully harvested without penalty of quota redistribution.
- Managing fisheries on the basis of MSY is an excessively risk-prone approach. As such, we suggest that ICCAT adopt a target objective below MSY to compensate for biological, environmental and data uncertainties.

### **International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)**

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) is a global partnership among the tuna industry, science and WWF, the global conservation organization. Our mission is to work toward the science-based conservation and management of tuna stocks and the protection of ocean health by supporting regional fisheries management organizations and advocating for the recommendations of each organization's scientific advisory body.

The first part of our statement addresses three of the most important issues facing global tuna sustainability: reference points and harvest control rules, fleet capacity, and the management of FADs. The second part addresses challenges specific to the ICCAT.

### ***Global issues***

*Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Reference Points.* HCRs are a set of well-defined management actions to be taken in response to changes in stock status with respect to target and limit reference points. Unless there is a pre-agreed upon action plan for avoiding overfishing or for rebuilding an overfished stock, long negotiations lead to delayed action or inaction. This delay can lead to further damage to the stock, requiring even more aggressive curtailing of fishing. The adoption of HCRs is a key aspect of modern fisheries management, and is also a requirement of several eco-label certification programs.

ISSF endorses the application of the Precautionary Approach using clear target and limit reference points and HCRs, as called for by the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and by some RFMO Conventions. While most tuna RFMOs have at least begun consideration of limit reference points through their science committees, none have fully implemented these measures. ISSF urges all tuna RFMOs to adopt stock-specific limit and target reference points and HCRs. This is one of the most important actions that RFMO members can take to ensure the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks.

ISSF applauds ICCAT's progress in 2012 setting forth a general framework for harvest control rules tied to Kobe plots in Recommendation 11-13, and the follow-up work done in 2013 by the SCRS to illustrate how an HCR consistent with Recommendation 11-13 can be implemented for North Atlantic albacore. ISSF now urges the Commission to take this work into consideration for the establishment of target and limit reference points and a HCR for North Atlantic albacore. This requires a thorough dialogue between decision makers, scientists and stakeholders involved in the process. ISSF further urges ICCAT to initiate similar work for other tuna stocks under its purview.

*Closed Vessel Registries and Management of Fleet Capacity.* Experts agree that there is overcapacity in the global tuna fleets. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures and eventually leads to stock overexploitation. The first step towards managing capacity is to establish limited entry via a comprehensive closed vessel registry with an eye towards ultimately reducing the number of fishing vessels to an appropriate level. The IATTC is the only tuna RFMO with a closed vessel registry, although current capacity is well in excess of resource productivity.

ISSF supports the Kobe III call for a freeze in purse seine fishing capacity by developed fishing nations and creating mechanisms to transfer capacity to developing countries with aspirations to participate in these fisheries. These steps should be taken now, since scaling back fleet capacity will become even more difficult as new vessels are introduced. To this end, ISSF urges the following actions:

- All tuna RFMOs develop capacity transfer mechanisms to allow for increased participation by developing countries without an increase in overall capacity, while ensuring effective monitoring and control of the fisheries;
- All tuna RFMOs establish rules for monitoring and managing the movement of fishing capacity among the respective Convention areas;
- All tuna RFMOs require unique vessel identifiers (such as IMO numbers), in order to strengthen their ability to monitor fishing capacity globally through the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV).

ISSF was encouraged by ICCAT's tightening of the yellowfin and bigeye authorized vessel lists and the addition of a field in the active vessel register for unique identifiers (e.g., IMO numbers) in 2011.

Moving forward, ISSF urges further effort toward a meaningful cap on fleet capacity to a level commensurate with the productivity of the ICCAT tuna resources. ISSF also urges ICCAT to amend Recommendation 11-12 (Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area) to make having IMO number mandatory for at least large-scale purse seine vessels.

*Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management.* Setting on FADs accounts for nearly 40% of global tuna catches and 50% of global skipjack catches. FADs are one of the most important fishing methods for tropical tunas. Surprisingly, however, there are huge gaps in all RFMOs regarding the number of FADs being used and on details of fishing operations on individual FADs. Observer programs can be used to collect much -- but not all-- of the information needed to appropriately monitor FADs. Vessel operators can complement this information as well as provide additional information on individual FADs. Collection and reporting of data that can be used to measure fishing effort by FADs is simply a must.

In order to adequately monitor FADs, there are two primary types of information that need to be collected and reported to RFMO scientific bodies: (i) an inventory and activity record of FADs (FAD markings, construction specifications, deployment, retrievals, etc.), and (ii) a record of encounters of fishing and supply vessels with the FADs (catch, by species, that results from sets made on FADs). These two types of information should be linked through the FAD ID or marking. Using this data, RFMO scientific bodies can and should advise on any necessary FAD management measures, followed by the development of effective mechanisms for implementation and compliance monitoring by fishery managers.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, held in Sapporo Japan in July 2013, forwarded a recommendation for the Commission to consider regarding the mandatory recording and reporting of such data by vessel operators to ICCAT. The adoption of this measure was endorsed by the 2013 SCRS meeting. ISSF urges ICCAT to amend Recommendation 11-01 based on the recommendations of the IMM Working Group.

## *ICCAT conservation and management measures*

### *1. Tropical tunas*

In 2011, ICCAT adopted catch limits for bigeye and yellowfin that are consistent with the advice from SCRS. There are no new assessments for these stocks and according to the SCRS, these limits are not being exceeded. While the stocks should be closely monitored, there is no need to adopt new catch limits at this time.

The last assessment of the two Atlantic skipjack stocks took place in 2008, using data up to 2006. Though skipjack stocks are considered to be resilient to overfishing, current catches exceed what the SCRS then considered to be the upper bound of the estimated MSY. Given the outdated assessment and current high exploitation rates, ICCAT should mandate a new assessment for the skipjack stocks in 2014, as recommended by SCRS.

### *2. Temperate tunas*

In 2013, SCRS conducted new assessments for northern and southern albacore. The northern stock assessment indicates that the stock is slightly overfished but increasing (spawning biomass is 6% below the MSY level) and overfishing is not occurring. ISSF urges ICCAT to not increase the current TAC of 28,000 t for northern albacore in order to allow the stock to continue to rebuild.

For the southern stock, different models gave different results, but the median estimate suggests the stock is somewhat overfished (spawning biomass 8% below the MSY level) and subject to slight overfishing (fishing mortality is 4% above the MSY level). Projections indicate that at the current TAC level the stock status will improve only by 2020 in terms of rebuilding and ending overfishing with a probability greater than 50%. ISSF urges ICCAT to consider decreasing the current TAC of 24,000 t for southern albacore, and in no case to increase it.

Serious data deficiencies for the Mediterranean albacore stock have been highlighted by the SCRS for several years, but have not been addressed by CPCs. The Mediterranean albacore stock is the only major commercial tuna stock in the world that remains to be assessed quantitatively.

ISSF urges the CPCs identified by SCRS to review their historical data for Mediterranean albacore and submit revisions to SCRS.

### *3. Sharks*

ISSF urges CPCs to follow the SCRS recommendation to report fishery statistics of all ICCAT and non- ICCAT fisheries capturing pelagic sharks, including recreational and artisanal fisheries. Furthermore, ISSF is urging all tuna RFMOs to adopt measures to prohibit deliberate purse seine setting around whale sharks, and the at-sea removal of shark fins – mandating that they remain naturally attached until the shark is landed.

### *4. Full retention of catch*

While other RFMOs have adopted tuna catch retention measures, to date ICCAT has not taken steps to do the same. The dumping of less valuable tuna in favor of higher value catch distorts our understanding of the actual impact on the tuna stocks by fishing operations. ISSF urges ICCAT to adopt comprehensive catch retention measures for all tunas.

### *5. Observer coverage for large-scale purse seiners*

Comprehensive observer coverage on purse seine vessels is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas. ICCAT adopted 100% observer coverage but only during the two-month FAD closure in Recommendation 11-01. ISSF urges ICCAT to extend the 100% observer coverage on large-scale purse seiners in its tropical tuna fisheries to cover the entire year. This would be facilitated if it included a regional mechanism that provides that an observer from a coastal State national program (registered with the Secretariat) will be valid in other countries' EEZs.

### *6. Compliance*

ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment process of the five tuna RFMOs. The one area where it can improve, however, is regarding its scheme of responses to non-compliance. The Compliance Committee (COC) is currently using such a scheme only on a pilot basis. ISSF urges the

Commission to finalize the development of a scheme of responses to non-compliance and codify it in a permanent Recommendation, as soon as possible.

For further information please visit <http://www.ISS-FOUNDATION.org>

## **Oceana**

Oceana acknowledges the significant progress made by ICCAT in recent years towards the improved fisheries management of highly migratory species in the Convention area. Indeed, ICCAT has become a point of reference for fisheries management worldwide, with respect to some of the measures it has adopted. However, proper implementation and compliance with ICCAT management rules still represent major challenges, which seriously undermine the objectives they are intended to achieve. Now is the time for ICCAT to ensure that management rules do not only exist on paper; it must now demonstrate its commitment to consolidating, implementing, and enforcing them.

In a key step to redress this situation, during this 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting, the Commission will be implementing Recommendation 11-15. Doing so is essential for securing the pillar of the science that must inform any managerial decision within ICCAT: fisheries data and information. However, non-compliance starts with, but is not limited to the scope of Recommendation 11-15. Illegal fishing continues to plague major ICCAT fisheries, while efforts on enforcement have been exclusively focussed on Eastern bluefin tuna fisheries. Oceana believes that this meeting should send a strong message: that non-compliance and lack of enforcement are not an option for those who benefit from participating in ICCAT fisheries.

In addition, ICCAT's commitment to precautionary, science-based management needs to be strengthened, in particular for Eastern bluefin tuna and sharks. The Eastern bluefin tuna stock is a story of progressive success in fisheries management, and the dramatic efforts made to secure its recovery appear to be producing positive results. However, the high uncertainty about the extent of recovery, combined with the lack of a stock assessment for 2013, makes it highly premature to consider any changes to management. To do so would risk sacrificing the gains which CPCs have strived so hard to achieve, by setting back the clock to the mismanagement scenario of years ago.

Sharks rank among the key species caught in ICCAT fisheries, representing 11% of all reported catches by weight in 2012. Despite their relevance, management of sharks within ICCAT is far from precautionary – most shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries remain completely unmanaged. Highly threatened species continue to be landed and sold, commercially-caught species are fished without any limits, despite high uncertainty about their stock status, and efforts to prohibit the practice of shark finning rely on a weak, unenforceable Recommendation.

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, Oceana urges ICCAT Contracting Parties to:

1. Follow a stable path towards recovery of Eastern bluefin tuna, by maintaining the TAC at its current level until a new stock assessment takes place in 2015.
2. Assess and penalise non-compliance with shark data reporting requirements.
3. Require sharks to be landed with their fins attached, thereby closing long-standing loopholes in the ICCAT ban on shark finning.
4. Set science-based, precautionary catch limits for the major commercially fished shark species in ICCAT fisheries: shortfin mako and blue sharks.
5. Prohibit the retention, landing, and trade of highly threatened species, such as porbeagles.

## **The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)**

The Pew Charitable Trusts thanks delegates at this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for the opportunity to discuss science-based measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna and sharks, as well as compliance with ICCAT measures. We thank the South African Government for its excellent efforts in organizing this meeting.

We call your attention to our policy brief, which was circulated electronically to all Contracting Parties, and is available on our website at [www.pewenvironment/ip\\_](http://www.pewenvironment/ip_) (in English, French and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements our policy brief and other documents.

### ***Recommendations***

The Pew Charitable Trusts is encouraged that the Commission has taken steps in recent years toward more sustainable management of tunas and sharks, and has improved compliance with existing management measures. But these actions are not yet sufficient to first restore and then guarantee healthy tuna and shark populations across the Atlantic Ocean.

ICCAT members have the opportunity at this 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission to continue to improve the organization's track record. To do so, members must heed the science when setting catch limits as well as fully address illegal fishing and the unsustainable catch of sharks.

We recommend that ICCAT take the following critical actions at this year's meeting:

#### *1) Follow the scientific advice for Atlantic bluefin tuna*

At the 2012 annual meeting, ICCAT set the eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna quotas in line with the scientific advice. In 2013, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) again recommended that catch limits be maintained at current levels for the eastern and western populations. To avoid seriously undermining any recent progress toward recovery, managers must follow the scientific advice, and quotas should not be increased at least until a new and improved stock assessment is conducted in 2015.

#### *2) Maintain the western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota at 1,750 metric tons (t) or less for 2014 and 2015, inclusive of any possible scientific research quota*

According to the 2012 stock assessment, the western population is severely depleted, at just 36% of the 1970 level—a time at which the population had already been severely reduced by industrial overfishing. Last year, the SCRS strongly recommended that ICCAT maintain the quota at 1,750 metric tons (t). This year, they made that recommendation even stronger. According to its 2013 management advice, the current quota of 1,750 t is the largest quota assessed by the SCRS that would achieve the three criteria of “protecting 2003 year class, continued stock growth, and the future ability to discriminate the recruitment hypothesis.” To continue its commitment to science-based management, ICCAT must keep the quota at 1,750 t or lower for 2014 and 2015, inclusive of any approved scientific research quota.

#### *3) Maintain the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota at 13,400 metric tons for 2014 and 2015*

In its 2013 recommendations, the SCRS stressed the uncertainty in the speed and magnitude of the rebuilding of the eastern bluefin population, calling again for a period of stabilization in quotas to allow the eastern stock increase and to comply with the approved recovery plan. The SCRS responded directly to a question from the Commission regarding the quota level, stating that it “cannot give robust advice that would support a substantial change in the TAC.” The only precautionary approach is to maintain the current quota of 13,400 t until ICCAT conducts its scheduled overhaul of the stock assessment model, including incorporation of the best available science.

#### *4) Fully implement the electronic bluefin catch documentation scheme, or eBCD, by March 2014*

Illegal fishing in the eastern Atlantic bluefin fishery continues to be a serious problem. A recent scientific study estimated that between 2008 and 2011, the actual catch of bluefin in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea exceeded the quota by 57 percent.<sup>1</sup> In the first six months of 2013, numerous media reports documented the seizure of multiple shipments of illegally caught bluefin by Italian authorities. ICCAT must remain committed to the March 2014 eBCD implementation deadline and agree to track all catch regardless of origin or destination, in order to enforce quotas and ensure that opportunities for fraud and misreporting are finally eliminated. The eBCD implementation has already been postponed twice, and members have had the opportunity to trial the eBCD system in 2013. Any further delays will limit the eBCD's effectiveness by reducing the percentage of catch tracked, as well as increasing the burden on the Secretariat staff, which would be required to enter paper documents into the new system by hand.

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<sup>1</sup> Antonius Gagern, Jeroen van den Bergh, and Ussif Rashid Sumaila, “Trade-Based Estimation of Bluefin Tuna Catches in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, 2005–2011,” *PLOS ONE* 8(7) (2013), doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0069959, <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0069959>.

*5) Require all vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels to obtain and report an International Maritime Organization, or IMO, Number by 1 January 2015*

The lack of mandatory, unique identifying numbers makes it difficult for authorities to distinguish vessels engaged in illegal fishing and enables these vessels to circumvent control measures and avoid being traced. ICCAT must mandate that all vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels have an IMO number by 1 January 2015, that this number be reported in all records and relevant communications, and that this number be permanently marked in a visible location on the hull of each vessel. We note the proposal submitted by the United States, Canada and Norway. This proposal, if adopted, would be a very positive step towards improving the identification of fishing vessels. ICCAT members should commit at this meeting to make effective the proposed improvements to Recommendation 11-12 not later than 1 January 2015.

*6) Adopt mandatory forms for prior notification and port inspection reports*

ICCAT members should adopt mandatory forms for prior notification and port inspection reports to ensure the effective implementation of Recommendation 12-07, on an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port. These practical measures will facilitate the reporting obligations of vessels and port authorities and facilitate the sharing and use of information.

*7) Increase the required frequency of Vessel Monitoring System, or VMS, transmissions*

We welcome the proposed amendments to Recommendation 03-14 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system for the ICCAT Convention Area submitted by Brazil, Norway, Turkey, and the United States. Currently, a large void exists with regard to VMS data collection times, so much so that the true movements of a vessel cannot be extrapolated from the data. Increasing the frequency of required VMS data transmissions will allow monitoring agencies to have a comprehensive picture of the genuine movements of a vessel. ICCAT should use this meeting as an opportunity to increase the required frequency of VMS transmissions to every two hours.

*8) Properly manage sharks*

The proper management of sharks by ICCAT is of huge importance due to their inherent vulnerability to overexploitation and the extremely high numbers that are caught in ICCAT managed fisheries annually.

We warmly welcome the ongoing discussions on amendments to the ICCAT convention, particularly with regard to sharks. It is essential that ICCAT formally recognizes its obligation to manage sharks by including all shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries in the amended convention. It is also essential that action on sharks continues while we await these changes.

Over 60,000 t of blue shark, and over 7,000 t of shortfin mako shark were caught in ICCAT managed fisheries in 2012, but these stocks are still not subject to management controls. Additionally the scientific advice from the SCRS on porbeagle shark continues to indicate that the retention of this species should be prohibited to allow the stock to recover.

This year the Commission must agree to strong measures in line with both scientific advice and the precautionary approach for blue, porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks. Catches of blue and mako sharks should be limited to current levels while improved scientific advice is developed to manage these heavily exploited species sustainably. Also, based on the advice of the SCRS, ICCAT should finally act to prohibit the retention of the porbeagle shark when caught. In line with global best practice ICCAT should also adopt a policy that requires sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached.

Additionally, ICCAT Recommendation 11-15, commonly referred to as “No Data, No Fish”, established a new system under which countries failing to report catch data for a particular species, including sharks, would be prohibited from retaining that species until the data has been received by the ICCAT Secretariat. The Commission must take compliance action to prohibit the retention of species, especially sharks, by ICCAT members who have not submitted catch data on those species in 2013.

## REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

### 4.1 REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE AND PANEL 2 (*Seville, Spain - February 18 to 20, 2013*)

#### 1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Aronne Spezzani (EU) and the Chair of the Compliance Committee, Dr. Chris Rogers (USA).

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**.

At the opening of the session, a CPC requested to include in the Agenda a discussion on the issue of the entry into force of Recommendations in the case of objections. The Chair, however, considered that the issue was not relevant to the work of either Panel 2 or the Compliance Committee. One CPC suggested that this issue should be taken up by the Working Group on Convention Amendment.

#### 3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Diana Kramer (United States) was designated Rapporteur.

#### 4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2013 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota

##### Albania

Albania was not present at the meeting but submitted a plan by the required deadline of February 15, 2013. The CPCs present reviewed Albania's plan, with one party requesting a data table in the standard format showing details of the plan, with information on capacity reduction targets and catch potential. A letter will be sent to Albania requesting such a table in due time for the information to be presented to Parties for review and eventual adoption of the plan before the 31 March deadline. Endorsement of Albania's plan is pending submission and review of the requested information.

##### Algeria

Algeria submitted an initial plan at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting in Agadir, Morocco. Given the new catch limits designated during that meeting, Algeria subsequently presented a revised plan. Algeria noted its plan includes the provisions and mechanisms successfully implemented in the 2012 fishing season, and incorporates some improvements. One such improvement addresses potential gaps identified in inspections measures of the 2012 plan. Fishing periods for 2013 were adjusted according to ICCAT specifications the updates included in national legislation. Algeria presented a plan according to the historical allocation key it considers being due, based on a quota of 684.85 tons, opened to 15 authorized vessels. Some CPCs expressed concerns about the overcapacity compared with the actual ICCAT quota allocation of 243.83 tonnes for 2013. Algeria assured the Panel that, despite its objection, it would comply with its actual ICCAT quota allocation for 2013, and limit the number of its active vessels to six, four purse seiners and two longliners. Algeria noted that although only six of its 15 vessels are currently authorized, it may wish to designate additional vessels for fishing. In this case the catch limit for each vessel would be reduced to remain within 2013 total catch limits, and ICCAT would be appropriately notified within the required timelines and procedures. Algeria noted there was a typographical error in item 6, and that the actual by-catch maximum permitted percentage should be 5%. However, despite its objections, Algeria assured the Panel it would comply with its actual ICCAT quota allocation. With no further questions, the Algerian plan was endorsed.

## **China**

China was not present at the meeting. One party raised an issue of potential overcapacity in the Chinese plan calculations, with two longline vessels authorized to fish. Another party recalled in the past that China had justified the use of two vessels for safety reasons due to the distance of the fishing area, and the quota allocation was divided between the two vessels. A letter will be sent to China to clarify if this is the case for 2013 in due time for the information to be presented to Parties for review and eventual adoption of the plan before the 31 March deadline. Endorsement of the Chinese plan is pending submission and review of the requested information.

## **Croatia**

Croatia was not present at the meeting. The EU stated that since Croatia will join the EU as from 1 July 2013, its capacity and inspection plans were drawn up in conjunction with the EU, and that a unique compliance report will be presented by the EU at the annual meeting. One party raised issues last year in the Compliance Committee regarding VMS transmission problems, and asked if this had been resolved. The EU said it has been working with Croatia to address the issues, and the problems now appear to be resolved. With no further questions, the Croatian plan was endorsed.

## **Egypt**

Egypt presented its plan noting that it was similar to its 2012 plan, but will have two purse seine vessels for the 2013 season. In response to concerns expressed by some CPCs about the overcapacity consequent to these two vessels, Egypt stated that one vessel will be authorized for Egypt's full quota (67.08 t) and the second vessel will be authorized only for the 10 t quota transferred from Chinese Taipei. Egypt provided its assurances that the second vessel was not an expression of overcapacity and would not exceed the 10t quota. Answering a specific demand by a CPC, Egypt also committed itself to communicate to the SCRS through the Secretariat the results of the pilot study referred to in paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03. The Egyptian plan was endorsed.

## **European Union**

The European Union highlighted that it has exceeded its capacity reduction target. The EU noted that Croatia will join the EU in July 2013, and as such Croatia's inspection plan will be integrated into the EU plan, and the EU in November will present a single consolidated report. In response to a question from another party on management of traps, the EU recalled discussions at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting where the approach to be followed for traps and inspections was clarified, with its commitment to implement these recommendations. The EU stated it would implement each specific provision and is fully committed to all provisions and obligations of Rec. 12-03. The EU added that its annual farming management plan has not been modified since 2009, and thus it was not required to submit a new plan. Answering a specific demand by a CPC, EU also committed itself to communicate to the SCRS, through the Secretariat, the results of the pilot study referred to in paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03. The EU plan was endorsed.

## **Iceland**

Iceland presented its 2013 plan, highlighting the main change is the identification for the first time of a sub quota of 2 t for recreational fisheries as a potential tourism opportunity. Iceland stated it has one longline vessel, and all catches will be landed in Iceland in the designated port with no transshipment allowed. Iceland's plan was endorsed.

## **Japan**

Japan presented its plan noting fishing operators are required to affix tags to each tuna, authorized and distributed by the Japanese government before the fishing season begins. This means all fish caught by Japanese fishermen are tagged officially. Japan has designated 8 domestic ports, and landing of bluefin tuna overseas is prohibited. The Fisheries Agency of Japan will have enforcement officers at the eight designated ports to inspect all landings. The Japanese fishing season begins in August 2013, so for now Japan has not yet decided the number of longline vessels that will be authorized for Atlantic fishing, but will designate such authorized fishing vessels no later than one month before the Japanese fishing season begins. Japan expected the decision might be made in June 2013, and reaffirmed its commitment to follow its allocated quota. The Chair noted submission of authorized vessels and quota for each vessel is not required at this time, and so submitting it at a later date is acceptable. The Japanese plan was endorsed.

## **Korea**

Korea explained there are no changes in the 2013 except for Korea's quota. There is no reduction in capacity as Korea has since 2008 only one purse seine vessel. That vessel is already equipped with the stereoscopic camera. Korea committed to respect all the applicable provisions of Rec 12-03. With regard to by-catch management, the longline vessels active in the East Atlantic are not authorized to fish bluefin tuna and should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any BCD made by these Korean longline vessels will not be validated by the Korean authority. The released fish indicating live or dead status will be reported in real time to the Korean authority and forwarded to ICCAT. All by-catch of bluefin tuna will be deducted from the quota of Korea. Joint fishing activities will continue with Libya, and Korea will inform the Secretariat of the details at least 10 days before commencement. Vessels engaged in this joint fishing operation will conduct video recordings at the point of capture and transfer, as required and results will be sent to SCRS through the Secretariat. The Korean plan was endorsed.

## **Libya**

Libya presented its plan with few changes from 2012 aside from the allocated quota. Libya will have 15 vessels authorized for fishing, 14 purse seiners and one longline. Libya's total quota will be distributed between the 15 vessels and when quotas for each vessel are determined, this will be reported to ICCAT. For joint fishing operations, Libya will follow all provisions of relevant recommendations, in particular the level of quota for 2013. In response to a question on fishing season dates, Libya expressed its commitment to comply with specified fishing seasons for purse seiners. Answering a specific demand by a CPC, Libya also committed itself to communicate to the SCRS through the Secretariat the results of the pilot study referred to in paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03. The Libyan plan was endorsed.

## **Morocco**

Morocco presented its plan emphasizing its commitment to meet in full all requirements of Recommendation 12-03. Quotas will be allocated in accordance with ICCAT provisions and submitted in line with deadlines required. The Moroccan bluefin tuna fishery is largely a trap fishery, and Morocco plans to go beyond the recommendations of ICCAT for traps, reducing the number to 10 for the 2013 season, using the specific potential catch rate recognized by the SCRS for Moroccan traps of 112.3 t/year as mentioned in the ICCAT biannual reports 2008/2009 and 2010/2011. Morocco additionally set up a system for trap fishing operations not required by ICCAT but to enhance good governance, which includes video monitoring of all operations. Morocco is conducting a test phase of eBCD and will run tests in order to fully adopt it in 2014, as decided at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting in Agadir. Morocco noted that in 2012, one Moroccan purse seine vessel conducted joint fishing with Turkey and the relevant sampling data for that vessel was reported by Turkey as part of its report. This will continue in 2013. The Moroccan plan was endorsed.

## **Norway**

Norway was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan stating it does not intend to fish its allocation of bluefin tuna in 2013. This was endorsed.

## **Syria**

Syria was not present at the meeting and did not submit a plan. The Chair noted in this case the rules of Recommendation 12-03 are applied and Syria is not authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2013.

## **Tunisia**

Tunisian submitted a plan at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting, which was then updated based on allocated quota. In 2013, Tunisia will follow recommendations of ICCAT and its obligations to ensure implementation of provisions of the bluefin recovery plan. The Tunisian plan was endorsed.

## **Turkey**

Turkey presented its plan at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting in Agadir. The plan incorporates all provisions of Recommendation 12-03, which were also incorporated into national legislation. Turkey stated on capacity management, the given quota allocation was not acceptable to Turkey, and Turkey lodged a formal objection. However, Turkey will not exceed the quota assigned to it, despite the formal objections. Turkey thus authorizes 10

purse seine vessels for fishing in 2013. Turkey will have 75 inspection boats, and will cooperate with other CPCs on inspection. The main focus for Turkish authorities will be on vessel monitoring and quota management. Sampling requirements will be followed during the 2013 season as in past years. In response to an additional question on sampling data, Turkey recalled on 8 April 2012, Turkey presented a formal letter to the Secretariat and SCRS on details of the pilot project, which was implemented in 2012, and the results of the pilot project were presented in SCRS/2012/052. It will be printed and published in the report of the SCRS. Turkey urges its fishing vessel operators to apply the same methodology and report the results of such pilot studies this year, and will report results as in the previous years. The Turkish plan was endorsed.

### **Chinese Taipei**

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan stating it does not intend to fish its allocation of bluefin tuna in 2013. This was endorsed.

The fishing plans which were endorsed are attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**.

### **5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4.**

Fishing, capacity and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Algeria, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Egypt, European Union, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Tunisia, and Turkey.

It was decided to send a letter:

- (1) to China requesting clarification of its capacity management plan,
- (2) to Albania requesting a table in the standard format for calculating fishing capacity, and
- (3) to Syria to inform that fishing for bluefin tuna in 2013 is not authorized due to lack of submission of a plan within the deadline.

All CPCs which have traps, purse seiners or farm facilities involved in farming activities to were requested to implement all new requirements introduced by the Recommendation 12-03, in particular pilot studies and/or the programme using stereoscopic system or alternative techniques in order to refine the number and weight of the fish at point of capture and/or caging and annually report the results of the pilot studies and the programme to SCRS, via the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 88 of the said Recommendation.

### **6. Procedures for implementing the ROP-BFT in 2013**

#### ***6.1 Clarifications for EBFT ROP Consortium***

Responses to the requested clarifications are included in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**.

It was agreed by all CPCs that validation of the relevant section of the BCD will take precedence over the non-signing of the BCD by the regional observer and be considered as in full respect of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

#### ***6.2 Clarification for the Secretariat on the evaluation of the EBFT ROP referred to in paragraph 12 of Rec. 12-03***

The Chair noted that CPCs should consult with their experts and provide their views and cost estimates to the Secretariat by the end of March 2013. The Secretariat will then circulate this information, together with the draft terms of reference for the Call for Tenders to CPCs for their evaluation of the ROP programme. Once replies have been received and evaluation completed, the Secretariat will launch the tender for implementation of the programme in 2014. Some CPCs proposed revising the ROP system in order to maintain its efficiency at a lower cost by using the new technologies available. Such revision would be discussed at the annual meeting for eventual follow-up in an ad-hoc Working Group in 2014.

## **7. Operational considerations for withholding fishing authorizations in situations of data deficiencies (Recs. 10-06, 10-08, 11-08 and 11-15)**

Following a discussion of the guidelines developed by the EU and attached to the report of the 2012 annual meeting on implementation of Rec. 11-15, it was determined that the guidelines will be provisionally applied by the Compliance Committee at the 2013 annual meeting and subsequently reevaluated. One party noted that the review of shark catch data submissions should take into account difficulty in species identification for sharks including silky sharks. It was also stressed CPCs are required to provide negative reports for fisheries in which they do not participate or have no catches.

## **8. Clarification of other requirements under ICCAT measures**

### ***8.1 ICCAT species taken as by-catch in fisheries directed at non-ICCAT species***

All parties were in agreement that ICCAT species taken as by-catch or incidental catch are subject to ICCAT rules, regulations and reporting. This was agreed to be a serious issue and will be taken up at the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), and the Chair will prepare a short document to be introduced at the IMM meeting reflecting relevant ICCAT measures that are applicable to situations of by-catch.

### ***8.2 Obligations with respect to chartering arrangements and access agreements***

The Compliance Chair noted in the past there have been reporting issues in relation to chartering operations. The Chair reminded parties that although the chartering state shall apply its catches against its quotas and allocations, and reports this to the Commission; flag states are still required to maintain records of catch and effort for vessels under the charter. Parties participating in the IMM Working Group should review the measure and decide if any revisions are necessary.

The Chair reminded the delegates of the reports on access agreements required under Rec. 11-16. The Secretariat indicated that few CPCs were using the form it had developed for reporting on access agreements. The EU noted that the issue addressed by the Recommendation was that of improving transparency about flag state fishing arrangements in the coastal zones of other CPCs, not recording catches as that information was already reported in Task I data provided to SCRS. The Chair noted that several coastal CPCs had been unable to respond to the Compliance Committee about activities under access agreements and could not confirm that catches were made in accordance with the agreements or had been reported to ICCAT. The Recommendation addresses that deficiency by requiring reports from both parties to the agreements. It was concluded that no changes to Rec. 11-16 were needed but CPCs participating in access agreements were advised to review the obligations and make use of the reporting format developed by the Secretariat.

### ***8.3 Revised annual report format and annual list of requirements***

The Chair noted changes to the annual report format and provided by the Secretariat as agreed at the 2012 Commission meeting and requested parties include the new reporting tables in their annual reports. The new format should facilitate review by the Compliance Committee.

### ***8.4 New requirements resulting from measures adopted in 2011 and 2012***

#### *Provisions of Rec. 12-03*

#### *a) Annex 8 - ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection*

Clarification was provided on different deadlines for inspection plans required under paragraph 11 and Annex 8 of Rec. 12-03. The Chair suggested flexibility by considering that the inspection plan for CPCs participating in the joint at-sea inspection program to be presented by 1 January is de facto included in their inspection plans provided under paragraph 11 of Rec. 12-03.

It was acknowledged that the Secretariat has an important role to play in the ICCAT scheme of international inspection, in particular through the continuing provision of VMS data to the vessels participating in the Joint Inspection Scheme.

The carbon-copy forms produced by the Secretariat were confirmed to be appropriate and the Secretariat should continue to produce and distribute them in the current format.

*b) Paragraph 58 - ICCAT list of authorized vessels*

The Secretariat should continue to add late submissions or those not sufficiently justified or incomplete to the ICCAT Record of Vessels and forward the vessel information and justification to the Compliance Committee for review at its next meeting.

*c) Paragraph 89 - VMS*

The Group agreed on a clarification on the intent of paragraph 89 of Recommendation 12-03 that provision of VMS messages to CPCs involved at at-sea inspection which request these data should include information received by the Secretariat “for all fishing vessels”, rather than “to all fishing vessels”.

On request from the Secretariat on what should be contained within the monthly / weekly reports it was agreed that they should contain, at a minimum, the vessel name, the ICCAT number and the last date on which they reported VMS messages.

*d) Paragraph 88 and Annex 9 – video records*

The Group invited the ICCAT Secretariat to consult with the SCRS Chair about the reporting procedure on the results of the pilot studies and the programme described in paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03, and propose draft reporting requirements and a submission schedule to all CPCs by the end of March 2013.

The concept of initialize was clarified to mean that observers should fix some unique identifying marks on the video recordings.

In addition to the request for clarifications discussed in the document on “Request for Clarification of Procedures for EBFT-ROP” and that on “Clarification of Requirements Under ICCAT Measures”, a CPC raised two related points in order to confirm a consistent interpretation of measures laid down in Re. 12-03. Firstly, in the context of “control authorities” referred to in Point ix) in Annex 9, it was agreed that this refers only to the flag state authorities of the catching vessel(s) concerned in the case of transfer operations and only to the flag state of the farming farm state in the case of caging operations. Secondly, with respect to the procedures laid down in paragraph 88, it was agreed that cooperation between catching and farming flag CPCs is essential to ensure the full respect of this provision. Especially if revisions of the catching sections of BCDs are made by catching flag CPCs based on the quantities derived from the programmes using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques implemented at the time of caging by farming flag CPCs.

**8.5 Discussion of Recommendation 10-10 regarding minimum standards for scientific observer programs**

The Chair recalled at the 2012 annual meeting the SCRS was to review plans and comment on ways to improve observer programs and guidelines, however, not enough information was submitted by the CPCs for the SCRS to conduct such a review. CPCs were encouraged to review the requirements of Recommendation 10-10 and provide the required reports. This will be a subject of review at the 2013 annual meeting. The Secretariat noted it developed the report form in conjunction with the SCRS, and CPCs are encouraged to use it in order to facilitate the work of the SCRS.

**9. Other matters**

There were no other matters raised.

**10. Adoption of report and adjournment**

The Report was adopted.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1****AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2013 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4.
6. Procedures for implementing the ROP-BFT in 2013
7. Operational considerations for withholding fishing authorizations in situations of data deficiencies (Recs. 10-06; 10-08; 11-08; 11-15)
8. Clarification of other requirements under ICCAT measures
  - ICCAT species taken as by-catch in fisheries directed at non-ICCAT species
  - Obligations with respect to chartering arrangements and access agreements
  - Revised Annual Report format and annual list of requirements
  - New requirements resulting from measures adopted in 2011 and 2012
  - Discussion of Recommendation 10-10 regarding minimum standards for scientific observer programs
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of Report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Neghli, Kamel \***

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et Océaniques, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Rue des Quatre Canons, 1600 Alger

Tel: +213 21 43 3946, Fax: +213 21 43 3938, E-Mail: cc@mpeche.gov.dz; kamel.neghli.ces@gmail.com

**Abbas, Mohamed**

Fishing Master, National Institute of Fishing and Aquaculture - I.N.S., 03, rue d'angkor- Algiers Port

Tel: +213 73 43 19 86, Fax: +213 21 71 08 45, E-Mail: abbaslibre@yahoo.fr

**Lounis, Samia**

Sous-directrice de l'aménagement et de la gestion des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Rue des Quatre Canons, 1600 Alger

Tel: +213 21 43 39 42, Fax: +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz

**BRAZIL****Hazin, Fabio H. V.\***

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Rua Desembargador Célio de Castro Montenegro, 32 - Apto 1702, Monteiro Recife Pernambuco

Tel: +55 81 3320 6500, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@depaq.ufrpe.br;fhvhazin@terra.com.br

**EGYPT****Mahmoud, M. Ali Madani \***

G.D. of the international agreements dept., General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4 Tayaran St., Nase City, El Cairo

Tel: +202 222620130, Fax: +202 222620117, E-Mail: madani\_gafrd@yahoo.com

**El-Shaarawy, Nasser Arif**

General Authority for Fish Resources Development, 4, El Tayaran Street, Nasr City District, El Cairo  
Tel: +202 2262 0117, Fax: +202 2262 0117, E-Mail: n\_shaarawe@hotmail.com

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**Donatella, Fabrizio \***

European Commission, Head of Unit DG MARE-D2 (Conservation and Control - Mediterranean and Black Sea), Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II, 99 6/61, 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 8038, Fax: +322 295 1433, E-Mail: fabrizio.donatella@ec.europa.eu

**Ansell, Neil**

European Commission, Direction Générale des Affaires Maritimes et de la Pêche, DG MARE-D2J/99, 6-56 Rue Joseph II, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 299 1342, Fax: +32 2 296 5951, E-Mail: neil.ansell@ec.europa.eu

**D'Ambrosio, Marco**

European Commission, DG MARE-B1, Rue Joseph II - 99; 03/66, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 299 3765, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marco.DAMBROSIO@ec.europa.eu

**Spezzani, Aronne**

Head of Sector, Fisheries control in International Waters - DG MARE-B3 J79-2/214, European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 295 9629, Fax: +322 296 3985, E-Mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

**Barbat, Marie**

Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'aquaculture, 3, Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 1 49 558 285; 33 6 70 479 224, E-Mail: marie.barbat@agriculture.gouv.fr

**Batista, Emilia**

Direcção Geral dos Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Av. De Brasília, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 21 303 5850, Fax: +351 21 303 5922, E-Mail: ebatista@dgrm.min-agricultura.pt

**Brull Cuevas, M<sup>a</sup> Carmen**

Panchilleta, S.L.U.; Pesquerías Elorz, S.L.U., Cala Pepo, 7, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar, Spain  
Tel: +34 977 456 783, E-Mail: carne@panchilleta.es

**Conte, Fabio**

Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC VIViale dell'Arte 16, 00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5908 4915, Fax: +39 06 5908 4176, E-Mail: f.conte@mpaaf.gov.it

**De Leiva Moreno, Juan Ignacio**

EFCA - European Fisheries Control Agency, Edificio Odriozola; Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain  
Tel: +34 986 120658, Fax: +34 986 125 236, E-Mail: ignacio.de-leiva@efca.europa.eu

**Elices López, Juan Manuel**

Jefe de Sección Técnica, S.G. Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, D.G. Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Secretaría General de Pesca C/ Velázquez, 144 - 2<sup>a</sup> planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 18 82, Fax: +34 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: jmelices@magrama.es

**Flores Castro, Diego**

Confederación Española de Pesca Marítima de Recreo Responsable, c/ Molinets, 6, 07320 Santa Maria del Camí Islas Baleares, Spain  
Tel: 971 621 507, Fax: 971 621 627, E-Mail: egraupera@pescaresponsable.es

**Folque Socorro, Miguel António**

CPA Atunara, Porto de Pesca de Olhao, Apartado 1036, 8700-999 Olhão, Portugal  
Tel: +351 91 752 3139, Fax: +351 21 840 5651, E-Mail: miguel.socorro@netcabo.pt; geral.atunera@hotmail.com

**García Rodríguez, Juan José**

Servicio de Ordenación de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuícolas, Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Medio Ambiente c/Tabladilla, s/n, 41071 Sevilla, Spain  
Tel: +34 955 032 262, Fax: +34 955 032 142, E-Mail: juanj.garcia.rodriguez@juntadeandalucia.es

**Giovannone, Vittorio**

Ministerio delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generali della Pesca Marittima e dell'acquacoltura -  
PEMAC VIViale dell'Arte 16, 00144 Roma, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 5908 4915, Fax: +39 06 5908 4176, E-Mail: v.giovannone@mpaaf.gov.it

**González Gil de Bernabé, Jose Manuel**

Secretario General, Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores, C/ Barquillo, 7-1º Dcha, 28004 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: 91 531 98 01; 91 531 98 02, Fax: 91 531 63 20, E-Mail: fnpc@fnpc.e.telefonica.net

**Lesueur, Sylvain**

European Fisheries Control Agency - CFCA, Senior Coordinator of Operations Apartado de correos 771, 36200 Vigo, Spain  
Tel: +34 986 120 660, E-Mail: sylvain.lesueur@efca.europa.eu

**Martínez González, Ramón**

ANATUN, N/A  
Tel: 0034 618 336 254, E-Mail: ramon.martinez@ricardofuentes.com

**Mc Caffrey, Lesley Ann**

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Park Road, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co.Cork, Ireland  
Tel: +353 87 692 4142, Fax: +353 23 885 9720, E-Mail: lesley.mccaffrey@sfpa.ie

**Olaskoaga Susperregui, Andrés**

Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Guipúzcoa, Paseo de Miraconcha, 29, 20007 Donostia San Sebastián,  
Tel: +34 94 345 1782, Fax: +34 94 345 5833, E-Mail: fecopegui@fecopegui.net

**Portelli, Susan**

Fisheries Control Directorate, Barrieka Wharf, VLT 1970 Valletta, Malta  
Tel: +356 229 21259, Fax: +356 229 21222, E-Mail: susan.a.portelli@gov.mt

**Santos Padilla, Ana**

Org. Prod. Pesqueros de Almadraba (OPP-51), Avda. Luis de Morales, 32-Planta 3ª - Modulo 31, 41018 Sevilla, Spain  
Tel: + 34 954 987 938, Fax: +34 954 988 692, E-Mail: anasantos@atundealmadraba.com

**Vairinhos, Rui**

CPA- Atunera, Apartado 1036, 8700-999 Olhão, Portugal  
Tel: +351 91 752 3139, Fax: +351 21 840 5651, E-Mail: geral.atunara@hotmail.com

**Vázquez Pérez, Iván**

Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente C/ Velázquez, 147, 28006 Madrid,  
Spain  
Tel: +34 6226 88289, E-Mail: ivazquez@magrama.es

**ICELAND****Guðmundsson, Jóhann \***

Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Skúlagötu, 4, IS-150 Reykjavik  
Tel: +354 849 6863, E-Mail: johann.gudmundsson@anr.is

**JAPAN****Tanaka, Kengo \***

Senior Fisheries Negotiator, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan1-2-1 Kasumigaseki,  
Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: kengo\_tanaka@nm.maff.go.jp

**Kaneko, Morio**

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries1-2-1  
Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: morio\_kaneko@nm.maff.go.jp

**Kodo, Takeshi**

Assistant Director, Fisheries Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo  
Chiyoda-Ku 100-8919  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8338, Fax: +81 3 5501 8332, E-Mail: takeshi.kodo@mofa.go.jp

**Masuko, Hisao**

Director, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association31-1 Eitai Bldg. 2-Chome Koto-Ku, Tokyo  
135-0034  
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: panamawani@yahoo.co.jp; gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

**Wada, Masato**

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8204, Fax: +81 3 3591 5824, E-Mail: masato\_wada@nm.maff.go.jp

**KOREA**

**Park, Jeong Seok \***

Fisheries Negotiator, Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, International Fisheries Organization Division Government Complex Sejong 94, Dason2-Ro, 339-012 Sejong-City, Republic of Korea  
Tel: +82 44 201 2841, Fax: +82 44 868 0845, E-Mail: jeongseok.korea@gmail.com; icdmomaf@chol.com

**Park, Sun Yong**

Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Distant Water Fishery Division, Government Complex Sejong 94, Dason2-Ro, 339-012 Sejong-City  
Tel: +8244 201 2813, Fax: +822 44 868 9104, E-Mail: icdmomaf@chol.com; pilgrim2@korea.kr

**Song, Jun Su**

Assistant Manager, Sajo Industries Co. LTD, 157, Chungjeongno 2-ga, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul  
Tel: +82 2 3277 1655, Fax: +82 2 365 6079, E-Mail: jssong@sajo.co.kr

**LIBYA**

**ElHadi, Mohamed Etorjmani \***

General Authority of Marine Wealth; Tech. Cooperation Office, P.O. Box 10765, Tripoli,  
Tel: +218 21 334 0932, Fax: +218 21 333 0666, E-Mail: torgmani\_hadi@yahoo.co.uk

**Zgozi, Salem Wniss**

Marine Biology Research Center, P.O. Box 30830, Tajura, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 92 527 9179, Fax: +218 21 369 0002, E-Mail: salemzgozi@yahoo.com

**MOROCCO**

**El Ktiri, Taoufik \***

Chef de la Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat  
Tel: +212 5 37 68 81 21, Fax: +212 5 37 68 8089, E-Mail: elktiri@mpm.gov.ma

**Fernández Arias, Felipe**

Directeur Général de la Société Almadrabas Del Norte, S.A. (ANSA), Société Almadrabas Del Norte, S.A. (ANSA), Zone Portuaire, 92000 Larache  
Tel: +212 539914313, Fax: +212 539 914314, E-Mail: f.fernandez@ubagogroup.com

**Hmani, Mohamed Larbi**

President, Société Al Madraba del Sur SARL, 66 Av. Mohamed V, Tanger  
Tel: +212 561 196 615, Fax: +212 539 912555, E-Mail: almadrabadelsur@hotmail.com

**Hmani, Mounir**

Directeur Général de la Société Al Madraba del Sur SARL, Société Al Madraba del Sur SARL, 66 Av. Mohamed V, Tanger,  
Tel: +212 661 196 615, Fax: +212 539 91 2555, E-Mail: almadrabadelsur@hotmail.com

**Oukacha, Hassan**

Société Marocoturc Tuna Fisheries SA, Agadir Port Agadir  
Tel: +212 661 202216, E-Mail: manuload@iam.net.ma

**PANAMA**

**Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto \***

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Paso Elevado Ave Transísmica y Vía Tumba Muerto, 0819-05850 Panamá  
Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

**TUNISIA**

**Hmani, Mohamed \***

Directeur de la Conservation des Ressources Halieutiques, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Direction Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis  
Tel: +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 892 799, E-Mail: m.hmani09@yahoo.fr

**Samet, Amor**

Directeur de Tunisia Tuna, Tunisia Tuna, Zi Rejiche Mahdia, 5100 Mahdia  
Tel: +216 214 13099, Fax: +216 73 695112, E-Mail: amor.samet@tunet.tn;amorsamet@gmail.com

**TURKEY****Türkyılmaz, Turgay \***

Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara  
Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr

**Anbar, Nedim**

Akdeniz Mah. Vali Kazım Dirik Cad.; MOLA Residence, No: 32, Kat-3, D-5, Konak-İzmir  
Tel: +90 232 446 33 06/07 Pbx; mobile: +90 532 220 21 75, Fax: +90 232 446 33 08, E-Mail: nanbar@akua-group.com; nanbar@akua-dem.com

**Çakmak, Mehmet**

Engineer, Department of Fisheries and Control, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara  
Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: Mehmet.CAKMAK@tarim.gov.tr

**Elekon, Hasan Alper**

Engineer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara  
Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com;hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

**UNITED STATES****Rogers, Christopher \***

Chief, Trade and Marine Stewardship Division, Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA (F/IA), U.S. Department of Commerce 1315 East-West Highway- Rm. 12657, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8350, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: christopher.rogers@noaa.gov

**Carlsen, Erika**

Office of International Affairs (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Services, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration 1315 East West Hwy, Rm. 12606, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8358, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: erika.carlsen@noaa.gov

**Campbell, Derek**

Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Rm. 7837, Washington, D.C. 20031  
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

**Kramer, Diana**

Tel: +1 202 647 6232, E-Mail: kramerD@state.gov

**OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS****Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP)****Deguara, Simeon**

Research and Development Coordinator, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers - FMAP, 54, St. Christopher Str., VLT 1462 Valletta, Malta  
Tel: +356 21223515, Fax: +356 2124 1170, E-Mail: sdeguara@ebcon.com.mt

**Fédération de la Pêche Maritime et de l'Aquaculture (FPMA)****Bennouna, Kamal**

Président de l'Association National des Palangriers, Membre de la chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée/Tanger, JNP Maroc - Fédération de la Pêche Maritime et de l'Aquaculture, Port de Pêche, Agadir, Morocco  
Tel: +212 561159580, Fax: +212 528843025, E-Mail: lamakes@yahoo.es

**Oceana****Cornax Atienza, María José**

Fundación Oceana Europa, c/ Leganitos, 47 - 6º, 28013 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 911 440880, Fax: +34 911 440 890, E-Mail: mcornax@oceana.org

**Pew Environment Group**

**Gibbon, James**

Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20004, United States

Tel: +1 202 540 6447, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: [jgibbon@pewtrusts.org](mailto:jgibbon@pewtrusts.org)

**Mediterranean World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**

**Tudela Casanovas, Sergi**

WWF Mediterranean Programme Office Barcelona, Carrer Canuda, 37 - 3º, 1º, 08013 Barcelona, Spain

Tel: +34 93 305 3243, Fax: +34 93 278 8030, E-Mail: [studela@atw-wwf.org](mailto:studela@atw-wwf.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

***ICCAT Secretariat***

C/ Corazón de María, 8 - 6th floor, 28002 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 5600, Fax: +34 91 415 2612, E-Mail: [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int)

**Meski, Driss**

**Ochoa de Michelena, Carmen**

**Cheatle, Jenny**

**Campoy, Rebecca**

**Fiz, Jesús**

**García-Orad, María José**

**Moreno, Juan Ángel**

**Peña, Esther**

**Peyre, Christine**

*Interpreters*

**Baena Jiménez, Eva J.**

**Faillace, Linda**

**Herrero, Patricia**

**Hof, Michelle**

**Meunier, Isabelle**

**Sánchez del Villar, Lucia**

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1****BLUEFIN FISHING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLANS****ALGERIA**

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Recommendation 12-03, we have the honour to present herewith the fishing, inspection and management plan for 2013 relative to the exploitation of bluefin tuna in waters under Algerian jurisdiction.

The fishing plan presented takes into account the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 and those in the decree of 15 May 2012 amending and supplementing the decree of 19 April 2010 establishing bluefin tuna fishing quotas for national flag vessels that fish in waters under national jurisdiction and setting out the procedures for quota allocation and implementation.

**I. Fishing plan for 2013*****1. Quotas***

Algeria's bluefin tuna quota for 2013 amounts to 243.83 metric tons (t). Thus, six Algerian tuna vessels will participate in the fishing champagne for this year. The criteria for the individual quota allocation will be decided by the Fishing Administration based on the SCRS estimates of the potential catches by vessel type and vessel length.

Further, the definitive list of the Algerian vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2013, as well as their individual quotas will be notified to ICCAT, at the latest, a month before the start of the fishing season, in accordance with paragraph 58 or Recommendation 12-03.

It should also be noted that no sport or recreational fishery will target bluefin tuna during this fishing season.

***2. Trade agreements and joint fishing***

Private trade agreements and/or the transfer of quotas/catch limits with other CPCs are not authorized by the national regulations in force.

Joint fishing operations involving among five or more Algerian vessels are prohibited.

***3. Granting of fishing permits***

Individual fishing permits will be granted to the vessels authorized by the Algerian Fishing Administration to participate in the 2013 fishing campaign, pursuant to Article 3 of the above-mentioned ministerial decree of 15 May 2012.

***4. Fishing periods***

The fishing periods will be those set forth in paragraphs 21 and 22 of ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 and the provisions of the national regulations. Consequently, these will be established as follows:

- For longliners over 24 meters, from 1 January to 31 May 2013
- For purse seiners, from 26 May to 24 June 2013

***5. Minimum size***

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008, which amends and supplements the Executive Decree of 18 March 2004, the minimum size for bluefin tuna will be fixed at 30 kg or a fork length of 115 cm.

***6. Incidental catches/by-catches***

Only a proportion not exceeding 8% of the by-catches less than 30 kg or a size of 115 cm per fish will be allowed.

### ***7. Use of aircraft***

National regulation does not authorize the use of airplanes or helicopters to detect bluefin tuna schools during the fishing operations.

### ***8. Transshipment***

The transshipment of fishing products at sea is prohibited, pursuant to Algerian regulation, in particular, Article 8 of Law No. 01-11 of 3 July 2001 relative to fishing and aquaculture.

### ***9. Transfer operations***

In accordance with national regulation, before each transfer operation from the fishing vessel to the towing vessels, the vessel captain must transmit to the competent authorities a prior notification of transfer. Authorization of the transfer can only be carried out only after receiving authorization from the competent authorities. Besides, after each transfer operation, the vessel captain must transmit a transfer declaration to the administration in charge of fishing after finalizing each transfer operation (Article 15bis of the decree of 15 May 2012).

The transfer operations will be monitored by an under-water video camera. The recording will show the date and the time of the transfer.

### ***10. Market measures***

All bluefin tuna trade must be accompanied by a bluefin tuna catch document (BCD).

### ***11. Sampling requirement***

At the time of the transfer of live fish caught by Algerian purse seiners to a towing cage for fattening purposes in another CPC, a specific percentage of live fish must be sacrificed for sampling purposes, as required by paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03. The samples selected randomly must be sacrificed, measured and weighed.

## **II. Monitoring and inspection plan**

### ***1. Joint international inspection plan***

As Algeria only has 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, it does not envisage participating in joint international inspection.

### ***2. Requirements of a vessel monitoring system***

The tuna vessels that will be authorized to take part in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a detecting beacon, which will be operational during the entire campaign. The transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all the tuna vessels and will commence 15 days before the period of the authorization and will continue 15 days after the fishing campaign (Article 7 of the decree of 15 May 2012).

### ***3. National observers program***

The bluefin tuna fishing operations that will be carried out in 2013 will be monitored throughout the fishing season by Algerian controllers/observers deployed on board each purse seine and longline vessel authorized to participate in the fishing campaign and who will represent the Fishing Administration (fishing inspectors) and the Coast Guard services (Article 8 of the decree of 15 May 2012).

The mission of the national controllers/observers who will be deployed on board the Algerian tuna vessels will be, among others, to collect all the information related to bluefin tuna fishing, to complete the forms that will be delivered to them before the start of the fishing season, and to monitor compliance with the ICCAT Recommendations regarding bluefin tuna fishing.

The controllers will remain in permanent contact with the Fishing Administration and will transmit all the information related to the fishing and transfer operations.

#### 4. Regional observers program

The owners of the tuna purse seiners authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2013 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board.

#### 5. Landing ports

The bluefin tuna vessels can only land their catches at the ports designated by the competent authorities, which are as follows: Alger, Annaba, Bejaïa, Cherchell, Oran, and Ténès

#### 6. Implementing measures

National legislation, particularly the provisions of Law No. 01-11 of 3 July 2001 relative to fishing and aquaculture, foresees sanctions and penalties in cases of non-compliance with the regulatory provisions concerning fishing activities.

Further, for non-compliance with the closed fishing seasons, Article 89 of the aforementioned law foresees prison sentences and/or fines.

As regards non-compliance with the minimum size and the proportion of by-catches, the same law in its Articles 90, 92 and 93 also foresees prison sentences and/or fines.

In addition, the Fishing Administration will withdraw the fishing permit granted to the vessel owner in cases of non-compliance with the provisions of the decree of 15 May 2012 (Article 21)

### III. Capacity management plan

The annual fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is perfectly adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e., 684.85 t (5.073% of the TAC) (see **Table 1**). Thus, over-capacity does not affect Algeria.

**Table 1.** Algeria's fishing capacity.

<i>Vessel category</i>	<i>Best catch rates established by SCRS</i>	<i>2013</i>	
		<i>Number of vessels</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
PS between 24 and 40 metres	49.87	13	648.31
LL between 24 and 40 metres	5.68	1	5.68
LL less than 24 metres	05	1	5

**Table 2.** Algerian tuna fleet.

<i>Vessel type</i>	<i>Length overall</i>	<i>Individual quota (t)</i>
PS	33.60	49.865
PS	31.25	49.865
PS	31.25	49.865
PS	30	49.865
PS	30	49.865
PS	26	49.865
PS	26.2	49.865
PS	25.5	49.865
PS	25.2	49.865
PS	25	49.865
PS	25	49.865
PS	30	49.865
PS	25	49.865
LL	31.6	5.68
LL	15.8	5

## CROATIA

### Bluefin Tuna Fishing Plan for 2013

Croatia has transposed into national legislation the provisions of the Rec. 12-03. Transposition was achieved by way of the Ordinance on catch, farming and trade of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and Mediterranean spearfish (*Tetrapturus belone*) published in Official Journal No. 15/2013 [http://narodnenovine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013\\_02\\_15\\_248.html](http://narodnenovine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013_02_15_248.html).

In 2013, a total of 9 vessels shall be authorized to participate in the bluefin purse seine fishery. The list of vessels is provided below, as well as the table on vessel capacity. Individual quotas are assigned to each vessel regardless of its length (individual quotas are assigned to vessels less than 24 meters as well) and vessels shall operate in groups. Data on these operations shall be communicated to the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of Para 20. of ICCAT Rec. 12-03.

Croatia has introduced the ITQ system in the bluefin purse seine fishery, allowing the participants to exchange the fishing possibilities and pool them together. Should there be any subsequent changes to the list of vessels, these shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately, in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendations and at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to the potential modification.

The total quota allocated to the PS gear group in 2013 is 380.59 t, and the total quota allocated to the HL gear group is 7.5 tons. The allocation criteria were determined taking into account historical participation in fishery and the overall quota.

Respecting of the individual quota shall be secured by way of the MSC measures, as has been stipulated in the inspection plan, as well as by way of ROP cross-checks and verifications of data and other relevant measures (underwater video, stereoscopic cameras, etc.). Since each vessel needs to communicate with the FMC in order to be given the authorization for caging, it shall be ordered into port when it is deemed that its individual quota has been exhausted. Cross-checks of from all sources shall be made.

Quota has been allocated to 12 hooks and line vessels. Only one hook and line vessel is over 12 m long, while all the other fall into the category of small coastal fleet. Given the size of this fleet and its artisanal character, the total quota of 7.5 tons was allocated to this segment and individual quotas are assigned to each vessel. The quota allocated was based on previous records and intensity of the activity. The fishing for hooks and line vessels has been closed from 1 January until 1 April.

The list of all vessels per gear group authorized to participate in the BFT fishery in 2013 with individual quotas is provided below.

### Bluefin Tuna Fishing Plan

<i>BFT PS LoA</i>	<i>No. of BFT PS</i>
<24m	4
24 -40 m	5
>40 m	0

### List of PS vessels with individual quotas

<i>No.</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>LoA</i>	<i>Individual quota – 2013 (t)</i>
1	SARDINA I	AT000HRV00133	39,90	50,90
2	PREKO	AT000HRV00021	27,74	41,43
3	LAGUNA	AT000HRV00063	23,71	34,05
4	HRVATSKI USPJEH	AT000HRV00007	29,44	44,29
5	NEPTUN I	AT000HRV00134	39,90	44,29
6	PONOS	AT000HRV00058	23,71	44,29
7	CARICA	AT000HRV00234	30,18	40,45
8	EVA	AT000HRV00049	23,71	40,45
9	KALI	AT000HRV00037	23,71	40,45

### Fishing Groups (Croatian vessels)

<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Individual quota – 2013 (t)</i>	<i>Quota for the group – 2013 (t)</i>
<i>Group 1</i>			
SARDINA I	AT000HRV00133	50,90	126,38
PREKO	AT000HRV00021	41,43	
LAGUNA	AT000HRV00063	34,05	
<i>Group 2</i>			
HRVATSKI USPJEH	AT000HRV00007	44,29	132,87
NEPTUN I	AT000HRV00134	44,29	
PONOS	AT000HRV00058	44,29	
<i>Group 3</i>			
CARICA	AT000HRV00234	40,45	121,35
EVA	AT000HRV00049	40,45	
KALI	AT000HRV00037	40,45	

### List of hook and line vessels

<i>No.</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>LoA</i>	<i>Individual quota – 2013 (Kg)</i>
1	700-VD	AT000HRV00142	9,98	1108,00
2	797-BG	AT000HRV00106	10,10	1049,00
3	214-DB	AT000HRV00241	10,15	1012,00
4	563-VD	AT000HRV00098	12,70	877,50
5	212-TI	AT000HRV00237	9,00	718,50
6	90-TI	AT000HRV00165	8,68	495,00
7	89-MU	*	8,20	415,50
8	82-TI	AT000HRV00233	11,90	376,50
9	96-TI	**	7,17	374,00
10	132-TI	AT000HRV00148	11,28	365,00
11	8-TP	AT000HRV00100	8,90	356,00
12	103-TI	AT000HRV00240	9,14	353,00

### Inspection Plan for 2013

Fishing inspection is performed by the fishing inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFRD), the officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), inspectors of the Ministry of maritime affairs and transport as well as Coast Guard. Specific fisheries inspection tasks are planned on an annual basis, with revisions and modifications every three months.

Recent activities of the DoF involve the development of electronic reports after each control, which are then integrated in a data base, with a possibility to consult the summary in this base. The report forms may be used by all authorized inspection (maritime police, coast guard, port authorities), enabling hence a centralized system to follow-up the infringements and keep a good record of number of controls and infringements recorded. The database is linked with the fleet and license register, register of first buyers and database on catch and landing data, as well as with the VMS, which then assures the quality of the cross-checks. The database is currently being created and structured, and its initial test phase envisages test for dedicated fisheries inspection services.

Croatia has implemented the VMS obligation in terms of all vessels involved in the bluefin tuna operations. The VMS is controlled at all times in the FMC, allowing the operators to check and verify points of operation, landing or transfer that will secure full coverage of activities. VMS data are accessible by relevant services authorized to perform inspection and control under strict confidentiality protocols. Furthermore, electronic logbook has been installed on vessels over 24 m.

#### *Resources to be used in bluefin tuna control in 2013*

A total of 20 dedicated fisheries inspectors aided with six patrol vessels shall be operational in 2013. Furthermore, a total of four Coast Guard vessels with their crews shall be operational as well as Maritime police patrol vessels with their crews. A total of seven vessels belonging to the maritime police shall be operational, involving a total crew of 42. A total of 18 port authorities' inspectors shall participate in the bluefin tuna control, and four vessels from the MSTI.

The list of designated ports for bluefin tuna landings has been communicated to the Commission. The ports shall be covered in full by relevant inspectors from port authorities and in addition by directed controls by fisheries inspectors.

#### *Farms*

All farm activities (caging, harvesting) shall be covered at all farms. These are:

- AT001HRV00003 "Kali tuna" d.o.o.
- AT001HRV00006 "Sardina" d.o.o.
- AT001HRV00008 "Jadran tuna" d.o.o.

#### **List of vessels – fisheries inspection MA**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Area of deployment</i>
Jastog	RH-100-ST	Adriatic
Inćun	RH-99-ZD	Adriatic
Periska	RH-20-PU	Adriatic
Srdela	RH-900-ST	Adriatic
Škamp	RH 1100 ŠB	Adriatic
Tunj	RH 40 RK	Adriatic

**Control of the PS catches**

<i>Area of control</i>	<i>Control objective</i>	<i>Control targets</i>
CRO territorial waters	documentation and catches, stowage areas, mortality rates	20
Outside CRO territorial waters	documentation and catches, stowage areas, mortality rates	20

**Towing**

<i>Control objective</i>	<i>Target No. of controls</i>
Size in towing cage	20
Mortality in towing	20
Documentation	30

**Farms**

<i>Control objective</i>	<i>Target No. of controls</i>
Transfer to cage	50
Origin of fish	50
Quantity and size	50
BCD and other documentation	50

**Sport and recreational fishery**

<i>Control objective</i>	<i>Target No. of controls</i>
Competition events	10
ICCAT requirements	50
License controls	50
Controls of catches	50

**Catch control – hook and line gears**

<i>Control objective</i>	<i>Target No. of controls</i>
ICCAT requirements	50
Licenses and authorizations	50
Catches	50

**Markets**

<i>Control objective</i>	<i>Target No. of controls</i>
Catch documentation	100
Other (size, origin)	100

**EGYPT*****Adjusted E-BFT Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Reduction Plan for 2013***

Fishing, activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. According to paragraph 9 (Rec. 12-03) that was adopted in the 18<sup>th</sup> Special meeting of ICCAT in Morocco (November 2012), Egypt has an annual quota of 67.08 t of bluefin tuna and 10 t transferred from Chinese Taipei to Egypt. This bluefin tuna amount (77.08 t) will be caught by two fishing vessels. These vessels are “Seven Seas”, which is listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) (67.08 t) and a new vessel to be listed on the ICCAT list of authorized vessels “Khaled” (10 t).

General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) announced the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the General Authority for Fish Resources Development resolutions regarding bluefin tuna.

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between these two vessels, but joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will not be allowed.

### ***Potential Fishing Grounds***

The potential fishing ground for the E-BFT fishery will be off the fishing area along the Egyptian territorial and EEZ water, Mediterranean Sea (26-32 E).

### ***List of Authorized BFT Catching Vessels***

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2013. The vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

### ***Licensing***

A special fishing permit, which will be issued by the provincial directorates of GAFRD for the eligible purse seiners to conduct the bluefin tuna fishery, is mandatory for bluefin tuna catching vessels to operate for 2013 season.

There are no towing licenses will be issued, as the transshipment operations are not allowed.

### ***Allocation of BFT Catch Quota***

According to paragraph 9 (Rec. 12-03) that was adopted in the 18<sup>th</sup> Special meeting of ICCAT in Morocco - Nov 2012, Egypt has an annual quota of 67,08 tons of Bluefin Tuna (BFT) that will be caught by one fishing vessel, this vessel is "Seven Seas" that listed on ICCAT list number AT000EG00003. The transferred 10 tons from Chinese Taipei to Egypt will be caught by another fishing vessel, this vessel is "Khaled" that will be listed on ICCAT list of authorized vessel for 2013.

### ***Coastal, Recreational, Sport Fisheries***

No coastal, recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.

### ***Regulations for 2013 bluefin tuna fishing season***

#### ***Fishing Period***

The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2013. The bluefin tuna fishing activities prohibited along the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next years. Moreover, the closed season for BFT fisheries will be announced by Fisheries agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.

### ***Joint Fishing Operations***

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels "Seven Seas & Khaled". No joint fishing operation (JFOs) with any other CPC is allowed.

### ***BFT Landing/Transshipment Ports***

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purpose.

The following ports have been designated by the relevant Fisheries Authority (GAFRD) for the purpose of bluefin tuna landing:

1. ElMeAdia fishing port for bluefin tuna landing during the fishing season only
2. Alexandria commercial port for export.

***Vessel Monitoring System Requirements***

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2013 shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (or vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD.

***Recording and Reporting***

Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be implemented.

***Towing Operations***

No towing operations will be allowed for the Egyptian vessels.

***Caging Operations***

No caging operations will be allowed.

***Transfer Operations***

In case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purposes in other CPCs, a percent of selected live fish caught randomly shall be killed at time of capture, sized and weighted for sampling as required in paragraph 8 of ICCAT Rec. 10-04. The size of the sample that is intended to be killed for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs in the Mediterranean in pilot studies for better estimation and sampling programs at time of caging, under paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03.

***Transshipment***

Transshipment at sea is prohibited as required in paragraph 64 of Recommendation 12-03.

***Cross check***

The relevant information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD by using available inspection reports, observer reports onboard vessels and at ports, VMS data.

GAFRD shall carry out cross checks on all landings, between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transfer declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes. As will document cross checking with the other CPCs be carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

***Enforcement***

The GAFRD has issued a number of resolutions for the conservation of bluefin tuna.

**Resolution Number (827) for the year 2011**

Article (1) the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 15 of June to 15 of May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.

Article (2) the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for the purposes of farming and development.

### **Resolution Number (828) for the year 2011**

Article (1) the prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.

Article (2) all the fishing operations shall be documented through videos documentaries for all fishing operations and transfer to cages and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions.

### **Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011**

Article (1) the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except for the port of ElMeAdia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.

Article (2) prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD onboard.

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

### ***Market Measures***

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and its products as well as keeping them onboard without validated documentation from the relevant authority shall be prohibited.

### ***Observer Requirements***

Five national observers will inspect the fishing operations.

Three observers of fisheries specialists will be on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions.

Two observers will be in the ports to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the on board observers reports.

Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have an Arabic speaker observer and to have his data early in order to issue him the necessary permissions to work in Egypt.

### ***Use of aircraft***

There is no aircraft.

### ***Minimum size***

Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be implemented.

### ***Sampling Requirements***

In the case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purpose in other CPCs, part of the live fish caught shall be killed for sampling as required in paragraph 87 of ICCAT Recommendation 10-04, where randomly selected samples of fish shall be killed, sized and weighted, the size of the sampling percentage that is intended to be killed at time of capture for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs in the Mediterranean in the pilot studies for better estimation and the sampling program at time of caging, under paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers/operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

**Framework of MCS for Bluefin Tuna Fishery, Transfer and Trading****Catch**

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation,
- BFT catching/two vessel to be registered in ICCAT record,
- Legal fishing season,
- No BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) will be allowed with other CPC, JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels “In case of their request”
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Logbook requirements,
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage,
- Video footage,
- Cross-checks for verification.

**Transfer**

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorization,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification,
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer Coverage (for all catching vessel),
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessels),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.

**Export**

- 100 % GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization representatives coverage
- BCD Scheme

**Inspections**

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2013 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspectors

**EUROPEAN UNION****1. Annual Fishing Plan 2013****1.1 Background**

The European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009<sup>1</sup> on 6 April 2009 transposing into Community Law ICCAT Rec. 08-05 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Rec. 10-04 amending ICCAT Rec. 08-05 adopted at the 2010 ICCAT annual meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Rec. 10-04 into Union law.

Following ICCAT Rec. 12-03 amending ICCAT Rec. 10-04 adopted at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting in Agadir, the EU will fully implement the new Recommendation in 2013.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Rec. 12-03, the quota for the EU in 2013 is 7.548,061 t.

**1.2 Details**

In accordance with ICCAT Rec. 12-03 the European Union has:

- Drawn up an annual fishing plan. Individual quotas are still being allocated by EU Member States authorities however will be applicable to all purse-seiners irrespective of their length.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 96,15.04.2009, p.1

- Allocated an individual vessel quota to all purse seine vessels over 24 metres, higher than the SRCS catch rates, as adopted by the Commission for estimating fleet capacity.
- Allocated quotas to the following sectors:
  - Longliners (>24m),
  - Purse seiners,
  - Baitboats and trolling boats,
  - Pelagic trawlers and
  - Recreational and sport fisheries
- Authorised 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels in accordance with paragraph 57 of ICCAT Recommendation [12-03],
- Submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all bluefin tuna fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to taking the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Rec. 12-03 and other Recommendation concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries including Recs. 06-07, 11-20 and 11-21.

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2013 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 58 of Rec. 12-03.

## **2. Inspection Plan 2013 (revised February 2013) submitted by the European Union (EU)**

### ***2.1 Introduction***

The European Union actively fishes eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) with a range of fishing gears with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors.

The EU includes 7<sup>2</sup> Member States actively fishing BFT across a number of sectors. The authorities for control and inspection belong to different entities across Member State and in many cases involve a combination of competent authorities.

ICCAT introduced a comprehensive set of conservation and management measures for E-BFT under the 2006 multi-annual recovery plan. Amendments in 2008, 2010 and more recently in 2012 have significantly reinforced the recovery plan which operates in parallel with an extensive catch documentation programme introduced in 2007 and subsequently amended in 2009 and 2011. The full implementation of the new electronic BCD programme (eBCD) throughout 2013 and 2014 will further strengthen this suite of management and conservation measures.

The European Commission coordinates with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States law and fully enforced.

### ***2.2 Overview of inspection measures adopted in 2013 by the EU***

#### ***2.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme***

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has put in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme in 2011 covering the period 15 March 2011 to 15 March 2014 to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna recovery plan. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States involved in the fishery.

This programme is currently being amended to reflect the new conservation and management measures under Rec. 12-03.

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<sup>2</sup> On 1 July 2013 Croatia will join the EU and the number of Member States actively fishing E-BFT will increase to 8.

### 2.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for Bluefin tuna

The resources of the European Commission are complemented by the EFCA who will adopt its 2013 Joint Deployment Plan for bluefin tuna (JDP-BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea bringing the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect. It covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land and traps and farms. As in previous years the 2013 plan brings together the European Commission, Member States and the EFCA and draws on the resources of the seven EU Member States involved in the fishery.

Operationally the EU will coordinate joint inspection and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2013 JDP-BFT will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VU, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern).

The Steering Group, composed by representatives of the EFCA, European Commission and Member States, provides advice on the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation.

The joint control, inspection and surveillance activities carried out under the JDP are coordinated by the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG), whose headquarters are based at the EFCA seat in Vigo, Spain.

The TJDG is composed of national coordinators designated by the Member States and supported by the EFCA's own coordinators.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required under Rec. 12-03.

In order to enhance the monitoring and control strategy used in the JDP, the EFCA is also cooperating with other EU Agencies including EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) through the Marsurv-3 project. Marsurv-3 is an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, AIS and other maritime related data, such as sightings. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment.

Following the positive results of the pilot project in 2012, the development of the Marsurv-3 application will be continued in 2013 with a view to having an enhanced operational version of the application during the 2013 bluefin tuna JDP.

### 2.2.3 Member States National Control Action Programmes

Under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme, EU Member States have each developed and submitted a National Control Action Programmes for 2013. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategy they intend to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (Commission Decision No.246/20 12) contain a series of inspection 'benchmarks', which include in particular:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) the control of all documents required by the legislation applicable to bluefin tuna, in particular verifying the reliability of the information recorded.

Such Specific Control and Inspection Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Rec. 12-03. The full list of benchmarks to which the programmes are conforming are contained in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1.**

2.2.4 *European Commission inspections*

Under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors. Whilst different in their powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors, whose role is monitoring and evaluating Member States fulfilment of their duties and obligations, including those under the bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT recommendations concerning BFT.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the particularities of the 2013 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2013.

2.2.5 *Vessel monitoring system and Operations team*

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

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

2.2.6 *Cooperation with other CPCs*

As in previous years, the EU in 2013 will once again seek to establish and further promote cooperation and coordination with other Contracting parties (CPCs) in the Mediterranean concerning the exchange of monitoring, control and surveillance information.

**Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**

**Benchmarks for EU Member State National Control Action Programmes**

<i>Place of inspection</i>	<i>Benchmark</i>
Caging activities (including harvest)	<p>All caging operation into a farm must have been authorized by the flag Member State of the catching vessel within 48 hours following the submission of the information required for the caging operation;</p> <p>All caging for farming or fattening of BFT shall be accompanied by accurate, complete and validated documentation as required by ICCAT (as provided for by point 86 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03);</p> <p>All caging and harvesting operations shall be inspected, by the competent authorities of the farm Member State in view of the relevant control obligations laid down ICCAT Recommendation [06-07] and [12-03], including the requirement under point 88 to implement a programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision covering 100% of caging operations in order to refine the number and weight of BFT caged;</p> <p>Fish shall be caged before 15th August unless a valid reason exists as per Rec. 12-03 (as provided for by paragraph 85).</p>
Inspection at sea	<p>Benchmark set following detailed risk analysis in each area;</p> <p>Benchmarks at sea shall refer to the number of patrol days at sea in the bluefin tuna recovery specific area and shall refer as well to the number of patrol days identifying the fishing season and the type of fishing activity targeted.</p>

Transfer operation	<p>Any transfer operations must have been authorized previously by the flag States on the basis of a prior transfer notification (as provided for by point 77 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03);</p> <p>An authorization number shall be assigned to each transfer operation (as provided for by point 78 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03);</p> <p>A transfer shall be authorized within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification (as provided for by point 78 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03);</p> <p>An ICCAT transfer declaration shall be sent to the flag State at the end of the transfer operation (as provided for by point 79 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03);</p> <p>All transfer operations must be monitored by video camera in the water (as provided for by point 81 and Annex 9 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03).</p>
Transhipments	<p>All concerned vessels shall be inspected on arrival before the transhipment operations start, as well as before departure after the transhipment operations. Random checks shall also be made in non-designated ports based on risk analysis;</p> <p>A transhipment declaration shall be transmitted to the Flag States no later than 48 hours after the date of transhipment in port (as provided for by point 66 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03).</p>
Joint fishing operation	<p>All joint fishing operations must have been authorized previously by the flag States concerned;</p> <p>Member States shall establish and maintain a record of all joint fishing operations authorized by them.</p>
Aerial surveillance	<p>Benchmark set following detailed risk analysis in each area taking into consideration the available resources at the Member State's disposal.</p>
Landings	<p>All vessels entering a designated port for the purpose of landing bluefin tuna shall be controlled and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system, involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort;</p> <p>Random checks shall also be made in non-designated ports;</p> <p>The relevant authority shall send a record of the landings to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel within 48 hours after the landing has ended (as provided for by point 70 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03).</p>
Marketing	<p>Flexible benchmark, to be set after a detailed analysis of the marketing activity conducted.</p>
Sport and Recreational Fisheries	<p>Flexible benchmark, to be set after a detailed analysis of the sport and recreational fisheries activities conducted.</p>
Traps	<p>All trap operations, including transfer and harvesting, shall be inspected.</p>

### 3. EU Capacity Plan 2013

Category	Catch rate	Number of vessels and traps		Capacity (t)	
		2008	2013*	2008	2013*
PS large (> 40 m)	70.7	35	20	2473	1343
PS med. (24-40 m)	49.8	61	18	3037	896
PS small ( $\leq$ 24 m)	33.7	81		2728	
<i>PS total</i>		<i>177</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>8238</i>	<i>2309</i>
LL med. (24-40 m)	5.7 t	7	6	40	34
LL small ( $\leq$ 24 m)	5.0 t	329	89	1645	445
<i>LL total</i>		<i>336</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>1685</i>	<i>479</i>
Baitboat	19.8 t	64	68	1264	1343
Hand line	5.0 t	85	31	425	155
Trawl	10.0 t	160	57	1600	570
Other artisanal	5.0 t	253	135	1265	675
<b>Total</b>		<b>1075</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>14477</b>	<b>5531</b>
Trap	130	15	12	1950	1560
<b>Total</b>		<b>1090</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>16427</b>	<b>7091</b>

\* Three medium sized purse seiners may be replaced by line vessels (as many as needed to achieve corresponding capacity).

## ICELAND

### Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan 2013

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland.

In 2013 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One longline vessel will be allocated 26 tonnes of bluefin tuna.
- 2 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for recreational fisheries.
- 2.97 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental by-catch by the Icelandic fishing fleet.

When the individual quota of the longline vessel is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence of the vessel expires for the year. In 2013 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will only issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel.

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, no transshipments will be allowed.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present onboard for at least 20% of the fishing operations.

The Marine Research Institute in Iceland supplies the Directorate with relevant information for the inspectors.

All landings will be monitored by the Directorate.

The longline fishing season starts 1 August and ends 31 December 2013. The fishing area is south of Iceland. The vessel is required to have a general fishing licence and a sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental by-catch. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quota is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires, else the licence expires 31 December 2013

The vessel cannot be regarded as a designated tuna vessel as it has a quota for other fish species in Icelandic waters and only engages in bluefin tuna fisheries part of the year.

The recreational fisheries will be allowed from June 16 to October 14. Those intending to fish bluefin tuna shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries.

All landings by recreational fishers shall be notified to the Directorate of Fisheries before landing and shall be monitored and registered into the central database of the Directorate.

All discards are banned on the Icelandic fleet, all by-catch are to be landed and recorded. Shark finning is prohibited. Should the bluefin tuna longline vessel catch shark species that are under special provisions by ICCAT, stipulating that retaining, storing, landing and selling are prohibited, these catches are to be submitted to the Icelandic Marine Research Institute for scientific research. The Marine Research Institute will then report relevant information to the ICCAT Scientific Committee.

## **JAPAN**

### **1. Fishing Plan**

#### ***a) Fishing Vessel Type***

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs).

#### ***b) Management Period***

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) will continue to manage its allocation based on the Japanese fishing season, which is, in the case of the 2013 allocated quota, from August 1st 2013 to July 31st 2014.

#### ***c) Quota and Number of Authorized Fishing Vessels***

Japan's quota for the 2013 fishing season is 1139.55 t. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has amended the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding individual quota system.

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for 2013 fishing year as soon as those vessels are selected. FAJ will, upon Minister's licensing, inform the names, amount of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat one month before the Japanese fishing season begins. (Paragraph 58 of Rec. 12-03).

### **2. Enforcement Plan**

#### ***a) Catch Report***

The Minister will continue to require fishing operators to affix tags to each BFT which have been authorized and distributed beforehand, and to report daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day of their catch in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain information/data including the date, area of catch, number of catch, time of catch, individual BFT weight and tag numbers. (Paragraph 72 of Rec. 12-03)

#### ***b) Transshipment***

The Minister will continue to prohibit transshipping BFT at sea and allow transshipment only at ports registered to ICCAT by the Ordinance and conditions on the licenses. (Paragraph 64 of Rec. 12-03)

#### ***c) Landing***

The Minister will continue to prohibit overseas landing of BFT, and allow landing only in eight domestic ports which the Minister has designated by the Ordinance for enforcement purpose. FAJ will continue to have its enforcement officers inspect all BFT landings at the designated ports. (Paragraph 69 of Rec. 12-03)

#### ***d) Closed Fishing Season***

The Minister will continue to prohibit the operators from BFT fishing in the area delimited by West of 10°W and

North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July, and in other areas during the period from 1 of June to 31 December by the Ordinance (Paragraph 21 of Rec. 12-03). FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data. (Paragraph 89 of Rec. 12-03)

*e) Observers*

FAJ will place observers onboard LSTLVs (Paragraph 90 of Rec. 12-03).

*f) Inspection Vessel*

FAJ will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2013 (Paragraph 101 of Rec. 12-03).

*g) Imposition of Sanctions*

In the case that violation is discovered, the Minister will impose a penalty on the fishing operator, which could include both port confinement and five year suspension to allocate BFT individual quota.

**3. Capacity Management Plan**

*(1) Reduction of Fishing Capacity*

The number of Japanese LSTLVs and the corresponding gross registered tonnage (GRT) during the period from January 2007 to July 2008 were 49 vessels and 21,587 tons.

Japan reduced its fishing capacity by buy-back schemes in 2009. The number of vessels and the GRT in the 2009 fishing year were 33 vessels and 14,427 tons (33% reduction at both number and tons from 2008 fishing year).

Japan further reduced its fishing capacity to 22 vessels and 9,831 tons in 2011 and 20 vessels and 8,953 tons in 2012 so that its fishing capacity continues to be commensurate with its allocated quota.

*(2) Adjustment of fishing capacity*

The Minister will continue to allocate each LSTLV an individual quota more than the capacity (25 t per LSTLV) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity reduction provided in paragraph 48 of Rec. 12-03, will continue to ensure that its fishing capacity will be commensurate with its allocated quota in accordance with paragraph 49 of Rec. 12-03.

	<i>Year 2011 (August 2011~July 2012)</i>	<i>Year 2012 (August 2012~July 2013)</i>	<i>Year 2013 (August 2013~July 2014)</i>
Allocated quota (ton)	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55
Number of large scale longline Vessel (Total GRT)	22 (9,831)	20 (8,953)	to be decided by June 2013
An individual quota per vessel per year allocated by the government of Japan (ton)	49.865	54.850	to be decided by June 2013

## KOREA

In accordance with Rec. 12-03, the Republic of Korea has its bluefin tuna quota of 80.53 tons in 2013 and has only one purse seine vessel (*Sajomelita*) targeting bluefin tuna since 2008. In terms of capacity management plan, it is not applicable for Korea as it only has one purse seine vessel. Thus, the fishing capacity for Korea is commensurate with its quota. This vessel will be operating in the Mediterranean Sea during the authorized fishing period (5.26-6.24, 2013).

Joint fishing operation with Libya will be conducted this year with its consent. Korea will inform the Secretariat of the details at least ten days before the start of the joint fishing operation, including names of Libyan catching vessels and their quota respectively allocated by the Libyan authority.

An ICCAT Regional Observer will be deployed on board. It is allowed to catch only bluefin tuna weighing over 30kg. Adjustment of farming capacity is not applicable as Korea has no farming facilities. Bluefin tuna transshipments at sea are prohibited. Recording requirements, communications of catches, reporting of catches will be complied with. The Korean authority will verify, including the use of inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of its fishing vessel, in the transfer document and in the catch documents. Transfer operation of live bluefin tuna will be authorized by our authority in advance.

In accordance with Korea's Distant Sea Fisheries Act, the vessel should comply with other requirements and provisions in the Recommendation 12/03. If there are any infractions or the vessel fails to comply with any regulations in the Recommendation, our authority will investigate the case and take measures in accordance with the Recommendation and, as appropriate, sanctions against the vessel depending on the level of violations.

Please refer to the information on the Korean vessel as follows:

- *Nationality:* Republic of Korea
- *Vessel Name:* SAJOMELITA
- *ICCAT No.:* AT000KOR00211 (Bluefin Tuna Active Vessel)
- *Register No.:* 1104001-6261403
- *Call Sign:* DTBV2
- *GRT:* 105.00
- *LOA:* 22.25m
- *Type of Vessel:* Purse seine
- *Mode of Operation:* Joint Fishing Operation in Mediterranean
- *Authorized Fishing Period:* 26 May-24 June 2013
- *Bluefin Tuna Quota:* 80.53 tons

## LIBYA

### Libyan EBFT Fishing Plan for 2013 Season

#### 1. Fishing fleet

- The number of fishing vessels which will participate in E-BFT catching for the 2013 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea are 15 catching vessels (14 PS, 24-40m and 1 LL, over 40m), no vessels less than 24m, no recreational or sport fishery will participate in the 2013 fishing season.
- The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2013 bluefin tuna fishing season are 8 (eight) vessels with no fishing gear on board, except transfer cage or services supplies.
- Since the total allocated quota (TAC) assigned to Libya in Rec.12-03 is 937.65 t, therefore the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in season 2013 will distribute as:

14 purse seine over 24 m and one longliner over 40 m authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2013 have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration SCRS best catch rate, where 90 t will be allocated to one LL vessel over 40 m and 845 t allocated between 14 PS (24-40 m) with 2.66 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by-catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is shown in **Table 1**, and any changes to this fishing possibilities allocation or vessels list will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT Recommendation 12-03.

- The authorized vessels expected to carry over fishing activities during the 2013 season in working groups and the details of these groups and the allocation key will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.
- Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checking with ROP and National observers on board fishing vessels.
- All vessels deemed that its individual quota has been exhausted, it shall be ordered into port immediately.

## **2. Joint Fishing Operations**

- JFOs will be only authorized with other CPC authorities that have less than 5 PS authorized to fish BFT and registered in ICCAT list.
- If any request for JFO received from CPCs which have less than 5 PS, Libya will study this request very carefully and will consent the JFO after making sure that all the requirements of JFO required by Rec. 12-03 adapted by last meeting 2012 are fulfilled, and inform the ICCAT Secretariat with its consent within the time frame required.

## **3. Enforcement of Fishing Plan**

### **3.1 Regulations**

- Ministerial Decree #61/2010, transposing Recommendation 09-04, which amends Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic [Rec. 08-05].
- Law #14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture.
- Other acts organize and manage bluefin tuna licenses.

### **3.2 Licensing**

- Individual fishing permit shall be issued by fishery authority based upon Decree, 61/2010 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) for each vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2013 specifying the following condition as required by Rec. 12-03:

\* Area of fishing: (East Atlantic and med-sea, Article 3/Decree #61/2010)

\* Individual Quota: (Art. 11/Decree, #61/2010)

\* Log Book on board: (Art. 28/Decree, #61/2010)

### **3.3 VMS**

- All fishing vessels and other vessels active in bluefin tuna fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a full active VMS (Art. 18/Decree #61/2010).
- Fishery authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

### **3.4 Observers**

- Regional and National observers shall be placed on board all PS and LL vessels authorized to fish bluefin in 2013 (Art. 14/Decree, #61/2010).

### **3.5 Reporting of Catch**

- The Catch vessel Master shall communicate by electronic or other means to competent authorities a weekly catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight, (Art.20 / Decree#61/2010).
- weekly and monthly catch report of all authorized Libyan vessel active in bluefin tuna catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

### **3.6 Transfer**

- The catch vessel master shall request from the competent authorities an authorization to transfer bluefin tuna catch by email or fax, specifying, date, area and position of catch, number of fish and estimated weight and expected date, time of transfer, towing vessel information, number of cages and their final destination conformed and signed by Regional observer and National observer.
- A numbered transfer authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements by Para. 77, 78, 79, 80, of Rec. 12-03 is met.
- In case there are indication of differences in estimated weight of fish including number died during transfer operation between ROP onboard the catching vessel and vessel master by more than 10%, or 5% in case of number of fish less than 30kgs an investigation will take place according to procedure stated by Para. 87 of Rec. 12-03.
- All bluefin tuna transfers to tugs shall be documented by video camera and copy shall be on board of tug boat and another copy shall be handed to ROP and Vessel Master (Art24/decree#61/2010).
- Vessel Master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to the fishery authority after confirming the data from ROP (Art.25/Decree#61/2010).
- Master of Tug Boat shall not leave transfer site before he receives the original documents which proofs the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch vessels logbook (Art.23/Decree#61/2010)).
- The Master of fishing vessel or his representative shall inform the flag state competent authorities with the name, location and flag state of the farm to which the fish marketed (Art. 21/Decree#61/2010).
- The Master of catching vessel shall keep on board logbook of their operation and must complete by midnight every day all vessel activities information and shall declare the number and weight of dead fish retain on board and to be landed in ports (Art.25/Decree #61/2010).

### **3.7 Sampling Requirements**

- All catches transfers will be documented by video footages.
- All authorized PS vessels have full deployment (100%) of ROP and national observers, also all tugs shall have a national observer's onboard.
- At the time of transfer of live fish to towing cages, certain percentages of fish transferred shall be sampled and killed to improve the counting and weight unless all operators of PS to transfer their catches only to farming units that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival to of towing cages to their farms.

### **3.8 Landing/Transhipments ports**

- Transhipment at sea is prohibited.

- Bluefin tuna vessels shall only land/tranship bluefin tuna catches in ports designated by Fishery Authorities (Al-khums Port, Tripoli Port and Musrata Port).
- All vessels enter any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities (Art.22/Decree#61/2010).
- All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by port and fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report (as stated in Para. 70 of Rec.12-03).

### ***3.9 Use of Aircraft***

- Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for bluefin is prohibited (Art.10/Decree#61/2010).

### ***3.10 Minimum Size***

- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg is prohibited (Atr.15/Decree 61/2010).
- Catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted on Libyan quota.

### ***3.11 Market Measures***

- Foreign and domestic trade, landing. Imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of bluefin tuna and its products that are not accompanied by accurate, complete and validated BCDs are prohibited (Art.21&24/Decree61/2010).

### ***3.12 Imposing of Sanction***

- Any non compliance to the regulations regarding bluefin tuna fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree 61/2010/Art.17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota).

## **4. Fishery Inspection Plan**

- Monitoring and control of fisheries activities in Libya are governed by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, #14/1989, Decree #61/2010, transposing Rec. 09-06 and the Coast Guard and Port Security Act, #229/2005 that considers the core legal documents which define activities and actions which are considered as infringements of fishery policy.

### ***4.1 Human Resources***

- Fishing Inspection will be implemented by fishing inspectors from the fisheries authority and coast guard staff, in coordination with port authority.
- Coast Guards shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea of all activities linked with fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with consent of fishery authority.
- Central Control Room will be established during the 2013 bluefin tuna fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.
- Specific fisheries inspection tasks shall be planned including a list of relevant provisions of national and international regulations governing management of fishery resources also containing description of inspector tasks as per Rec. 12-03.

## **5. Capacity Management Plan**

- Libya shall keep reducing its fishing capacity in accordance with ICCAT measures requirements until its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**) conceder the (Rec. 12-03, Article 9) here the new TAC for Libya is 937.56 t.

Note: whereas, Rec. 12-03 and Rec. 10-04 do not have many differences in most of their articles, decree 61/2010 will be modified accordingly.

**Table 1.** Catching vessels actually engage in bluefin tuna fishing 2013 season.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Vessel type</i>	<i>Quota</i>
1	Morina	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	75.714
2	Khaleej Eltahadi	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	58.357
3	Tagreft	AT000LBY00013	PS, 24-40m	75.714
4	AL MAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	68.714
5	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	48.000
6	OZU 2	AT000LBY00009	PS,24-40m	48.000
7	ELHARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	48.000
8	ELHADER II	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	58.357
9	AL SSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	58.357
10	ALHILAL	AT000LBY00016	PS, 24-40m	70.536
11	Jarjaruma	AT000LBY00023	PS, 24-40m	70.536
12	ALBAHR ALHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	68.714
13	TELEL II	AT000LBY00075	PS, 24-40m	48.000
14	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	48.000
15	ZRQA ALYAMAMA *	AT000LBY00003	LL over 40m	90.000
<b>Total</b>				934.999

\*Vessel zrqaAlyamama can operate in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Table 2.** Fishing Capacity Management Plan for Libya 2010-2013.

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>						<i>Fishing capacity</i>				
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Purse seiner over 40m	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	1493	1444	1045	896	846
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1		0	0	34	34	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL PURSE SEINE FLEET</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1477</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>846</b>
Longliner over 40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	100	50	50	50	25
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL LONGLINE FLEET</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>871</b>
<b>TAC</b>								22000	13500	13500	13500	13500
<b>Quota Libya</b>								947	581	903	903	903
Report/quota transfer*								145	145	0	0	0
Underharvest report 2009											0	0
"Overharvest reimbursement"									0	0	0	0
Adjusted Libya quota								1092	726	903	903	903
Under/overcapacity								535	801	192	43	-32
Reduction 2011	78.70%											
Reduction 2012	95.20%											
Reduction 2013	103.50%											

## **KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

### **Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Reduction Plans for 2013**

#### ***Introduction***

In accordance with the provisions in force on the recovery of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Rec. 12-03, the objective of this document, is to present to the Commission the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for 2013.

In general terms, this plan is identical to the plans presented and adopted by the Commission for previous fishing seasons.

#### ***I. Quota allocation/operational sectors***

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT during its last annual meeting, in Agadir, November 2012, the national quota established at 1,270.47 t, will be distributed among the following operational sectors: a) traps, b) artisanal boats and coastal vessels that catch bluefin tuna as by-catch and c) two offshore purse seiners.

Quota levels and related will be established for each of sector by the Administration, in accordance with the ICCAT provisions regarding individual quotas and will be notified within the deadline established by the Commission.

#### ***II. Fishing conditions***

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual bluefin tuna fishing management plan taking into account the new provisions of the East bluefin tuna recovery plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Kingdom of Morocco will comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 12-03 during the 2013 fishing campaign which will start in April 2013 for the trap sector.

#### ***III. Fishing capacity***

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, established in Article 46 of ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 10 traps
- 02 purse seiner vessels LOA > 40 m

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorized by the Moroccan Administration can catch bluefin tuna incidentally during their migration period. These vessels are included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and their catches shall be counted, within the quota limit allocated to their segment as in the past.

Therefore the national management/capacity reduction fishing plan for the 2013 fishing season is shown as follows:

	<i>Potential catches SCRS</i>	<i>Units Registered in ICCAT before 2010</i>	<i>Theoretical catches</i>	<i>dd Authorized units for 2013</i>	<i>Theoretical catches 2013</i>
PS large LOA > 40 m	70,7	2	141.4	2	141,4
PS med 24 < LOA < 40	49,8	3	149.9	0	0
PS small LOA < 24 *	33,7	1	33.7	0	0
LL large	25	0	25	0	0
LL med	5,7	1	5.7	0	0
LL small	5	63	315	0	0
Baitboat	19,8	0	0	0	0
Handlines	5	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	1	10	0	0
Other artisanal**	5	pm	pm	pm*	6,07
Traps (Moroccan indicators)	112.3	18	2021.4	10	1123
<b>Total</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>2691.6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1270,47</b>
<b>Quota 2013</b>					<b>1270,47</b>
<b>Total Theoretical catches</b>			<b>2691.6</b>		<b>1270,47</b>
<b>Theoretical rate of capacity/quota excess</b>					<b>0,00 %</b>

\*pm=for the record.

#### **IV. Fishing time/area closures**

In accordance with the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the fishing periods authorized by the Commission for the different gear will be applied.

#### **V. Control and compliance**

Fishery monitoring, control and observation practices will be implemented in accordance to the national and international regulations in force, materialized by the 2013 modus operandi. The objective of this is as follows:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities;
- Reporting scheme and recording of fishery information;
- VMS monitoring of fishing and support vessels (trap vessels);
- Documentary procedures for the commercialization of bluefin tuna;
- Application of the international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean,

- Compliance of international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

## NORWAY

### Norwegian Regulation Prohibiting Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna

On 19 December 2007, the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs informed ICCAT about a regulation establishing a prohibition for Norwegian vessels to fish and land bluefin tuna in Norway's territorial waters, the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone and in international waters. The regulation has been in force since 1 January 2008, and will also apply in 2013.

The regulation further stipulates that in case of incidental by-catches of bluefin tuna in fisheries for other species, all dead or dying bluefin tuna shall be landed, whereas bluefin tuna which is alive shall be released back to the sea.

Any willful or negligent contravention of these provisions is subject to penalty in accordance with Norwegian law.

Due to the prohibition and absence of bluefin tuna fishery, the obligation to provide ICCAT with fishing, inspection or capacity management plans for such a fishery is not applicable to Norway, and will consequently not be sent.

## TUNISIA

### 1. Fishing Plan

All the Tunisian fishing vessels that carry out bluefin tuna fishing use purse seine; these are tuna seiners.

In 2013, a total of 21 vessels will be authorized to take part in bluefin tuna fishing by purse seine. The list of these vessels is attached as **Table 1**. Of this number, 20 vessels measure between 24 and 40 m and one vessel is less than 24 m.

The bluefin tuna fishing season in 2013 will extend from 26 May to 24 June, in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 12-03, each vessel authorized will have, during this period, a bluefin tuna fishing permit and will have an individual quota. As soon as the individual vessel quota is used, it will be required to return to its home port and its fishing permit will be withdrawn.

As in 2012, the tuna vessels will work in groups during the 2013 fishing season, and the national quota that amounts to 1,057 tonnes will be shared among these vessels in such a way that the fishing capacity is proportional to the quotas allocated. The methodology adopted for the allocation of quotas among the tuna vessels will be the same as in 2012.

The competent authority will continue to require the fishing operators to make daily catch reports of bluefin tuna, including null catches, and all other information required by the ICCAT Recommendations.

According to Tunisian regulation, the transshipment of the catches is subject to a prior authorization. The competent authority will maintain this provision in 2013 and halt any transshipment of bluefin tuna at sea in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 64 of Rec. 12-03.

Likewise, Tunisian regulation requires that the landing of catches must take place in Tunisian fishing ports, unless exceptional authorization is given in the fishing permit. This provision will also be maintained in 2013 and the pertinent measures will be taken to avoid any landing of bluefin tuna outside the designated ports (paragraph 65 of Rec.12-03).

In 2013, the competent Tunisian authority envisages deploying observers on board the Tunisian towing vessels, as was done in 2012. Tunisia will welcome regional observers on board its vessels within the framework of ICCAT's Observer Program and will support a more active participation of Tunisian observers on board the vessels of other CPCs.

The monitoring of vessel activities will continued to be assured by the VMS system.

## 2. Capacity Management Plan

### 2.1 Management of fishing capacity

In order for the capacity to be proportion to the quota allocated for the 2013 fishing season, Tunisia will reduce its fishing capacity in 2013 to 21 vessels, including all categories, to a catch level of 1,029.28 t, from 42 vessels with a catch level of 1,809.26 t in 2010, i.e., a reduction of 103.68 %.

**Table 2** shows the fishing capacity planned by Tunisia for the 2013 fishing season, in number, according to length range of the fishing vessels.

### 2.2 Farming Capacity Management Plan

In accordance with paragraphs 52 and 53 of Rec. 12-03, Tunisia envisages maintaining in 2013 the same quantities of bluefin tuna caged in 2008, i.e., 2134 tonnes, including imports that will be caged in Tunisian farming installations (**Table 3**).

SNB and THC companies plan on carrying out their activity independently from SMT Company which is going to transfer its farming quota to TT Company.

## 3. Inspection Plan

In complying with the provisions of paragraphs 99-101 of Rec. 12-03, the competent Tunisian authority will maintain in 2013 the deployment of an inspection vessel during the bluefin tuna fishing season, within the framework of the joint international inspection scheme.

Training sessions for the inspectors will be organized prior to the fishing season on ICCAT's requirements regarding the monitoring of the fisheries, the application of the VMS system, the documents required on board, etc.

Coastal surveillance services will also be continued, to carry out mission of inspections at sea. These missions will cover, in particular, the activities of tuna purse seiners in water under national jurisdiction.

**Table 1.** List of individual vessel quotas in 2013\* - Tunisia

<i>ICCAT Registry No.</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Allocated quota (t)</i>	<i>Vessel owner</i>
AT000TUN00002	Abou Chamma	25,42	39.13	Héritiers El Moncer Kamel
AT000TUN00007	Haj hedi	28,00	29.24	Sté Chaari et Fils
AT000TUN00008	Hassen	26,84	49.02	Sté Méridien Pêche
AT000TUN00009	Horchani	32,65	128.14	Sté Horchani Pêche
AT000TUN00010	Imen	29,10	58.48	Neifar Sami
AT000TUN00014	El Khalij	25,40	29.24	Sté Horchani Pêche et cie
AT000TUN00023	Sallem	38,13	78.26	Fish Tunisie
AT000TUN00024	Tapsus	29,25	49.02	Sté Mohamed Hmida et Fils
AT000TUN00025	Hadj Mokhtar	31,85	29.24	Chaari Jomaa
AT000TUN00026	Tijani	27,20	29.24	Sté Mohamed Hmida et Fils
AT000TUN00030	Ghedir El Gholla	35,05	107.5	Socoplat
AT000TUN00036	Ghali	21,94	19.78	Nejib Chiha et Skander Ben Salem
AT000TUN00037	Ibn Rachiq	34,39	49.02	Fish Tunisie
AT000TUN00045	Mohamed Yassine	28,00	29.24	Tahar Hajji et cie
AT000TUN00046	Jaouhar	32,30	29.24	Sté Mohamed Hmida et cie
AT000TUN00047	Abderrahmen	25,30	58.91	Mohamed Chiha
AT000TUN00049	El Houssaine	35,00	29.24	Chaari Jomaa

AT000TUN00051	Mohamed Sadok	37,00	58.48	Sté Méridien Pêche
AT000TUN00479	Denphir 1	37,05	29.24	Sté Dauphin de Pêche
AT000TUN00070	Hadj Ahmed	34,90	49.02	SPAC Service
AT000TUN00065	Futuro 1	36,70	78.26	Socoplant

\*Preliminary.

**Table 2.** Fishing capacity (2013) – Tunisia.

<i>Vessel categories</i>	<i>Catch level</i>	<i>2010</i>		<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>	
		<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Large purse seiners ≥ 40m	70.66 t	1	70.66 t	0	70.66 t	0	0	0	0
Average purse seiners 24-40 m	49.78 t	24	1194.72	19	945.82	20	995.6	20	995.6
Small purse seiners ≤24m	33.68 t	16	538.88	4	134.72	1	33.68	1	33.68 t
Small longliner ≤24m	5 t	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>1809.26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1080.54</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1029.28</b>
% Reduction.				76.78%		98.51%		103.68%	

**Table 3.** Farming capacity (2013) – Tunisia.

<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Farming Installation Owner</i>	<i>Maximum caging foreseen in 2013 (in tonnes)</i>
AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi Sallem	356
AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	888
AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida et Sami Neifer	267
AT001TUN00006	SNB Taher Hajji et Mohamed Chiha	267

## **TURKEY**

### **1. Eastern Bluefin Tuna Fishing Plan for 2013**

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT recommendations. An individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel shall be applied. Fishing for E-BFT shall only be conducted in respect of the catching vessels' individual quotas.

The Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Communiqué and Notifications regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

#### ***1.1 Potential Fishing Grounds***

The potential fishing ground for E-BFT fishery will be off the western and southern coasts of Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Sparse fishing activities may occur in the southern parts of the Aegean Sea.

#### ***1.2 List of Authorized E-BFT Catching Vessels***

MoFAL shall issue special fishing permits for all E-BFT catching vessels to be authorized for 2013 in accordance with criteria specified by domestic legislation as well as by relevant ICCAT regulations on capacity adjustments. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

#### ***1.3 Licensing***

Special fishing permits issued by the provincial directorates of MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT catching vessels to operate for the 2013 fishing season. Only purse seine vessels, which have formally possessed such permits during previous years, shall be eligible for certification. Special fishing permits shall be granted to 10 purse seine vessels by MoFAL in accordance with relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Special tug and towing permits, which are mandatory for E-BFT other vessels to operate for 2013 season, shall be issued for 30 towing vessels eligible to carry out E-BFT towing operations by provincial directorates of MoFAL.

Special support-ship permits, which are mandatory for E-BFT other vessels to operate for 2013 season, shall be issued for 10 vessels by provincial directorates of MoFAL.

#### ***1.4 Allocation of E-BFT Catch Quota***

Despite the formal objection lodged by Turkey to the quota allocation scheme from the year 2013, the objected quota level of 556.66 metric tons shall be respected to contribute to the multi-annual recovery plan for E-BFT. In this regard, 545.50 metric tons of quota shall be allocated to 10 E-BFT catching vessels acquiring special fishing permits for the 2013 E-BFT fishing season.

#### ***1.5 Methodology used for Quota Allocation***

MoFAL plans to allocate 98% of the total domestic quota through its distribution in an equal ratio to each of the fishing vessels, based on a domestic criterion to be applied.

For the fishing vessels having allocated an individual quota but not intending to operate for the 2013 E-BFT fishing season, the right to transfer its individual quota to another fishing vessel shall be given. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carryover shall not be allowed.

#### ***1.6 Coastal, Recreational, Sport Fisheries***

A specific quota level shall be allocated for the purposes of coastal, recreational and sport fisheries, as well as incidental and by-catches, which is of 2% of the total. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited except for charitable purposes.

## ***1.7 Regulations for 2013 E-BFT fishing season***

### *1.7.1 Fishing Period and Open Season*

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2013 to 24 June 2013 in accordance with relevant ICCAT rules and recommendations.

### *1.7.2 Joint Fishing Operations*

No joint fishing operation (JFOs) with any other CPC is allowed unless the concerned CPC has less than 5 authorized (maximum 4) purse seiners.

A JFO for E-BFT shall only be authorized with the consent of MoFAL and of the other CPC authority concerned, if the vessels to be involved are equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has sufficient individual quotas.

Fishing vessels to conduct any JFO with the vessels of any other CPC shall present the required certificates and letter of consent to MoFAL at least 15 days before the start of the operation (departure from port) to be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat within the specified deadline.

### *1.7.3 E-BFT Landing/Transshipment Ports*

E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes.

The following ports have been designated by MoFAL for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:

<i>Province</i>	<i>Designated Landing/ Transshipment Port</i>
1 ADANA	Karataş fishing port
2 ANTALYA	Antalya port Gazipaşa fishing port
3 MERSIN	Karaduvar fishing port
4 HATAY	Iskenderun fishing port
5 ÇANAKKALE	Kabatepe fishing port Gülpınar fishing port
6 ISTANBUL	Kumkapı fishing port Tuzla fishing port
7 IZMIR	Karaburun fishing port

### *1.7.4 Vessel Monitoring System requirements*

Fishing vessels requesting any of the special E-BFT catching, towing and support permits for the 2013 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoFAL in accordance with relevant ICCAT rules and recommendations.

### *1.7.5 Recording and Reporting*

Recording and reporting shall be made as required by ICCAT Recommendation No.12-03.

### *1.7.6 Towing and Caging Operations*

Provisions regulating towing and caging operations shall be applied as laid down in ICCAT Rec. 12-03.

#### *1.7.7 Transfer operations*

All transfer operations shall be carried out in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 12-03.

#### *1.7.8 Cross check*

The relevant information recorded in fishing logbooks / daily logs, transfer declaration, and in the catch documents shall be verified by MoFAL by using available inspection reports, observer reports and VMS data.

MoFAL shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

#### *1.7.9 Enforcement*

Any noncompliance to the regulations regarding E-BFT fishing and transfer shall lead to nullification of the special fishing permit or the special tug and towing permit issued by MoFAL.

Noncompliant fishing vessels shall not get any of the above mentioned special permits for future operations.

#### *1.7.10 Market measures*

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of E-BFT products (with the exception of fish parts other than the meat i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) as well as their keeping onboard, at storage or inside the towing cages attached to a catching/towing vessel which are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.11 Observer requirements*

Presence of "ICCAT Regional Observers" on E-BFT catching vessels and farming facilities; and presence of "CPC Observers" on E-BFT towing vessels shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2013.

#### *1.7.12 Use of aircraft*

Any use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for E-BFT shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.13 Minimum size*

Catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale E-BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115cms shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.14 Sampling Requirements*

During the course of the year 2013, E-BFT sampling requirements shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 87 and 88 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03.

Fishing/farming operators shall apply technologic methods, including the utilization of stereoscopic cameras to improve accuracy of weight estimation and quantity without killing any fish.

The operators who won't be able to implement the above-mentioned technologic methods are obliged to conduct a sampling programme in which they shall sample at least 1.5% of the live E-BFT transferred from the catching net to the towing net and at least 1.5% of the live E-BFT caged at farm.

In this way, E-BFT fishing/farming operators to choose the second option shall apply a sampling protocol based on killing deliberately of; at least 3% of the transferred and caged E-BFT in total in order to estimate and determine the values of fish size and mean weight of the transferred/caged live E-BFT.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers/operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as of other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

## 2. E-BFT Fisheries Inspection Plan

### 2.1 ICCAT Inspections in 2013

In 2013, Turkey plans to continue its contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection with 51 vessels from Turkish Coast Guard Command with 182 inspectors and 24 vessels from Turkish Naval Forces with 116 inspectors.

### 2.2 Framework of MCS for E-BFT Fishery, Transfer, Farming and Trading

#### Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation,
- E-BFT catching/other vessels to be registered in ICCAT record,
- Legal fishing season,
- E-BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) rules,
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Logbook requirements,
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT Coverage,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification.



#### Transfer

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorization,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification,
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer Coverage (for all catching vessels),
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessels),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.



#### Transport/Towing

- 100% National (CPC) Observer Coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.



#### Import (for live E-BFT)

- 100 % MoFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ROP-BFT Coverage (at farm site/caging)



**Caging**

- 100% Video Footage,
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage,
- 100% ICCAT Observer Coverage (Farming),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Caging Declaration.



**Farming**

- Random MOFAL Inspections
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage,
- 100% Video Footage.



**Landing Ports**

- Random MOFAL Inspections at 7 authorized landing fishing ports for dead E-BFT.
- Random MOFAL Inspections at some landing fishing ports used for by-catch dead E-BFT



**Harvest**

- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT Coverage,
- 100% MoFAL Representative Coverage,
- BCD Scheme requirements



**Export**

- 100 % MoFAL Representative Coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements



**Inspections**

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2013 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL and other CPC's Inspection/Control Assets),
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season.

### 3. Capacity Management Scheme for 2013

#### Turkey's Fishing Capacity Management Plan for 2013

Category	Catch Rate	Number of Vessels				Catch Rates of the Vessels			
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
PS 40	70,66	12	11	0	3	847.92	777.26	0	211.98
PS 24-40m	49,78	11	10	11	7	547.58	497.8	547.58	348.46
PS 24	33,68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		23	21	11	10	1395,5	1275,06	547,58	560,44

<b>Years</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Quota</b>	419,183	535,89	535,89	556,66
<b>Overcapacity</b>	976,317	739,17	11,69	0
<b>Overcapacity %</b>	132,9	37,9	2,2	0,7

**Note:** Turkey has a formal objection over the quota allocation scheme adopted in 2012.

## **CHINESE TAIPEI**

### **Chinese Taipei's Regulation prohibiting Fisheries of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in 2013**

In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 12-03, I have the honor to inform you that a regulation has been established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2013. Besides, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations, by-catch of bluefin tuna shall be released into the sea immediately and the relevant information of releases shall be recorded and reported to the Agency.

Furthermore, in accordance with the paragraph 63 of ICCAT Rec. 12-03, I hereby inform you that Chinese Taipei also prohibited our fishing vessels from fishing Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2012, which was notified to you by email on 7 February 2012.

CLARIFICATIONS FOR EBFT ROP CONSORTIUM

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
30: Minimum sizes limitation for Mediterranean and Adriatic fisheries	We would be grateful if you would provide the boundary limits between the Adriatic and Mediterranean with respect to the application of minimum size requirements.	There is no official boundary limit. For practical purposes, an operational guideline for the observer can be taken as line between the Cape of Otranto and the Cape of Pristoni. All vessels authorised to operate in the Adriatic with reference to the minimum size derogation will be identified on the ICCAT Record of Vessels.
69: Designated Ports and Landing Times	Will information on designated ports <i>and landing times</i> be available? The only alternative is for observers to report all landings as <i>potential non-compliance [PNC]</i> .	The ports and landing times will be available on the ICCAT web site, as required by paragraph 69. Only landings which take place in non-authorised ports or at times outside those reported should be considered a PNC
78: Final paragraph related to a <b>Release</b> report following a release order  And	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the video subject to the same requirements as transfers as set out in Annex 9?</li> </ul>	No. Not all requirements can apply. Efforts should be made to ensure good quality video, but this cannot be enforced through repetition of the release. The video must show the release starting with the opening of the door up to the closing of the door; be without interruption and show the time and the day of the release.
87: Release order with respect to excessive amount of tuna.  And	<p>Clarification is required on when the report should be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During a deployment post release? Or</li> <li>• As part of the final deployment report?</li> </ul>	As part of the final report submitted to the Secretariat (i.e., 20 days after the deployment): with the information contained in paragraph 79 (such as time and day of the release and quantities released).

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
88: Paragraph 4 ...”shall issue a release order for the excess”	<p>If during a deployment, should the release report also be submitted to the respective CPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On all occasions?</li> <li>• Just those cases of non-compliance?</li> </ul>	<p>The information release should accompany the final report within 20 days. Earlier reporting would only be required in the case of a PNC being detected, in which case the observer should submit the information to the consortium in real time who shall transmit this information to the CPC, with a copy to the Secretariat.</p>
	<p>What information should be reported?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Date, time, position</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Amount released?</li> </ul>	<p>Yes, these items.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a comparison of operators and observers estimate required?</li> <li>• And if estimates are different should they be reported as a potential non-compliance matter?</li> <li>• If yes what tolerance should be applied?</li> </ul>	<p>No. No tolerance to be applied in a case of release.</p>
82: verifying entries made in the prior transfer authorisation [PTN]	<p>Where vessel communication equipment is limited to radio or satellite phone/cell phone, hard copy records of authorisation are not available to refer to i.e. observers are reliant on the word of the master and therefore cannot independently verify the entries referred to.</p> <p>Therefore is it acceptable for observers to limit verification of PTN records that are available in hard or electronic copy only?</p>	<p>The observer cannot verify what is not available. If no documentation can be provided, this should be noted in the final observer report. However, this should NOT be reported as a PNC.</p>
83: Verification of amounts of tuna transferred between fishing and towing vessels	<p>What happens if the observer cannot verify the entries made or disagrees with vessel records?</p> <p>We assume that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The observer will not sign the ITD;</li> <li>• Send a non-compliance report</li> <li>• Inform the master that the issue will be resolved at caging?</li> </ul> <p>Please clarify</p>	<p>The assumptions are correct.</p>

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
	<p>If the observer at caging is <b>able</b> to verify the amounts, are they still expected to sign the ITD covering the <b>transfer between fishing and towing vessel</b>?</p> <p>Note: We anticipate that some pressure may be forth coming from operators for observers to sign in order that they have a complete record of control documents.</p>	No
84: Observers signing the Caging Report	As above [para 83.] Are observers expected to sign the document if they are unable to verify or disagree [>10% difference] with the farm operator's estimate?	No.
87: Investigation/clarification of estimates of tuna	<p>Note: In those cases where further investigation is required; there must also be consideration of the current deployment period, e.g., An issue may arise on the last day of an observer's deployment that cannot be resolved immediately.</p> <p>Therefore due consideration must be taken into account for a deployment extension request including approval from the CPC and Secretariat and communication to the observer supplier.</p> <p>A cost effective solution should be sought that avoids new deployment requests.</p> <p>How will this process be managed?</p>	The investigation process will not involve the observers. It was agreed by all CPCs that validation of the relevant section of the BCD will take precedence over the non-signing of the BCD by the regional observer and be considered as in full respect of ICCAT conservation and management measures.
92: Signing Control documentation: BCDs, ITD, Caging Report	<p>What process should occur if observers cannot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify the entries made</li> <li>• Disagree with them</li> <li>• &gt;10% for estimates of tuna</li> </ul> <p>And subsequently refuses to sign?</p> <p>In particular what should the observer do if issues still cannot be resolved following an investigation? This may be the case for estimates of tuna transferred.</p> <p>Should observers sign documentation?</p>	The investigation process will not involve the observers. It was agreed by all CPCs that validation of the relevant section of the BCD will take precedence over the non-signing of the BCD by the regional observer and be considered as in full respect of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
Annex 9: Video recording procedures: Transfers and Caging	<p>Reporting non-compliance</p> <p>If a vessel/farm does not comply with <b>all</b> of the paragraphs set out in i) to ix) for both Transfer Operations and Caging operations; should observers send a potential non-compliance report to CPCs/flag, farm States?</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Is there priority with respect to <b>reporting</b> potential non-compliance?</p> <p>If there is a scale of priority please provide clarification with respect to <b>each</b> paragraph</p>	Yes, through the consortium. There is no priority ranking. This will be determined by the CPCs on receipt.
	<p>Signing control documentation</p> <p>Are observers still required to sign control documentation [see below] if potential non-compliance is apparent/evident with respect to <b>any</b> of the paragraphs?</p> <p>e.g. If all things are in order apart from transfer declaration number displayed at the beginning /end of each video, should observers refuse to sign the control documents.</p> <p>Control Documents: Caging report, BCD, ITD.</p> <p>Please provide clarification with respect to <b>each</b> paragraph.</p>	No.  Yes
General	<p>Previously hard and electronic copies of control records and documents [see below] have only been provided to observers at disembarkation or even post deployment.</p> <p>As such observers are unable to fulfil their duties during deployment and comply with reporting requirements [<i>i.e.</i> potential non compliance and submit deployment outputs within 20 days].</p> <p>In the past the Consortium has been instructed that observers should not enter/verify/provide estimates etc.; and provide an account as to why in their deployment report.</p>	<p>If the observer is not presented with the correct documentation, he cannot do his duty, nor can he sign them. Observers cannot invent estimates unless video etc are provided.</p> <p>Missing elements should be reported as soon as possible as PNCs.</p>

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
	<p>Therefore we would be grateful if you would confirm what observers should do in those cases where key control records and documents are not available during their deployment.</p> <p>Relevant records and documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video records</li> <li>• Transfer authorisations [mainly for transfers between fishing and topping vessels]</li> <li>• ITDs with unique reference number</li> <li>• BCDs</li> </ul>	
<p>Potential conflict of monitoring tasks/activities at-sea</p>	<p>Activities and tasks associated with video records, estimating amounts of tuna and transfer declaration could run concurrently with broader monitoring duties associated with operational activities such as: incidental mortalities, transshipment of dead tuna, collecting biometric information</p> <p>The tasks/activities are set out below:</p> <p>Annex 9: Monitor original video footage/record for catch estimates Take receipt of copy of video record</p> <p>Clause 83/92: Explain obligations if observers is unable to countersign control documentation if they are not in agreement or cannot verify entries</p> <p>Clause 83: Verify transfer declaration is transmitted and received</p> <p>Annex 7: 7ai) Reporting non compliance 7aiii) / 7ax) Estimates of total catch including dead tuna [necessary to satisfy SCRS requirements plus verify entries made in the logbook].</p>	<p>There are no new obligations under Rec. 12-03 compared to Rec. 10-04.</p> <p>Up to the observer to organise him/herself.</p>

**APPENDIX TO THE REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING  
OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE AND PANEL 2**

*(Seville, Spain – February, 18 to 20 February 2013)*

**5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2013 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota**

**ALBANIA**

The endorsement of the Albanian plan (attached as **Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1**) was pending the submission of a revised fishing capacity management plan by Albania and the review by Contracting Parties of the information requested. On 6 March 2013, Albania submitted the letter attached (as **Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1**) that was circulated to Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties did not request further clarification to Albania. The fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for Albania in 2013 was deemed endorsed on 20 March 2013 by correspondence by the Contracting Parties.

**CHINA**

The endorsement of the Chinese plan (attached as **Addendum 3 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1**) was pending clarification of its capacity management plan. On 25 February 2013, China submitted further information (attached as **Addendum 4 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1**) that was circulated to Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties did not request additional information to China. On 20 March 2013 the fishing inspection and capacity management plan for China in 2013 was deemed endorsed by correspondence by the Contracting Parties.

**KOREA**

The Korean fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2013 were endorsed during the meeting. However, Korea stated that it would present a revised plan informing of its requirement concerning the management of by-catch. The Korea's revised plan is presented herewith (new text **in bold**):

In accordance with Recommendation 12-03, the Republic of Korea has its bluefin tuna quota of 80.53 tons in 2013 and has only one purse seine vessel (*Sajomelita*) targeting bluefin tuna since 2008. In terms of the capacity management plan, it is not applicable for Korea as it has only one purse seine vessel. Thus, the fishing capacity for Korea is commensurate with its quota. This vessel will be operating in the Mediterranean Sea during the authorized fishing period (May 26-June 24, 2013).

A joint fishing operation with Libya will be conducted this year with its consent. Korea will inform the Secretariat of the details at least ten days before the start of the joint fishing operation, including the names of Libyan catching vessels and their quota respectively allocated by the Libyan authority.

An ICCAT Regional Observer will be deployed on board. It is allowed to catch only bluefin tuna weighting over 30 kg. Adjustment of farming capacity is not applicable as Korea has no farming facilities. Bluefin tuna transshipments at sea are prohibited. Recording requirements, communication of catches, and the reporting of catches will be complied with. The Korean authority will verify, including the use of inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of its fishing vessel, in the transfer document and in the catch documents. Transfer operations of live bluefin tuna will be authorized by our authority in advance.

**With regard to by-catch management, the longline vessels active in the East Atlantic are not authorized to fish bluefin tuna and should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any BCD made by these Korean longline vessels will not be validated by the Korean authority. The released fish indicating live or dead status will be reported in real time to the Korean authority and forwarded to ICCAT. All by-catch of bluefin tuna will be deducted from Korea's quota. Joint fishing activities will continue with Libya, and Korea will inform the Secretariat of the details at least 10 days before commencement. Vessels engaged in this joint fishing operation will conduct video recordings at the point of capture and transfer, as required, and results will be sent to SCRS through the Secretariat.**

In accordance with Korea's Distant Sea Fisheries Act, the vessel should comply with other requirements and provisions in Recommendation 12-03. If there are any infractions or the vessel fails to comply with any regulations in the Recommendation, our authority will investigate the case and take measures in accordance with the Recommendation and, as appropriate, sanctions against the vessel depending on the level of violations.

Please refer to the information on the Korean vessel as follows:

- *Nationality:* Republic of Korea
- *Vessel Name:* SAJOMELITA
- *ICCAT No:* AT000KOR00211 (Bluefin tuna active vessel)
- *Register No:* 1104001-6261403
- *Call Sign:* DTBV2
- *GRT:* 105.00
- *LOA:* 22.25m
- *Type of Vessel:* Purse seine
- *Mode of Operation:* Joint Fishing Operation in Mediterranean
- *Authorized Fishing Period:* 26 May-24 June 2013
- *Bluefin Tuna Quota:* 80.53 tons

## SYRIA

On 7 March 2013, Mr M. Miyahara, ICCAT Chairman, sent a letter to Syria informing that its non-submission of the fishing, inspection and capacity management plan in 2013 led to the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2013.

### *Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1*

#### **Albania's Management Plan**

##### **Management Plan (on Albanian quota fishing of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for the year 2013).**

Albania is member of the ICCAT Convention by Law No. 9822, dated 29.10.2007 stating that the Republic of Albania adheres to the International Convention for the Conservation of Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Major pelagic fishing in Albania is a rather new activity which starts in 2013. Even traditionally this kind of fishing activity has not been developed. Before the 1990s, some attempts have been made towards tuna fishing, but the results have not been effective to justify the expenditures for this fishing. The above mentioned species is bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*), as the most economic species.

Throughout the years, different amounts of tuna and tuna-like species have been fished, mainly occasionally and as related with small pelagic fishing activities. One important species, fished in Albania is Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*) in Albanian marine waters and as a by-catch by large fishing vessels and also by uncovered fishing ponds (called *stavnike* in Albanian, borrowed from the Russian name and practice fishing experience) on the Adriatic Sea coast.

The ICCAT Convention subsumes several tuna and tuna-like species under obligatory management measures for member and non member states, starting from fishing operations up to harvested marketing. Several recommendations and resolutions have been approved at international level concerning tuna fishing management and control measures, at national and international level, regarding the species under this Convention. The most recent and important ICCAT

measure is: “*Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Blue fin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*” [Rec. 12-03].

This ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 12-03] has been totally transposed in a Ministerial Decree which has been prepared recently. In the above Ministerial Decree, *Multiannual Plan Application towards recovering Bluefin tuna in Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* of ICCAT which stipulates that: Each country, each Contracting Party should compile an annual fishing plan for its bluefin tuna catching vessels and traps in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. This annual plan should identify, inter alia, fishing vessels over 24 m length, included in the ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna, and the individual quota allocated for them, the method used for this allocation and the measures to guarantee the compliance of individual quota.

As regards the item of this Recommendation and the allocated quota for Albania, the following management measures were undertaken:

According to Rec. 12-03, the allocated bluefin tuna quota for Albania is 33.58 tonnes for 2013.

### **1. Fishing vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna**

To exploit allocated quota, three licensed fishing vessels (pelagic fishing) have been selected; they have been authorized and have been allocated a bluefin tuna fishing quota, according to their technical specifications.

The following vessels have been authorized to use the allocated quota as follows:

1. *Magnolia*: This baitboat has been allocated a bluefin tuna fishing quota in the amount of 11.19 t. Landing of catches must be carried out in Shengjini fish harbor.
2. *Shkreli*: This baitboat has been allocated a bluefin tuna fishing quota in the amount of 11.19 t. Landing of catches must be carried out in Shengjini fish harbor.

The fishing vessels *Magnolia* and *Shkreli* will carry out joint fishing operations.

3. *Rozafa 10*: This longliner has been allocated a bluefin tuna fishing quota in the amount of 11.2 t. Landing of catches must be carried out in Shengjini fish harbor.

These amounts consist of 100% of Albania’s allocated quota, without including sport and recreational tuna fishing, and consequently no authorizations have been granted for these types of fishing activity.

### **2. Fishing period**

According to the fishing method of bluefin tuna, the fishing vessels:

- The baitboats *Magnolia* and *Shkreli* will carry out joint fishing operations during the period: 1 July until 31 October.
- The longliner *Rozafa 10* will be authorized to carry out fishing activity during the rest of the period: 1 January until 31 May.

### **3. Authorized Fishing Vessel obligations**

During the joint fishing operations, the baitboats *Magnolia* and *Shkreli* will share their catches according to the allocation key.

The authorized fishing vessels authorized will land their catches in the fishing port of Shengjini between 17.00 and 19.00 hrs.

Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representatives, shall provide the following information to the relevant authorities at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival.

- a) Estimated time of arrival;
- b) Estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- c) Information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

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

The Master of authorized fishing vessels are obliged to install the blue-box and maintain the transmission of VMS without interruption even when vessels are in fishing port.

#### **4. Recording and data communication**

The Masters of catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna should notify, by electronic or other means, to the competent authorities and during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna, all the daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area, including nil returns and in accordance with the ICCAT requirements.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorization and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorization, unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For better monitoring and control the Master of the authorized fishing vessels is obliged to install the blue-box and maintain the transmission of VMS without interruption even when vessels are in the fishing port.

#### **5. Transshipment**

Bluefin tuna transshipment at sea is prohibited.

Authorized fishing vessels should transship bluefin tuna only in the designated fishing ports and during the time determined by the fishing authorities.

The Masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3 of Rec. 12-03.

Prior to entry into port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State, at least 48 hr before the estimated time of arrival, the following information:

- a) Estimated time of arrival;
- b) Estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
- c) The name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
- d) The name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
- e) The tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

#### **6. The prohibitions**

- The use of airplanes or helicopters to search for bluefin tuna in the Convention area is prohibited.
- Catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sell bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorization and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorization, unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For better monitoring and control the Master of the authorized fishing vessels is obliged to install the blue-box and maintain the transmission of VMS without interruption even when vessels are in the fishing port.

#### **7. Obligations and measures that should be implemented by the Fisheries Authority**

- Request fishing vessels to proceed immediately to the designated port after noticing that the allocated quota for the follow-up year has been exploited;
- Carry out cross checks on all landings, transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities inspectors reporting and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.
- Verify, including inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.
- Take the necessary measures for a Port Authority and/or Fishery Inspector to inspect the receiving vessel when arriving on a bluefin tuna cargo.
- Verify the real situation reflected in the documents regarding transshipment operations. At the same time, ensure that the port authority is sending the transshipment reports to the flag state, within 5 days from the end of this transshipment.
- Verify daily the inspections operations/fishery control bodies.

This management plan will be the target job of the Fishery Directorate and its dependent structures in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration.

**Additional information from Albania concerning its Capacity Management Plan for 2013**

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER ADMINISTRATION  
FISHERIES DIRECTORATE**

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*Adresa: Rruga e Durrësit, Nr. 27, Tirane, - Tel: 2 270 630, Fax: 2 270 627 - [www.moe.gov.al](http://www.moe.gov.al)*

**Tirane 06.03.2013**

**SUBJECT: In response to your request for change of management, inspection and capacity plans for the year 2013**

**Honored Mr. MESKI,**

Distinguished members of ICCAT Secretariat,

Through this letter allow me to express my appreciation in regard to your suggestions send to us over e-mail addressing the mismatch in vessel capacity / catch rate and the allocated quota.

Let me assure you of our serious commitment in addressing your concerns, and stress that we are fully engaged in respecting and fulfilling all 12-03 Recommendations while drafting the management plan, the inspection plan and procedures of the authorized vessels with the right equipment in all the aspects, in compliance with all the obligations.

However being presented with the facts as written in the Management plan in the Quotas chapter "Obligations and Measures of the Fishing Authority" in accordance with paragraph 76, etc. of 12-03 Recommendations vessel activity will be observed under strictest measures as far as the daily catches go, up to the realization of the allocated quota in total for all the authorized subjects.

In this regard as we said strict measures of control will be deployed to prevent overfishing and this engagement will be monitored and reported. We will also report in real time to ICCAT Secretariat our Directorate at the Ministry and the Albanian General Inspectorate for all statistical data in regard to periodical and total catchment. We find it just to mention here the work of the external monitor who will be on board ships as required by the recommendations of ICCAT who we believe in cooperation with our structures will be an added control.

We will inform the ICCAT secretariat on time for the dates of closing the bluefin tuna fishing season or if the quotas are met for each of the ships and in total.

By deploying administrative measures and a daily monitoring plan we fully believe that the country's quotas will be respected. Albania's Fishing Directorate guarantees this and also close cooperation with ICCAT.

We are always open to all comments and additional suggestions.

Respectfully,  
(Signed)  
Arjan MADHI  
Director General

*Addendum 3 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1***People's Rep. of china BFT Fishing, inspection and capacity reduction plans for 2013****a) Fishing Plan**

**Fishing Vessel:** In 2013, two longline vessels, namely *Jin Feng No. 1* and *Jin Feng No. 3*, will be seasonally participating in a group manned to the bluefin tuna fishery.

**Fishing Period:** Normally it shifts to the fishing ground at the end of September and shall be proceed to designated ports immediately when it is deemed that its individual quota is likely to be exhausted.

**Quota:** 38.19 metric tons in 2013 fishing season.

**b) Enforcement Plan**

**Observers:** 100% observer coverage will be annually implemented during BFT fishing season. They will record the required data and discards, monitor the catch, ensure the compliance of ICCAT Recommendations.

**Data record and catch report:** The logbook shall be filled in every day or before port arrival. Daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) is required to record and report, which has to contain the date, area of catch, folk length, number of catch, weight and tag numbers.

**VMS requirement:** Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational vessel monitoring system onboard, and can be tracked and reported normally to ICCAT Secretariat.

**Transshipment:** Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes. Mindelo in San Vincent is the registered port.

**Cross-checks and BCDs:** Cross-checks of data from catch reports, VMS, requests for authorization of transfer, transfer declarations, and national observer as well as inspection reports shall be made. In case of the aforementioned records do not match the content in BCD, the paper shall be rejected by government.

**c) Capacity Management Plan**

Due to the small quota allocated to China, the number of fishing vessels has cut from four to two, to limit our catch under the quota. Taking into account of the serious sea conditions during that season and for the safety of the vessels, it is necessary to maintain the two vessels fishing in a group manner and no further reduction could be made for the season.

Individual Quotas allocated to each vessel authorized for BFT fishing in 2013:

Jin Feng No.1: half of BFT quota allocated to CHINA

Jin Feng No.3: half of BFT quota allocated to CHINA

***Methodology used for Individual Quota Allocation***

Individual Quota has been allocated provisionally in an equal share to each of the fishing vessel. Since the two vessels belongs to one owner and their fishing season begin in the end of September each year, there will be a flexible carry over among the two vessels, provided the total catch by the two vessel is not over the Chinese BFT quota and that a prior notification to Bureau of Fisheries is made and is so authorized, and the Bureau of Fisheries will communicate such authorization to the Secretariat.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM CHINA**

Bureau of Fisheries,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
The People's Republic of China

ICCAT 25 February 2013
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25 February 2013

**To:** Aronne Spezzani, Chair of ICCAT Panel 2

Dear Aronne,

Thanks for your letter dated February 22 regarding further information on China's fishing plan for 2013.

For a potential overcapacity in our capacity calculation, let me clarify as below: as a normal practice, these two longline vessels seasonally conduct BFT fishing, beginning in the end of September of each year. Two observers are dispatched to each of the vessel to monitor the whole catch (100% coverage), including record length and weight of each BFT fish, as well as tag and position. Daily record shall be fully filled and reported to us, we will carefully check its catch and make record in our system. A cross-check is also necessary when weekly report and monthly report arrives, and a pre-warning will be given once it is likely to approach catch limit. Of course it should be proceed to its normal BET fishing ground immediately when it is deemed that its individual quota is likely to be exhausted.

I hope above words can meet your demand.

Thanks for your attention.

Regards.

Xiabing Liu

#### **4.2 REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF FISHERIES MANAGERS AND SCIENTISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT (Montreal, Canada – June 26-28, 2013)**

##### **1. Opening of the meeting**

In the absence of the Panel 2 Chair, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, Chairman of the Commission, opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and thanked Canada for hosting. A List of Participants is included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

##### **2. Election of Chair**

It was agreed that Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) and Dr. Josu Santiago (SCRS Chairman), would serve as Co-Chairs for the meeting.

##### **3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**

The Tentative Agenda was developed based on the terms of reference for the Working Group, as appended to ICCAT Recommendation 12-02. The Co-Chairs reviewed the terms of reference for the meeting and reiterated that the goals of the meeting are to enhance the dialogue between scientists, managers and stakeholders, and consider how the work plans of the SCRS can best support the needs of the Commission. The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**.

##### **4. Nomination of rapporteur**

Ms. Rachel O'Malley (United States) was nominated to serve as Rapporteur.

##### **5. History of the science advice and management of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna**

Dr. Santiago introduced Dr. Clay Porch, Rapporteur of the SCRS Western Bluefin Tuna Species\_Group, and explained that Dr. Porch would make several presentations to guide the discussion under each Agenda item. Dr. Porch began with a presentation on the “History of the Science Advice and Management of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna”.

There was a question regarding the origin of the low recruitment scenario, and whether the weight of scientific evidence more strongly supports either the low-recruitment or the high recruitment scenario. Dr. Porch explained that the two-line model emerged in 1994 to help support short-term projections; it was based on assumptions that average recent levels of recruitment would best predict recruitment over the next few years. At this time, there is no clear scientific evidence that favors either the low-recruitment or the high-recruitment scenario. It was noted that change in the growth curve, which was first used in the 2010 assessment, impacted the perception of the status of the stock.

One party requested further explanation of the SCRS decision to begin conducting separate assessments of the eastern and western stocks. Dr. Porch confirmed that as far back as 1974, the SCRS recommended conducting separate eastern and western assessments. The first assessment of the western stock was conducted in 1978. The decision to conduct separate assessments was based on the distribution of catches, the existence of two distinct spawning grounds, and tagging data which showed limited exchange between the eastern and western Atlantic.

There were some questions concerning why productivity is thought to be so different for the eastern and western stocks. Dr. Porch confirmed that there are no scientific studies that conclusively explain differences in productivity. The Mediterranean could be a more productive environment for larvae, but this has not been definitively established. Work is underway by national scientists to study the spatial extent and quality of larval habitat. In addition, studies on age at first maturity and fecundity are being undertaken. Previous studies suggest that relative to western bluefin, eastern bluefin produce a similar number of eggs at size, but that they mature earlier. It is not clear what fraction of eastern or western bluefin at each age are actually going to the spawning grounds. This is a complicated issue that is not yet fully understood, but relevant new information is expected to emerge between now and 2015.

The Working Group recalled paragraph 17 of Recommendation 12-02, which asked the SCRS to conduct a review of the evidence that initially was used to support each recruitment scenario, as well as any additional information as a means of informing the Commission on which scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential. Dr. Porch's presentation highlighted some possible approaches to this question (for example, the risk analysis/decision tables), and it was agreed that this would help to describe the potential risks of operating according to one scenario when another is more accurate. Dr. Santiago requested that the Commission provide further clarification on paragraph 17 at the 2013 annual meeting.

In Dr. Porch's presentation on the evolution of the scientific advice, he noted that the two recruitment scenarios were presented by the SCRS for the 1998 rebuilding program, and that while there was no explicit adoption of the low recruitment scenario, the Commission chose to set a total allowable catch (TAC) level consistent with the scientific advice offered under the low recruitment scenario. However, it was noted that the western Atlantic bluefin rebuilding program was constructed in a way to be flexible and responsive to both the low recruitment scenario and the high recruitment scenario, which is why it did not specify a numerical value for the MSY target and provided that the TAC, the MSY target, and the rebuilding period could be changed in line with scientific advice.

The observer from Pew expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss uncertainties at this meeting and consider how best to apply precautionary management measures. She asked whether low biomass of the western stock could help to explain low productivity of the western stock. Dr. Porch responded that this could explain some of the difference between the apparent productivities of the two stocks, although it does not appear that the western stock was ever as large as the eastern stock.

The Secretariat presented a document on the "History of ICCAT Management of West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**).

Japan presented a "History of Management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**). The delegate of Japan noted that, in the past, Japan had accepted a significant reduction in its share of the quota in recognition that the United States and Canada, as coastal States, did not have access to alternative fishing grounds. He noted that Japan accepted this disproportionate sacrifice when the TAC was reduced, with the understanding that Japan's share would be increased after the stock is rebuilt to allow a TAC increase to greater than 2660 t. The delegate of Japan explained that the percentages presented in its aforementioned document correspond not to the Recommendation texts, but to actual shares (i.e., the percentage shares indicated in Japan's table are inclusive of by-catch allocations and allocations to minor harvesters that are taken off the top).

One party indicated that there seemed to be some inconsistencies between the presentations made by the Secretariat, Japan, and the SCRS. Given that these were working documents, resolving these discrepancies may not be necessary.

## **6. Review the current knowledge of population mixing between West and East/Mediterranean stocks and implications for stock assessment methods**

Dr. Porch gave a presentation on stock mixing, on behalf of the SCRS. Estimates of the status of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock are sensitive to mixing, and the fishery in the eastern Atlantic potentially has an important impact on the western Atlantic. Analyses of mixing are not yet reliable enough to serve as the basis for advice on rebuilding programs. However, progress has been made in terms of available information (such as conventional tagging, electronic tagging, otolith stable isotope chemistry, and genetics) and models (VPA, MAST). Dr. Porch emphasized that it is important to get the mixing assumptions right. Invalid assumptions about mixing can result in even greater bias in the results than if there is no consideration of mixing.

Additional information was requested on the evolution of mixing models, dating back to the early 1990s. Initially, the SCRS used a diffusion model to describe mixing (i.e., the chance of movement depends on current location). This model assumes that once a fish moves from east to west, it behaves just like a fish of western origin. Under the diffusion model, the assessment results were very sensitive to movement, leading to extremely different projections regarding the status of the stock. The diffusion model was criticized by the SCRS as not consistent with observed bluefin behavior: migrations related to feeding, but fish tended to return home to spawn. The overlap model was developed to better reflect what is known about bluefin mixing at different life stages (i.e., some probability of mixing coupled with natal site fidelity). Assessment outcomes are not as sensitive to mixing under the overlap model.

One party asked about the availability of information on the origin of small fish (1-3 years old) in the western Atlantic. Some samples have been collected recently and there should be information soon regarding what fraction of these fish is of eastern or western origin. In general, not many western bluefin are caught at age 1, so it may be difficult to draw definitive conclusions.

In response to a question, Dr. Porch confirmed that there have been discussions within the SCRS regarding whether to include fish caught off Brazil in the eastern or western assessments. He noted that in previous analyses, the inclusion of the Brazilian fish in the eastern stock did not make a large difference in the outcome of the eastern stock assessment. Based on tagging data and the distribution of Japanese longline catches, the prevailing wisdom is that the Brazilian population came from the west. The SCRS Chair added that one document to be published soon also suggests that Brazilian bluefin of the 1960s were of western origin.

There were several questions related to the origin of the 2003 year class in western catches. Reference points used to distinguish western from eastern origin fish were refined earlier this year (Secor, *et al.*), and the samples have been reclassified. The findings indicate so far that the 2003 year class remains very prominent in western catches and that over 90% of the 2003 year class caught in the west during 2011 and 2012 was of western origin. (Earlier results suggested that a higher proportion of the 2003 year class came from the east, possibly reflecting movements of a similarly strong year class in the east). Researchers have expanded their sample size from hundreds to thousands of otoliths, and microconstituent analysis is ongoing. Similar efforts are underway in the east.

#### **7. Review of the biological and life-history parameters (natural mortality rates, age at first maturity, growth and length parameters, etc.)**

Dr. Porch presented information related to the review of biological and life history parameters. At the 2013 Bluefin Meeting on Biological Parameters Review (Tenerife, May 2013), the Group considered approaches for evaluating population structure based on this information, as well as possible approaches for evaluating movements and mixing. At its 2013 Stock Assessment Methods Meeting in July, the SCRS will discuss how to incorporate emerging information in stock assessment models and management strategy evaluations. There was one question concerning the new natural mortality curve to be used in 2015, and how it might affect the assessment. Dr. Porch replied that it is difficult to predict, as the stock could appear more or less productive depending on what new information is obtained (i.e., from estimates of longevity or tagging studies).

#### **8. Review of basis for current assumptions concerning spawning stock biomass and recruitment**

Dr. Porch presented information to the Working Group to explain the basis of assumptions concerning spawning stock biomass and recruitment. At the conclusion of the presentation, he offered some ways forward for the SCRS. With the use of new assessment methods, scientists can explore ways to use qualitatively different data, extending data back at least to the 1960s. Additional research on the effect of environmental cues on recruitment could help to support or reject the low recruitment scenario. Finally, he suggested that the SCRS could consider combining the low recruitment scenario and high recruitment scenario with other plausible recruitment hypotheses, possibly weighting them by how well they fit the data. Additionally, he noted that the SCRS could develop alternative methodologies (e.g., decision tables) to present the consequences of managing based on one recruitment scenario when the other is true.

Next, Dr. Porch proposed some possible ways forward for managers. One way to discriminate between the alternative recruitment scenarios is to allow the SSB to increase substantially. Allowing the 2003 year class to survive and contribute to spawning stock would help to determine if there is an associated increase in recruitment.

There was some discussion of how we could get closer to determining the best possible fit to a recruitment scenario (e.g., by increasing biomass), how long would it take and at what level, in order to help us answer this question. Dr. Porch replied that the time necessary would depend on how quickly the stock is allowed to grow. He noted that an analysis of the time it would take – and at what levels of TAC – to test the high recruitment scenario would be performed at the SCRS Western Bluefin Tuna Species Group meeting in September 2013, and he welcomed suggestions as to how the SCRS could best present this information.

There was a question about when research on the effect of environmental cues on recruitment might yield preliminary findings regarding whether there has been a change in the potential productivity of the stock since the 1970s. Information regarding the identification of suitable larval habitat (in the Gulf of Mexico and the

Mediterranean) might be available within the next few years, although it is hard to specify a timeline. If there were not enough samples from the spawning grounds, there would be significant variability, and many more years of sampling would be required to determine a cause and effect relationship. These studies may provide insight into what environmental factors contribute to strong year classes, but other factors (e.g., predation) are also involved.

There was strong interest in the ongoing efforts of the SCRS to explore new models as an alternative to the high recruitment scenario and the low recruitment scenario. Dr. Santiago confirmed that the SCRS intends to integrate all available information in the 2015 assessment. Current hypotheses will be considered, as well as other plausible alternatives. A management strategy evaluation framework is one way the SCRS can investigate the effect of plausible scenarios so that optimal scenarios can be identified. Dr. Santiago highlighted that external consultants will be required to develop a management strategy evaluation.

## **9. Other relevant issues relating to science and management of western Atlantic bluefin tuna**

Japan presented a “Research Proposal to Improve Stock Abundance Indices for Western Stock of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna” (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**). The paper expressed concerns regarding existing abundance indices; some indices have been based on quite a small part of catch data, for example in rod & reel indices of the USA; some indices are not considering changes of fishery operational pattern, for example in Gulf of St. Lawrence fishery; and there are some life stages lacking an abundance index, for example, in young-of-the-year. Therefore, this document proposed some possible ways to further strengthen data collection from the western Atlantic spawning stock, including starting a longline research survey in the Gulf of Mexico for spawning fish, starting recruitment monitoring research for 0-1 year old fish, through fishery-independent surveys similar to those undertaken to monitor Southern bluefin, improvement of rod & reel data collection in the USA, and starting fishery independent research which lasts for sufficient durations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada. Japan proposed that the CPCs should look for ways to improve existing indices of abundance and develop new ones for the stock assessment.

One party asked whether the SCRS had identified particular areas of deficiency in the indices or biological sampling. The party also asked how the proposal would improve management.

Another party asked if recruitment can be understood only in the model or can be gauged through direct observation. Dr. Porch replied that the SCRS does not have a direct estimate of age 1 fish. Dr. Santiago thanked Japan for the presentation and indicated that the SCRS would be pleased to analyze and consider these ideas.

There was some discussion of the “emergency clause” in paragraph 5 of Recommendation 12-02 and whether there are adequate indicators to detect a stock collapse if one were to occur. Existing U.S. surveys that monitor the school fishery offer one tool to detect changes in recruitment at a later stage -for example, the strength of the 2003 year class was detected through these surveys from a young age. It was suggested that the SCRS should explore other possible indicators, such as a survey of spawning biomass.

Canada presented an “Overview of Key Uncertainties in the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment”, which outlined some considerations for the 2015 assessment (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**). There was general recognition that options for improving data collection to help resolve these sources of uncertainty should continue to be explored within the SCRS. It was noted that the growth curve for the western stock has been recently updated, and now is almost identical to that of the eastern stock. Taking note of the uncertainties highlighted in the Canadian presentation, a party suggested the need for a precautionary approach. Dr. Santiago indicated that Canada’s document, and the questions in the paper, will be considered by the SCRS in its preparations for the 2015 assessment.

Dr. Santiago presented the 2013 Work Plan of the SCRS as it relates to western bluefin. He reiterated that the key sources of uncertainty elaborated in the various presentations and discussions this week are all well known to the SCRS. These concerns have informed the existing work plan of the SCRS. He emphasized that intense collaboration at a scientific level is producing major results; if possible, the parties should put greater emphasis on electronic tagging, and urged parties to do what they could to provide all available data from such programs. At the upcoming meeting on Stock Assessment Methods in Boston, the SCRS will explore possible new modeling approaches to determine which are best equipped to handle the current uncertainties and new scientific information, and prioritize its tasks in preparation for the 2015 assessment.

There was a question concerning the degree of interaction between the assessment work done for eastern and western stocks, and whether this interaction needed to be enhanced. The SCRS Chair assured the Working Group that although an update to the eastern assessment is scheduled for 2014, the work of the SCRS relating to both the eastern and western stocks is well coordinated.

There was general acknowledgement of the many efforts that are underway within the SCRS, but it was also noted that it will take time for these new inputs and approaches to be applied. Until the results of the 2015 assessment are available, managers will need to make decisions based on available scientific information, and meeting participants discussed possible tools to ensure that the best scientific advice informs the short-term management of this stock.

It was agreed that expanded otolith sampling could be helpful in addressing uncertainty. The SCRS Chair advised that ideally the sampling of hard parts should be representative of catches, and the development of proportional sampling distributions (taking into account areas, gear types, and seasons) should be considered. There could be particular emphasis on geographic areas and for size classes that are known to have high rates of mixing. It was suggested that it would be helpful for managers to know the specific fisheries where further otolith sampling is needed, and the SCRS was requested to provide that information.

One party suggested that given the uncertainty associated with long-term forecasts for this stock, the Commission could consider requesting short-term projections to inform management advice, keeping in mind that a precautionary approach to management would still be needed. The SCRS Chair noted that a new assessment would need to be conducted in 2013 in order to fulfill such a request.

The United States provided some additional reactions to Japan's research proposal and Canada's paper. While noting the value to managers and scientists of considering the issues raised in both documents, concerns were expressed about some of the information, assertions, conclusions, and proposed actions in those documents. As it had done in several previous ICCAT related meetings, the United States provided information on the monitoring of its recreational fishery as well as on its work to collect and analyze otoliths and other biological samples. Given the highly technical nature of the documents, the United States stressed that evaluation of the contents and recommendations in the papers was most appropriately considered by the SCRS prior to any decisions for implementation by CPCs. Japan and Canada requested that the United States provide comments regarding both proposals in writing.

The "Chair's Paper", captured a number of possible recommendations from the Working Group, both looking ahead to the 2013 annual meeting and over the medium to long-term. The Working Group discussed this document with the proposed changes, the document was recirculated and agreed, with additional changes (attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2**).

## **10. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

## **11. Adoption of report and adjournment**

The report of the meeting was adopted. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

## AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Nomination of rapporteur
5. History of the science advice and management of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna
6. Review the current knowledge of population mixing between east/west/Mediterranean stocks and implications for stock assessment methods
7. Review of the biological and life-history parameters (natural mortality rates, age at first maturity, growth and length parameters, etc.).
8. Review of basis for current assumptions concerning spawning stock biomass and recruitment
9. Other relevant issues relating to science and management of western Atlantic bluefin tuna
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of Report and adjournment

## Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### *ICCAT Chairman*

**Miyahara**, Masanori

Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3591 2045, Fax: +81 3 3502 0571, E-Mail: masanori\_miyahara1@nm.maff.go.jp

#### *SCRS Chairman*

**Santiago Burrutxaga**, Josu

Head of Tuna Research Area, AZTI-Tecnalia, Txatxarramendi z/g, 48395 Sukarrieta, Bizkaia, Spain  
Tel: +34 94 6574000 (Ext. 497); 664303631, Fax: +34 94 6572555, E-Mail: jsantiago@azti.es

#### *WBFT Rapporteur*

**Porch**, Clarence E.

Chief, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149  
Tel: +1 305 361 4232, Fax: +1 305 361 4219, E-Mail: clay.porch@noaa.gov

#### **CANADA**

**Scattolon**, Faith \*

Regional Director-General, Maritimes Region, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 176 Portland Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 1J3  
Tel: +1 902 426 2581, Fax: +1 902 426 5034, E-Mail: scattolonf@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Lapointe**, Sylvie

Associate Director General, International Affairs Directorate, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 6853, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: sylvie.lapointe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Atkinson**, Troy

Industry Commissioner, 155 Chain Lake Drive, Suite #9, Halifax Nova Scotia B3S 1B3  
Tel: +1 902 457 4968, Fax: +1 902 457 4990, E-Mail: hiliner@ns.sympatico.ca

---

\*Head Delegate.

**Donihee, Lauren**

International Affairs Directorate, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 949 7507; E-mail: lauren.donihee@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Fraser, Douglas**

Industry Commissioner, Huntley R.R. #2 - Alberton, Prince Edward Island  
Tel: +1 902 853 2793; E-mail: Doug.Fraser@Bellaliant.com

**Elsworth, Samuel G.**

South West Nova Tuna Association, 228 Empire Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia B4V 2M5  
Tel: +1 902 456 1760, Fax: +1 902 543 7157, E-Mail: sam.fish@ns.sympatico.ca

**Melvin, Gary**

Biological Station - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 2L9  
Tel: +1 506 529 5874, Fax: +1 506 529 5862, E-Mail: gary.melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Norton, Brett**

International Fisheries Advisor, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada 200 rue Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 1860, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: Brett.Norton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Turple, Justin**

International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada 200 rue Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 809 3181; E-mail: Justin.turple@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Walsh, Ray**

Resource Management Officer, Newfoundland and Labrador Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada P.O. Box 5667, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5X1  
Tel: +1 709 772 4472, Fax: +1 709 772 3628, E-Mail: ray.walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**D'Ambrosio, Marco**

European Commission, DG MARE-B1, Rue Joseph II - 99; 03/66, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 299 3765, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marco.DAMBROSIO@ec.europa.eu

**Daniel, Patrick**

Commission européenne - DG Mare Unité - B3, J-99 02/53, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: +322 229 554 58, Fax: E-Mail: patrick.daniel@ec.europa.eu

**JAPAN**

**Ota, Shingo**

Director of Ecosystem Conservation Office, Resources and Environment Research Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 0736, Fax: +81 3 3502 1682, E-Mail: shingo\_ota@nm.maff.go.jp

**Kaneko, Morio**

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: morio\_kaneko@nm.maff.go.jp

**Itoh, Tomoyuki**

Chief Scientist, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido Shimizu, Shizuoka 424-8633  
Tel: +81 543 36 6036, Fax: +81 543 35 9642, E-Mail: itou@fra.affrc.go.jp

**Kimoto, Ai**

Scientist, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu Shizuoka 424-8633  
Tel: +81 543 36 6036, Fax: +81 543 35 9642, E-Mail: aikimoto@affrc.go.jp

**Suzuki, Ziro**

Visiting Scientist, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu Shizuoka 424-8633  
Tel: +81 543 36 6036, Fax: +81 543 35 9642, E-Mail: zsuzuki@fra.affrc.go.jp

**Uozumi, Yuji**

Visiting Scientist, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu Shizuoka 424-8633  
Tel: +81 543 36 6037, Fax: +81 543 35 9642, E-Mail: uozumi@fra.affrc.go.jp

**UNITED STATES**

**Smith, Russell\***

Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, Office of the Under-Secretary, Room 6224, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. 20503  
Tel: +1 202 482 5682, Fax: +1 202 482 4307, E-Mail: russell.smith@noaa.gov

**Blankenbeker, Kimberly**

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8350, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

**Brown, Craig A.**

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Center, Sustainable Fisheries Division 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149  
Tel: +1 305 586 6589, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: Craig.brown@noaa.gov

**Devnew, Jack**

Director Marine Division, Maury, Donnelly & Parr, Inc, 201 E. City Hall Ave. Suite 700, Norfolk, Virginia 23510  
Tel: +1 757 641 7830, Fax: +1 757 458379, E-Mail: jdevnew@mdpins.com

**Díaz, Guillermo**

NOAA-Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 1315 East-West Highway # 13562, Silver Spring Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8589, Fax: +1 301 713 1875, E-Mail: guillermo.diaz@noaa.gov

**Graves, John E.**

Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science - College of William and Mary, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062  
Tel: +1 804 684 7352, Fax: +1 804 684 7157, E-Mail: graves@vims.edu

**McLaughlin, Sarah**

Fishery Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Services, Highly Migratory Species Management Division 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930  
Tel: +978 281 9279, Fax: +978 281 9340, E-Mail: sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov

**O'Malley, Rachel**

Office of International Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway - Room 12622, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8373, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: rachel.o'malley@noaa.gov

**Piñeiro-Soler, Eugenio**

P.O. Box 723, 1353 Vigoreaux Ave., Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 000966  
Tel: +1 787 234 8304; E-mail: epsfish@yahoo.com

**Schulze-Haugen, Margo**

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Rm. 13458, Silver Spring Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: margo.schulze-haugen@noaa.gov

**Warner-Kramer, Deirdre**

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm. 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878  
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@state.gov

**OBSERVERS**

**BLUE WATER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**Delaney, Glenn**

601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 900, South Building, Washington, DC 20004 United States  
Tel: +1 202 434 8220, Fax: +1 202 639 8817, E-Mail: grdelaney@aol.com

**AMERICAN BLUEFIN TUNA ASSOCIATION (ABTA)**

**Cadrin, Steven**

American Bluefin Tuna Association (ABTA), University of Massachusetts  
Tel: +1 774 238 6819; E-mail: scadrin@umassd.edu

**Golet, Walter**

American Bluefin Tuna Association (ABTA), University of Maine, 350 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine 04101 United States

Tel: +1 207 228 1628; E-mail: wsalter.golet@maine.edu

**Ruais, Richard P.**

American Bluefin Tuna Association (ABTA), 28 Zion Hill Road, Salem, New Hampshire 3079 United States

Tel: +1 603 898 8862, Fax: +1 603 898 2026, E-Mail: rruais@aol.com

**DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION**

**Wallace, Scott**

Senior Research Scientist, David Suzuki Foundation, 219-2211 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 4S2, Canada

Tel: +1 604 732 4228, E-Mail: swallace@davidsuzuki.org

**ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE (EAC)**

**Fuller, Susanna**

Ecology Action Center, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 4L3, Canada

Tel: +1 902 446 4840, Fax: +1 902 405 3716, E-Mail: marine@ecologyaction.ca

**Schleit, Kathryn**

Ecology Action Center, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 4L3, Canada

Tel: +1 902 488 4078, E-Mail: kschleit@gmail.com

**PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**Miller, Shana**

Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, United States

Tel: +1 631 671 1530, Fax: E-Mail: smiller-consultant@pewtrusts.org

**Nickson, Amanda**

Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, United States

Tel: 1 202 540 6528 12026; E-mail: anickson@pewtrusts.org

**ICCAT SECRETARIAT**

C/ Corazón de María, 8 - 6 Planta, 28002 Madrid, Spain

Tel: + 34 91 416 5600 Fax: +34 91 415 2612, E-Mail: info@iccat.int

**Meski, Driss**

**Pallarés, Pilar**

**García-Orad, María José**

**Peyre, Christine**

**Seidita, Philomena**

**Interpreters**

**Arias, Jordán**

**Bret, Justine**

**Daguerre, Christine**

**Dubois, Emmanuelle**

**Fulton, Janet**

**McNeely, Catherine**

**Roy, Francine**

**Sugden, Don**

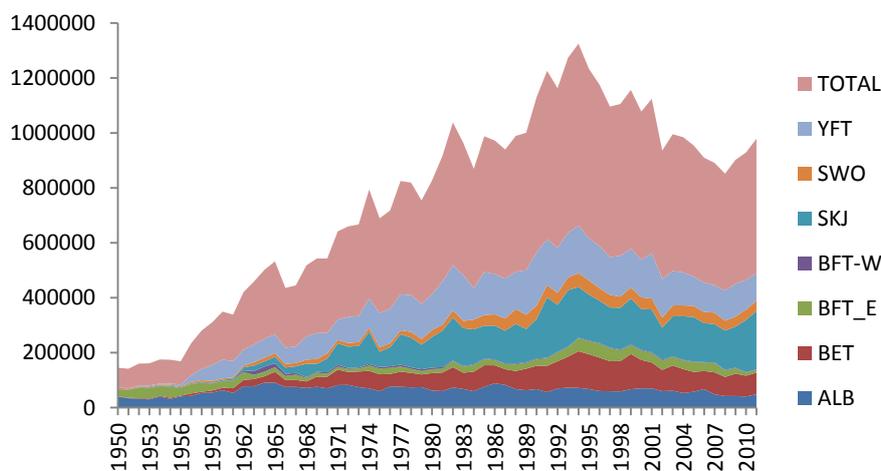
**Venegas, Pilar**

**HISTORY OF ICCAT MANAGEMENT OF WEST ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

*ICCAT Secretariat*

**Background**

While total Atlantic bluefin tuna catches have represented a relatively small proportion of the total catches of tuna and tuna-like species over the years since the 1960s (**Figure 1**) (a total of 7.5% of the accumulated catches of major species 1950-20011, and western bluefin tuna (BFT-W) totalling less than 1% of catches of major tuna species in the Convention area), the economic and ecological importance of this species, together with the sudden growth in catches, have identified it as one of the species requiring study from the outset of ICCAT.



**Figure 1.** Total catches of major tuna and tuna-like species 1950-2011.

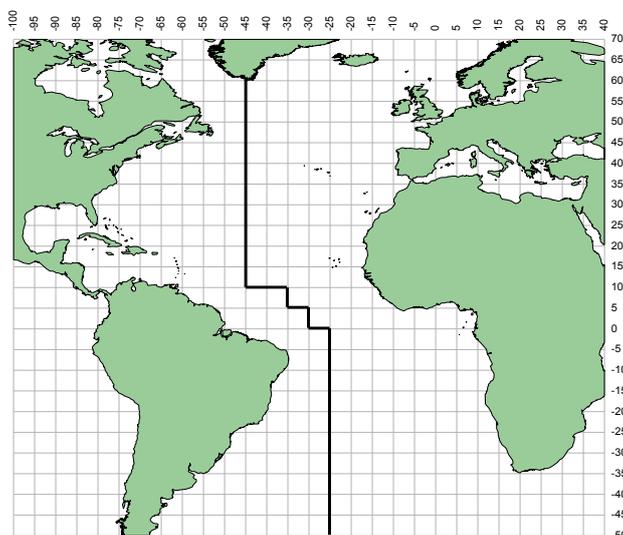
At the first meeting of the Commission held in December 1969, no management measures were adopted on bluefin tuna due to uncertain data and insufficient information. At the second meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), bluefin tuna was discussed, and the scientists concurred at that time with the view that capture of fish less than 9.8 kg could cause a loss in sustained yield, but that further study was needed before minimum size limits could be established.

The Secretariat was established in Madrid, Spain, in 1971, and was charged *inter alia* with the task of developing a system for the collection and analyses of data and the administration of the research programs required for the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics to assess the stocks of tuna and tuna-like species and provide advice to the Commission on the basis of which management decisions could be taken.

In 1971, the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment recommended a minimum size limit for bluefin tuna; the need for a statistical reporting system providing the Commission with much more up-to date information on catches, and noted that the “the striking feature of the fisheries on large tuna has been the very sharp decline in catches since about 1960”.<sup>3</sup> In 1972, the SCRS identified bluefin tuna as one of the three major species requiring study, while the Commission agreed that no decision on regulation of the fisheries could be made due to lack of concrete evidence. The first Recommendation adopted by the Commission on bluefin tuna was the 1974 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Limit on Bluefin Tuna Size and Fishing Mortality* [74-01], establishing a minimum size for bluefin tuna and requiring Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to limit the fishing mortality of bluefin tuna to recent levels. This Recommendation was effective for the entire Atlantic Ocean.

<sup>3</sup> ICCAT, 1972. Report for the Biennial Period 1970-1971, Part 3 (1971), p. 95.

Atlantic bluefin tuna was originally considered a single stock (SCRS Report 1973, p. 96), although there was recognition that there could be more than one stock. This was first discussed in depth by SCRS in 1976, and the two-stock hypothesis put forward to Commission for consideration in 1978. It was adopted in 1981 by majority vote through the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Management Measures* [81-01], as shown in **Figure 2**.

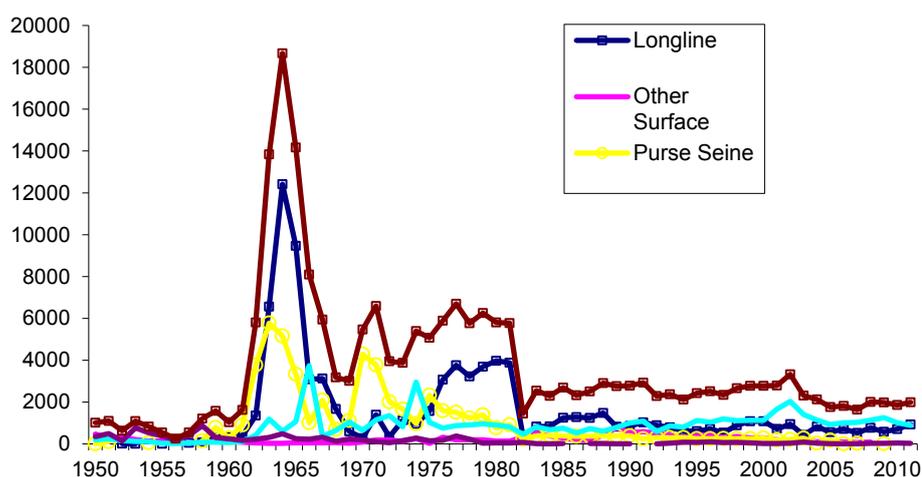


**Figure 2.** East-west bluefin tuna stock areas

### ICCAT measures taken for the West Atlantic

While some of the initial concerns which had led to the creation of ICCAT stemmed from the eastern Atlantic, it was the western stock on which management measures were first concentrated, where longline and purse seine catches had increased from around 100 t each in the late 1950s to 12,000 t and 5,000t respectively in 1964, as can be seen in **Figure 3**.

### Catches of west Atlantic BFT by gear, 1950-2011



**Figure 3.** Catches of western Atlantic BFT 1950-2011.

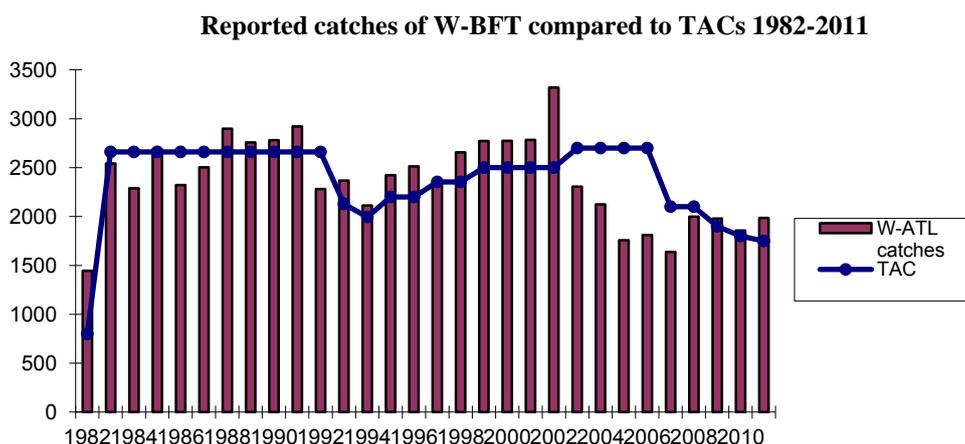
The 1981 Recommendation [Rec. 81-01] set out specific requirements for the western Atlantic bluefin stock, including a total allowable catch limit, and continuing the 1974 size limit for all bluefin tuna. *New Regulations for the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Catch* [1983] [82-01], pertaining again mainly to the western Atlantic stock were adopted in 1982, and were continued, with gradual refinements, up to 1986, by which time the measures included a closure of the fishery during the spawning season in the Gulf of Mexico and additional requirements in relation to minimum size. This measure was extended annually by the Commission until 1990.

In 1991, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Enhancement of the Current Management of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [91-01], which specified the individual catch limits in the body of the text for the first time. Prior to that, the TAC had been distributed in accordance with an arrangement agreed at an inter-sessional meeting by the parties involved in the fisheries (*Record of the Meeting on the Western Atlantic Bluefin Management Measures* (ICCAT 1982<sup>4</sup>). Similar allocations were made through the *Recommendations for the 1992-1993 Management of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [92-04], which in fact extended the allocations up to 1994, although these were revised upwards through the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Western Atlantic* [93-05], in accordance with the conclusions of the Management Review Committee for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna<sup>5</sup> held in Tokyo, Japan 1992. It was also agreed during the meeting of this Committee that the three main harvesters of western bluefin tuna would require their fishermen to tag all Atlantic bluefin tuna harvested and available for sale and implement a system whereby import of all bluefin tuna be accompanied by a certificate of origin (see Statistical Document Programme below).

*Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Western Atlantic Ocean* [94-12] set individual quotas for west Atlantic bluefin tuna, which continued, with an increase in the TAC of 300 t, through the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Scientific Monitoring Quota For Bluefin Tuna in the Western Atlantic for 1997-1998* [96-04].

In 1998, recognising that the western stock of bluefin tuna was over-exploited, the Commission adopted a twenty year rebuilding plan through the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [98-07], modified in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 (*Recommendation by ICCAT concerning conservation of western Atlantic bluefin tuna* [02-07]; *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the stock assessment schedule for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* [03-08]); *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program and the conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [04-05] and the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [06-06]. This plan set a TAC, modifiable in accordance with scientific advice, a closed area during the spawning season in the Gulf of Mexico and a sharing arrangement based on percentage shares of the TAC. *Additional Supplemental Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 08-04], [Rec. 10-03] and [12-02] have since been adopted, with revision of the TACs as well as a ban on at-sea transshipment and monthly catch reporting requirements.

Measures for western bluefin tuna have been in place for over twenty-five years, and the rebuilding plan for ten years, and in recent years, catches have been well below the TAC in a consistent manner for the first time, (**Figure 4**).



**Figure 4.** Comparison of reported W-Atl. BFT and TACs 1982-2011.

**Statistical Document Program and unreported catches**

<sup>4</sup> ICCAT, 1982. *Record of the Meeting on the Western Atlantic Bluefin Management Measures*

<sup>5</sup> ICCAT, 1993. *Report for the Biennial Period 1992-1993, Part 1* (1992), pp71-77

Growing concerns in relation to possible unreported catches, particularly by non-Contracting Parties, and the uncertainty in statistical data needed for reliable stock assessments, led to the Commission adopting a *Resolution Concerning Catches of Bluefin Tuna by non-Contracting Parties* [91-02] which paved the way for the creation of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) in 1992.

At the second meeting of the Management Review Committee for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (September 1992), the parties developed an outline for a Certificate of Origin Program for Bluefin Tuna, based on the deliberations and recommendations of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Technical Details for the Implementation of the ICCAT Resolution on Catches by non-Contracting Parties (Tokyo, May 1992). Japanese trade data available at that time indicated that approximately 3,000 t of bluefin tuna was imported into Japan in 1991 from non-Contracting Parties.

The Program was presented to the Commission in 1992 and led to the adoption of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [92-01], which required all imported bluefin tuna to be accompanied by an ICCAT Statistical Document, with the double aim of estimating the real level of catches and reducing catches taken in a manner which could undermine the ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Statistical Document Program was developed over several years through the adoption of *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document* [93-02]; *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products* [93-03]; *Resolution by ICCAT on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [94-04]; *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Effective Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [94-05]; *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Validation of Bluefin Statistical Documents between ICCAT Contracting Parties which are members of the European Community* [96-10]; *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on re-export* [97-04]; *Recommendation by ICCAT on Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document by the European Community* [98-12]; and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [03-19], resulting in a complicated set of measures which did not facilitate its effective interpretation and implementation. Notwithstanding, the Program has been a valuable tool in identifying illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, and the elimination of a considerable amount of IUU fishing. The data compiled from the Bluefin Statistical Document Program were compared with the reported catch statistics, and considerable differences were found, leading to the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning unreported catches of bluefin tuna, including catches classified as not elsewhere included (NEI)* [97-03], which was later followed up by the PWG with a variety of measures aimed at eliminating this practice to the extent possible.

### **Catch Document Scheme**

While the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program has been a useful tool in detecting unreported catches, it has two major limitations; 1) domestic consumption of bluefin tuna cannot be detected and 2) quantities of tuna caged for farming purposes cannot be adequately determined.

In order to overcome the shortcomings of the Bluefin Statistical Document Program, and with a view to strengthening the conservation and management measures in force for Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2007 and the measures taken to control bluefin tuna farming, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [07-10]. The objective of this scheme is to ensure the reporting of all catches, whether they be destined for export, domestic consumption or farming purposes. This scheme will help to determine the level, if any, of unreported catches and can be used in the future to introduce greater certainty in statistical data and stock assessments. The scheme has been refined several times through Recommendations, with the latest modification contained in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20].

In 2010, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on an electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme (EBCD)* [Rec. 10-11], establishing an electronic system for bluefin catch documents. This system is currently in the process of finalisation, and the system will be implemented on a trial basis in 2013 and become definitive in 2014, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-11 on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)* [Rec. 11-21].

### **Management measures relating to scientific research**

In addition to the conservation and management measures adopted for the two Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, the Commission has remained aware of the need for further research on this species and has adopted several measures specifically covering aspects of research required. Many of these have been aimed at improving knowledge to ascertain possible mixing and relevant boundary of the two-stocks, and additional statistical and scientific elements required to assure sound management advice. These measures include:

*Resolution by ICCAT for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Recovery Programs [95-4]; Resolution by ICCAT for the development of additional recovery scenarios for Atlantic bluefin tuna [97-16]; Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean [00-08]; Resolution by ICCAT for SCRS to examine the effects of mixing for stock assessments & management and consider the appropriateness of the current boundary between the western and eastern management units for Atlantic bluefin tuna [00-11]; Resolution by ICCAT on Conversion Factors for Bluefin Tuna from Product Weight to Live Weight [00-12]; Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean [01-08]; Resolution by ICCAT regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [01-09]; Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Scientific Research on Stock Origin and Mixing [Res. 08-06] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) [Rec. 11-06].* It should be noted, however, that many of the conservation and management measures cited in earlier sections of this report contain provisions relating to research and tasks assigned to the SCRS.

The Bluefin Year Program (BYP) was established in 1992-1997 through informal coordination of national research activities. From 1997 to 2009, this program has been financed through the regular budget of the Commission. The aims of the Program are to improve general biological information and statistical fisheries data on bluefin tuna. In 2009, the Commission adopted the GBYP which is funded through voluntary contributions and coordinated by a full-time coordinator at the Secretariat.

### **Current reporting requirements**

In order to try to combat stock decline and IUU fishing activities, the increasing number of measures adopted by ICCAT implies a corresponding increase in the burden of reporting for the administrations, the industry, the Secretariat and the Commission. Although the increase in requirements may seem excessive, it is only through increased controls that the legitimate fishing activities can be identified and illegitimate activity sanctioned. Current requirements for BFT-W include:

1. *Statistical data requirements:* Task I (nominal annual catch); Task II (monthly catch and effort by 5° x 5° or finer and size frequency data); fleet characteristics; catch-at-size; tagging data. Details and exact requirements are available on the ICCAT Web page at <http://www.iccat.int/SubmitSTAT.htm>.

*Other requirements* Compliance reporting tables; monthly catch reports; vessels 20 metres and over authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area; Annual reports of bluefin catch document scheme information on vessel chartering, where relevant.

Although the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* pertains to the entire Atlantic, there are currently no bluefin tuna farms in the West Atlantic Ocean.

## Appendix 4 to ANNEZ 4.2

**HISTORY OF MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA***Submitted by Japan***Introduction**

In this document, we reviewed past SCRS scientific reports, which contain management recommendations, and the Commission's Recommendations to understand the entire resource dynamics of Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT).

Also, we compiled share ratios of actual catches and TAC allocations among CPCs as well as changes in actual catches in the Western Atlantic Area (WAA) and the Eastern Atlantic Area (EAA), taking account of the reasons for introduction of conservation and management measures.

**1. History of BFT management**

The history of BFT management is divided into the following 7 periods, based on the introduction of conservation and management measures.

- **1<sup>st</sup> period (~1968)**

*“The unregulated period before entry into force of the ICCAT Convention”*

The first is an unregulated period before entry into force of the ICCAT Convention. In this period, WAA experienced the largest catch record at 18,000 tons in 1964 and the smallest catch record at 247 tons in 1956.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> period (1969~1981)**

*“The period of limiting the fishing mortality of BFT to recent levels after the entry into force of the ICCAT Convention”*

After entry into force of the ICCAT Convention in 1969, Rec. 74/01 was established to introduce the first conservation and management measure for BFT, which is to limit its annual fishing mortality to recent levels.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> period (1982~1993)**

*“The period of starting introducing substantial conservation and management measures in WAA”*

Rec. 81-01 for the first time divided the Atlantic Ocean into the WAA and the EAA at 45°W longitude to introduce conservation and management measures in each area, respectively.

In the WAA, allocations of catch quotas to CPCs in the name of scientific monitoring quotas were introduced, while in the EAA, limitation of the annual fishing mortality of BFT to recent levels continued.

- **4<sup>th</sup> period (1994~1998)**

*“The period of starting introducing substantial conservation and management measures in EAA”*

In the EAA, with the introduction of Recs. 93-07, 96-02 and 96-03, fishing operations using large-scale longline fishing vessel greater than 24m in length was prohibited for two months (June-July) in the Mediterranean and fishing operations using purse seine fishing vessel was prohibited for one month (August) in the Mediterranean. In the WAA, allocation of catch quotas to CPCs in the name of scientific monitoring quotas still continued.

- **The 5<sup>th</sup> period (1999~2006)**

*“The period of starting introducing a comprehensive stock rebuilding program in the WAA and a multi-year conservation and management program in the EAA”*

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was first introduced at the level of 2500-2700 tons in WAA as part of a 20-year rebuilding program beginning in 1999 and continuing through 2018.

In the EAA, TACs between 29500-32000 tons were established for multi-year and control measures started for farming activities.

• **6<sup>th</sup> period (2007~2012)**

*“The period of introducing a stock recovery plan for the EAA”*

In WAA, TACs were reduced to lower levels (1750-2100 tons) as part of the 20-year rebuilding program to allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50% or greater probability.

In EAA, 15-year recovery plan starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022 was introduced with TACs reduced to lower levels ((12900-29500 tons) to allow the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$ , with 50% probability, which was increased to 60% in 2010 (Rec.10/04). Control measures for farming activities were also strengthened.

• **7<sup>th</sup> period (2013~)**

*“The period of stock recovery in both the WAA and the EAA?”*

The strict stock rebuilding/recovery plans for the WAA and the EAA in the 6<sup>th</sup> period led to indications of stock recovery at least for EAA, which resulted in the historical TAC increase in the EAA in 2013 even though it is small. Similar stock recovery is also expected in the WAA.

## **2. Change in catches in both the WAA and the EAA**

### **(1) WAA**

The largest catch in the WAA is 18000 tons in 1964, 12000 tons, of which was produced by Japanese longline fishing vessels. The smallest catch in the WAA is 247 tons in 1956 and the main fishing gear was trap nets.

### **(2) EAA**

The largest catch in the EAA is about 50,000 tons in 1996 and the main fishing gear was purse seine. However, the SCRS estimated unreported catches between 1998 and 2007.

Counting the unreported catches, it is estimated that actual catches were about 50,000 tons from 1997 to 2006 and about 60,000 tons in 2007. The smallest catch in the EAA is about 10,000 tons since 2011 when strict conservation and management measures were introduced.

### **(3) Both areas**

The largest total catch in both areas is 53,000 tons in 1996. However, caution should be given to the unreported catches in the EAA between 1998 and 2007 estimated by SCRS.

The smallest total catch is about 11,000 tons since 2011 when strict conservation and management measures were introduced in the EAA.

## **3. Change in ratio of total catch, scientific monitoring quota or TAC among CPCs in the WAA**

Rec. 94-12 stipulates the traditional shares among the United States, Canada and Japan (US: Canada: Japan = 52.14%: 21.54%: 26.32%).

After Rec.94-12, only Japan's share has stayed at the level substantially reduced from the traditional level (26.32%→17.24%) from the traditional shares among three countries. Japan accepted such disproportionate sacrifices in order to alleviate difficulties of coastal fisheries of other two CPCs, which have no alternative fishing grounds in response to reduction of TAC. That is why the recovery of Japanese share in case of TAC increase has always been built in the recommendation for the western BFT stock.

TAC would be increased once the western BFT stock is rebuilt due to such sacrifice, resulting in recovery of Japan's traditional share.

Year	Related Rec.	(A) Total Catch· Scientific monitoring quota· TAC	(B) Ratio of (A) among CPCS						
			US	Canada	Japan	Mexico	UK·OT	France·OT	Dead discards or bycatches
1975	74/01	5,032	56.54%	12.74%	30.07%	0.48%	-	-	-
.....									
1982	81/01	1,445	55.85%	20.14%	20.21%	0.97%	-	-	-
.....									
1995	94/12	2,200	59.60%	24.35%	16.05%	-	-	-	-
		* (in 1997) 2,660MT<	52.14%	21.54%	26.32%	-	-	-	-
.....									
1999	98/07	2,500	55.48%	22.92%	18.12%	-	0.16%	0.16%	3.16%
.....									
2007	06/06	2,100	55.48%	22.92%	18.12%	1.19%	0.19%	0.19%	1.9%
.....									
2013	12/02	1,750	52.78%	21.81%	17.24%	5.43%	0.23%	0.23%	2.28%
.....									
*	: Traditional shares among US, Canada and Japan								

#### 4. Japan's views on resource dynamics of western BFT

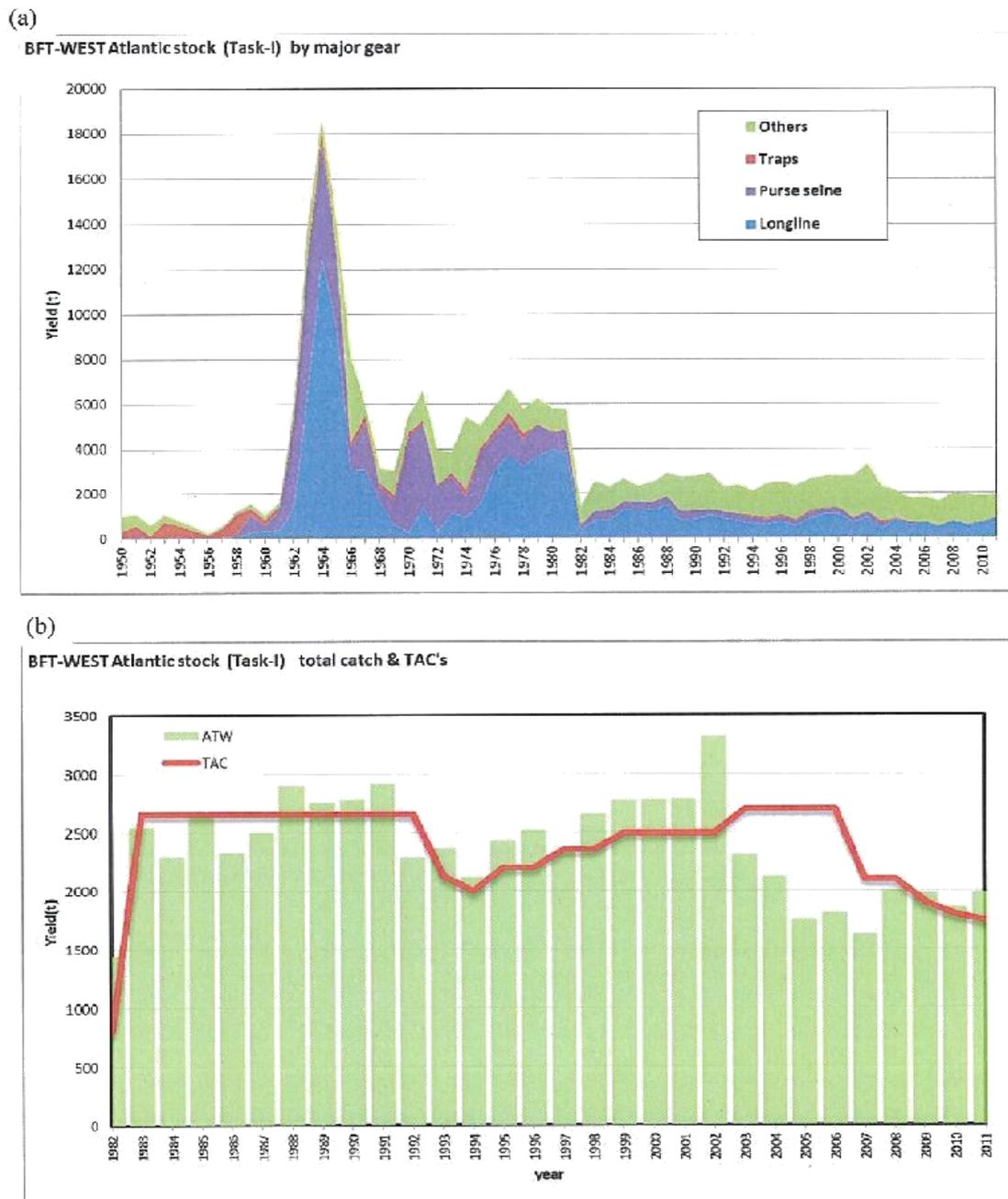
- (1) In 1994, the Commission recognized the Japanese sacrifice and decided to reward Japan when the stock achieves recovery allowing a TAC to be increased over 2,660 tons. The Commission reaffirmed this decision at the time of establishment of the rebuilding plan in 1998 according to Rec. 98-07. In view of these past decisions of the Commission, it is clear that the Commission envisaged the significant recovery of this stock during the process of rebuilding plan based on the SCRS Report which showed that the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is 2,800-7,700 tons, assuming either a 2-line (low recruitment scenario) or a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment relationship (high recruitment scenario).

However, the SCRS did not find the recovery even though TACs or scientific monitoring quotas in the WAA have been kept at a low level less than a half of the catches before, for 30 years since 1982 and particularly at an even lower level for most of the period covered by the rebuilding program, i.e., the last 15 years.

- (2) The low recruitment scenario suggests that biomass is currently sufficient to produce MSY, whereas the high recruitment scenario suggests that  $B_{MSY}$  has a very low probability of being achieved within the rebuilding period. This situation has raised a question on whether the current scientific basis of western BFT is really correct and the current stock abundance indices used for stock assessment of western BFT can really indicate the stock status.
- (3) Rec.12-02 recommended that in support of stock evaluation of western BFT, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings. Also, Japan is presenting the research proposal to improve stock abundance indices for western stock of BFT. More appropriate stock indices should be urgently considered to overcome the current deficiency of information/data for stock assessment of western BFT.
- (4) Once better indices are established and stock assessment is conducted based thereon, current conservation and management measures for western BFT should be reviewed and revised to realize MSY of western BFT.

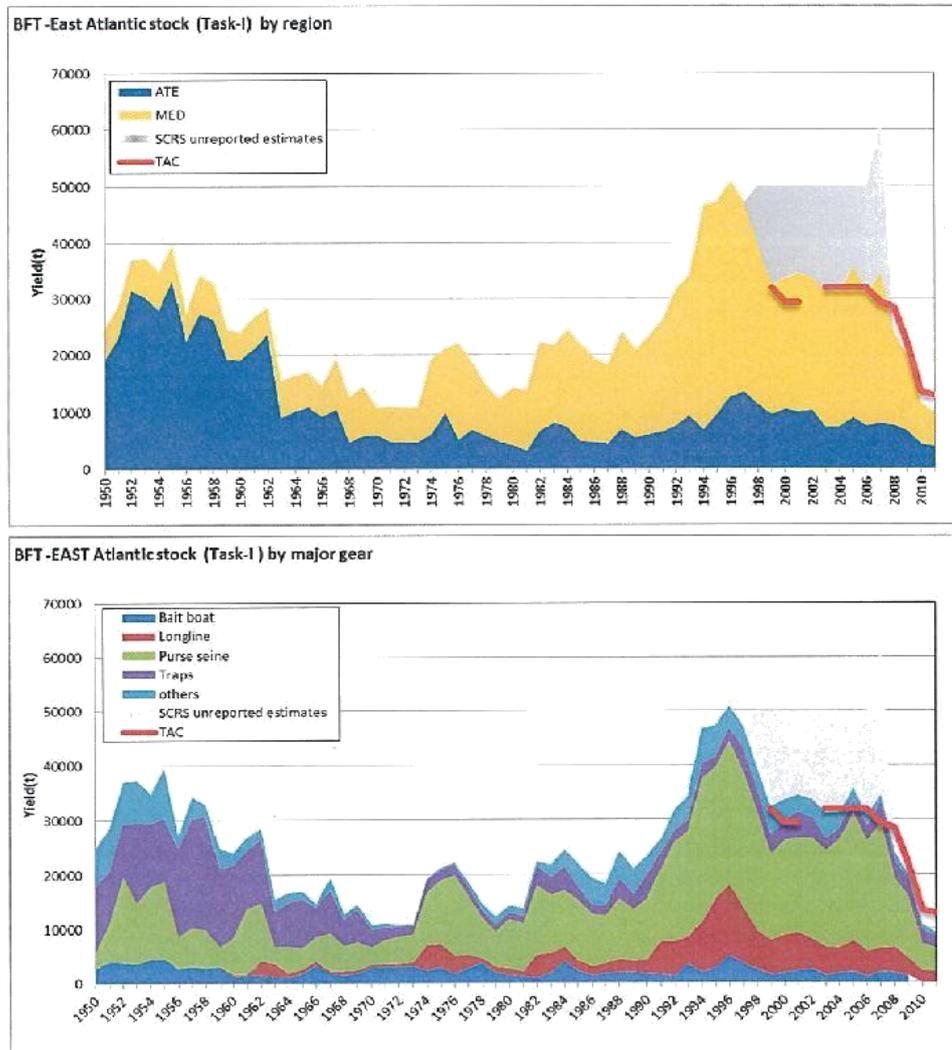
#### Attachments:

1. Historical catches of western bluefin tuna: (a) by gear type and (b) in comparison to TAC levels agreed by the Commission (2012 SCRS Report).
2. Reported catch for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from Task I data from 1950 to 2011 split by main geographic area (top panel) and by gear (bottom panel) together with unreported catch estimated by SCRS from 1998 to 2007 and TAC levels since 1998 (2012 SCRS Report).
3. Total BFT Catch (Task I) by region (WAA and EAA).
4. The background of introduction of conservation and management measures on western Atlantic bluefin tuna in ICCAT.



**BFTW-Figure 1.** Historical catches of western bluefin tuna: (a) by gear type and (b) in comparison to TAC levels agreed by the Commission.

*Addendum 2 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2*



**BFTE-Figure 1.** Reported catch for the East Atlantic and Mediterranean from Task I data from 1950 to 2011 split by main geographic areas (top panel) and by gears (bottom panel) together with unreported catch estimated by the SCRS (using fishing capacity information and mean catch rates over the last decade) from 1998 to 2007 (the SCRS did not detect unreported catch using fishing capacity information since 2008) and TAC levels since 1998.

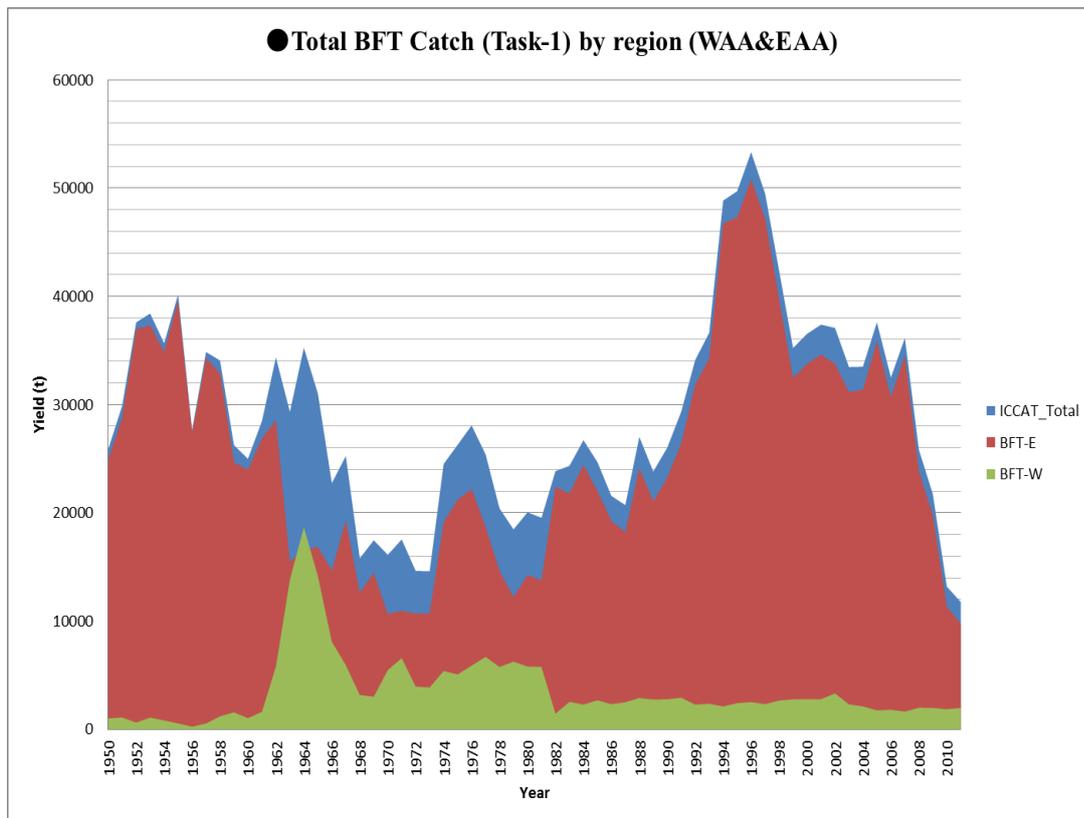


Figure 1. Total bluefin tuna catch (Task I) by area (WAA and EAA).

*Addendum 4 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2***Background of Introduction of Conservation and Management Measures on Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in ICCAT**

	<i>Estimated catch</i>			<i>TAC or Scientific monitoring quota</i>			<i>Commission's Recommendation</i>	<i>Main SCRS scientific reports and management recommendations</i>	<i>Main measures in Western Atlantic Area (WAA)</i>
	<b>Total catch</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>Total-TACs</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>West</b>			
<b>1950</b>	<b>25,876</b>	<b>24,869</b>	<b>1,007</b>						
<b>1951</b>	<b>29,891</b>	<b>28,795</b>	<b>1,096</b>						
<b>1952</b>	<b>37,599</b>	<b>36,970</b>	<b>629</b>						
<b>1953</b>	<b>38,413</b>	<b>37,329</b>	<b>1,084</b>						
<b>1954</b>	<b>35,675</b>	<b>34,852</b>	<b>823</b>						
<b>1955</b>	<b>40,157</b>	<b>39,613</b>	<b>544</b>						
<b>1956</b>	<b>27,669</b>	<b>27,422</b>	<b>247</b>						
<b>1957</b>	<b>34,862</b>	<b>34,316</b>	<b>546</b>						
<b>1958</b>	<b>34,077</b>	<b>32,870</b>	<b>1,207</b>						
<b>1959</b>	<b>26,262</b>	<b>24,692</b>	<b>1,570</b>						
<b>1960</b>	<b>24,992</b>	<b>23,960</b>	<b>1,032</b>						
<b>1961</b>	<b>28,487</b>	<b>26,867</b>	<b>1,620</b>						
<b>1962</b>	<b>34,356</b>	<b>28,557</b>	<b>5,799</b>						
<b>1963</b>	<b>29,328</b>	<b>15,490</b>	<b>13,838</b>						
<b>1964</b>	<b>35,250</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>18,671</b>						
<b>1965</b>	<b>31,029</b>	<b>16,858</b>	<b>14,171</b>						
<b>1966</b>	<b>22,747</b>	<b>14,657</b>	<b>8,090</b>						
<b>1967</b>	<b>25,248</b>	<b>19,308</b>	<b>5,940</b>						
<b>1968</b>	<b>15,795</b>	<b>12,619</b>	<b>3,176</b>						

<b>1969</b> (Enter into force, March 21)	<b>17,470</b>	<b>14,458</b>	<b>3,012</b>					
<b>1970</b>	<b>16,132</b>	<b>10,666</b>	<b>5,466</b>					
<b>1971</b>	<b>17,547</b>	<b>10,956</b>	<b>6,591</b>					
<b>1972</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>10,687</b>	<b>3,948</b>					
<b>1973</b>	<b>14,609</b>	<b>10,738</b>	<b>3,871</b>					
<b>1974</b>	<b>24,520</b>	<b>19,127</b>	<b>5,393</b>					
<b>1975</b>	<b>26,284</b>	<b>21,212</b>	<b>5,072</b>			<b><u>74/01</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total catch of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic (including the Mediterranean) has declined from a peak of a little under 40,000tons in 1964-65 to about 12,000 tons in 1973. The recent trends have varied between fisheries. The surface (purse seine and bait boat) fisheries on small fish have declined to about half their peak catches, while most fisheries on large fish (particularly the Norwegian purse seiners and the traps along the coast of the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco) have declined to a very low level.</li> </ul>	
<b>1976</b>	<b>28,076</b>	<b>22,193</b>	<b>5,883</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is still uncertainty about the degree of separation between the tuna caught in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, and between the eastern and western Atlantic. Recent tag returns have confirmed the trans-Atlantic migration of both large and small bluefin occurs, and may be appreciable in some years. However most tag returns, even after several years, occur on the same side of the Atlantic as the point of tagging. Therefore it may be convenient, and not incorrect, to treat the</li> </ul>	
<b>1977</b>	<b>25,413</b>	<b>18,718</b>	<b>6,695</b>					
<b>1978</b>	<b>20,410</b>	<b>14,645</b>	<b>5,765</b>					
<b>1979</b>	<b>18,478</b>	<b>12,223</b>	<b>6,255</b>					
<b>1980</b>	<b>20,052</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>5,802</b>					
<b>1981</b>	<b>19,545</b>	<b>13,774</b>	<b>5,771</b>					

								Atlantic bluefin as, in many ways, a single stock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two actions have been considered by the ICES/ICCAT group, which were: a) short-term reduction of fishing intensity on giant fish, to protect spawning fish, b) long-term reduction in purse seine fishing of young fish to permit escapement of maturing fish.</li> </ul>	
1982	23,853	22,408	1,445			(800)	<u>W:81/01</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific evidence is not yet sufficient to determine with certainty if there are two separate stocks or one stock, but present evidence is towards the hypothesis of separate eastern and western stocks.</li> <li>• If the resource is to be managed as though there are separate stocks:                      A) East stock; The east stock seems stable at current exploitation level, hence current regulations controlling minimum size and fishing mortality seem sufficient,                      B) West stock; The west stock of adult fish seems depleted to very low levels. The weight of evidence supports the conclusion that the total stock weight of adult fish will remain constant or perhaps slightly decrease if there is no catch in 1982. Therefore, based on the evidence available, a major reduction in catch is recommended so the catches of fish are as near zero as feasible in 1982.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Contracting Parties take measures to prohibit the capture of bluefin tuna for a period of two years in the western Atlantic Ocean, as defined on the attached map (Addendum 1), except under conditions to be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic; such conditions to be based on the requirement to index the abundance of the stock. Until such conditions are developed, directed and incidental catches shall be limited to an annual level of 800 MT to enable ongoing scientific studies to be continued.</li> <li>• That the Contracting Parties take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic in order to thus avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic.</li> </ul>

<b>1983</b>	<b>24,344</b>	<b>21,802</b>	<b>2,542</b>			(2,660)	W:82/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to maintain and improve the data necessary to index the abundance of the stock of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic take measures to limit the catch for scientific monitoring in 1983 to 2,660 metric tons (MT).</li> <li>• That in recognition of the possible lower level of abundance of small bluefin in recent years, no more than 15 percent in weight of the catch in the western Atlantic may consist of bluefin smaller than 120 cm fork length.</li> <li>• That during 1983 there will be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.</li> </ul>
<b>1984</b>	<b>26,716</b>	<b>24,427</b>	<b>2,289</b>			(2,660)	W:83/01	
<b>1985</b>	<b>24,695</b>	<b>22,010</b>	<b>2,685</b>			(2,660)	W:84/01	
<b>1986</b>	<b>21,570</b>	<b>19,247</b>	<b>2,322</b>			(2,660)	W:85/01	
<b>1987</b>	<b>20,723</b>	<b>18,220</b>	<b>2,503</b>			(2,660)	W:86/01	
<b>1988</b>	<b>27,016</b>	<b>24,118</b>	<b>2,898</b>			(2,660)		
<b>1989</b>	<b>23,819</b>	<b>21,061</b>	<b>2,759</b>			(2,660)		
<b>1990</b>	<b>26,027</b>	<b>23,247</b>	<b>2,780</b>			(2,660)		
<b>1991</b>	<b>29,350</b>	<b>26,429</b>	<b>2,921</b>			(2,660)		



	Estimated catch			TAC or Scientific monitoring quota			Commission's Recommendation	Main SCRS scientific reports and management recommendations	Main measures in Western Atlantic Area (WAA)
	Total catch	East	West	Total-TACs	East	West			
1994	48,853	46,740	2,113			(1,995)	<u>E:93/06,E93/07,</u> <u>W:93/05</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent with the commission's goal on west Atlantic bluefin tuna to rebuild the spawning biomass to levels producing MSY, the SCRS recommends the future catches should be below 1,200 MT.</li> <li>It is apparent that higher long-term yields of east Atlantic bluefin tuna could be realized if fishing mortality rates were reduced, especially on young fish. The SCRS is concerned by the high catch of small individuals and recommended that every effort be made so that the current measures on the size limit of 6.4kg be adhered to. It is expressly recommended that steps be taken so that no age 0 fish (&lt;1.8kg) are caught.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Contracting parties, whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, institute, for the interim, effective measures to limit the biennial quota for scientific monitoring purposes for 1994 and 1995 to 3,195 MT, which is divided into a quota of 1,995 MT in 1994, and a quota of 1,200 MT in 1995, unless SCRS scientific information in 1994 indicates otherwise.</li> </ul>
1995	49,714	47,291	2,423			(2,200)	E:94/11, W:94/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Contracting Parties, whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin in the western Atlantic, will institute a scientific monitoring quota for 1995 and 1996 of 2,200 MT each year, unless the SCRS scientific information in 1995 indicates otherwise.</li> </ul>
1996	53,320	50,807	2,514			(2,200)			
1997	49,489	47,155	2,334			(2,354)	E:96/02, E:96/03, W:96/04		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Contracting Parties whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin in the western Atlantic will institute a scientific monitoring quota for 1997 and 1998 of 2,354 MT each year.</li> </ul>

1998	42,375	39,718	2,657			(2,354)		
1999	35,228	32,456	2,772	34,500	32,000	2,500	<u>E:98/04,</u> <u>E:98/05,</u> <u>W:98/07</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding west Atlantic bluefin tuna, if the Commission is satisfied with a chance of about 50% of having a net increase in 20 years of 20% in spawning stock size, then in terms of the projections based upon the Beverton-Holt stock recruitment relationship, the current catch level would need to be reduced to about 2000 MT. If the Commission wants to be reasonably sure (i.e. have 90% probability) of at least maintaining the status quo, the catch should be reduced to approximately 1500 MT. In contrast, in terms of the 2-line stock recruitment relationship, if the Commission wants to be reasonably sure (i.e. have 90% probability) of at least maintaining the status quo, the catch should be reduced to approximately 2000 MT. In terms of a goal to move with about 50% chance of reaching biomass levels supporting MSY within 20 years, current catches need not be reduced under the 2-line stock-recruitment relationship.</li> <li>• The SCRS expressed concern about the status of east Atlantic bluefin tuna resources in the light of assessment results and the historically high catches made in 1996-1997 (in excess of 40,000MT). The projections indicate the future catch levels of 33,000MT, or more, are not sustainable. Catches of 25,000MT or less would halt the decline</li> </ul>
2000	36,541	33,766	2,775	32,000	29,500	2,500		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Contracting Parties whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will initiate a 20-year rebuilding program beginning in 1999 and continuing through 2018, with a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2500 MT annually.</li> <li>• The annual TAC, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target, and 20-year rebuilding period may be adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. However, no adjustments to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless: (1) the SCRS advice indicates that a TAC greater than 2700 MT will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the 20-year rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability, or (2) if the SCRS advice indicates that a TAC less than 2300 MT is necessary to achieve the MSY target within the 20-year rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability. At such time as the SCRS determines the stock size has achieved the level that would produce MSY, TAC levels up to the level of MSY will be considered.</li> </ul>

2001	37,390	34,605	2,784	32,000	29,500	2,500	E:00/09	<p>of biomass. It should be noted that even these results may be optimistic since they assume that future recruitment continues at the average level observed since 1981. Given the large increase in catches since, combined with the results of the present analyses, the Committee considers that a 35% reduction in catches from the e1993 to 1994 levels (i.e., to about 25,000MT) would be necessary to prevent further decline of stock. The SCRS is concerned about the high catch of small individuals and recommended that every effort be made so that the current measures on the size limit of 6.4kg be adhered to. The SCRS reiterated that effective measures be taken to avoid catches of age 0 fish (&lt;1.8kg), and not allow any tolerance with respect to the percentage (in number) of age 0 fish in the landings.</p> <p>•It should also be noted that the condition of the east Atlantic stock and fishery could adversely affect recovery in the west Atlantic because of mixing between two stocks.</p>	
2002	37,089	33,770	3,319		*	2,500			
2003	33,469	31,163	2,306	34,700	32,000	2,700	E:02/08, E:02/10, W:02/07		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, for the western Atlantic management area be established 2,700 t, effective beginning in 2003.</li> <li>•The annual TAC, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target, and a 20-year rebuilding period may be adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.</li> </ul>
2004	33,505	31,381	2,125	34,700	32,000	2,700			
2005	37,602	35,845	1,756	34,700	32,000	2,700	E:04/07, W:04/05		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The provisions of the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 02-07], which amend the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 98-07], be extended through 2006. All other operative paragraphs of Recommendation</li> </ul>

									98-07 as amended by Recommendation 02-07 remain unchanged.
2006	32,501	30,689	1,811	34,700	32,000	2,700			
2007	36,154	34,516	1,638	31,600	29,500	2,100	E:06/05, W:06/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding western Atlantic bluefin, Fishing at <math>F_{MSY}</math> (conditional on current recruitment) during the period 2007-2009 would be expected to increase SSB over that period by about 1.5% per year. A constant TAC over the period 2007-2009 which would produce gains in SSB equivalent to those gains in the above-mentioned sentence would be about 2,100t. The constant TAC over the period 2007-2009 which would be expected to maintain SSB at 2006 levels would be about 2,300t.</li> <li>In order to reverse these declines and to initiate rebuilding, substantial reductions in fishing mortality and catch need to be implemented. The only scenarios which have potential to address the declines and initiate recovery are those which (in combination) close the Mediterranean to fishing during spawning season and decrease mortality on small fish through fully enforced increases in minimum size. Realized catches during the next</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, which began in 1999 and will continue through 2018, will have a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2100 t, annually, effective beginning in 2007, through 2008, and thereafter, until such time as the TAC is changed.</li> <li>The annual TAC, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target, and 20-year rebuilding period may be adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.</li> </ul>
2008	25,849	23,849	2,000	30,600	28,500	2,100			

2009	21,730	19,751	1,980	23,900	22,000	1,900	E:08/05, W:08/04	<p>few years implied by fully implementing these actions are expected to be in the order of 15 000 t. Clearly, an overall reduction in fishing effort and mortality is needed to reverse current trends. Current fishing capacity largely exceeds the current TAC. Therefore, management actions are also needed to mitigate the impacts of overcapacity as well as to eliminate illegal fishing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to impact the recovery in the western Atlantic, because even small rates of mixing from East to West can have significant effects on the West due to the fact that Eastern plus Mediterranean resource is much larger than that of the West.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, which began in 1999 and will continue through 2018, will have a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 1,900 t in 2009 and 1,800 t in 2010.</li> <li>• The annual TAC, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target, and 20-year rebuilding period may be adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.</li> </ul>
2010	13,186	11,328	1,857	15,300	13,500	1,800			
2011	11,765	9,779	1,986	14,650	12,900	1,750	E:10/04, W10/03		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, which began in 1999 and will continue through 2018, will have a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 1,750 t in 2011 and in 2012.</li> <li>• The annual TAC, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target, and the 20-year rebuilding period may be adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under</li> </ul>



2013	-	-	-	15,150	13,400	1,750	<p><u>E:12/03, W12/02</u>                  • (The <u>Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9 of the Proceedings of the 18th Special Meeting of ICCAT</u>)</p>	<p>• Regarding west Atlantic bluefin tuna, the "low recruitment scenario" suggests that biomass is currently sufficient to produce MSY, whereas the "high recruitment scenario" suggests that BMSY has a very low probability of being achieved within the rebuilding period. Despite this large uncertainty about the long term future productivity of the stock, under either recruitment scenario current catches (1,750 t) should allow the biomass to continue to increase. Larger catches in excess of 2,000 t will prevent the possibility of the 2003 year class elevating the productivity potential of the stock in the future.</p> <p>• All CPUE indices of east Atlantic bluefin tuna showed increasing tendencies in most recent years. The Committee notes that maintaining catches at the current TAC (12,900 t) or at the 2010 TAC (13,500 t) under the current management scheme will likely allow the stock to increase during that period and is consistent with the goal of achieving FMSY and BMSY through 2022 with at least 60% of probability, given the quantified uncertainties. A period of stabilization in the main management regulations of the rebuilding plan would allow the SCRS to better estimate the magnitude and speed of recent trends in F and SSB in the coming years.</p> <p>• Both the productivity of western Atlantic bluefin and western Atlantic bluefin fisheries are linked to the eastern</p>	<p>• The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will have a TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 1,750 t in 2013.</p> <p>• The annual TAC for 2014 will be set in 2013. The annual TAC, MSY target, and the 20-year rebuilding period shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.</p> <p>• In 2013, a working group of fisheries managers and scientists will be convened.</p> <p>• The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicator trends and evaluate whether they warrant advancing the scheduling of the next stock assessment. In support of this evaluation, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings.</p>
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## RESEARCH PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE STOCK ABUNDANCE INDICES FOR WESTERN STOCK OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Tomoyuki Itoh  
Fisheries Research Agency

### SUMMARY

Stock assessment for the western stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna has to rely on a set of abundance indices. Each component of the present set of indices should be improved. New indices should be added for some part of life stage that lacking index at present. We propose four components of the set of indices: (1) starting longline research in the Gulf of Mexico for spawning fish; (2) starting research for young-of-the-year fish as recruitment monitoring; (3) improvement of rod & reel data collection in the USA; and (4) starting fishery independent research which lasts for several months in Gulf of St. Lawrence Canada.

Stock assessment and fishery management need reliable stock abundance indices. In ICCAT, both western and eastern stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna lack highly reliable abundance indices because there is no major fishery which covers a large part of its distribution and a large part of its life history. Fishery independent scientific research is not yet carried out on a large scale for a long period.

In the western stock of bluefin tuna, a set of indices comprised of six indices are used for stock assessment (**Figure 1** and **Table 1**). As a whole, the set covers a wide geographical range from the Gulf of Mexico to the central Atlantic through Canadian waters including the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a wide range of life history from larvae to spawning fish. All the indices have relatively long periods of time, more than 20 years. However, each index has insufficient points, such as a small number of data, possibly including migrants from the east stock, and regulation change that resulted in a change of the fishing operational pattern that should be corrected in the index. Some indices show a contradictory trend within each other; age 8+ in the U.S. rod and reel decreased from 1995 but CPUEs of Japanese longline and the Canadian fishery in southwest Nova Scotia or Gulf of St. Lawrence were increased or stable. There are some parts of the life stage that are not yet monitored due to the selectivity of fishery.

Each component of the present set of indices should be continued and improved. New indices should be added for some part of the life stage that lack index at present. Particularly, we propose three components of the set of indices as follows, which are practical measures and expect the set to be much more reliable.

#### *1) Longline research in Gulf of Mexico for spawning fish*

Bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) are important for stock indices of adult fish as well as for investigate spawning ecology. The index is considered to be for fish of western origin only. The present index in GOM is derived from longline fishing targeting other species, such as yellowfin and bigeye tunas, and swordfish, which take bluefin tuna as by-catch. Then, the index is based only on a small number of bluefin tuna caught which would cause a large variance in the result.

Research by longline that targets bluefin tuna is valuable. By using several vessels, it covers the whole spawning season and areas. The result provides not only an index of adult fish but also correction factors to the present index in GOM in terms of spatio-temporal distribution of bluefin tuna. In addition, gonads for spawning studies can be collected from the fish caught. Furthermore, the length data of bluefin tuna caught are derived and provide data to examine the age and size at maturity, which is under debate for the western stock in ICCAT, at least for fish in GOM.

The start of this survey is practical and the result useful for stock assessment will be obtained soon. Longline fishing has already existed in GOM by the U.S. fishery. Japanese longliners are also being a candidate to operate. The longline operation and its catch should be monitored by on-board scientific observers. The research should be designed scientifically, but fishermen's knowledge is quite important especially to determine the location of the longline set.

## 2) *Research for young-of-the-year fish as recruitment monitoring*

At present, there is no index of young-of-the-year (YOY) bluefin tuna, i.e., 20-50 cm in body length. The YOY index is useful because YOY has already passed through the larval stage, which has a severe mortality rate with high variability under fluctuating environmental conditions, it has relatively high correlation with recruitment stock of the fishery, and it provides managers warning of the state of the stock a few years earlier than at present. In addition, because the YOY of bluefin tuna are more distributed in coastal areas than in older ages, it is easier to do research than doing in high-seas and it may provide information from whole the cohort which will disperse in wider area along with getting older. It is also a strong merit that YOY would be comprised solely with western origin fish, which can be evaluated if samples were collected.

It is not well known where the YOY are distributed because there is no fishery for these in the USA. They would be distributed in coastal areas of GOM and the east coast of the USA between July and December. Any sampling gears are possible but tuna Japanese type trolling is proposed here as one candidate. Various commercial trolling gears for small Pacific bluefin tuna have been developed in Japan. There are some gears used for 20-30 cm fish and others for 40-50 cm fish.

Fishery independent trolling transect surveys have already conducted by Japan for southern bluefin tuna and Pacific bluefin tuna. Trolling surveys for southern bluefin tuna have been carried out since 1996 and modified in 2006 and continued at present (Itoh *et al.* 2012). The survey is carried out in the southern coastal area (across the edge of the continental shelf) of western Australia for 18 days in January-February every year by a chartered Australian fishing boat 18 m in length with 8 lines of Japanese style trolling. The number of schools detected as catching per transected distance is used as a recruitment index. While the survey have been aimed at detecting warning signs of recruitment failure or providing information on the recruitment level in low resolution, the derived index is in good agreement to the recruitment level estimated from the operating model (**Figure 2**). The survey is endorsed by CCSBT and its index is used as one of important key indices of recruitment for southern bluefin tuna assessment in CCSBT (Anon. 2012). A fishery independent trolling survey for Pacific bluefin tuna which started in 2008 has been carried out in Tosa Bay for 20-30 cm fish by two boats (Kai *et al.* 2012).

Because it is new index for Atlantic bluefin tuna, several years are necessary to find any trend in recruitment abundance change useful for stock assessment. There is little information of YOY distribution from the fishery, probably data for three years are needed for a feasibility study, an additional two years to establish the index and a further additional three years (in total seven years) to produce a useful index with trend. However, YOY is valuable as a biological sample so that the survey can contribute largely to ICCAT from the first year. Length frequency of YOY, coupled with some otolith daily increment analysis, provide a range of spawning seasons from different points of view from spawners or larvae as well as the degree of contribution of any part of the spawning season to the whole recruitment stock (Itoh 2009).

## 3) *Rod & reel data in USA*

Catch rate data of rod & reel off the east coast of the USA are important information for young (age 2 to 8 or older) bluefin tuna. The data have several advantages such as they span 20 years, they provide the index by age and they are the only source of index for young age bluefin tuna. At present, these data are based on information collected through telephone interviews for sampled boats. Because the number of fish caught was small, it seems that these catch rates include only a small part of the catch and effort of recreational fishing.

These data are expected to be improved, largely by collecting data from all the rod & reel fishermen. A Report by submitted document would be convenient way in terms of work force and speed of procedure. Note the importance of collecting effort data for zero-catch. Because it seems promising that some additional work is needed improve stock assessment immediately, urgent strengthening of the system is effective.

The fish for rod & reel are comprised of both western and eastern origin fish. Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish the two origins of fish based on sufficient a number of otoliths collected. Biological sampling and a routine analysis program should also be established.

#### 4) *CPUE of Gulf of St. Lawrence in Canada*

Longline, tended line and rod and reel are operated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL). The index spans more than 20 years since 1981. The fishing season was quite short in the GSL in 2009 and 2010, which resulted in extremely high CPUE. In 2011, the season expanded by implementation of ITQ. The SCRS expressed concern that such an inconsistency of fishing pattern may change the relationship between CPUE and stock abundance.

It is effective to conduct fishery independent research which can continue for several months using longline or other suitable gear. Derived results will be used to correct the fishery data and to establish an independent index.

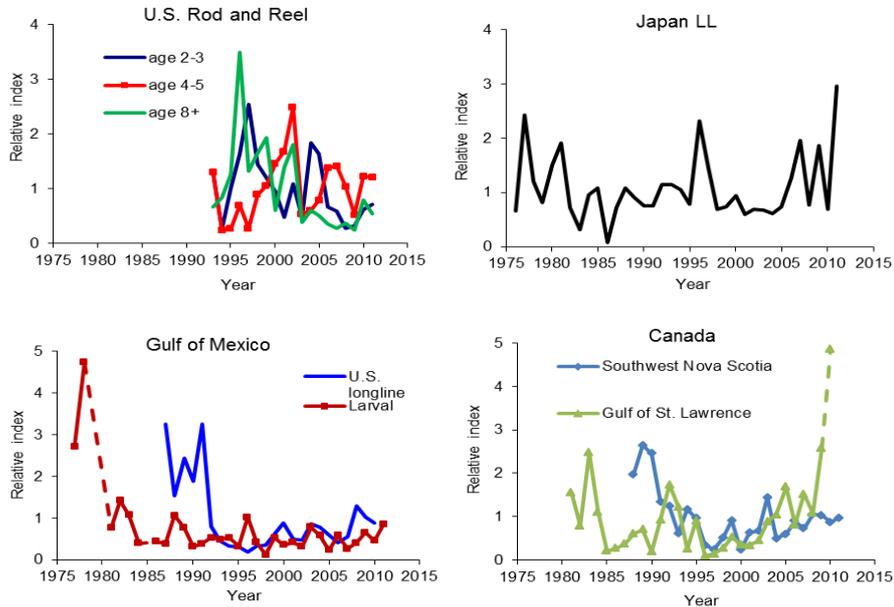
While it was shown that giant fish in the GSL were of western origin in the previously examined samples, this should be further examined. In addition, there were smaller size fish (90-135kg) in the GSL in 2011 and 2012 (Hanke et al. 2012), whose origin should be confirmed. Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish the two origins of fish based on a sufficient number of otoliths collected. Biological sampling and routine analysis program should be established.

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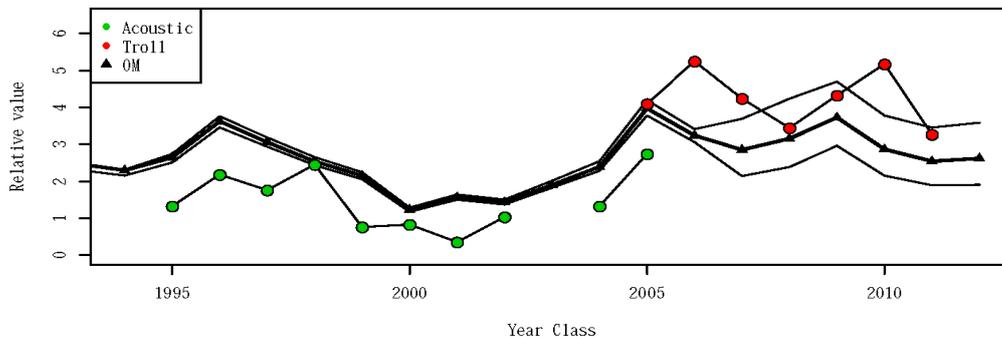
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## FISHERY INDICATORS



**Figure 1.** Abundance indices of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock used at present. From western stock Chair’s presentation at the 2012 SCRS.



**Figure 2.** Trolling index of southern bluefin tuna by trolling survey. “Acoustic” is the trolling index using trolling catch data in the acoustic research survey for age-1 fish and “Troll” is the index from the trolling research survey for age-1 fish. “OM” is estimation of the recruitment by operating model used for stock assessment of southern bluefin tuna in CCSBT, with median and 25 and 75 percentiles.

**Table 1.** Information of abundance indices of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock used at present.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>Provide country</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Fish size</i>	<i>Possibility of mixing</i>	<i>References</i>
US LL	Gulf of Mexico	Longline CPUE (N / 1000 hooks)	1987	USA	1202 sets with 0.207 nominal CPUE in 2010	Spawning fish	west only	SCRS/2012/160
Larval index	Gulf of Mexico	Larval net sampling (N pre 100m <sup>2</sup> )	1977	USA	37 stations and 49 larvae in 2011	larvae	west only	SCRS/2012/159
Rod & reel	Northeast coast of USA	CPUE of recreational catch (N per hours)	1993	USA	In 2011, 260 boats with 1548 hours and 223 fish (66-114cm and 115-144cm fish) and 329 boats with 2605 hours and 30 fish(>177cm fish)	age 2-3, age 4-5, age 8+	west & east	SCRS/2012/158
Gulf of St. Lawrence	Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada	CPUE of Rod & Reel and Tended line	1981	Canada	55,297 hours and 859 fish in 2006. 5,204 hours and 503 fish in 2011.	Large fish	west only	SCRS/2012/118
Southwest Nova Scotia	Southwest Nova Scotia, Canada	CPUE of Rod & Reel, Tended line and harpoon	1988	Canada	2,769 hours and 383 fish in 2011	Large fish	west & east	SCRS/2012/118
Japan LL	West of 45W	Longline CPUE (N / 1000 hooks)	1976	Japan	285 sets with 5.211 nominal CPUE in 2011	Large fish	west & east	SCRS/2012/130 SCRS/2012/131

## Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2

**OVERVIEW OF KEY UNCERTAINTIES IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT***Submitted by Canada***ABSTRACT**

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' (ICCAT) Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has employed a Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) model in its western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessments since 1982. Stock projections are based on two scenarios/relationships: the Beverton-Holt and the “two-line” model. Unfortunately, the SCRS has been unable to provide clear advice to managers on the stock status relative to various harvest levels and has consistently referred to the two extremely divergent recruitment scenarios as being “equally plausible”. Under the high recruitment scenario, the stock will not achieve the recovery plan objective of  $B_{MSY}$  by 2018 even with no fishing. On the other hand, under the low recruitment scenario the stock is considered fully rebuilt and a significant quota increase would be sustainable.

Without clear science advice on the stock's recovery status, managers were presented with significant challenges at the 2012 annual meeting. This led to the decision to hold a workshop of WBFT fisheries managers and scientists with the aim of improving the communication of scientific advice to fisheries managers to enhance the decision making process for sustainable management of the resource.

The paper explores the consequences of not incorporating the significant amount of mixing between the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin populations. It also outlines several key differences in the assumptions used in western and eastern Atlantic bluefin stock assessments, including very different population growth curves, schedules for age at maturity and natural mortality, the lack of genetic evidence to support these differences, and the similar environmental conditions of the two distinct spawning populations. Additional areas of uncertainty include the indices of abundance used in the WBFT assessment and estimates of recruitment.

Finally, the paper addresses the bases for Beverton-Holt and “two-line” recruitment scenarios and concludes that it is unlikely either approach captures the recruitment dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico spawning population.

**Introduction**

The objective of this paper is to: (1) highlight the key uncertainties related to the assumptions in the current stock assessment including, but not limited to, the stock recruitment relationship; (2) demonstrate, where possible, the significant impacts these uncertainties may have on the resulting scientific advice; and (3) identify areas the SCRS might consider for further research/analysis in the lead up to the next stock assessment in 2015.

**1. Geographical Distribution and Management Units (mixing)**

In 1981, ICCAT took the decision to split the management of North Atlantic bluefin between the western Atlantic spawning population and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean spawning populations. Prior to this decision, the North Atlantic bluefin tuna was assessed as a single stock. The decision in 1981 essentially treated east-west mixing as negligible from a management perspective, and discounted the impacts of east or west fisheries on the other population.

Today, there is considerable evidence of adult and juvenile mixing (except during spawning season) from the western Atlantic bluefin tuna (WBFT) spawning population and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (EBFT) spawning population. While the degree of mixing varies by geographic area, decade, and age, aggregated estimates of mixing within the Northwest Atlantic fisheries for all years found that for the mid-Atlantic Bight 42.6% of schools (ages 1-4), 55.7% of mediums (ages 5-9), and 64.9% giants (ages 10+) were from the Gulf of Mexico population, whereas 94.8% and 100% of giants in the Gulf of Maine and the Gulf of St Lawrence were from the Gulf of Mexico<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Rooker *et al.* (2008).

An update to these estimates of natal origin for the landings of “school size” tuna off of the USA was undertaken in 2012. Based on the results, 84.8%, 39.9% and 15.8% for the period 1976-1977, 1997-2000, and 2011-2012, respectively were from the Gulf of Mexico<sup>7</sup>. Essentially, the degree of mixing in the fishery off the coast of the USA has changed over the several decades of observations, with an increasing proportion of the landings coming from the Mediterranean population complex.

Recent studies using satellite tags indicate that the movement of bluefin tuna across the stock boundary (i.e., mid-Atlantic) has been much greater than thought possible when the stocks were first assessed separately (Anon. 1992; Anon. 1993; National Research Council 1994; Secor *et al.* 2012). In addition, micro-chemical assays of otoliths (ear bone samples) from the western Atlantic were examined to determine the natal origin of the fish taken by various fisheries at various times and locations (Secor *et al.* 2012). The results indicate that while all of the spawning size fish taken in the Gulf of St. Lawrence were of Gulf of Mexico origin, as much as 84% of the fish taken in the U.S. small fish fishery, fish that represent age one recruits, were of Mediterranean origin (Secor *et al.* 2012).

Although it is difficult to estimate mixing rates over decades and age classes based on the relatively small amount of tracking data (most of which has been carried out in the western Atlantic), the aggregate observations indicate that there is considerable mixing in the western fishery when the fish are young, and this shifts to all fish being of western origin when the fish reach maturity.

There have been several attempts to estimate the implications of mixing on the assessment results. Two categories of models on the nature of the mixing/interchange have been investigated 1) the “diffusion model” which assumes mixing during the entire life cycle of the populations (including during the spawning aggregations); and (2) the “overlap model” which assumes that migrations amongst the populations overlap by varying amounts during the feeding migrations, but there is still assumed to be birth site fidelity. The first attempt was presented at the 1993 ICCAT meeting (Butterworth and Punt 1994) using the “diffusion model”. The conclusions were dramatic, in that relatively low levels of exchange resulted in very different estimates of recruitment (R) and Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) for the two management units. However, subsequent work with the “overlap” model led to the conclusion that there is little difference in the estimates of R and SSB for the two management units. In summary the nature of the exchange itself (spawning versus feeding) makes a large difference.

### ***1.1 Incorporating Mixing in the Stock Assessments***

The variable and sometimes significant stock mixing of mainly the juveniles from the east in the west may invalidate the assumptions associated with recruitment, particularly if the high juvenile catches of the early 1970’s were primarily of eastern origin fish.

Examination of recruitment estimates for the eastern and western stocks suggests there is some correspondence between years of strong recruitment especially over the past 10 years. In these years, strong recruitment in the west lags those in the east by 1 year, giving time for these small fish to make their trans-Atlantic migration before being captured in the western fishery, where an unknown proportion have been misinterpreted as western recruits. Since these eastern “visitors” do not seem to be present in western fisheries when they reach spawning age, this may also explain the disappearance of several strong year classes in the West that have been detected in several stock assessments only to later disappear, notably the 1987 and 1995 year classes.

A key impact on the assessment is the assumption that all reported WBFT catches are of western origin – there is no estimate to address the fact that a significant amount of reported WBFT catches are actually of eastern origin.

### ***1.2 Considerations for the 2015 stock assessment***

- a) Given the potentially high degree of mixing of tuna from the two populations during some parts of their life history, the varying degree of mixing over time, and the unknown rates of mixing; what are the implications of the defined management units on the estimates of the SSB/R relationships?
- b) Given that it is assumed in the SCRS assessments to date that there is little or no mixing, have the assessments of the two management units captured the underlying dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico population and the Mediterranean population complex?
- c) What is the nature of the mixing/interchange (“diffusion” versus “overlap”)?

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<sup>7</sup> Secor et al (2012a, b).

## 2. Estimates used in the catch-at-age matrix

Catch-at-age (CAA) is a critical component of any age-based analytical assessment. The Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) model used for WBFT assessment assumes that the CAA is without error. Length frequencies are generated from the landed weights using a length-weight key (even when direct measurements of lengths are available). In the case of WBFT, a model of age in relation to length is used which includes samples from different time periods. This is problematic given that decadal differences in growth have been observed. The end product is an estimate of the numbers of tuna landed in each age class over many years (e.g. the catch-at-age matrix from 1970 to 2012) for input to the assessment model.

There are a number of potential “errors” associated with the WBFT CAA matrix.

First, the scientific assessments for the two management units assign all fish landed (as well as estimates of misreporting) east and west of the 45 degree line to the respective management units. This means that tuna from the Mediterranean spawning population, which have migrated to west of the line are included in the CAA estimates for the western management unit, and vice-versa.

Second, under or misreporting of catches has had a significant impact on CAA. This has been corrected to a large extent in recent years due to new regulations and enforcement practices in the EBFT fishery. However, in the past there have been a number of documented cases which adversely affected the CAA in that fisheries related mortalities were not captured in the appropriate CAA.

Third, applying an incorrect age/length growth model to the landings of eastern origin fish within the western management unit and vice-versa leads to further errors. The western unit uses a growth curve of Restrepo *et al* (2011) for tuna caught to the west of the 45 degree meridian, while the eastern unit uses a growth curve of Cort (1991). Longevity estimates also differ between east and west with the former living to 20 years and the latter to 32 years based on two different methodologies (tagging and radiocarbon tracers). This occurs despite there not being any genetic evidence to support having different growth curves and longevity estimates.

The inter-mixing of tuna from the respective spawning populations within the two management units is probably the most significant source of error and the most difficult to investigate. Limited collections of hard parts during past decades make it difficult to study temporal changes in the degree of mixing, and thus how these phenomena may have influenced the construction of the CAA annual estimates.

### 2.1 Impacts on the Stock Assessment

The CAA matrices used in the assessments of EBFT and WBFT were constructed using different age-growth models and longevity estimates. Fromentin and Powers (2005) noted that it seems odd the two populations would have such different growth patterns and longevity, given the high degree of sharing of the same or similar environmental conditions.

Virtual Population analysis such as ADAPT (current assessment model used by the SCRS for WBFT) do not perform well when there is significant error in the CAA or at low fishing mortalities. Based on the uncertainty expressed throughout the literature about reported catches it is likely that several major sources of error exist in the multiple decade time series. There are a number of analytical models that take into account error in the CAA, as well as mixing. Alternative models should be explored for the 2015 stock assessment.

Estimates of recruitment and biomass in an analytical assessment depend on reliable catch data and representative indices. During the early years of the WBFT fishery, a sizeable proportion of the removals were due to the purse seine fishery occurring in the western Atlantic<sup>8</sup>. After 1970, this fishery was constrained by market regulations and changed focus to smaller/younger (<age 5) fish. From 1970 to 1976 purse seine landings accounted for an average of 49% of the western Atlantic catch, with a peak of 78% in 1970. Following the implementation of a minimum size regulation by ICCAT of 6.4 kg in 1975, the purse seine fleet shifted its efforts to a larger size class of tuna for the sashimi market. Because this fishery targeted age 1 to 5 year-old tuna for a short period of time, it may have had an impact on the CAA (likely a change in catchability) and the subsequent estimates of recruitment for the early 1970's.

Finally, it should be noted that the purse seine fishery prior to 1980 was a “mixed” tuna fishery targeting bluefin, yellow fin, skipjack and albacore tuna of approximately the same size range in the eastern and western Atlantic.

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<sup>8</sup> Ruais 2011/12.

## 2.2 Considerations for the 2015 Stock Assessment

- a) Consider alternative assessment models that account for error in the CAA and mixing between populations.
- b) Consideration should be given to using the same growth and age assumptions for both populations to create the CAA.
- c) Undertake a sensitivity analysis to evaluate the model and age spans for the “Mediterranean” tuna in the western unit assessments (and vice versa), as well as the implications of unreported catch from the fisheries in the eastern management unit.
- d) Consider investigating the effects of changes in catchability (i.e. inter-annual variable targeting of specific size groups) in the fisheries on SSB and R over time.

## 3. Indices of Abundance

Indices of abundance are used to tune or calibrate a VPA and can be either fishery dependent or fishery independent. These relative indices are considered to reflect changes/trends in abundance of the population or some component (e.g. age groups) of the population. The index does not have to encompass the entire range of the group, but must represent a constant portion of the population through time if it is to be reflective of trends in the population.

For the WBFT assessment there are 15 relative indices of abundance available (only 12 used in the 2012 assessment) representing several size categories and fishing areas as well the spawning grounds in the Gulf of Mexico.

Detailed reviews were provided in working papers for each of the indices in 2012 and a number of concerns were expressed about several of the indices.

For example, due to the unquantifiable effect of management changes on abundance estimates within the Canadian fisheries, there are concerns with the interpretation of the two Canadian indices. This shortcoming is not, however, unique to the Canadian data. The 2011 USA longline fleet operated very differently from previous years with only 18 trips meeting the filtering criteria, consequently the 2011 data point was dropped from the Gulf of Mexico longline index. Changes in the composition of the USA juvenile fisheries (i.e. the trend in the percentage of “Mediterranean” tuna in the landings over time) undermine these indices<sup>9</sup>. The Japanese longliner index does not appear to track the collapse years of the 1980s. Recent high values may be due to increases in the landings of “Mediterranean” tuna to the west of the 45 degree line, or be an accurate indicator of the strong 2003 year-class of “Gulf of Mexico” tuna. This is the only fishery dependent index that covers the full range of abundance levels (1976 to present).

Concern has also been expressed about the spatial distribution and timing of Gulf of Mexico spawning biomass index estimated from the larval survey data. Large values occur for 1977-1978 but the rest of the series is low. Reviews by Richards (1990) and Murphy (1990) identify some of the survey weakness and note that the survey was not designed for BFT nor should it be used to calibrate or fine tune a VPA.

### 3.1 Considerations for the 2015 Stock Assessment

The WBFT indices of abundance were examined in terms of their strengths and weaknesses in 2012; however, because the 2012 assessment was only an update the inputs were not changed nor the indices scored or ranked. Overall, due to the sometimes contradictory trends in relative abundance, the shortness of some of the indices, as well as the concerns about specific indices, these series collectively may not always reflect the population abundance trends. The removal of a single year from the USA longline fleet in 2011 due to changes in the fishery and very low fishing effort is suggestive that similar events may have occurred in the past in some of the other indices.

A thorough review of all WBFT abundance indices is required for the 2015 assessment.

## 4. Estimates of abundance and fishing mortality at age

There are a number of differences in assumptions between the EBFT and WBFT stocks that directly affect the VPA and the subsequent estimates of SSB and R. In neither case is consideration given to eastern fish caught in the west or vice versa.

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<sup>9</sup> Secor *et al.* 2012a, b.

The WBFT assessment assumes age independent natural mortality (0.14) for tuna from age 1 to 32 while the EBFT assessment assumes age dependent natural mortality (age 1, 0.49; age 2, 0.24; age 3, 0.24; age 4, 0.24; age 5, 0.24; age 6, 0.20; age 7, 0.175; age 8, 0.0.15; age 9, 0.125; ages 10 to 20 years, 0.10). Fromentin and Powers (2005) consider the differences in natural mortality to be “unsatisfactory” and recommend further research.

In its estimates of SSB, the SCRS assumes that 50% of EBFT mature at approximately 25kg or at age 4, while 100% of WBFT mature at approximately 145kg or age 9; however, recent reports note that some individuals caught in the west as small as 47kg (or age 5) were mature, suggesting that there may be little difference in age of maturity for EBFT and WBFT. Alternatively they may have been eastern origin fish caught in the west.

A sensitivity run conducted during the 2012 assessment showed that SSB estimates are affected by the age at maturity assumption. Earlier maturity for the Mediterranean tuna resulted in larger SSB's over the entire time series. The assumption of later maturation in Gulf of Mexico tuna (knife-edged - 0% at age 8 to 100% at age 9) resulted in decreased estimates of SSB. However, the overall long term trends of SSB were similar. Estimates of fishing mortality and R were nearly identical across the model runs.

In summary, the many assumptions are rather complex, such that it is difficult to rank (without sensitivity analyses) how important each of these biological characteristics is with respect to the time series of R and SSB for the two management units.

A key issue in evaluating the recovery plan is how well the estimates of R and SSB for the management units reflect the actual recruitment dynamics of the two spawning populations even in a qualitative manner. Fromentin and Powers (2005) recommend that a trans-Atlantic study of maturity be carried out using the same sampling protocols to re-evaluate the reported differences for the two spawning populations.

Furthermore, treating of all of the landings of mixed population sources (within the respective management units) as having the same growth and maturation schedules, and the observations from the tracking studies that the degree of mixing has varied considerably over time, generates considerable uncertainty in the model results. Whether or not the model outputs on SSB and R reflect in a general qualitative way the actual recruitment dynamics for the two populations is uncertain.

#### ***4.1 Considerations for the 2015 Stock Assessment***

It is evident from the information presented about that differences in natural mortality and age at maturity for EBFT and WBFT can affect estimates of abundance, SSB, and R.

Several options are available to explore the sensitivity of these population descriptors.

- a) Consider applying a common age at maturity and natural mortality to both stocks; or
- b) Consider Atlantic bluefin tuna as a single stock for stock assessment purposes.

### **5. Estimates of Recruitment (R)**

Although data are available since the 1950's, the current western bluefin tuna assessment uses catch at age data from 1970 forward (Anon. 2012). The earlier data was used in assessments up to the mid-1980s, but were dropped due to the lack of size data. Hester (1983) identified the period from 1960 to 1975 as having the poorest catch at age estimates. He also identified several sources of error and bias that would affect estimates of western spawning and recruit biomass such as the low rate of convergence of F on Z, aging errors, over estimation of catch of older fish and under estimation of the catches of young fish in some years. He further noted that stock trends for the early years are poorly estimated due to bias in the early catch at age data.

During the 2008 bluefin assessment (ICCAT 2008) a sensitivity analysis was conducted which involved estimating benchmarks and reference points using data from 1960 forward (case 4). The resulting S/R relationship indicates that the full range of SSB has provided 2 levels of recruitment. The first 14 years support high recruitment and the remainder supports low recruitment. The estimates of SSB/R are quite different from those shown in recent assessments which only include data from 1970 forward.

### ***5.1 Considerations for the 2015 Stock Assessment***

There are a number of issues associated with recruitment estimates depending upon the parameterization of the assessment and the starting point. Simply starting the assessment in a different year or decade can produce substantial differences in past and present recruitment numbers. Valid estimates of recruitment are essential to tracking the recovery of bluefin tuna and for the projections of SSB under a variety of catch levels. Although there have been numerous discussions and debate on the subject further investigations are warranted.

## **6. SSB and R time series estimates and the resulting SSB/R Models**

One of the most critical factors associated with evaluating the recovery plan are projections of future stock status under different catch scenarios and management decisions is the two “equally plausible” SSB/R models for the western management area: the “two-line” model and the Beverton Holt model.

Estimated recruitment rates show that the EBFT and WBFT management units have very different temporal patterns. From 1960 to 1974, recruitment for WBFT was relatively high and showed no relationship with SSB. Conversely, from 1975 to the present, recruitment is relatively low, again showing no relationship with SSB. The relative recruitment for EBFT increased dramatically in the early 1980s, while the rate for WBFT declined in the 1960s and 1970s. These contradictory patterns infer either significant errors in the assessment models, or opposing shifts in the recruitment dynamics in the distributional areas of the early life histories. It would be unexpected that the opposing environmental shift would occur simultaneously in these two separated inland seas (i.e. Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean Sea). The estimates of recruitment rate trends suggest that the assessment models are not capturing the recruitment dynamics of the two populations. More to the point, the SSB/R relationship is unclear.

### ***6.1 Considerations for the 2015 Stock Assessment***

The rationale for using Beverton-Holt SR model is based on a group of 4 recruitments occurring at the beginning of a 42-year long time series which has noted bias in the CAA for the early years. A sensitivity analysis should be undertaken to provide some indication of the relative biases of the SSB and R estimates for the two populations due to the diverse assumptions.

The “two-line” and Beverton -Holt SSB/R models for the western management unit are artifacts of the VPA modelling approach which assumes that: (1) mixing is negligible; (2) misreporting of landings has been adequately addressed; and (3) that the very different population specific growth / maturation/natural mortality schedules can be applied to the aggregate landings of tuna within the two management areas (the landings comprising unknown but significant mixtures from the two populations). In the end it may be counterproductive to argue about the preference of the two “equally plausible” models, as they are both likely to be unrepresentative of the real population dynamics.

The present modelling approach, involving VPA estimates of SSB and R of the WBFT and EBFT management units, is unlikely to capture the recruitment dynamics of either the Gulf of Mexico or Mediterranean populations.

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2**

**CHAIR'S PAPER**

Acknowledging that the SCRS has developed a work plan for the 2015 western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment, and that the SCRS will be developing a management strategy evaluation for the stock,

**The Working Group recommends that:**

**In the medium to long term:**

1. Given the fact that both the high and low recruitment scenarios are “equally plausible” and generate conflicting management advice for the Commission, the SCRS continue to develop new stock assessment models for western bluefin and explore alternative approaches.
2. All CPCs that participate in the western bluefin fishery make every effort to enhance their data collection efforts, and otolith and other biological sampling efforts, consistent with SCRS recommendations, including for those fisheries where mixing is known to occur between the western and eastern stocks.
3. Given the importance of continuing a dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists, the Commission consider when, in advance of the 2015 western bluefin stock assessment, to reconvene the Working Group.

**In time for the 2013 Annual Meeting:**

4. In order to increase the Commission's understanding of Atlantic bluefin tuna, that Contracting Parties make every effort to ensure that available electronic tagging data and otolith and other biological sampling data are submitted to the SCRS, and that Contracting Parties submit research plans to expand their tagging programs and otolith and other biological sampling, consistent with SCRS recommendations.
5. When collecting and submitting catch data, Contracting Parties shall make every effort to ensure that all sources of fishing mortality will be reported, including discards.
6. In consideration of the research proposal [WBFT-006], submitted by Japan, and the discussion that occurred within the Working Group, based upon SCRS advice, the Commission consider possible measures to support methodologies and sampling programs aimed at improving and developing fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent abundance and recruitment indices, which would reduce uncertainties associated with the stock assessment, as well as detect possible stock collapse.
7. The SCRS provide the Commission with information on how long it would take the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock to reach spawning stock biomass levels under different total allowable catch (TACs) that would allow for the testing of the stock-recruit relationship (i.e., to see if a significant change in recruitment results from allowing biomass to reach a certain level). This information should include different probabilities, e.g., 50%, 60%, etc.
8. In recognition of paragraph 17 of Recommendation 12-02, the Commission provide greater clarity and direction concerning its request that the SCRS prepare risk analyses in the form of decision tables.
9. The SCRS prepare a summary from the 2013 Bluefin Meeting on Biological Parameters Review and the Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Methods Meeting, including the prioritization of tasks that is to take place at the Stock Assessment Methods meeting, for presentation at the 2013 annual meeting.

### **4.3 REPORT OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES** (*Sapporo, Japan - July 7 to 9, 2013*)

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan), Commission Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Japan.

#### **2. Election of the Chair**

At the request of the PWG Chair, due to a small Moroccan delegation size, Mr. Masanori Miyahara volunteered to chair the 8th Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM.)

#### **3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**

The Agenda was adopted with no changes, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3** and the List of Participants as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**.

#### **4. Nomination of Rapporteur**

Ms. Diana Kramer (United States) was appointed rapporteur.

#### **5. eBCD Implementation**

The European Union presented highlights of the Report of the eBCD Working Group Meeting, and related documents, and summarized outstanding issues following the January 2013 meeting and July 6 meeting of the eBCD Working Group. Following a discussion, it was agreed that although all CPCs share the desire to fully implement the eBCD system as originally scheduled for 1 March 2014, technical difficulties with the system preventing full use on a trial basis during 2013 create the need for flexibility in the deadline for full implementation. The eBCD Working Group was tasked with including flexibility in the overall schedule and to continue working on resolving the remaining technical issues. There was consensus that the best option at this point for moving forward and adopting the program at the 2013 annual meeting would be to replace the former recommendation with a new recommendation containing a reference to a separate technical manual that could be amended without amending the BCD recommendation itself. The eBCD Working Group would then meet before the annual meeting to determine what would be included in such a technical manual and in the revised recommendation.

Several CPCs raised sport and recreational fishing issues in relation to eBCD implementation. Several CPCs maintained that BCDs were not necessary for recreational and sport fishing as such catches are prohibited from commercial sale. Another CPC said that such prohibition is clear for eastern bluefin tuna, but not for western bluefin tuna and the recommendation on western bluefin tuna should have a provision similar to the eastern bluefin provision. This will be forwarded to Panel 2 for discussion.

One party noted an inaccuracy in the TRAGSA documents, regarding details of the FLUX project, which should be reflected as solely an EU initiative.

In light of the matters raised by the eBCD technical group, the Secretariat requested to take into account the impact possible contractual changes would have on the overall implementation of the eBCD program.

#### **6. Consideration of technical and practical issues associated with the development of a Catch Certificate Scheme for tuna and tuna-like species**

The Chair raised the document submitted by the United States, "U.S. Working Document for Agenda Item 6 on Catch Certification" [attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.3**] as well as the "*Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-like Species.*" (Rec. 12-09).

The United States presented this document to facilitate discussion of the factors listed in Recommendation 12-09 to determine which species would most benefit from development of new catch certification programs. There was an exchange of views on the relative need for new catch certification programs.

After an exchange of views, the Chair suggested that bigeye tuna could be considered a priority for discussion, given SCRS concerns about potential IUU fishing on this stock. It was noted by several CPCs that in situations such as purse seine fishing, it would be difficult to separate bigeye from other stocks, such as skipjack and yellowfin, and due to the interrelated nature of these species in such fisheries, skipjack and yellowfin could also be included as priority stocks for discussion. The Chair recommended that for these priority stocks, concerned CPCs should provide additional analysis of the factors in Recommendation 12-09 and present this information in writing to PWG at the 2013 Commission meeting. The Chair also encouraged those CPCs to present an amended proposal based upon the analysis results.

A CPC noted that any new proposed measures should represent an effective use of the limited resources of both the Commission and its members and be considered in the context of the broader goals and objectives of the Commission.

Another CPC stated any potential new certification schemes should ensure consideration for workload and prevent multiple documentation requirements. The Chair noted that duplications of CDS-related documents should be avoided for a given species.

## **7. Preliminary discussion on development of Catch Certification Scheme on the basis of Item 6**

Discussion of Agenda item 7 was included in the discussion of Agenda item 6.

## **8. FAD Management**

The European Union proposed revisions to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas, originally presented by the Chairman of Panel 1 at the 2012 annual meeting. The revised version was endorsed and will be forwarded to PWG, with the understanding that CPCs will have the opportunity to review the document again in November (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**).

The two model forms in **Appendix 3** were endorsed, with the qualification that the tables are models for logbooks showing essential data points, not required documents. The EU stated that the use of standard templates would greatly facilitate the work of the SCRS.

## **9. Review of Rec 03-14 on VMS and necessary amendments**

The Chair recalled a U.S. proposal presented at the 2012 Commission meeting “Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area” to increase VMS frequency from every 6 hours to every 2 hours. This proposal was opened for discussion; however there was no consensus among the CPCs. Increased costs and workload were cited by several CPCs as prohibitive factors in increasing VMS frequencies beyond every 4 hours. Additional expansion of centralized VMS reporting was discussed. Some delegations pointed out the high implementation cost of the centralized system used in WCPFC, while some others noted its merits.

It was noted that detailed information on additional cost projections would help facilitate discussions on the cost-benefit analysis of increasing VMS frequencies. Further discussion was deferred to the PWG to continue at the next Commission meeting in 2013.

## **10. High sea boarding and inspection**

The European Union introduced a working document on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme”. The Chair also recalled a prior Canadian proposal from 2008 that is still currently on the table, and opened both documents for discussion.

One CPC stressed the need for reciprocity in high seas boarding and the need for this to be addressed in any proposal. This CPC suggested several options, including that the scheme be voluntary, or that an ICCAT vessel conduct inspections. This CPC suggested including the language “provided it has agreed to participate in the scheme, either through the Commission or through a bilateral agreement with another contracting party.”

Another CPC noted in the definition of fishing vessels, container vessels should be included.

Another CPC suggested it should be clarified that the scheme is applicable outside national jurisdictions but within the ICCAT Convention area.

Another CPC stated that inspection should be conducted only by Contracting Parties.

Another CPC requested that the word “joint” be defined.

Other CPCs raised the inspections schemes in effect in the eastern bluefin tuna fishery and the WCPFC, as well as the relevant provisions in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the need to consider these in future discussions.

Some CPCs recalled that ICCAT has adopted a general scheme in Recommendation 75-02, and emphasized the need to update the existing measure to have a modern inspection program in place.

At the conclusion of discussion, there were remaining fundamental differences between members on inspection schemes, and no consensus on either of the documents. All concerned CPCs were urged to work on both the EU and Canadian proposals to work out a single proposal for the next round of discussions of the IMM Working Group meeting. Progress will also be reported to PWG at the 2013 Commission meeting.

#### **11. Clarification of requirements relating to bycatches of tuna and tuna-like species in non-target fisheries**

The issue of ICCAT species caught as bycatch in non-ICCAT fisheries was raised, with reference to prior documents submitted by the European Union. There was a discussion of how to obtain reporting from non-CPCs on ICCAT species bycatch. The Working Group noted that the procedures in recommendation 06-13 set out how the Commission should reach out to non-CPCs to encourage cooperation, including data reporting.

The EU recognized that Recommendation 06-13 clarifies the rules for bycatches of ICCAT species in non-ICCAT fisheries and that this issue does not require further developments.

#### **12. Consideration of unique vessel identifiers (UVI)**

Although there is a common desirability for a global UVI, there was no consensus on the specifics of UVI or IMO number requirements. Some CPCs expressed concerns over the lack of a universal number and potentially having one number for ICCAT and another for other RFMOs. The Chair highlighted the positive step forward that the CLAV will be completed by the end of the year. The Secretariat also recalled work done by the five tuna organizations in cooperation with FAO on CLAV.

The United States recalled that at the last IMM meeting, the U.S. proposed some ideas ICCAT could consider to advance UVI for ICCAT, and there are efforts at the global level in this respect. One of those first steps is that ICCAT could require those vessels that are eligible to receive an IMO number. The United States also recalled that IMO took important steps recently to expand its numbering scheme’s applicability to fishing vessels, but that the IMO threshold would be 100gt, and many ICCAT vessels not measured by GT.

A CPC requested the ICCAT Secretariat engage w/IHS-F to assess these issues, including which vessels on ICCAT’s authorized list that do not already have a number could qualify for one under IHS-Fair play’s standard approach for issuing numbers.

Another CPC requested that interested CPCs develop a specific proposal on a UVI for ICCAT, for consideration at the 2013 Commission meeting.

The Chair suggested the definition of fishing vessels should also be considered since a significant number of vessels smaller than 20m were alleged to be fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area.

PEW environment group made a statement stressing the importance of the identification of fishing vessels, and expressed support for the use of the IMO number as the best option due to its global reach.

### **13. Review of Recommendation 02-21 on chartering**

The European Union presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering,” revised to prevent double counting of catches under chartering arrangements. The document was revised so that only the chartering party reports catches to ICCAT. The draft was accepted and will be sent to the Commission for consideration (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3**).

### **14. Consideration of necessary actions to implement Rec 12-07**

The forms on “Port Entry Prior Notification Form” and “ICCAT Port Inspection Report Form” were accepted by the IMM Working Group, to be considered by PWG and endorsed by the Commission (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3**).

### **15. Other matters**

#### *15.1 Access Agreements*

The EU presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements”, a draft revised recommendation to enhance transparency of access agreements in the water of coastal states, and associated reporting. One key point is to request coastal states to specify national authorities responsible for issuing permits and licenses.

Following comments by CPCs on the draft, a revised version was accepted for consideration by the Commission in November (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.3**).

#### *15.2 VMS Terms of Reference*

The European Union informed the Group that the VMS system purchased for Ghana through an ICCAT project for the improvement of data, may not allow Ghana to fully implement ICCAT VMS requirements. Given this complication, the EU raised the possible need to refine the VMS terms of reference for clarity. The Secretariat explained the procedures according to which the VMS was acquired for Ghana, and requested the EU submit a letter on this situation in order to investigate the situation.

#### *15.3 Reports on traceability*

The European Union and Japan presented reports on traceability.

### **16. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The Report was adopted. The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures was adjourned.

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Nomination of rapporteur
5. eBCD implementation
6. Consideration of technical and practical issues associated with the development of a Catch Certificate Scheme for tuna and tuna-like species
7. Preliminary discussion on development of catch certification scheme on the basis of Item 6
8. FAD Management
9. Review of Rec. 03-14 on VMS and consideration of necessary amendments
10. Review of at-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs, including high seas boarding and inspection, and consideration of necessary measures
11. Clarification of requirements relating to by-catches of tuna and tuna-like species in non-targeted fisheries
12. Consideration of Unique Vessel Identifiers and other requirements for vessel listing in the context of the CLAV
13. Review of Recommendation 02-21 on chartering issues, and proposal of amendments if appropriate
14. Consideration of necessary actions to implement Rec. 12-07
15. Other matters
16. Adoption of Report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Kaddour, Omar**

Directeur des Pêches Maritime et Océaniques, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Rue des Quatre Canons, Alger

Tel: + 002 1321 433197, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz;kaddour\_omar@yahoo.fr

**BELIZE****Cruz, Felicia**

Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development, Belize Fisheries Depart. P.O. Box 148, Belize City

Tel: + 501 224 4552; Fax: +501 223 2986; E-Mail: feliciacruz@gmail.com

**BRAZIL****Hazin, Fabio H.V. \***

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Rua Desembargador Célio de Castro Montenegro, 32 - Apto 1702, Monteiro Recife Pernambuco

Tel: +55 81 3320 6500, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@depaq.ufrpe.br;fhvhazin@terra.com.br

**Bruning Canton, Leticia**

Assistant at Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, SBS, Quadra 02 Lote 10 Bloco "J", Ed. Carlton Tower - 3º Andar, CEP: 70070-120 Brasilia, DF. Tel: +55 61 2023 3588, Fax: +55 61 2023 3916, E-Mail: leticia.canton@mpa.gov.br

**Camilo, Camila**

Chief of Division of the General Coordination of Planning and Management of Oceanic Industrial Fisheries, Secretariat of Planning and Management of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, SBS, Quadra 02 Lote 10 Bloco "J", Ed. Carlton Tower - 5º Andar, CEP: 70070-120 Brasilia, DF. Tel: +55 61 2023 3389, Fax: +55 61 2023 3907, E-Mail: camila.camilo@mpa.gov.br

**CANADA****Lapointe, Sylvie\***

Associate Director General, International Affairs Directorate, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 200 Kent Street, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: + 1 613 993 6853, Fax: + 1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: sylvie.lapointe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Anderson, Lorraine**

Legal Officer, Oceans and Environmental Law Division, Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development Canada, 125 Sussex, Drive, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0G2

Tel: +1 613 944 0747, Fax: +1 613 992 6483, E-Mail: lorraine.Anderson@international.gc.ca

**MacLean, Allan**

Director General, Conservation & Protection, Fisheries & Oceans Maritimes Region, 200 Kent Street, 13th floor Station, 13 w 116, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 993 1414, Fax: +1 613 941 2718, E-Mail: allan.macleam@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Norton, Brett**

International Fisheries Advisor, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 rue Kent St., Ottawa K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 993 1860, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: Brett.Norton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**CHINA, P.R.****Liu, Xiaobing \***

Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Division of International Cooperation Bureau of Fisheries N° 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing

Tel: +86 10 591 92928, Fax: +86 10 59192951, E-Mail: inter-coop@agri.gov.cn; Xiaobing.Liu@hotmail.com

---

\* Head Delegate.

**Zhang, Yun Bo**

Assistant to Secretary-General, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room 1216, JingChao Mansion, No 5 Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing  
Tel: +86 10 6585 0667, Fax: +86 10 6585 0551, E-Mail: admin@tuna.org.cn

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

**Fofana, Bina**

Sous Directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, BP V19, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**Spezzani, Aronne \***

Head of Sector, Fisheries control in International Waters - DG MARE-B3 J79-2/214, European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: +322 295 9629, Fax: +322 296 3985, E-Mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

**D'Ambrosio, Marco**

European Commission, DG MARE-B1, Rue Joseph II - 99; 03/66, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 299 3765, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marco.DAMBROSIO@ec.europa.eu

**Ansell, Neil**

European Commission, Direction générale des Affaires maritimes et de la Pêche, DG MARE-D2J/99, 6-56 Rue Joseph II, B-1049 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 299 1342, Fax: +32 2 296 5951, E-Mail: neil.ansell@ec.europa.eu

**Barbat, Marie**

Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'aquaculture, 3, Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 1 49 558 285; +33 670 479 224, Fax: E-Mail: Marie.Barbat@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

**Mc Caffrey, Lesley Ann**

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Park Road, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co.Cork, Ireland  
Tel: +353 87 692 4142, Fax: +353 23 885 9720, E-Mail: lesley.mccaffrey@sfpa.ie

**Debieuvre, Marie**

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG MARE B1, Rue Joseph II, 99;03/62, 1049 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 2184, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marie.DEBIEUVRE@ec.europa.eu

**Elices López, Juan Manuel**

Jefe de Sección Técnica, S.G. Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, D.G. Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 144 - 2ª planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 18 82, Fax: +34 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: jmelices@magrama.es

**Kempff, Alexandre**

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Policy development and Co-ordination Fisheries Control Policy, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 7804, Fax: +322 296 2338, E-Mail: alexandre.kempff@ec.europa.eu

**GUINEA, REP.**

**Tall, Hassimiou \***

Directeur National de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Av. De la République, Commune de Kaloum, BP 307, Conakry  
Tel: 00 224 622 09 58 93, Fax: +224 3045 1926, E-Mail: tallhassimiou@yahoo.fr

**JAPAN**

**Miyahara, Masanori \***

Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3591 2045, Fax: +81 3 3502 0571, E-Mail: masanori\_miyahara1@nm.maff.go.jp

**Hiwatari, Kimiyoshi**

International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: E-Mail: kimiyoshi\_hiwatari@nm.maff.go.jp

**Kadowaki, Daisuke**

Assistant Director, Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 1-3-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901  
Tel: +81 3 3501 0532, Fax: +81 3 3501 6006, E-Mail: Kadowaki\_daisuke@meti.go.jp

**Kaneko, Morio**

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: morio\_kaneko@nm.maff.go.jp

**Miura, Nozomu**

Section Chief, International Business and Planning Division, Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Associations 3-22 kudankita 2-Chome, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku  
Tel: +81 3 3264 6167, Fax: +81 3 3234 7455, E-Mail: miura@japantuna.or.jp

**Motooka, Tsunehiko**

International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907, N  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, E-Mail: tsunehiko\_motooka@nm.maff.go.jp

**Ota, Shingo**

Director of Ecosystem Conservation Office, Resources and Environment Research Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 0736, Fax: +81 3 3502 1682, E-Mail: shingo\_ota@nm.maff.go.jp

**Shimizu, Michio**

National Ocean Tuna fishery Association, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81-3-3294-9634, Fax: +81-3-3294-9607, E-Mail: ms-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

**Wada, Masato**

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8204, Fax: +81 3 3591 5824, E-Mail: masato\_wada@nm.maff.go.jp

**KOREA, REP.****Park, Jeong Seok**

Fisheries Negotiator, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Distant Water Fisheries Division, Government Complex Sejong 94, Dason2-Ro, 339-012 Sejong-City  
Tel: +82 44 200 5372, Fax: +82 44 200 5379, E-Mail: jeongseok.korea@gmail.com; icdmomaf@chol.com

**LIBYA****Khattali, Aribi Omar**

General Authority of Marine Wealth, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dahra  
Tel: +218 21 3340932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: Arebi57@gmail.com

**Ettorjmani, Elhadi Mohamed**

General Authority of Marine Wealth, Tech. Cooperation Office, P.O. Box 10765, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 213 340 932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: torgmani\_hadi@yahoo.co.uk

**Al Meghrbi, Aiad Hussen KH**

General Authority of Marine Wealth, Tech. Cooperation Office, P.O. Box 10765, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 213 340 932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: Ayady59@yahoo.com

**MOROCCO****El Ktiri, Taoufik \***

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat  
Tel: +212 5 37 68 81 21, Fax: +212 5 37 68 8089, E-Mail: elktiri@mpm.gov.ma

**Ben Bari, Mohamed**

Chef du Service des inspections et contrôles des navires de Pêche, DPMA, Nouveau Quartier Administratif; BP 476, Haut Agdal

Tel: +212 537 688210, Fax: +212 5 3768 8245, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

**NAMIBIA**

**Bester, Desmond R. \***

Chief Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz

Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: dbester@mfmr.gov.na;desmondbester@yahoo.com

**Johannes, Shimbilinga**

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, P.O. Box 2619, Walvis Bay

Tel: +064 201 6111, Fax: +064 201 6228, E-Mail: jshimbilinga@mfmr.gov.na

**NORWAY**

**Holst, Sigrun M. \***

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, P.O. Box 8118 Dep, 0032 Oslo

Tel: +47 918 98733, Fax: +47 22 24 26 67, E-Mail: sigrun.holst@fkf.dep.no

**Vikanes, Ingrid**

Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, P.O. Box 8118 Dep, 0032 Oslo

Tel: +47 222 46453, Fax: +47 222 49585, E-Mail: ingrid.vikanes@fkf.dep.no

**SENEGAL**

**Faye, Adama**

Direction Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cite Fenetre Mermoz, Dakar, Corniche Ouest

E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

**ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

**Sobodu, Olukemi**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kingstown, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Tel: +1 784 456 2738, E-mail: KemiSobodu@gmail.com

**TUNISIA**

**Hmani, Mohamed**

Directeur de la Conservation des Ressources Halieutiques, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Direction Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis

Tel: +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 892 799, E-Mail: m.hmani09@yahoo.fr

**TURKEY**

**Türkyılmaz, Turgay \***

Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9, km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara

Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr

**Elekon, Hasan Alper**

Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock, General Directorate of Protection & Control, Department of Fisheries, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9, km, Lodumlu, Ankara

Tel: +90 312 417 4176/3013, Fax: +90 312 418 5834, E-Mail: hasanalper@kkgm.gov.tr; hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper@tarim.gov.tr

**UNITED STATES**

**Blankenbeker, Kimberly \***

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

**Smith, Russell**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, Office of the Under Secretary, Room 61013, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20503

Tel: +1 202 482 5682, Fax: +1 202 482 4307, E-Mail: russell.smith@noaa.gov

**Brown, Craig A.**

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149  
Tel: +1 305 361 4590, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: Craig.brown@noaa.gov

**Campbell, Derek**

Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 7837, Washington, DC 20031  
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

**Carlsen, Erika**

Office of International Affairs (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Services, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration 1315 East West Hwy, Room 12606, Silver Spring, Maryland, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8358, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: erika.carlsen@noaa.gov

**Dubois, Todd C.**

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, 8484 Georgia Ave. Suite 415, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 4272300, Fax: +1 301 427 2055, E-Mail: todd.dubois@noaa.gov

**Engelke Ros, Meggan**

Enforcement Attorney, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-15424, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8284, Fax: +1 301 427 2211, E-Mail: meggan.engelke-ros@noaa.gov

**Southward-Hogan, LeAnn**

Fisheries Management Specialist, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-SF1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 713 428503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: LeAnn.Southward-Hogan@noaa.gov

**Kramer, Diana**

United States Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: +202 647 6323, E-Mail: KramerD1@state.gov

**Pearsall, Patrick W.**

United States Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: +1 202 647 0835, Fax: E-Mail: pearsallpw@state.gov

**Walline, Megan J.**

Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC-III, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +301 713 9695, Fax: +1 301 713 0658, E-Mail: megan.walline@noaa.gov

**Warner-Kramer, Deirdre**

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm. 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520-7878  
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@state.gov

***OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES***

**CHINESE TAIPEI**

**Chou, Shih-Chin \***

Section Chief, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, 70-1, Sec. 1 Jinshan S. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6175, Fax: +886 2 3343 6097, E-Mail: shihcin@msl.fa.gov.tw

**Chien, Mu-hsien**

Department of International Organizations, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2528, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: mhchien@mofa.gov.tw

**Hsia, Tsui-Feng**

Specialist, OFDC - Overseas Fisheries Development Council, No. 19, Lane 113, Sec.4 Roosevelt Road, 106 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2738 1522; Ext 111, Fax: +886 2 2738 4329, E-Mail: tracy@ofdc.org.tw

**Hu, Nien-Tsu Alfred**

The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung  
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: omps@faculty.nsysu.edu.tw

**Kao, Shih-Ming**

National Taiwan Ocean University, 2 Pei-Ning Rd., Keelung  
Tel: +886 224 622 192 (Ext. 5030), E-Mail: kaosm@mail.ntou.edu.tw

**Lee, Guann-Der**

Section Chief, Department of International Organizations, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2526, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: gdlee@mofa.gov.tw

**Lin, Yu-Ling Emma**

The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung City  
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: lemma@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

**Pu, Kuo-Ching**

Director, Department of Treaty and Legal Affairs, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd, 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2222, Fax: +886 2 2312 1161, E-Mail: kcpu@mofa.gov.tw

**Wang, Hsin-Chen**

Assistant, Fisheries Agency; Council of Agriculture, No. 70-1, Sec. 1, Jinshan S. Rd., 100 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6055, Fax: +886 2 3343 6097, E-Mail: hsinchen@msl.fa.gov.tw

***OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS***

**International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)**

**Jackson, Susan**

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation - ISSF, 805 15th Street N.W. Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005, United States  
Tel: +1 703 226 8101, Fax: +1 703 226 8100, E-Mail: sjackson@iss-foundation.org

**Restrepo, Victor**

Chair of the ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee, ISS-Foundation, 805 15th Street N.W. Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005, United States  
Tel: + 946 572 555, E-Mail: vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org; vrestrepo@mail.com

**Pew Environment Group**

**Fabra Aguilar, Adriana**

Pew Environment Group, Girona 85, 3, 08009 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel: +34 655 770442, Fax: E-Mail: afabra@yahoo.es; afabra-consultant@pewtrusts.org

**Lieberman, Susan**

Director, International Policy, Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20004, United States  
Tel: +1 202 725 7014, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: slieberman@pewtrusts.org

**Slicer, Natasha**

Pew Environment Group, 282 Sandy Bay Road, 7005 Sandy Bay, Tasmania, Australia  
Tel: 61 3 6224 6224, E-Mail: natasha.slicer@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

***ICCAT SECRETARIAT***

C/ Corazón de María, 8 - 6 Planta, 28002 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: + 34 91 416 5600, Fax: +34 91 415 2612, E-Mail: info@iccat.int

**Meski, Driss**

**de Andrés, Marisa**

**Ochoa de Michelena, Carmen**

**Pinet, Dorothee**

**Seidita, Philomena**

***ICCAT Interpreters***

**Baena Jiménez, Eva J.**

**Faillace, Linda**

**Liberas, Christine**

**Meunier, Isabelle**

**Sánchez del Villar, Lucia**

**Tedjini Roemmele, Claire**

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNAS**

*Proposal by the EU*

*CONSIDERING* that the multi-annual program for the medium-term is intended to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries;

*RECALLING* recommendations released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries carried out in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) ;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that requirements on the recording of the catch and fishing activities in FADs fisheries set out in Recommendation 11-01 don't allow the SCRS to assess properly technical conservation measures, particularly those based on possible spatial and temporal closures,

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

*NOTING* a lack of knowledge of the FAD fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea region and that the SCRS has highlighted the chronic data deficiencies in that region;

*RECALLING* the development of provisions related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

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

1) Paragraph 18 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

18. CPCs shall ensure that all purse-seine and bait-boat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, when fishing in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall collect and report the following information and data in a FAD-logbook:

- a) the date of deployment of FADs,
- b) Any visit on FADs;
- c) For each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, the,
  - i. position,
  - ii. date,
  - iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
  - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD),
  - v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure),
  - vi. type of the visit (deployment, hauling, retrieving, loss, intervention on electronic equipment).
- d) If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive.

In establishing the FAD-logbook, CPCs may use the reporting formats laid down in Annexes I and II.

2) Paragraph 19 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

19. CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) the fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 17 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 18 are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
- b) the Task II data include the information collected from the fishing and FAD logbooks and is submitted on a yearly basis to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS.

- c) the following information is submitted on a yearly basis to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS:
- i. an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with,
  - ii. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon associated to the FAD,
  - iii. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.

19. bis To facilitate the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 19a) above, the Executive Secretary shall design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.

Annex 1

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD and electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD Design characteristics</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>		<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>		
				<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(6)	(7)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD

(2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD

(3) e.g., GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment

(4) e.g., width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.

(5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.

(6) e.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.

(7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>By-catch</i>			<i>Observations</i>	
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>		<i>specimen released alive</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section.
- (3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (4) *i.e.*, deployment, hauling, retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.
- (5) dd/mm/yy
- (6) hh:mm
- (7) °N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.
- (8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons
- (9) Use a line per taxonomic group.
- (10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.
- (11) Unit used.
- (12) Expressed as number of specimen
- (13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3****DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON VESSEL CHARTERING***Submitted by EU*

*RECOGNIZING* that, under the ICCAT Convention, Contracting Parties shall cooperate in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch;

*RECALLING* that, according to Article 92 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of 10 December 1982, ships shall sail under the flag of one State only and shall be subject to its exclusive jurisdiction on the high seas except as otherwise provided in relevant international instruments,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the needs and interests of all States to develop their fishing fleets so as to enable them to fully utilize the fishing opportunities available to them under relevant ICCAT recommendations;

*MINDFUL* that the practice of charter arrangements, whereby fishing vessels do not change their flag, might seriously undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures established by ICCAT unless properly regulated;

*REALIZING* that there is a need for ICCAT to regulate charter arrangements with due regard to all relevant factors;

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

The chartering of fishing vessels, other than bareboat chartering, shall observe the following provisions:

1. Charter arrangements may be allowed, predominantly as an initial step in the fishery development of the chartering nation. The period of the chartering arrangement shall be consistent with the development schedule of the chartering nation.
2. Chartering nations shall be Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention.
3. Fishing vessels to be chartered shall be registered to responsible Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities or by other responsible non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, which explicitly agree to apply ICCAT conservation and management measures and enforce them on their vessels. All flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities concerned shall effectively exercise their duty to control their fishing vessels to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
4. Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall ensure compliance by chartered vessels with relevant conservation and management measures established by ICCAT, in accordance with their rights, obligations and jurisdiction under international law.
5. Catches taken pursuant to the chartering arrangement of vessels that operate under these provisions shall be counted against the quota or fishing possibilities of the chartering Contracting Party.
6. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to ICCAT catches and other information required by SCRS.
7. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and, as appropriate, tools for differentiation of fishing areas, such as fish tags or marks, shall be used, according to the relevant ICCAT measures, for effective fishery management.
8. There shall be observers on board at least 10% of the chartered vessels, or during 10% of the fishing time of the chartered vessels.
9. The chartered vessels shall have a fishing license issued by the chartering nation, and shall not be on the ICCAT IUU list as established by the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [02-23].

10. When operating under charter arrangements, the chartered vessels shall not, to the extent possible, be authorized to use the quota or entitlement of the flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. In no case, shall the vessel be authorized to fish under more than one chartering arrangement at the same time.
11. Unless specifically provided in the chartering arrangement, and consistent with relevant domestic law and regulation, the catches of the chartered vessels shall be unloaded exclusively in the Ports of the chartering Contracting Party or under its direct supervision in order to assure that the activities of the chartered vessels do not undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures. The chartering company must be legally established in the chartering Contracting Party.
12. Any transshipment at sea shall be consistent with the 1997 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [97-11]. Any transshipment at sea shall also be previously and duly authorized by the chartering nation and shall occur only under the supervision of an observer on board.
13. a) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the chartering Contracting Party shall provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
  - i the name (in both native and Latin alphabets) and registration of the chartered vessel;
  - ii the name and address of the owner(s) of the vessel;
  - iii the description of the vessel, including the length, type of vessel and the type of fishing method(s);
  - iv species of fish covered by the charter and quota allocated to the chartering Party;
  - v the duration of the chartering arrangement;
  - vi the consent of the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity; and
  - vii the measures adopted to implement these provisions.
- b) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
  - i its consent to the chartering arrangement; and
  - ii the measures adopted to implement these provisions.
  - iii its agreement to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
- c) Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall inform the Executive Secretary of the termination of the charter;
- d) The Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall circulate all the information without delay to all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.
14. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT by July 31 each year, and for the previous calendar year, the particulars of charter arrangements made and carried out under this recommendation, including information of catches taken and fishing effort deployed by the chartered vessels, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements.
15. Each year the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a summary of all the chartering arrangements to the Commission which, at its annual meeting, shall review compliance with this recommendation.
16. Recommendation [02-21] is repealed and replaced by the present Recommendation.

## Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3

## PORT ENTRY PRIOR NOTIFICATION FORM

Information to be provided in advance by vessels requesting port entry

<b>1. Intended port of call</b>										
<b>2. Port State</b>										
<b>3. Estimated date and time of arrival</b>										
<b>4. Purpose(s)</b>										
<b>5. Port and date of last port call</b>										
<b>6. Name of the vessel</b>										
<b>7. Flag State</b>										
<b>8. Type of vessel</b>										
<b>9. International Radio Call Sign</b>										
<b>10. Vessel contact information</b>										
<b>11. Vessel owner(s)</b>										
<b>12. Certificate of registry ID</b>										
<b>13. IMO ship ID, if available</b>										
<b>14. External ID, if available</b>										
<b>15. ICCAT ID</b>										
<b>16. VMS</b>		No			Yes			Type:		
<b>17. Vessel dimensions</b>		Length			Beam		Draft			
<b>18. Vessel master name and nationality</b>										
<b>19. Relevant fishing authorization(s)</b>										
<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Issued by</i>	<i>Validity</i>	<i>Fishing area(s)</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>					
<b>20. Relevant transshipment authorization(s)</b>										
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>						
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>						
<b>21. Transshipment information concerning donor vessels</b>										
<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>ID</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Product</i>	<i>Catch area</i>	<i>Quantity</i>		
<b>22. Total catch onboard</b>							<b>23. Catch to be landed/transhipped</b>			
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area</i>	<i>Quantity (Kg)</i>				<i>Quantity (Kg)</i>			

**ICCAT Port inspection report form**

<b>1. Inspection report no</b>				<b>2. Port State</b>			
<b>3. Inspecting authority</b>							
<b>4. Name of principal inspector</b>				ID			
<b>5. Port of inspection</b>							
<b>6. Commencement of inspection</b>				YYYY	MM	DD	HH
<b>7. Completion of inspection</b>			YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
<b>8. Advanced notification received</b>				Yes		No	
<b>9. Purpose(s)</b>		LAN	TRX	PRO	OTH (specify)		
<b>10. Port and State and date of last port call</b>					YYYY	MM	DD
<b>11. Vessel name</b>							
<b>12. Flag State</b>							
<b>13. Type of vessel</b>							
<b>14. International Radio Call Sign</b>							
<b>15. Certificate of registry ID</b>							
<b>16. IMO ship ID, if available</b>							
<b>17. External ID , if available</b>							
<b>18. Port of registry</b>							
<b>19. Vessel owner(s)</b>							
<b>20. Vessel beneficial owner(s), if known and different from vessel owner</b>							
<b>21. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner</b>							
<b>22. Vessel master name and nationality</b>							
<b>23. Fishing master name and nationality</b>							
<b>24. Vessel agent</b>							
<b>25. VMS</b>		No	Yes	Type:			
<b>26. Status in ICCAT, including any IUU vessel listing</b>							
Vessel identifier	RFMO	Flag State status	Vessel on authorized vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list			
<b>27. Relevant fishing authorization(s)</b>							
<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Issued by</i>	<i>Validity</i>	<i>Fishing area(s)</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>		
<b>28. Relevant transshipment authorization(s)</b>							
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>			
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>			
<b>29. Transshipment information concerning donor vessels</b>							
<i>Name</i>	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>ID no</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	

<b>30. Evaluation of offloaded catch (quantity)</b>						
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity declared</i>	<i>Quantity offloaded</i>	<i>Difference between quantity declared and quantity determined, if any</i>	
<b>31. Catch retained onboard (quantity)</b>						
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity declared</i>	<i>Quantity retained</i>	<i>Difference between quantity declared and quantity determined, if any</i>	
<b>32. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>33. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>34. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>35. Type of gear used</b>						
<b>36. Gear examined</b>			<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>	
<b>37. Findings by inspector(s)</b>						
<b>38. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)</b>						
<b>39. Comments by the master</b>						
<b>40. Action taken</b>						
<b>41. Master's signature*</b>						
<b>42. Inspector's signature</b>						

\* The Master's signature serves only as acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of the inspection report.

### Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.3

#### DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ACCESS AGREEMENTS

*MINDFUL* of the data reporting requirements for all CPCs and the importance of complete statistical reporting to the work of SCRS and the Commission;

*MINDFUL* of the need to ensure transparency among CPCs in respect of conditions for accessing the waters of coastal States, in particular to facilitate joint efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21] that establishes reporting and other requirements for chartering arrangements;

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in Relation to their Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-12], which requires CPCs to ensure that their vessels do not conduct unauthorized fishing within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, through appropriate cooperation with coastal States concerned, and other relevant means available to the flag CPC;

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) that allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters under their jurisdiction for species managed by ICCAT, and CPCs whose vessels fish in waters under the jurisdiction of another CPC or non-Contracting party (NCP) for species managed by ICCAT pursuant to an agreement, shall, individually or jointly, notify the Commission prior to beginning fishing activities of the existence of such agreements and provide to the Commission information concerning these agreements, including:
  - The CPCs, NCPs, or other entities involved in the agreement;
  - The time period or periods covered by the agreement;
  - The number of vessels and gear types authorized;
  - The stock or species authorized for harvest, including any applicable catch limits;
  - The CPC's quota or catch limit to which the catch will be applied;
  - Monitoring, control, and surveillance measures required by the flag CPC and coastal State involved with, for the coastal State, a particular specification of:
    - i) the National authority (contact coordinates) responsible for issuing fishing licences or permits,
    - ii) the National authority (contact coordinates) responsible for MCS activities.
      - Data reporting obligations stipulated in the agreement, including those between the parties involved, as well as those regarding information that must be provided to the Commission;
      - A copy of the written agreement.
2. For agreements in existence prior to the entry into force of this recommendation, the information specified in paragraph 1 shall be provided in advance of the 2014 Commission meeting.
3. When an access agreement is modified in a manner that changes any of the information specified in paragraph 1, these changes shall be promptly notified to the Commission.
4. Consistent with ICCAT data reporting requirements, flag CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall ensure that all target and incidental catches made pursuant to these agreements are reported to the SCRS.
5. Flag CPCs and coastal CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall provide a summary of the activities carried out pursuant to each agreement, including all catches made pursuant to these agreements, in their annual report to the Commission.
6. In cases where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters under their jurisdiction for species managed by ICCAT through a mechanism other than a CPC-to-CPC or CPC-to-NCP agreement, the coastal CPC shall be solely responsible for providing the information required by this Recommendation. Flag CPCs with vessels involved in such an agreement, however, shall endeavour to provide to the Commission relevant information regarding that agreement as indicated in paragraph 1.
7. The Secretariat shall develop a form for reporting the information specified in this Recommendation and annually compile CPC submissions into a report to be presented to the Commission for consideration at its annual meeting.
8. This recommendation does not apply to chartering arrangements covered by the Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering [Rec. 02-21].
9. All information provided pursuant to this Recommendation shall be consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
10. The Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements [Rec. 11-16] is replaced by this Recommendation.

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.3**

**U.S. working document for Agenda Item 6 on Catch Certification**

Stock	Overfished	Overfishing	Last Assessment	Management Measures	Trade Tracking Program
<b>All Stocks</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VMS for commercial vessels over 24 m LOA (Rec 03-14)</li> <li>- Minimum standards for observer coverage; 5% coverage on purse seine, longline, and bait boats (Rec 10-10)</li> <li>- Minimum Standards for Port Inspection</li> <li>- Ban on landings and transshipments for NCP vessels (Rec 98-11)</li> <li>- At-sea transshipment program (Rec 12-06)</li> <li>- Recording of catch (logbook requirement for commercial vessels over 24 m LOA and comparable data collection systems for sport fishing vessels) (Rec 03-13)</li> <li>- Vessel chartering (with 10% observer coverage requirement) (Rec 02-21)</li> <li>- Vessel sighting and reporting (Res 94-09)</li> <li>- Transshipment and vessel sighting (Rec 97-11)</li> <li>- Flag CPC duties on vessel and fishing authorizations, effective monitoring, control and enforcement, vessel marking, and a record of fishing vessels (Rec 03-12)</li> <li>- Trade Measures Recommendation (Rec 06-13)</li> <li>- Rec to Promote compliance by Nationals of CPCs (Rec 06-14)</li> <li>- Authorized vessel list (Rec 11-12)</li> <li>- Principles of decision-making (Rec 11-13)</li> <li>- Compliance with Statistical Reporting Obligations (Rec 05-09)</li> <li>- Penalties applicable in the case of non-fulfillment of reporting obligations (Rec 11-15)</li> <li>- Bycatch and discard data reporting (Rec 11-10)</li> <li>- Access Agreement reporting (Rec 11-16)</li> <li>- IUU vessel list (Rec 11-18)</li> <li>- Change in registry and flagging (Res. 05-07)</li> </ul>	See species-specific trade tracking program descriptions.

Stock	Overfished	Overfishing	Last Assessment	Management Measures	Trade Tracking Program
<b>Bigeye</b>	No*  B/B <sub>MSY</sub> = 1.01	No*  F/F <sub>MSY</sub> = 0.95	2010	Rec 11-01 specifies: - Annual TAC consistent with SCRS advice; allocations by CPC (major harvesters) with authorized quota transfers; Catch provisions for other harvesters; under-over harvest provisions - Capacity limits for major harvesters - FAD time/area closure - Fishing authorizations; authorized vessel list and active vessels list - Port sampling program for Gulf of Guinea (starting in 2013) - Logbook requirements for purse seine and bait boats 20 m or greater - FAD management plans - VMS requirements - Regional observer program for vessels fishing during FAD closure (starting in 2014).	Bigeye Statistical Document Program established in 2001 to improve the reliability of statistical information on the catches of Atlantic bigeye and to help identify and reduce IUU fishing.  Applies to frozen bigeye only.  All imports of frozen bigeye by CPCs must be accompanied by bigeye statistical document or a re-export certificate.  Biennial reports of imports include ocean area of harvest, flag of harvesting vessel, and point of export for all shipments; product type and weight must also be reported for Atlantic bigeye. Additional information collected on the statistical documents includes description of vessel, month/year of harvest and exporter certification.  Government validation is required. Improperly documented shipments must be suspended or subject to administrative or other sanctions.
<b>Yellowfin</b>	Yes  B/B <sub>msy</sub> = 0.85	No  F/F <sub>msy</sub> = 0.87	2011	Rec. 11-01 specifies: - Annual TAC consistent with SCRS advice - FAD time/area closure - Fishing authorizations; authorized vessel list and active vessels list - Port sampling program for Gulf of Guinea (starting in 2013) - Logbook requirements for purse seine and bait boats 20 m or greater - FAD management plans - VMS requirements - Regional observer program for vessels fishing during FAD closure (starting in 2014).	None

Stock	Overfished	Overfishing	Last Assessment	Management Measures	Trade Tracking Program
<b>Eastern and Western Skipjack</b>	Likely not	Likely not	2008	- No species-specific management measures in place although the stock status of eastern SKJ may benefit from bigeye management measures, particularly the FAD closure.	None
<b>Northern Albacore</b>	Yes	No**	2013**	- Rebuilding plan; Annual TAC with CPC quotas. - Capacity limitation (# of vessels)	None
<b>Southern Albacore</b>	Yes	No**	2013**	- Annual TAC with CPC quotas for major harvesters; Limits on small harvesters; over/under provisions - Semi-annual in-season catch reports - Monthly catch reports when 80% of quota is reached	None
<b>Mediterranean Albacore</b>	Unknown	Unknown	2011	None	None
<b>Eastern Atlantic Bluefin</b>	Yes	Yes	2012	- Annual TAC consistent with SCRS advice; no carryover of underharvests; payback of overharvests - Capacity limits for fishing vessels, farms and traps - Time/area closure - Monthly catch reporting - Central VMS reporting - Transshipment prohibition - Regional observer program for large scale purse seine vessels, and farming operations, with 100% coverage. - National observer coverage on other vessels (20% and 100% depending on gear) and traps (100% during harvest). - Minimum size and small fish tolerances. - No sale provisions for recreationally caught fish. - Logbook requirements - Controls on joint fishing operations - Caging, transferring and farming controls and reporting - Joint at-sea inspection program - Restrictions on landings, trade and other activities under certain circumstances	Bluefin Catch Document Scheme

Stock	Overfished	Overfishing	Last Assessment	Management Measures	Trade Tracking Program
<b>Western Atlantic Bluefin</b>	Yes/No	Yes/No	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual TAC with CPC quotas; limits on carry forward of underharvest; quota payback requirements.</li> <li>- Minimum size and small fish tolerances; no sale provisions.</li> <li>- Time/area closure in the Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>- Transshipment prohibition</li> <li>- Monthly catch reporting</li> </ul>	Bluefin catch document scheme
<b>North Atlantic Swordfish</b>	No	No	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual TAC with CPC quotas; under/overharvest provisions</li> <li>- Minimum size and small fish tolerances.</li> <li>- 8% observer coverage for Japanese fleet.</li> </ul>	<p>Swordfish Statistical Document Program established in 2001 to improve the reliability of statistical information on the catches of Atlantic swordfish and to help identify and reduce IUU fishing.</p> <p>All imports of swordfish by CPCs must be accompanied by swordfish statistical document or a re-export certificate.</p> <p>Biennial reports of imports include ocean area of harvest, flag of harvesting vessel, and point of export for all shipments; product type and weight must also be reported for Atlantic and Mediterranean swordfish. Additional information collected on the statistical documents includes description of vessel, month/year of harvest and exporter certification.</p> <p>Government validation is required. Improperly documented shipments must be suspended <i>or subject to administrative or other sanctions..</i></p>
<b>South Atlantic Swordfish</b>	No	No	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual TAC with country-specific quotas.</li> </ul>	- Same as above
<b>Mediterranean Swordfish</b>	Yes	Yes	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permitting requirements for harpoon and pelagic longline gears.</li> <li>- Closed fishing season</li> <li>- Minimum size and small fish tolerances.</li> <li>- Gear restrictions</li> </ul>	- Same as above

Stock	Overfished	Overfishing	Last Assessment	Management Measures	Trade Tracking Program
<b>Blue Marlin</b>	Yes	Yes	2011	- overall landings limit for stock (2000 mt) - country-specific quotas - Atlantic-wide recreational minimum size - ban on sale of recreationally caught marlins.	None
<b>White Marlin</b>	Yes	Not likely	2012	- overall landings limit for stock (400 mt) - country-specific quotas - Atlantic-wide recreational minimum size - ban on sale of recreationally caught marlins.	None
<b>Western Atlantic Sailfish</b>	Possibly	Possibly	2009	None	None
<b>Eastern Atlantic Sailfish</b>	Likely	Likely	2009	None	None

\* Uncertainty means in the stock assessment results.

\*\* Based on the preliminary results of the 2013 assessment.

#### **4.4 REPORT OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT** (Sapporo, Japan – July 10 to 12, 2013)

##### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Commission, Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegations to the First Meeting of the Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment.

##### **2. Election of Chair**

The Chair of the Commission made reference to his communication circulated by the Secretariat ahead of this meeting and proposed that Mrs. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) be appointed as Chair of the Working Group. This motion was supported by the Working Group.

##### **3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**

At the request of Japan, seconded by other CPCs, the Agenda was modified in order to discuss items listed in Annex I of Recommendation 12-10 before those listed in Annex II. The revised Agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following 21 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, and United States of America. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei that attended the meeting as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.

The following non-governmental organisations were admitted as observers: International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and the Pew Environment Group.

##### **4. Nomination of the Rapporteur**

Mr. Marco D'Ambrosio (EU) was appointed as rapporteur.

##### **5. Process for advancing the Work Plan in accordance with the Terms of Reference**

The Chair recalled the main steps which led to this working group. In particular she mentioned the results of the 2008 Performance Review and, based on that, the creation of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT (WGFI) which met three times, in 2009, 2011 and 2012. Based on the recommendations of that Working Group, the Commission adopted Recommendation 12-10 (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**) at the 2012 Meeting in Agadir, Morocco, detailing the terms of reference and work plan of this Working Group.

The Working Group agreed that CPCs should work to develop and circulate additional proposals and papers related to the issues under agenda items 6 and 7 following the conclusion of this meeting. Consistent with the deadlines established by the Chair of the Commission, any proposals circulated no later than one month before the beginning of the Commission meeting could be considered at the Commission meeting in addition to the results of this Working Group meeting. The Chair encouraged CPCs to submit concrete text proposals in order to begin the drafting exercise in addition to those already submitted.

##### **6. Consideration of proposed amendments to the Convention**

Annex I of Rec. 12-10 lists a number of topics for which CPCs have expressed the need and intention to adopt Convention amendments. In order to facilitate discussion, the United States (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**) the European Union (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**) and Japan (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4**) submitted papers ahead of the meeting outlining their views on the issues to be discussed or suggesting text proposals for the Convention change. Norway also reminded the Group that its paper (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**) submitted for the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT in 2012 was still on the table. Chinese Taipei also presented a statement setting out its views (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.4**).

### ***6.a Scope of the Convention, in particular shark conservation and management***

Discussions on this issue took place also with reference to the papers submitted. There was a general consensus that ICCAT mandate to regulate certain shark fisheries both as a target and non-targeted activity should be clarified. To this extent, it was proposed that such shark species should obtain in the Convention an equal status to that currently granted to tuna and tuna-likes species.

CPCs considered whether to include an exhaustive list of sharks to be regulated. It was noted, on the one hand, that the current Convention does not contain a comparable list of species of tuna and, on the other hand, that such approach may not grant enough flexibility to the Commission to adapt to future unexpected scenarios. In this regard, Brazil suggested including oceanic pelagic and highly migratory sharks, whereas Japan proposed to refer to Annex I, paragraph 16, of UNCLOS. The Working Group agreed that the SCRS could provide advice on this issue.

The Working Group noted the importance of cooperation between ICCAT and those other RFMOs operating in its Convention Area, including NAFO, NEAFC, SEAFO, and GFCM, both to be sure to fill any regulatory gaps and to avoid possible overlaps. On this matter, the Chair of the Commission, Mr. Masanori Miyahara informed the Working Group on the meeting which took place in February in Copenhagen between NEAFC and ICCAT Chairs to discuss ways to improve scientific and management cooperation for sharks. The minutes of that meeting, which had previously been circulated as Circular 3732/13 are annexed to this report (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4**).

Some CPCs noted that cooperation mechanisms between RFMOs are, in principle, foreseen in the Convention but may have to be detailed further for the purpose of regulating sharks.

Some CPCs also recognized the need to clarify the Commission's mandate to cover the management of other highly-migratory fish species.

There was broad support that sharks species found in the EEZ of only one CPC should be excluded from the scope of the Convention. Some CPCs, however, supported ICCAT regulating fisheries on highly migratory sharks that populate the EEZ of more than one ICCAT CPC.

### ***6.b Decision-making processes and procedures***

#### ***6.b.1 Entry in force***

There was general agreement that the current delays of entry into force of measures were long and not flexible enough.

The EU proposed shortening the delay for entry into force from six to three months with the possibility to adopt more flexible periods depending on the degree of complexity of the concerned measure. There was broad support for this as a general approach, though a number of CPCs noted the need to give more consideration to the most appropriate time period and how the concept of flexibility would be included. Some CPCs noted that any provision for flexibility should still establish a firm minimum time for entry into force of measures.

#### ***6.b.2 Voting procedures***

There was general agreement on the EU proposal that the majority should be calculated on the basis of CPCs present and casting affirmative or negative votes to avoid abstentions and absences from having an undue effect on the result. Brazil also suggested that there might be a need to lower the quorum of two thirds currently required to consider a vote valid since it risks hampering the effective decision-making of the Commission (e.g., two-thirds of Contracting Party delegations registered at a given meeting instead of two-thirds of Contracting Parties). However, lowering the quorum did not meet support of other CPCs who felt that the current quorum should be maintained in order to ensure that decisions adopted have the necessary legitimacy and broad support from CPCs. The Working Group discussed possible ways to clarify how such quorum should be calculated, such as the count of the quorum should be based on the Contracting Parties having registered to the meeting or those present at the moment of vote. Some CPCs proposed that the Convention could address this, while others raised other means, including the Rules of Procedure.

Canada made reference to the paper it tabled at the 2012 Working Group and in particular on how quorum is calculated in inter-sessional voting. In particular, it was said that quorum should be calculated counting affirmative, negative votes, as well as abstentions. The mere fact of sending out written requests to Contracting Parties, even if through diplomatic channels, should not be considered as sufficient for Contracting Parties to be included in quorum.

The Working Group generally agreed that the use of voting should remain a last resort measure and that the Commission should rather continue working on the basis of consensus as much as possible. A number of CPCs expressed their willingness to add some language in the Convention to reflect such principle.

#### *6.b.3 Objection procedure*

Extensive discussions took place on the objection procedure. The Working Group agreed that the right to objection should be maintained and that the delays currently applicable should be substantially reduced; there was no agreement on other modalities. The Working Group considered whether the current Convention leaves room for lodging objections to part of a Recommendation or only the whole of it, but there was no agreement on this point.

Additionally, Norway noted the need to amend the current provision that limits the ability to lodge an objection only to members of a given panel. CPCs considered the implications of such a change, but there was no agreement on this point.

There was broad support that objections should only bring effects to the concerned objecting CPCs rather than delaying the entry into force of a Recommendation for the whole Commission.

Several CPCs supported modifying the objection procedure in order to add some new elements which reflect some already established practices in other RFMOs, including the need for an objecting CPC to explain the basis on which an objection is lodged and what alternative measures are taken in order to comply with the objectives of the measure. The Working Group noted that ICCAT adopted Resolution 12-11, which addresses many of these issues. Some CPCs noted that these measures should be given time to work before considering whether additional changes to the Convention were necessary.

#### *6.b.4 Dispute settlement*

There was general support for including some provisions on dispute settlement in the Convention, and the Working Group noted a range of models in other international agreements, with a general preference for a process that was concise and simple. Some CPCs underlined the clear link between the lack of a dispute settlement procedure and the use of the objection procedure.

Based on such discussions, Brazil, Canada, EU, Norway and the United States tabled a proposal (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4**) in order to establish such a mechanism. Although many CPCs noted that they needed more time to consult with their legal experts before considering the proposal in detail, there was broad support that it could form a starting point for discussions. While some CPCs noted that additional specifications on the application of dispute settlement procedures would be useful, several CPCs expressed a preference to have them in the rules of procedure in order to keep the Convention article as concise as possible. One CPC alternatively propose that the related provisions of the FAO Port States Measures Agreement be utilized.

Chinese Taipei noted that the dispute settlement mechanism to be developed should also include Fishing Entities in such mechanism.

#### *6.c Non-party participation*

The Chair recalled that ICCAT was one of the first RFMOs establishing the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in order to enhance the participation of non-members to the work of the Organization. Several CPCs noted the importance of ensuring that all participants in ICCAT fisheries were bound to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures, but that this obligation was closely linked to the ability to fully participate in the decision-making related to these measures.

Many CPCs supported developing a new mechanism to enhance the participation of such Cooperating Parties non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with special focus on Fishing Entities. Although no specific text was submitted, reference was made to existing mechanisms in other RFMOs, such as WCPFC and IATTC and also NPFC and SPRFMO.

Some CPCs noted that the issue required additional time to consider and consult with other parts of their governments. The Working Group agreed to continue discussions on this issue with a view to eventually considering specific text.

The Republic of Guinea informed that at the 19th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Ministers held in Conakry on 20 and 21 December 2012, the sub-regional Commission on fisheries decided to establish and develop cooperation with RFMOs, notably ICCAT.

**6.d Entry into force of Recommendations to which partial objection has been lodged**

This item was discussed under point 6.b.

**6.e Issues from item 7 for which it has been determined that Recommendations cannot address**

Following discussions under agenda item 7, there was no consensus whether to include the Precautionary Approach, ecosystem considerations, capacity building and assistance to developing countries, and transparency in the Convention.

Some CPCs stressed that the issues listed in Annex II of Rec 12-10 are fundamental and ICCAT has already made considerable progress on each. In their view, further action does not necessarily require a change in the Convention, and ICCAT should continue acting through the means which are already available. These CPCs highlighted the long time expected to finalize amendments to the Convention and have them enter into force, and stated that addressing these issues through the Convention would not be a time-effective solution. Furthermore, it was said that all the necessary tools are already there and they simply need to be used.

Other CPCs noted that amending the Convention to reference these issues would not prevent ICCAT from continuing the work done in these fields pending the entry into force of the amended Convention. These CPCs agreed that it was necessary to inscribe such principles in the Convention to solidify the legal basis for the Commission's work. Furthermore, these CPCs noted that inclusion of these sorts of guiding principles in the Convention sent a strong signal of the importance to these issues to ICCAT and its CPCs.

To facilitate these considerations, Brazil, Norway and the United States submitted a document [CONV-013] proposing some wording to be included in the Convention and establishing general guiding principles on most of the issues included in Annex II of Recommendation 12-10 (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.4**).

Some CPCs noted it was premature to consider this document, as priority should be given to the items in Annex 1 of Rec. 12-10 and emphasized their views that it had not been determined that Recommendations cannot address items in Annex II in accordance with the terms of reference adopted at the Commission meeting. At the same time some CPCs also supported this document.

The Chair noted that this agenda item would remain open for future discussions in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

**7. Consideration of issues which may be resolved through the adoption of Recommendations, and review of proposals, as applicable**

Under this agenda point, the Chair reminded the Working Group that the purpose of the discussions was to consider the development of additional measures, such as draft Recommendations, Resolutions, or changes to the Rules of Procedure, for tackling these issues.

In the context of the Precautionary Approach, one CPC highlighted the importance for the Commission to develop clear Harvest Control Rules for the stocks managed by it. There was broad support for the Commission to consider this matter at the upcoming annual meeting.

Canada noted its intention to develop a draft recommendation addressing the implementation of the Precautionary Approach and Ecosystem Approach, and to present this for consideration at the next annual meeting.

On the issue of capacity building and assistance to developing countries, the Working Group noted that efforts should not be limited to assisting developing CPCs to attend ICCAT meetings, but furthermore to enhancing the capacity of developing CPCs to comply with ICCAT measures. The Working Group suggested that it would be useful to have both a mapping and an assessment of all existing ICCAT programs as well, and clear indications where there may be gaps. Morocco also proposed that an audit process be developed to audit the results and efficacy of ICCAT-supported assistance projects.

CPCs discussed the benefits and disadvantages of establishing more structured ways to finance capacity building, rather than relying on ad hoc contributions or the Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat stressed the need to find more structured ways to finance capacity building and assistance in order to avoid budgetary risks that might result in excessive use of the Working Capital Fund. Some CPCs expressed a concern that establishing rigid principles in this sense might become counterproductive since they might dissuade, or even impede, some CPCs from making voluntary contributions.

Several CPCs recalled the lengthy negotiations which led to the development of the ICCAT *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]. CPCs noted that this process had highlighted the difficulty of establishing a specific formula or quantitative weighting of criteria. Several CPCs stated that allocation decisions should continue to be made on a stock-by-stock basis, and application of the allocation criteria was in the end fundamentally a matter of negotiation.

Several CPCs acknowledged the difficulty of including such technical and complex text in the Convention. Some other CPCs recognized the need to address this issue by updating and adopting a Recommendation.

Bearing all the above in mind, there was general agreement that any efforts to address concerns related to the allocation of fishing possibilities should focus on improving transparency and building off of the existing allocation criteria rather than through Convention amendment.

To this end, Turkey and Korea submitted a draft proposal amending the ICCAT *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.4**), as a starting point. There was no consensus on the proposal, but it was agreed that discussions of this issue would continue.

## **8. Other matters**

There were no other matters discussed by the Working Group under this Agenda item.

## **9. Adoption of the report**

The report was adopted at the meeting.

## **10. Adjournment**

The First Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment was adjourned on Friday, 12 July 2013.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4****AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Nomination of rapporteur
5. Process for advancing the Work Plan in accordance with the Terms of Reference
6. Consideration of proposed amendments to the Convention
  - Scope of the Convention, in particular shark conservation and management
  - Decision-making processes and procedures
  - Non-party participation
  - Entry into force of Recommendations to which partial objection has been lodged
  - Issues from item 7 for which it has been determined that recommendations cannot address
7. Consideration of issues which may be resolved through the adoption of Recommendations, and review of proposals, as applicable:
  - Precautionary Approach
  - Ecosystem considerations
  - Capacity building and assistance
  - Allocation of fishing possibilities
  - Transparency
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*****CONTRACTING PARTIES*****ALGERIA****Kaddour, Omar**

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et Océaniques, Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, Rue des Quatre Canons, Alger

Tel: + 002 1321 433197, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz;kaddour\_omar@yahoo.fr

**BELIZE****Cruz, Felicia**

Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development, Belize Fisheries Depart. P.O. Box 148, Belize City

Tel: + 501 224 4552; Fax: +501 223 2986; E-Mail: feliciacruz@gmail.com

**BRAZIL****Hazin, Fabio H.V. \***

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Rua Desembargador Célio de Castro Montenegro, 32 - Apto 1702, Monteiro Recife Pernambuco

Tel: +55 81 3320 6500, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@depaq.ufrpe.br;fhvhazin@terra.com.br

**Bruning Canton, Leticia**

Assistant at Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, SBS, Quadra 02 Lote 10 Bloco "J", Ed. Carlton Tower - 3º Andar, CEP: 70070-120 Brasilia, DF. Tel: +55 61 2023 3588, Fax: +55 61 2023 3916, E-Mail:

leticia.canton@mpa.gov.br

**Camilo, Camila**

Chief of Division of the General Coordination of Planning and Management of Oceanic Industrial Fisheries, Secretariat of Planning and Management of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, SBS, Quadra 02 Lote 10 Bloco "J", Ed. Carlton Tower - 5º Andar, CEP: 70070-120 Brasilia, DF. Tel: +55 61 2023 3389, Fax: +55 61 2023 3907, E-Mail:

camila.camilo@mpa.gov.br

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\* Head Delegate.

**CANADA**

**Lapointe, Sylvie\***

Associate Director General, International Affairs Directorate, Department of Fisheries & Oceans 200 Kent Street,  
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 6853, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: sylvie.lapointe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Anderson, Lorraine**

Legal Officer, Oceans and Environmental Law Division, Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development Canada, 125  
Sussex, Drive, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0G2  
Tel: +1 613 944 0747, Fax: +1 613 992 6483, E-Mail: lorraine.Anderson@international.gc.ca

**Norton, Brett**

International Fisheries Advisor, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 rue Kent St., Ottawa K1A 0E6  
Tel: +1 613 993 1860, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: Brett.Norton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**CHINA, P.R.**

**Liu, Xiaobing \***

Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Division of International Cooperation Bureau of Fisheries N° 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli,  
Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing  
Tel: +86 10 591 92928, Fax: +86 10 59192951, E-Mail: inter-coop@agri.gov.cn; Xiaobing.Liu@hotmail.com

**Liu, Yi**

E-Mail: Liu-Yi@mfa.gov.cn

**Wu, Yueran**

**Zhang, Yun Bo**

Assistant to Secretary-General, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room 1216, JingChao Mansion, No 5  
Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing  
Tel: +86 10 6585 0667, Fax: +86 10 6585 0551, E-Mail: admin@tuna.org.cn

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

**Fofana, Bina**

Sous-directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte  
d'Ivoire, BP V19, Abidjan  
Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**Depypere, Stefaan \***

Director of International Affairs and Markets, European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II-99 03/10,  
1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 299 07 13, Fax: +322 296 59512; E-Mail: steffan.depypere@ec.europa.eu

**D'Ambrosio, Marco**

European Commission, DG MARE-B1, Rue Joseph II - 99; 03/66, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +322 299 3765, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marco.DAMBROSIO@ec.europa.eu

**Barbat, Marie**

Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'aquaculture, 3, Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 1 49 558 285; +33 670 479 224, Fax: E-Mail: Marie.Barbat@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

**Mc Caffrey, Lesley Ann**

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Park Road, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, Ireland  
Tel: +353 87 692 4142, Fax: +353 23 885 9720, E-Mail: lesley.mccaffrey@sfa.ie

**Debieuvre, Marie**

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG MARE B1, Rue Joseph II, 99/03/62, 1049 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Tel: +322 296 2184, Fax: +322 295 5700, E-Mail: Marie.Debieuvre@ec.europa.eu

**Elices López, Juan Manuel**

Jefe de Sección Técnica, S.G. Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, D.G. Recursos Pesqueros y  
Acuicultura, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 144 - 2ª planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 347 18 82, Fax: +34 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: jmelices@magrama.es

**HONDURAS****Suazo Cervantes, José Julián**

Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, Avenida la FAO, Colonia Loma Linda Norte, Contiguo a Injupe Tegucigalpa  
Tel: +504 223 25007; Fax: +504 999 06406; E-Mail: jsuazo25@yahoo.es

**GUINEA, REP.****Tall, Hassimiou \***

Directeur National de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Av. De la République, Commune de Kaloum, BP 307, Conakry  
Tel: 00 224 622 09 58 93, Fax: +224 3045 1926, E-Mail: tallhassimiou@yahoo.fr

**JAPAN****Miyahara, Masanori \***

Deputy Director-General, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3591 2045, Fax: +81 3 3502 0571, E-Mail: masanori\_miyahara1@nm.maff.go.jp

**Hiwatari, Kimiyoshi**

International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, E-Mail: kimiyoshi\_hiwatari@nm.maff.go.jp

**Kaneko, Morio**

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: morio\_kaneko@nm.maff.go.jp

**Kodo, Takeshi**

Assistant Director, Fisheries Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8919  
Tel: +81 3 5501 8338, Fax: +81 3 5501 8332, E-Mail: takeshi.kodo@mofa.go.jp

**Motooka, Tsunehiko**

International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907, N  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, E-Mail: tsunehiko\_motooka@nm.maff.go.jp

**Ota, Shingo**

Director of Ecosystem Conservation Office, Resources and Environment Research Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 0736, Fax: +81 3 3502 1682, E-Mail: shingo\_oota@nm.maff.go.jp

**Shimizu, Michio**

National Ocean Tuna fishery Association, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81-3-3294-9634, Fax: +81-3-3294-9607, E-Mail: ms-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

**Wada, Masato**

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku 100-8907  
Tel: +81 3 3502 8204, Fax: +81 3 3591 5824, E-Mail: masato\_wada@nm.maff.go.jp

**KOREA, REP.****Park, Jeong Seok**

Fisheries Negotiator, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Distant Water Fisheries Division, Government Complex Sejong 94, Dason2-Ro, 339-012 Sejong-City  
Tel: +82 44 200 5372, Fax: +82 44 200 5379, E-Mail: jeongseok.korea@gmail.com; icdmomaf@chol.com

**LIBYA****Khattali, Aribi Omar**

General Authority of Marine Wealth, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dabra  
Tel: +218 21 3340932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: Arebi57@gmail.com

**Ettorjmani, Elhadi Mohamed**

General Authority of Marine Wealth, Tech. Cooperation Office, P.O. Box 10765, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 213 340 932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: torgmani\_hadi@yahoo.co.uk

**Al Meghrbi, Aiad Hussien KH**

General Authority of Marine Wealth, Tech. Cooperation Office, P.O. Box 10765, Tripoli  
Tel: +218 213 340 932, Fax: +218 21 3330666, E-Mail: Ayady59@yahoo.com

**MOROCCO**

**El Ktiri, Taoufik \***

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime. Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat  
Tel: +212 5 37 68 81 21, Fax: +212 5 37 68 8089, E-Mail: elktiri@mpm.gov.ma

**Ben Bari, Mohamed**

Chef du Service des inspections et contrôles des navires de pêche, DPMA, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal  
Tel: +212 537 688210, Fax: +212 5 3768 8245, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

**NAMIBIA**

**Bester, Desmond R. \***

Chief Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz  
Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: dbester@mfmr.gov.na;desmondbester@yahoo.com

**Johannes, Shimbilinga**

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, P.O. Box 2619, Walvis Bay  
Tel: +064 201 6111, Fax: +064 201 6228, E-Mail: jshimbilinga@mfmr.gov.na

**NORWAY**

**Holst, Sigrun M. \***

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, P.O. Box 8118 Dep, 0032 Oslo  
Tel: +47 918 98733, Fax: +47 22 24 26 67, E-Mail: sigrun.holst@fkd.dep.no

**Vikanes, Ingrid**

Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, P.O. Box 8118 Dep, 0032 Oslo  
Tel: +47 222 46453, Fax: +47 222 49585, E-Mail: ingrid.vikanes@fkd.dep.no

**SAO TOME & PRINCIPE**

**Aurélio, José Eva**

Director das Pescas, Direcção das Pescas, C.P. 59, Sao Tomé  
Tel: +239 991 6577, E-Mail: aurelioeva57@yahoo.com.br; dirpesca1@cstome.net

**SENEGAL**

**Faye, Adama**

Direction Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cite Fenêtre Mermoz, Dakar, Corniche Ouest  
E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

**ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

**Sobodu, Olukemi**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kingstown, St. Vincent & the Grenadines  
Tel: +1 784 456 2738, E-mail: KemiSobodu@gmail.com

**TUNISIA**

**Hmani, Mohamed**

Directeur de la Conservation des Ressources Halieutiques, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture. 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis Tel: +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 892 799, E-Mail: m.hmani09@yahoo.fr

**TURKEY**

**Türkyılmaz, Turgay \***

Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9, km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara  
Tel: +90 312 286 4675, Fax: +90 312 286 5123, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr

**Elekon, Hasan Alper**

Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock, General Directorate of Protection & Control, Department of Fisheries, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, Lodumlu, Ankara  
Tel: +90 312 417 4176/3013, Fax: +90 312 418 5834, E-Mail: hasanalper@kkgm.gov.tr; hasanalper@gmail.com;  
hasanalper@tarim.gov.tr

**UNITED STATES**

**Gibbons-Fly, William \***

Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC

**Smith, Russell**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, Office of the Under Secretary, Room 61013, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20503  
Tel: +1 202 482 5682, Fax: +1 202 482 4307, E-Mail: russell.smith@noaa.gov

**Blankenbeker, Kimberly**

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

**Brown, Craig A.**

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149  
Tel: +1 305 361 4590, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: Craig.brown@noaa.gov

**Campbell, Derek**

Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 7837, Washington, DC 20031  
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

**Carlsen, Erika**

Office of International Affairs (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Services, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration 1315 East West Hwy, Room 12606, Silver Spring, Maryland, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 427 8358, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: erika.carlsen@noaa.gov

**Kramer, Diana**

United States Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: +202 647 6323, E-Mail: KramerD1@state.gov

**Pearsall, Patrick W.**

United States Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: +1 202 647 0835, Fax: E-Mail: pearsallpw@state.gov

**Southward-Hogan, LeAnn**

Fisheries Management Specialist, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-SF1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +1 301 713 428503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: LeAnn.Southward-Hogan@noaa.gov

**Walline, Megan J.**

Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC-III, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Tel: +301 713 9695, Fax: +1 301 713 0658, E-Mail: megan.walline@noaa.gov

**Warner-Kramer, Deirdre**

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm. 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520-7878  
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@state.gov

**OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES**

**CHINESE TAIPEI**

**Chou, Shih-Chin \***

Section Chief, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, 70-1, Sec. 1 Jinshan S. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6175, Fax: +886 2 3343 6097, E-Mail: shihcin@msl.f.a.gov.tw

**Chien, Mu-hsien**

Department of International Organizations, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2528, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: mhchien@mofa.gov.tw

**Hsia, Tsui-Feng**

Specialist, OFDC - Overseas Fisheries Development Council, No. 19, Lane 113, Sec.4 Roosevelt Road, 106 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2738 1522; Ext 111, Fax: +886 2 2738 4329, E-Mail: tracy@ofdc.org.tw

**Hu, Nien-Tsu Alfred**

The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung  
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: omps@faculty.nsysu.edu.tw

**Kao, Shih-Ming**

National Taiwan Ocean University, 2 Pei-Ning Rd., Keelung  
Tel: +886 224 622 192 (Ext. 5030), E-Mail: kaosm@mail.ntou.edu.tw

**Lee, Guann-Der**

Section Chief, Department of International Organizations, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2526, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: gdlee@mofa.gov.tw

**Lin, Yu-Ling Emma**

The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung City  
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: lemma@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

**Pu, Kuo-Ching**

Director, Department of Treaty and Legal Affairs, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd, 10048 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 2348 2222, Fax: +886 2 2312 1161, E-Mail: kcpu@mofa.gov.tw

**Wang, Hsin-Chen**

Assistant, Fisheries Agency; Council of Agriculture, No. 70-1, Sec. 1, Jinshan S. Rd., 100 Taipei  
Tel: +886 2 3343 6055, Fax: +886 2 3343 6097, E-Mail: hsinchen@msl.f.a.gov.tw

**OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)**

**Restrepo, Victor**

Chair of the ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee, ISS-Foundation, 805 15th Street N.W. Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005, United States  
Tel: + 946 572 555, E-Mail: vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org; vrestrepo@mail.com

**The PEW Environment Group**

**Lieberman, Susan**

Senior Director, International Policy, Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20004 United States  
Tel: +1 202 725 7014, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: slieberman@pewtrusts.org

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**ICCAT SECRETARIAT**

C/ Corazón de María, 8 - 6 Planta, 28002 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: + 34 91 416 5600, Fax: +34 91 415 2612, E-Mail: info@iccat.int

**Meski, Driss**  
**de Andrés, Marisa**  
**Ochoa de Michelena, Carmen**  
**Pinet, Dorothee**  
**Seidita, Philomena**

**ICCAT Interpreters**  
**Baena Jiménez, Eva J.**  
**Faillace, Linda**  
**Liberas, Christine**  
**Meunier, Isabelle**  
**Sánchez del Villar, Lucia**  
**Tedjini Roemmele, Claire**

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4

12-10TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AMENDMENTS TO THE ICCAT CONVENTION**

*RECALLING* that, further to the 2005 *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 05-10], the Commission should review ICCAT’s conservation and management program and develop a work plan to address the strengthening of the organization;

*RECOGNIZING* the results of the Independent Performance Review of ICCAT;

*RECALLING* the discussions held during the meetings of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 06-18];

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* developments in relevant international fisheries governance since the signature of the Convention;

*FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the outcome of the 2012 meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT acknowledging that to address certain issues, amendments to the ICCAT Convention are necessary;

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

A Working Group is established with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) Develop proposed amendments to the Convention with respect to the items identified in the **Annex 1** and produce draft recommendations or amendments to the Convention, if the draft recommendations cannot address the issue, with respect to the items identified in the **Annex 2**, in order to further strengthen ICCAT to ensure it can fully meet current and future challenges.
- b) In developing proposed amendments and producing draft recommendations, take into account the input of ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs), including proposals considered during the Future of ICCAT Working Group process.
- c) The Working Group will carry out its work in accordance with the following work plan:

<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Meet intersessionally to discuss proposed amendments to the Convention, including draft text, and to produce draft recommendations for their possible adoption at the 2013 Commission meeting.	Meet intersessionally to continue discussion of proposed amendments to the Convention, and develop a consolidated draft of proposed amendments that will serve as a negotiating text for future meeting(s).	Meet intersessionally to finalize, if possible, proposed amendments to the Convention. Present the final proposed Convention amendment text for adoption.

- d) The Working Group should seek to advance issues electronically, where possible.
- e) All CPCs should participate in the Working Group.
- f) Pursuant to Article 13 of the Convention, only Contracting Parties may propose amendments to the Convention and have the decision-making power on the adoption of the amendments to the Convention.
- g) A special Working Group Meeting Fund financed through voluntary contributions and, if necessary, the ICCAT Working Capital Fund is established to assist with the cost of participation of up to two representatives from each of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States.
- h) In carrying out this exercise, principles related to monitoring, control, and surveillance measures (MSC), *force majeure*, and responsible international trade should be duly taken into account.

**(not in priority order)**

Convention scope, in particular shark conservation and management

Decision-making processes and procedures:

- Entry into force provisions for recommendations
- Voting rules/quorum
- Objection procedures
- Dispute resolution

Non-party participation

*Annex 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4*

Precautionary Approach

Ecosystem considerations

Capacity building and assistance

Allocation of fishing possibilities

Transparency

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**

**VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES ON ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE  
ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT**

Mr. Masanori Miyahara, Chairman  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas  
Corazón de María, 8-6<sup>th</sup> floor  
28002 Madrid, Spain

June 27, 2013

Dear Mr. Miyahara:

The United States would like to offer some views in advance of the first meeting of the ICCAT Convention Working Group to be held July 10-12, 2013, in Sapporo, Japan. We hope the views expressed in the attached document will help facilitate discussion on the issues to be discussed by the Working Group.

I would also like to announce that Mr. William Gibbons-Fly, Director, Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State, will lead the U.S. delegation to the Convention Working Group. As U.S. Government Commissioner to ICCAT, I will attend the meeting in Sapporo and will be fully engaged in the Convention amendment process.

The United States looks forward to hearing the views of other ICCAT Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) in advance of and during the Convention Working Group meeting. I ask that this letter and the enclosure be translated and circulated to all CPCs prior to that meeting. I would like to thank other CPCs for considering these views, and invite them to contact me or Mr. Gibbons-Fly with any questions.

Best regards,  
(signed)

Russel F. Smith III  
U.S. Commissioner to ICCAT

Cc: Mr. Driss Meski  
Ms. Deidre Warner-Kramer  
Mr. William Gibbons-Fly

**Enclosure:** Views of the United States on Issues to be considered by the ICCAT Working Group on Convention Amendment

## VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES ON ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT

The United States presents the following views for consideration by the ICCAT Working Group on Convention Amendment in advance of the first meeting of the Working Group, July 10-12 in Sapporo, Japan. This paper builds on many of the concepts and ideas put forward in the paper submitted by the United States to the third session of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT (included as Appendix 4 of the Report of that meeting). As in that paper, these comments focus on key issues of importance to the United States, but are not exhaustive.

The United States looks forward to the upcoming meeting to discuss these and other matters and to working with all delegations to achieve agreement on amendments to the text of the current Convention.

**Scope of the Convention.** A key goal of the Convention Amendment process is to clarify ICCAT's scope and authority to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the "tuna and tuna-like fishes" to which the Convention makes reference. In our view, this scope and authority must be clarified in at least two important ways.

The first is to clarify ICCAT's authority with respect to the management of highly migratory species other than tunas in the Convention Area including, *inter alia*, relevant shark species. The second is to clarify ICCAT's authority with respect to associated and dependent species and species belonging to the same ecosystem as the target stocks in ICCAT-managed fisheries.

In other tuna RFMOs, in particular WCPFC and IATTC, these aspects are addressed through a combination of the articles on "Definitions" and "Functions of the Commission." The current Convention does not have a section on definitions and adding one at this point would be cumbersome and potentially confusing, so we do not advocate this approach. However, we do see merit in the addition of a new article on Functions of the Commission that would spell out ICCAT's mandate with greater detail and clarity. Such articles are commonplace in multilateral fisheries conventions and add clarity to the commissions' mandate and authority on a wide range of issues, including the conservation and management of fish stocks. In the absence of a definition of the fish stocks covered by the Convention, the article on Functions should contain language to clarify the scope of the stocks covered.

**Convention Objective and General Principles.** In addition to a new article on Functions of the Commission, suggested above, the Working Group should consider amendments to clearly articulate the Commission's objective and to outline guiding principles. Most if not all other conventions for highly migratory species and straddling stocks have a separate article or paragraph on the Objective of the Commission in the operative text. All such agreements negotiated since the adoption of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement have articles on General Principles. As a result, we urge the Working Group to consider such articles for inclusion in the Convention text. An article on General Principles should include, *inter alia*, elements such as the adoption of conservation and management measures to achieve maximum sustainable yield (or other appropriate standard); incorporation of the best available science; application of the precautionary approach; incorporation of ecosystem considerations; and other well-accepted tenets of international fisheries management. In addition, it should specify that deliberations of the Commission, including decision making, should be carried out in a fair and transparent manner; and that the work of the Commission should take into account the needs and special circumstances of developing coastal states.

The inclusion of such new articles on Objective, Functions of the Commission, and General Principles would be an effective and efficient way of incorporating these ideas and concepts into the Convention text, as opposed to trying to amend or modify existing articles in ways that would be cumbersome and could leave these concepts unclear or lacking sufficient context.

**Decision-Making and Related Issues.** The issues related to decision-making fall into four general categories: voting rules, objection procedures, timing of entry into force of decisions, and dispute settlement.

*Voting Rules.* Voting rules in the Commission are confusing and often less effective than they could be. For example, although there is a commonly understood interpretation of how Article VIII, paragraph 1 (on the adoption of recommendations) should apply, it is not self-evident, and clarification on the process will help avoid potential conflicts based on differing interpretations. In addition, the requirement that decisions be made by a majority of the members means that both abstentions and absentees effectively count as negative votes. The Working Group should give priority to establishing clear voting rules that promote efficient and effective decision-making in line with established international practice.

In this regard, a first step should be to enshrine the current practice that, whenever possible, decisions are to be taken by consensus. When all efforts to reach a consensus have been exhausted, the Commission may move to a vote.

In voting, decisions of the Commission should be based on the votes of members "present" and casting affirmative or negative votes. Abstentions and absentees should not count automatically as a "No" vote.

The Working Group should also consider whether or not the current thresholds for taking decisions are appropriate. The Convention and Rules of Procedure provide that decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the members of the Commission except as provided in Article VIII, paragraph 1(b)(i) and Article X, paragraph 2(c) of the Convention. In the latter case, decisions on aspects of the budget are adopted by agreement of all Contracting Parties present and voting. In the case of Article VIII, paragraph 1(b)(i), a two-thirds majority of the Commission is required for approval of a recommendation. The distinction in Article VIII with respect to the operative voting threshold, based on whether or not a proposal originates in a panel, is confusing and should be clarified.

An additional question is whether to differentiate between decisions on matters of procedure and decisions on matters of substance. A number of RFMOs make this distinction, often with matters of procedure decided by simple majority and matters of substance decided by super-majority, most often two-thirds or three-fourths. We see merit in introducing this concept into the ICCAT Convention and, more generally, to streamlining and simplifying ICCAT's voting rules to the degree possible.

*Objection Procedures.* The objection procedures contained in Article VIII, paragraph 3, reflect a time when international communications were slow and cumbersome. They should be revised to reflect current standards and practice with respect to both efficiency and transparency of the process. In this regard, revised objection procedures should include a number of key elements.

First, the procedures should establish criteria to serve as the basis for any objection. In particular, objections should focus on situations where a measure discriminates in form or in fact against a member or members of the Commission, or when a measure is inconsistent with customary international law including, where appropriate, as reflected in the Law of Sea Convention, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, or other relevant and accepted international instruments. In such cases, an objecting member should be required to take and report on alternative measures in order to achieve the same or a similar conservation objective.

Second, the objection procedures should not delay the entry into force of Commission measures for members that do not object to the measures. An exception could be made in the case where a number of members object to the same measure, with consideration given to the appropriate threshold and timeframe.

Third, the objection procedures should specify, consistent with the current Convention, that an objection to any Article VIII recommendation is an objection to the measure as a whole. Commission members should not be able to determine which aspects of specific measures they will and will not accept, but must decide whether, on balance, a measure is acceptable or not.

A number of conventions provide useful models for an acceptable objection procedure.

*Entry into Force of Commission Measures.* Article VIII of the Convention specifies that Commission recommendations become effective six months from the date they are transmitted to the members. Here again, this provision reflects a time when communications were much slower and more cumbersome. Reconsideration of the entry into force provisions is needed to allow more timely and effective entry into force of Commission recommendations. Clearly, tuna RFMOs can act to implement measures in less than the six-month period specified in the current Convention. For example, WCPFC, which meets in December, after ICCAT, provides for entry into force of measures 60 days after their adoption. IATTC, which meets in June of the year in which the measures are to become effective, provides 45 days after the transmittal of the measures to the members. Although these timeframes may not be the right ones in the ICCAT context, consideration should be given to improving ICCAT's entry into force provisions. Among other things, the Convention should be clear that the Commission, when adopting any specific recommendation, may specify a time period for entry into force for that recommendation that is either shorter or longer than that the general rule established in the Convention.

*Dispute Settlement.* The Convention currently has no provisions related to the settlement of disputes between members. These should be included in the revised Convention. As a first step, the Convention should establish that members should seek to resolve any disputes between themselves in a peaceful manner of their own choosing. If they are unable to do so, one or both parties to the dispute should be able to avail themselves of other options of either a binding or non-binding nature. A number of useful and well-accepted models exist for this purpose.

**Participation by Fishing Entities** Every RFMO-related convention negotiated since 2000 (including WCPFC, Antigua/IATTC, NPFC, and SPRFMO) has included provisions to ensure full participation by fishing entities as Members of the Commission, including participation in decision-making on conservation and management measures and other matters that affect such fishing entities, such as the budget. Similar provisions must be included in amendments to the Convention both to ensure that fishing entities are afforded full participatory rights, and to

ensure that fishing entities are bound by the decisions of the Commission. As noted above, a number of models have been established to achieve this and the Working Group should decide the preferred model rather than trying to create new or different provisions on this matter.

## Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4

### DRAFTING SUGGESTIONS (Submitted by the European Union)

#### 1. Convention scope

*Objective: - Create consistency between Article IV and Article VIII.  
- Expand the Convention's scope in order to include sharks under the species regulated by ICCAT, be it as targeted or as by-catch species, together with associated species.*

##### Article IV

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna, tuna-like fishes (the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*) and oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory sharks; as well as such other species caught in tuna or shark fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization.

##### Article VIII

1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and associated species defined in Article IV. These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

#### 2. Decision-making

##### a. Voting rules

*Objective: avoid that abstentions are counted as negative votes. This will also require the modification of current rules of procedure concerning the vote by correspondence.*

##### Article III

3. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a majority of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting and casting affirmative or negative votes, each Contracting Party having one vote. Two-thirds of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum except for intersessional vote by correspondence or electronic means. Detailed provisions for the establishment of the quorum are set out in the Rules of Procedure.

##### b. Entry into force of recommendations

*Objective: quicker entry into force coupled with more flexibility depending on the measures concerned.*

##### Article VIII

2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all Contracting Parties three months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties, unless otherwise specified in the recommendation or as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article.

##### c. Objection procedure

*Objective: shorten the delays entailed by the objection procedure*

##### Article VIII

3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) above, or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) or (iii) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional thirty days.

[Two options: specification of acceptable grounds in the Convention or as a Recommendation]

(b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional thirty days period, or within fifteen days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional thirty days, whichever date shall be the later.

(c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.

(d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.

(e) In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of thirty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.

(f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall not become effective for the Contracting Parties that have presented an objection thereto.

(g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting Parties the recommendation shall not become effective.

**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4**

**CONCEPT ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENT  
TO ICCAT CONVENTION ON SHARKS**

*(Submitted by Japan)*

1. In response to the growing international concern on conservation and management of sharks, ICCAT has adopted various kinds of binding conservation and management measures, including prohibition of retention of several sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
2. However, two fundamental questions have arisen in these actions. First, the meaning of “sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” is not necessarily clear. It is clear that a bottom longline fishery targeting demersal fish species is not an ICCAT fishery. However, if fishermen use a pelagic longline targeting sharks, is this an ICCAT fishery? Some people may say that this is not an ICCAT fishery since ICCAT manages tuna and tuna-like species, while some people may say that this is an ICCAT fishery as long as the fishing gear is a pelagic longline, which is highly likely to catch tuna and tuna-like species. A more complicated question is: What if a surface fishery targeting pelagic fish species other than tuna and tuna-like species incidentally takes sharks?
3. Second, fisheries other than ICCAT fisheries also catch the same species subject to the ICCAT measures. Any measure adopted by ICCAT would be ineffective if non-ICCAT fisheries continue to catch the same shark species without having similar measures.
4. Japan supports conservation and management of sharks with a view to utilizing shark resources in a sustainable manner. If ICCAT amends the scope of the Convention, this notion should be incorporated with clear ideas on what shark species and what fishing gears should be actually covered.
5. The first question is what shark species should be covered. ICCAT is an international organization whose actions are based on cooperation among members. Sharks to be covered should be those whose conservation and management requires international cooperation. In this regard, oceanic sharks provided in Annex I (Highly Migratory Species) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (see Attachment) should be included since their conservation and optimum utilization requires cooperation among all the countries including coastal countries and high seas fishing countries as stipulated in Article 64 of UNCLOS.
6. The second question is what fisheries should be covered. ICCAT is basically an organization dealing with pelagic species, and there are other regional fisheries management organizations dealing with bottom fish species such as NAFO, NEAFC and SEAFO. Therefore, Japan would like to propose that any fishing gear other than bottom fishing gears should be covered. The definition of “bottom fishing gears” is “the fishing gear is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations” taken from paragraph 8 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

7. The third question is how to enhance cooperation with other relevant international organizations for conservation and management of sharks identified in paragraph 5 and 6 above. Japan considers that Article 11.2 has already addressed this issue and therefore no amendment to the Convention is necessary.

*Addendum to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4*

Paragraph 16 of Annex I (Highly Migratory Species) of UNCLOS is:

Oceanic sharks: *Hexanchus griseus*; *Cetorhinus maximus*; Family *Alopiidae*; *Rhincodon typus*; Family *Carcharhinidae*; Family *Sphyrnidae*; Family *Isurida* (Note: Family *Isurida* is now Family *Lamnidae*).

Out of the sharks included in Annex I of UNCLOS, the following species are found in the ICCAT Convention area and have ICCAT Species codes.

<i>Family</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>English Name</i>	<i>ICCAT Species Code</i>
	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	Bluntnose Sixgill shark	SBL
	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	BSK
Alopiidae	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Thresher shark	ALV
	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic thresher shark	PTH
	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye thresher shark	BTH
	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale shark	RHN
Carcharhinidae	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark	BSH
	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	Sand tiger shark	CCT
	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Sandbar shark	CCP
	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Blacktip shark	CCL
	<i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i>	Blacknose shark	CCN
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	OCS
	<i>Carcharhinus porosus</i>	Smalltail shark	CCR
	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky shark	DUS
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky shark	FAL
	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	Bull shark	CCE
	<i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i>	Silvertip shark	ALS
	<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>	Copper shark	BRO
	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>	Spinner shark	CCB
	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>	Night shark	CCS
	<i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>	Finetooth shark	CCO
	<i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>	Bignose shark	CCA
	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Tiger shark	TIG
	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>	Lemon shark	NGB
	<i>Rhizoprionodon terraenovae</i>	Atlantic sharpnose shark	RHT
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth hammerhead	SPZ
	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead	SPL
	<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>	Bonnethead	SPJ
	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead	SPK
Lamnidae	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako	SMA
	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin mako	LMA
	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	POR
	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark	WSH

The following sharks are included in Annex I of UNCLOS and found in the Convention area but have no ICCAT Species Code.

<i>Family</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>English Name</i>
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus amboinensis</i>	Pigeys shark
	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	Galapagos shark
	<i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>	Caribbean reef shark
	<i>Rhizoprionodon acutus</i>	Milk shark
	<i>Rhizoprionodon lalandii</i>	Brazilian sharpnose shark
	<i>Rhizoprionodon porosus</i>	Caribbean sharpnose shark
	<i>Isogomphodon oxyrinchus</i>	Daggernose shark

**ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT THE WORKING GROUP  
ON THE FUTURE OF ICCAT**

*(Submitted by Norway)*

In response to ICCAT Circular #5000/2011, requesting CPCs to indicate which issues they intend to work on in 2012 in the framework of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, Norway informed by letter of 19 December 2011 that we would like to address the following issues:

- Application of Ecosystem Considerations and reference to the Precautionary Approach in the ICCAT Convention
- Amendments to the Objection Procedures and application of Provisions on Transparency in the decision-making process.

According to Resolution 11-25, Annex 1 paragraph 3, CPCs should, at least 45 days in advance of the meeting of the WGFI, submit to the Secretariat proposals addressing:

- Objectives and desired outcomes of a proposed initiative to address a particular priority issue;
- Mechanisms envisaged for the proposed initiative (modifying Basic Texts, decisions of the Commission or both),
- Potential legal, management and policy implications associated with the proposal; and
- Possible drafting suggestions for eventual amendments to Basic Texts or for decisions of the Commission, as appropriate.

In line with this, Norway would propose the following:

***Precautionary Approach***

Some provisions of the ICCAT Convention might be considered to touch upon elements of the precautionary approach, and this principle has increasingly been reflected in ICCAT conservation and management measures. Nevertheless, it is fundamental that the precautionary approach is applied throughout the work of ICCAT. To ensure compliance with relevant international rules, an obligation to apply the precautionary approach should be explicitly expressed in the Convention. Norway would therefore propose to include in Article VIII.1 (a) an obligation for the ICCAT Commission to apply the precautionary approach as a basic principle for recommendations pertaining to conservation and management.

Proposed amendments to Article VIII.1 (a) (i):

*Article VIII*

*1.(a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield. When making such recommendations the Commission shall, in accordance with relevant international instruments:*

*(i) apply the precautionary approach;*

Article VIII in its entirety, with all amendments proposed is to be found below.

***Ecosystem considerations***

In recent years ICCAT has adopted a wide variety of measures which takes into account the impact of ICCAT fisheries on ecosystems. According to the Convention, the mandate of ICCAT is to cooperate to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes. Article IV.1 of the Convention tasks the Commission with the study of these fish as well as “such other species of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization”. There is, however, no explicit link between these studies and the adoption of recommendations under Article VIII. Furthermore, there are no other specific provisions in the ICCAT Convention relating to ecosystem considerations. Hence, it should be clearly expressed in the Convention that recommendations shall be based on ecosystem considerations. Norway therefore suggests that this be reflected in general terms in the Convention as follows:

*Article VIII*

*1.(a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield. When making such recommendations the Commission shall, in accordance with relevant international instruments:*

(i) apply the precautionary approach;

(ii) take ecosystem considerations;

(iii) take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.

Article VIII in its entirety, with all amendments proposed is to be found below.

In addition, to the amendments above, it would be appropriate to add an Article to the Convention stating the objective of the Convention. Norway would propose a new Article II as follows:

Article II

The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area and, in doing so, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found.

**Objection procedures**

All ICCAT Recommendations are binding for all ICCAT CPCs. However, Article VIII.3 of the ICCAT Convention grants all Contracting Parties the right to object to a recommendation before its entry into force, with the exception of objections to recommendations that originated within a Panel. Such objections may only be lodged by the members of that Panel, or by other non-Panel members if a member of the relevant Panel has lodged an objection, c.f. Article VIII.3 (a) and VIII.1 b) (ii) and (iii). This means that CPCs have to be members of all Panels in order to ensure the right to object to all recommendations. However, all Panels may propose recommendations of principle nature which may have bearings on CPCs not member of the relevant Panel. Becoming member of all Panels could represent an economic obstacle. Hence, these objection procedures could be perceived as discriminatory.

The right to object is of fundamental importance and in order to allow all Contracting Parties to object to recommendations, including those originating within a Panel to which it is not a member, the Convention should be amended accordingly.

It might be argued that such an amendment could lead to an increase in the number of objections. This could be avoided by introducing requirements for Contracting Parties to specify the reasons for their objections.

The right to object is already explicitly set out in the Convention. Hence, amendments to the objection procedures can only be accomplished by amending Article VIII.3.

Amendments to the objection procedures must also be seen in connection with the rules regarding entry into force of recommendations. These rules need to be amended to shorten the period for entry into force.

Proposal for amendments to Article VIII.3 (a):

*3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1 ~~(b)(i) above or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) or (iii) above~~ presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six~~ XX months period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional ~~sixty~~ XX days.*

Article VIII in its entirety, with all amendments proposed is to be found below.

**Transparency**

The ICCAT Convention does not include any provisions requiring transparency in the Commissions decision-making processes. There are, however, some requirements in Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, and policies have been instituted to improve the ability of CPCs to undertake a timely review of proposals.

Lack of transparency within the Commission in its decision-making processes has represented a problem in ICCAT. Late distribution of documents and incomplete explanation of proposed recommendations are important parts of this problem. In order to ensure transparency in the decision-making processes it is necessary to amend the Convention accordingly. Such an amendment could be implemented in form of a new Article VIII bis or possibly by a preambular provision.

Proposal for a new Article VIII bis or a new preambular provision:

The Commission shall promote transparency in the implementation of this Convention, in its decision-making processes and in other activities.

### ***Drafting suggestions***

#### *– Article II*

*The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area and, in doing so, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found.*

#### *– Article VIII*

*1.(a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield. When making such recommendations the Commission shall in particular:*

*(i) apply the precautionary approach;*

*(ii) take ecosystem considerations;*

*(iii) take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.*

*These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.*

*(b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:*

*(i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established or with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the Contracting Parties if an appropriate Panel has been established;*

*(ii) on the proposal of an appropriate Panel if such a Panel has been established;*

*(iii) on the proposal of the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.*

*2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all Contracting Parties ~~six~~ XX months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties, except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article.*

*3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) above ~~or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) above,~~ presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six~~ XX months period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional ~~sixty~~ XX days.*

*(b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional ~~sixty~~ XX days period, or within ~~forty-five~~ XX days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional ~~sixty~~ XX days, whichever date shall be the later.*

*(c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.*

*(d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.*

*(e) In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of ~~sixty~~ XX days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.*

*(f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the Contracting Parties that have not presented an objection thereto.*

*(g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting Parties the recommendation shall not become effective.*

*4. Any Contracting Party objecting to a recommendation may at any time withdraw that objection, and the recommendation shall become effective with respect to such Contracting Party immediately if the recommendation is already in effect, or at such time as it may become effective under the terms of this Article.*

*5. The Commission shall notify each Contracting Party immediately upon receipt of each objection and of each withdrawal of an objection, and of the entry into force of any recommendation.*

– Article VIII bis or preambular provision

The Commission shall promote transparency in the implementation of this Convention, in its decision-making processes and in other activities.

## Appendix 8

### OVERVIEW OF NEAFC AND ICCAT MANAGEMENT MEASURES REGARDING SHARKS

*(A joint note by the NEAFC and ICCAT Secretariats)*

#### Introduction and background

The President of NEAFC, Johán H. Williams, Norway, and the Chair of ICCAT, Masanori Miyahara, Japan, met in February 2013 to discuss the issue of shark management. The background to the meeting, which was initiated by the President of NEAFC, is that both NEAFC and ICCAT set management measures for sharks, and there is a need to ensure compatibility between those measures. The intention was to use this meeting to initiate a dialogue between the two organisations on this issue.

There was agreement on the need to ensure compatibility and to avoid a situation where measures adopted by one organisation undermine the measures adopted by the other. Further cooperation between the organisations should be encouraged in this context.

It was agreed that ICES, which is NEAFC's scientific adviser and cooperates with the SCRS, scientific committee of ICCAT, should be contacted in an effort to gather the already available information on the areas of distribution of relevant shark species, and their migratory nature. NEAFC undertook to be in contact with ICES in this context, and inform ICCAT of any outcome.

The Secretaries of the two organisations, who were present at the meeting, were also asked to formulate a joint document explaining the management measures adopted by the two organisations regarding sharks. The purpose of this document would be to provide an overview over what NEAFC and ICCAT are doing in the context of management measures regarding sharks, and thereby clarifying the current situation for the respective Contracting Parties.

#### NEAFC management measures regarding sharks

The NEAFC Convention defines the fishery resources that NEAFC deals with as “fish, molluscs, crustaceans and including sedentary species, excluding, in so far as they are dealt with by other international agreements, highly migratory species listed in Annex I of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, and anadromous stocks”.

The management measures adopted by NEAFC are primarily measures prohibiting fisheries directed at specific shark species. A total of 17 deep-sea shark species and 3 other species, basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) and porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), are covered by this prohibition. For basking shark, the prohibition applies to the whole NEAFC Convention Area, but for all the other species it is limited to the NEAFC Regulatory Area (i.e. the high seas).

ICES started in 2012 applying a new approach to producing advice for data limited stocks, which has resulted in quantitative advice to NEAFC on a much higher number of deep-sea fish stocks than before. ICES and NEAFC are cooperating in ensuring that this new approach is as usable as possible for management purposes. It is possible that in the near future, NEAFC will with the application of this new approach get quantitative advice from ICES for more individual stocks of deep-sea sharks, and this would possibly result in NEAFC reassessing its management measures for deep-sea sharks.

NEAFC already has experience of setting management measures for fish stocks in cooperation with another regional fisheries management organisation. A stock of pelagic redfish occurs within the Convention Areas of both NEAFC and NAFO, and both organisations set management measures for the stock. In practice, NAFO has set measures with a direct reference to the measures that are set by NEAFC.

## ICCAT management measures regarding sharks

The Convention area of ICCAT is the entire Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, and its Parties involve almost all the coastal states and fishing states of the Convention area. The ICCAT Convention predates the UN conference that formulated the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and therefore does not contain any references to that Convention and does not have consistency with it in the use of terms. The ICCAT Convention applies to “tuna and tuna-like species” but does not explicitly refer to “highly migratory species”. In the context of scientific and statistical study, the ICCAT Convention states that the species to be considered are “tuna and tuna-like fishes (the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*) and such other species of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization.” A process has been initiated to review the ICCAT Convention, which starts this year and is expected to last for 4-5 years.

The current ICCAT measures apply to bycatches of specific shark species to the extent they are taken in fishing for tuna and tuna-like species. ICCAT has a dedicated species group on sharks which was created in 1995. Since then, the statistics of sharks are included in the ICCAT general statistics request (Task I and Task II). In addition, ICCAT has conducted stock assessments of Atlantic blue shark and shortfin mako as well as a joint ICCAT-ICES stock assessment of porbeagle. In 2012 a level-3 quantitative ecological risk assessment (ERA) was conducted. This expanded and updated a previous ERA conducted in 2008. The new ERA was conducted on sixteen species (15 sharks and 1 ray) or 20 stocks of pelagic elasmobranchs to assess their vulnerability to pelagic longline fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean in 2012. In 2013, the shark species group also elaborated a Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) focused on the reduction of the main sources of uncertainty in the formulation of scientific advice including the improvement of data collection and reporting procedures for shark species impacted on by ICCAT fisheries.

The current ICCAT measures relate to the prohibition of retaining on board fishing vessels bycatches of bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*), oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), hammerhead (family *sphyrnidae*) and silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*). In all cases, there are some exceptions to the prohibition. Furthermore, there are measures to lower the fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). Finally, there are measures on the reporting of catches of various shark species and on submitting to the ICCAT Secretariat in advance of the 2013 annual meeting details of implementation of and compliance with ICCAT’s shark conservation and management measures.

### Lists of NEAFC and ICCAT Recommendations regarding sharks

#### NEAFC

**Recommendation 7:2013** on conservation and management measures for deep-sea sharks in the NEAFC Regulatory Area from 2013 ([http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec7\\_Deep-sea\\_sharks\\_eudoc.pdf](http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec7_Deep-sea_sharks_eudoc.pdf)).

**Recommendation 4:2012** on conservation and management measures for basking shark (*cetorhinus maximus*) in the NEAFC Convention Area from 2012 to 2014 ([http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec\\_4\\_Recommendation\\_basking\\_shark-rev1.pdf](http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec_4_Recommendation_basking_shark-rev1.pdf)).

**Recommendation 5:2012** on conservation and management measures for spurdog (*squalus acanthias*) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area from 2012 to 2014 ([http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec\\_5\\_Recommendation\\_spurdog.pdf](http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec_5_Recommendation_spurdog.pdf)).

**Recommendation 6:2012** on conservation and management measures for porbeagle (*lamna nasus*) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area from 2012 to 2014 ([http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec\\_6\\_Recommendation\\_porbeagle.pdf](http://neafo.org/system/files/Rec_6_Recommendation_porbeagle.pdf)).

**Recommendation** from 2006 on prohibiting shark finning from 2007.

#### ICCAT

**Recommendation 12-05** on Compliance with existing measures on shark conservation and management (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2012-05-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 11-08** on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2011-08-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 10-08** on hammerhead sharks (family *sphyrnidae*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2010-08-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 10-07** on the conservation of oceanic whitetip shark caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2010-07-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 10-06** on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2010-06-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 09-07** on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2009-07-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 07-06**, a supplemental Recommendation concerning sharks (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2007-06-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 06-10**, a supplemental Recommendation concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2006-10-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 05-05** to amend Recommendation [REC. 04-10] concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2005-05-e.pdf>).

**Recommendation 04-10** concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT (<http://iccat.es/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2004-10-e.pdf>).

#### Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4

### PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

*(Proposal of Canada, Brazil, European Union, Norway, United States)*

1. Members of the Commission shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes and shall consult among themselves in order to settle disputes by amicable means.
2. In any case where a dispute is not resolved through the means set out in paragraph 1, the provisions relating to the settlement of disputes set out in Part VIII of the 1995 Agreement shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to any dispute between the members of the Commission, whether or not they are also Parties to the 1995 Agreement. [Source: *SPRFMO, WCPFC*]
3. Paragraph 2 shall not affect the status of any member of the Commission in relation to the 1995 Agreement or the 1982 Convention. [Source: *SPRFMO*]

#### Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.4

### VIEWS OF CHINESE TAIPEI CONCERNING POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE ICCAT CONVENTION AMENDMENT AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT

At the very outset of the journey that this Working Group is going to take for the amendment of ICCAT Convention, we would like to share some views on the possible approaches to the ICCAT Convention amendment with other CPCs.

First, if the spirit and letters of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement can be seen as a modern, comprehensive fisheries conservation and management paradigm and, can be broadly or generally accepted by all CPCs here in the ICCAT family, then it could well serve as a benchmark for the development of possible amendments to the Convention. Furthermore, while the Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the Terms of Reference of this Working Group already specified the scope of issues that would be addressed in the Working Group for the development of proposed amendments to the Convention, we still hold the view that an open-minded approach should be taken in facing the issues emerging during this consultation process so that we could obtain a more comprehensive and effective Convention at the end.

Second, amending an existing multilateral international convention is a matter of “once in a life or career life time.” We, the family of ICCAT, should take this opportunity to achieve a well-structured, well-spelled out amended Convention that will not let us feel regretful at a later time. Thus, we should “aim high” but, at the same time, find solutions or compromises that are legally sound, practically feasible and politically acceptable to every one of us. In this process, no CPCs should be discriminated in form and in fact, and the end product should be inclusive in its nature.

Third, some RFMOs' constitutive agreements have been either newly concluded or substantively amended within last 15 years. Some are made for the conservation and management of highly migratory species, and some for non-highly migratory and bottom fisheries. They may serve as existing "models" for our reference. However, our view is that we here at the ICCAT should seek for the "best practices," or a set of "best practices," rather than certain "models" in our pursuit for a modernized ICCAT Convention. In other words, the amended ICCAT Convention should reflect and contain the "best practices" of modern fisheries conservation and management regime.

At this juncture, we would like to recall what we once said in the opening statement at the second meeting of the Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, or the MHLC2 meeting, held at Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in 1997, that "[a]s an active fishing nation in the region, we see ourselves as a constructive force in the formulation of any possible regional arrangement which satisfies the mutual interests of both coastal and fishing nations. We intend to collaborate with all parties concerned on a basis of equality, full participation and full membership to work out a regional arrangement which reflects and embodies the spirit and letter of the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention and the 1995 UNIA."

As what we said before in another forum, we intend to collaborate with all the CPCs here in ICCAT to pursue for an effective and efficient amended ICCAT Convention which will be in line with the modern ethos, principles, and practices of international fisheries conservation and management regimes in international (fisheries) law.

**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.4**

**TEXT OF POSSIBLE NEW CONVENTION ARTICLE  
ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

*(Submitted by Brazil, Norway and United States)*

Draft text for possible inclusion in a new Convention Article on general principles.

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under the Convention, shall act to:

- a. apply the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards and recommended practices and procedures;
- b. use the best scientific evidence available;
- c. protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- d. consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks within the Convention area;
- e. promote transparency in decision making processes and other activities; and
- f. give due regard to the circumstances and requirements of developing Members of the Commission.

**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.4**

**PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ICCAT CRITERIA  
FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES [Ref. 01-25]**

*(Proposed by Korea and Turkey)*

It is proposed that paragraph 19 of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] be amended as follows:

"19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants. The allocation of fishing possibilities shall take into account the criteria listed under Title III of this reference. For that purpose, Panels shall endeavor to develop and use indicators that quantify each of the allocation criteria on a stock by stock basis."

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2013**

13-01

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION  
ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNAS**

*CONSIDERING* that the multi-annual program for the medium-term is intended to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries;

*RECALLING* recommendations released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);

*REMINDING* that in its 2013 report, SCRS also stated the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, has brought about an increase in skipjack tuna catchability and may also have an impact of the biology of skipjack tuna;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that requirements on the recording of the catch and fishing activities in FADs fisheries set out in Recommendation 11-01 do not allow the SCRS to assess properly technical conservation measures, particularly those based on possible spatial and temporal closures;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

*NOTING* a lack of knowledge of the FAD fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea region and that the SCRS has highlighted the chronic data deficiencies in that region;

*FURTHER NOTING* that in its 2013 report, SCRS stated that the effect of FADs on both sea-turtle and shark by-catch was also acknowledged. The SCRS also recognized the need to provide advice on the design of FADs that would lessen their impact on by-catch species. Therefore, information on dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure should be provided. More particularly the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure should be reported.

*RECALLING* the development of provisions related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

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

1) Paragraph 18 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

18. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data :

- a) Deployment of any FAD
  - i. Position
  - ii. Date
  - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
  - iv. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID)
  - v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

- b) Visit on any FAD
  - i. Type of the visit (hauling, retrieving, intervention on electronic equipment)
  - ii. Position
  - iii. Date
  - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
  - v. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
  - vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive.
- c) Loss of any FAD
  - i. Last registered position
  - ii. Date of the last registered position
  - iii. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to under paragraphs 18(a), 18(b) and 18(c) and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs may use possible templates laid down in Annexes I and II as reporting formats. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats.

2) Paragraph 19 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

19. CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 17 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 18, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
- b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS.
- c) The following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS:
  - i. an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with,
  - ii. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon associated to the FAD,
  - iii. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.

19. bis To facilitate the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 19a) above, the Executive Secretary shall design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.

- 3) When implementing provisions laid down in Recommendation [11-01], CPCs should promote FADs whose design can reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species.
- 4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, developing CPCs may defer the implementation of the above paragraphs 1) and 2) to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 provided that they collaborate with the Executive Secretary.

## Annex 1

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD &amp; electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD Design characteristics</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>		<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>		
				<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(6)	(7)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.

(2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(3) e.g., GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.

(4) e.g., width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.

(5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.

(6) e.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.

(7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>By-catch</i>			<i>Observations</i>	
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>		<i>Specimen released alive</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1, 2) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section

(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(4) *i.e.*, deployment, hauling, retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.

(5) dd/mm/yy

(6) hh:mm

(7) °N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

(10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen

(13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

13-02

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*RECALLING* the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02], the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 10-02] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 11-02];

*CONSIDERING* that following the 2013 stock assessment, the SCRS indicates that the stock is currently not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring;

*NOTING* that Recommendation [11-02] requests the Commission to establish at its 2013 meeting conservation and management measures for a next three-year period on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment as well as the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Rec. 01-25].

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the concern of the SCRS that the allowable country-specific catch levels agreed in [Rec. 11-02] exceed the TAC adopted by the Commission and the scientific recommendation;

*DETERMINED* to ensure that the total catch for any one year during the management period does not exceed the TAC of 13,700 t;

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

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take measures to ensure the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish with the goal of maintaining  $B_{MSY}$ , with greater than 50% probability.
2. TAC and catch limits
  - a) A total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,700 t for North Atlantic swordfish for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
  - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the three-year period.

	<i>Catch limit** (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	75
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Philippines	25
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

\* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02].

\*\* The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

- From Japan to Morocco: 50 t
- From Japan to Canada: 35 t
- From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) : 40 t
- From Senegal to Canada: 125 t
- From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t
- From Philippines to China: 25t
- From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t
- From Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States to Mauritania: 25 t. each for a total of 100 t per year

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

\*\*\* Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit

- c) The total TACs for 2014-2016 shall not be exceeded. For this purpose, if the total annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,700 t, CPCs who have exceeded their individual adjusted catch limits shall pay back their overharvest. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limits of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table in 2.b) above.
3. The Commission shall establish at its 2016 meeting conservation and management measures for a next three-year period on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment as well as the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs in 2014, 2015 and 2016 so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures in 2016, as appropriate. Each CPC shall submit its development or fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15 of each year.
  4. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2016, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of  $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$  or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.
  5. The SCRS and the Commission shall begin a dialogue to allow for the development of harvest control rules (HCRs) for consideration in any subsequent recommendations. Further, while the HCRs are being developed, should the biomass approach the level which triggered the establishment of the previous rebuilding plan [Rec 99-02] then management measures should be considered to avoid further decline and begin to rebuild the stock.
  6. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of the initial catch limit for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 50% for other CPCs. By derogation, the maximum underage in 2013 that a Party may carryover until 2015 shall not exceed 25% of the initial catch limit for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t.

7. If Japan's landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the three-year period commencing in 2014. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same three-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2011-2013 management period shall be applied to the three-year management period specified herein.
8. All CPCs catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.
9. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
10. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 9, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/ 125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.
11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual individual catch limits established above, the CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each CPC.
12. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation of North Atlantic swordfish, as per section 2 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligation and conservation considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limits transfer may not retransfer that catch limits.
13. This *Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 11-02].

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON  
SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH CATCH LIMITS**

*CONSIDERING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that substantial unquantified uncertainties affect this stock, in particular due to lack or inconsistencies of available data;

*CONSCIOUS* that the SCRS underlined that due to the existing uncertainties there is no room to increase the existing TAC;

*RECOGNIZING* that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25], adopted by the Commission in 2001, for the period concerned;

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

1. For 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

(Unit: t)

TAC <sup>(1)</sup>	15,000
Brazil <sup>(2)</sup>	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	263
Chinese Taipei <sup>(3)</sup>	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan <sup>(3)</sup>	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tome & Principe	100
Senegal	417
Philippines	50
Korea	50
Belize	125

- (1) The total catch for the three-year management period of 2014-2016 shall not exceed 45,000 t (15,000 t x 3). If the yearly total catch of any of the three years exceeds 15,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the three-year total will not exceed 45,000 t. If the total catch in 2016 exceeds 15,000 t and if the three-year total catch exceeds 45,000 t, the exceeded amount for three years shall be adjusted in the next management period. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorate reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).
- (2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.
- (3) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2013 may be carried over to 2015 up to 800 t, 100 t and 400 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2014-2016 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

2. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for South Atlantic swordfish:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 30% of the quota of previous year. By derogation, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in 2015 shall not exceed 50% of the quota in 2013.

3. Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
4. The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the North Atlantic management area against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
5. The 50 t quota transfers from South Africa, Japan and United States to Namibia (total: 150 t), the 25 t quota transfers from United States to Côte d'Ivoire, the 25 t quota transfer from United States and the 50 t quota transfers from Brazil and Uruguay to Belize (total: 125 t) shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.
6. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.
7. CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2012, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible, and not later than one month before the SCRS meeting. From 2013 onwards, CPCs will ensure accurate and timely data submission.
8. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits* [Rec. 12-01] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR  
MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ICCAT**

*NOTING* that the SCRS in its assessment in 2007, as reaffirmed in its 2009 advice, estimated that fish less than three years old usually represent 50-70% of the total yearly catches in terms of numbers and 20-35% in terms of weight and indicates that a reduction in the volume of juvenile catches would improve yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit levels,

*RECOGNISING* that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicated in its 2010 stock assessment that the Commission should adopt a Mediterranean swordfish fishery management plan which ensures that the stock will be rebuilt and kept in levels that are consistent with the ICCAT Convention objective,

*NOTING* that the SCRS in its assessment in 2010 indicated that overall results suggest that fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock toward the Convention objective of biomass levels which could support MSY and away from levels which could allow a rapid stock decline,

*NOTING* that the SCRS in its assessment in 2010 indicated that technical modifications of the longline fishing gears, as well as, the way they are operated can be considered as an additional technical measure in order to reduce the catch of juveniles,

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04], which encourages Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) to take measures to reduce juvenile Mediterranean swordfish catches,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the SCRS advice given in 2008, 2009 and 2010, advocating seasonal closures pending the adoption of a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the SCRS advise that swordfish and in particular juvenile swordfish is also caught as a by-catch in other fisheries and that all catches of swordfish should stop during the closed period,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the advices given in 2010 for the swordfish have been considered as still valid in 2011,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 09-04] needs to be replaced to set the basis for such a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

*NOTING* that the SCRS management recommendation to amend ICCAT Recommendation 11-03 to correct the weight conversion factors relating to the definition of minimum landing sizes in terms of weights, and this in order to be consistent with the conversion factors previously adopted by ICCAT,

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

**ICCAT records of vessels authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish**

1. At the latest on the 31 August 2012, and on the 15 January for the following years, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the lists of all fishing vessels authorized to catch swordfish for the current year in the Mediterranean Sea. These lists shall distinguish:
  - a) All catching vessels authorized to fish actively for swordfish, meaning any vessel that targets swordfish (defined on the basis of the more abundant species anytime on board) during a given fishing season. Vessels not introduced on this list are not authorized to catch, retain on board, tranship, transport, process or land swordfish exceeding more than 5% of the total catch on board by weight or/and number of pieces.
  - b) All vessels authorized for swordfish sport and recreational fisheries as defined in the paragraph 2 m) and n) of ICCAT Recommendation 10-04.

CPCs shall provide these lists according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

2. Procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **Special fishing authorization**

3. Vessels included in the list of authorized vessels under point 1.a and which use harpoons, or participate in pelagic longline fisheries for highly-migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean shall have a special fishing permit for each authorised fishery, by target species and area.
4. By 30 June each year CPCs shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of the special fishing permits delivered for the previous year.

#### **Closed fishing season**

5. Mediterranean swordfish shall not be caught (either as a targeted fishery or as by-catch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during the period from 1 October to 30 November and during an additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March. CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2012, the starting date of this additional month of closure.
6. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of these closures and shall submit to the Commission, at the latest two months before the annual meeting of the Commission, all relevant information on appropriate controls and inspections to ensure compliance with the measure.

#### **Minimum size**

7. Only entire specimens of swordfish, without removal of any external part, or gilled and gutted specimens, can be retained on board, transhipped, landed and transported.
8. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catching, retaining on board, transhipping, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale Mediterranean swordfish measuring less than 90 cm LJFL or, in alternative, weighing less than 10 kg of round weight or 9 kg of gilled and gutted weight, or 7.5 kg of dressed weight (gilled, gutted, fins off, part of head off).

However, the CPCs may grant tolerances to vessels which have incidentally captured small fish below the minimum size, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed:

- a) 10% by weight or/and number of pieces per landing of the total swordfish catch of said vessels (in 2012),
- b) 5% by weight or/and number of pieces per landing of the total swordfish catch of said vessels as from 2013.

#### **Technical characteristics of the fishing gear**

9. The maximum number of hooks that can be set or taken on board of vessels targeting swordfish should be fixed at 2800 hooks for swordfish fishery. A second set of rigged hooks may be allowed on board for trips longer than 2 days provided that are duly lashed and stowed in lower decks so that it may not readily be used.
10. Hook size should never be smaller than 7 cm of height for fishing targeting swordfish.
11. The length of the pelagic longlines will be of maximum 30 NM (55 km).

### **Other measures**

12. Recognition will be given to CPCs which take more restrictive measures than those foreseen in paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

### **Scientific information and advice**

13. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information for highly migratory pelagic species in the Mediterranean.

14. By 30 June each year, CPCs shall communicate specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year:

a) Specific information on the fishing vessel:

- Name of the vessel (if no name, the registry number without country initials should be indicated);
- Registry number;
- ICCAT list number;

CPCs shall communicate this list electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

b) Specific information related to fishing activities, based on sampling or for the whole fleet:

- Fishing period(s) and total annual number of fishing days of the vessel, by target species and area;
- Geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, for the fishing activities carried out by the vessel, by target species and area;
- Type of vessel, by target species and area;
- Number of hooks used by the vessel, by target species and area;
- Number of longline units used by the vessel, by target species and area;
- Overall length of all longline units for the vessel, by target species and area.

c) Specific data on the catches, in the smallest time-area possible:

- Size and, if possible, age distributions of the catches,
- Catches and catch composition per vessel and,
- Fishing effort (average fishing days per vessel, average number of hooks per vessel, average longline units per vessel, average overall length of longline per vessel).

These data shall be provided to SCRS in the format required by ICCAT.

15. The SCRS shall provide in 2013 an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of updated data. It shall assess the effects of this management framework and provide advice on possible amendments of the various measures with a view to recover or to maintain the stock within safe biological limits while delivering economically viable fishing activity.

16. Based on such scientific advice, the ICCAT may decide, by end of 2013 on advisable changes of the management framework for swordfish with a view to complying with the management objective.

### **Repeals**

17. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT* [Rec. 11-03].

13-05

ALB

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING  
THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE REBUILDING PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore [Rec. 98-08], the Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2008-2009 [Rec. 07-02], the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program on North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 09-05], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program on North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 11-04];

*NOTING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY);

*CONSIDERING* that the 2013 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the northern albacore stock is overfished but that overfishing is not occurring, and recommended a level of catch of no more than 28,000 t to meet the Convention management objective by 2020;

*RECALLING* the importance that all fleets participating in the northern albacore fishery submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

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

1. An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,000 t is established for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
2. This annual TAC shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) according to the following:

<i>Party</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
European Union	21,551.3 <sup>1</sup>
Chinese Taipei	3,271.7 <sup>2,3</sup>
United States	527
Venezuela	250

3. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 shall limit their catches to 200 t.
4. By derogation to paragraphs 2 and 3, Japan shall endeavor to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.
5. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC's annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Year of Catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2012	2014
2013	2015
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carry-over in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC of 28,000 t, the Commission will re-evaluate the northern albacore recommendation at its next Commission meeting and recommend further conservation measures, as appropriate.

<sup>1</sup> The European Union will transfer 20 t from its quota to Venezuela in 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Chinese Taipei will transfer 100 t from its quota to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Chinese Taipei will transfer 200 t from its quota to Belize in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

6. The 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* [Rec. 98-08] remains in force.
7. The SCRS shall conduct an assessment of this stock in 2016 and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures to achieve and maintain the Convention objectives. In support of this work, CPCs should promote a scientific program to collect data/information on changes to distribution and/or migratory routes and factors that influences these changes.

As a matter of priority, the SCRS shall continue the development of a Limit Reference Point (LRP) and Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for this stock with input from the Commission. Future decisions on the management of this stock should be in accordance with the LRP and HCRs.

8. This Recommendation replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program* [Rec.11-04].

13-06

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN  
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2014 TO 2016**

*NOTING* the conclusions of the 2013 Albacore Assessment Meeting, and of the 2013 SCRS Report, that the southern albacore stock is likely to be overfished and is experiencing overfishing with the current best estimate of B2012/ BMSY being 0.91(0.71-1.26) and the current best estimate of F2011/ FMSY being 1.04(0.38-1.32);

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that total annual declared catches since 2004 have been considerably lower than MSY; but that the status of the stock has remained unchanged and is currently overfished and undergoing overfishing;

*RECOGNISING* the need to rebuild the southern albacore stock to MSY levels, this being the management objective of ICCAT;

*CONSIDERING* that catches of 24,000 t is likely to permit the rebuilding of the stock by 2020;

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

1. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N shall be 24,000 t for the period 2014 to 2016, this being the TAC that will permit the rebuilding of the stock with at least 50% probability by 2020.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported albacore catches in 2013, as reported to the 2014 ICCAT meeting, exceed 24,000 t, the TAC for 2015 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2013 catch in excess of 24,000 t.
3. The annual catch limits for southern Atlantic albacore shall be as follows:

<i>Catch limits (t)</i>	
Angola	50
Belize	250
Brazil	2 160
China	100
Chinese Taipei	9 400
Cote d'Ivoire	100
Curacao	50
European Union	1 470
Japan	1 355
Korea	140
Namibia	3 600
Philippines	140
South Africa	4 400
St Vincent and Grenadines	100
UK St Helena	100
Uruguay	440
Vanuatu	100

All other CPCs not listed above shall limit their catches to 25 t

4. Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for southern Atlantic albacore:
  - a) Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota, in the following way:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
<b>2013</b>	2015
<b>2014</b>	2016
<b>2015</b>	2017
<b>2016</b>	2018

- b) By the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year. The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota.
- c) In the case the total amount of underages requested by all CPCs exceeds the total amount made available under this mechanism, the amount of underages shall be shared pro rata among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.
- d) In respect of the 2013 catches and TAC, underages may only be used to the extent of the available under catch of total TAC.
- e) The carry-over of underages is only applicable to those CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3.
- f) In respect of South Africa and Namibia, should either CPC reach its original quota in any given year and the other CPC has underage available, then that CPC shall automatically transfer up to 250 t to the other. In addition, if Namibia reaches its original quota in any given year then Brazil and Uruguay, as a proportion of their respective original quotas, shall automatically transfer a maximum of 150 t of their underage to Namibia.
5. Should a given CPC exceed its quota, the over-catch must be deducted from its original quota by 100% of the total exceeded amount in accordance with the schedule in paragraph 4 and that CPC will be prohibited of requesting any underages made available under the present mechanism in the following year.
6. All CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.
7. Those CPCs that are catching southern Atlantic albacore, shall immediately improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern Atlantic albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data. In addition, port states CPCs in the south Atlantic shall report the results of their port inspections to the Secretariat in accordance with [Rec. 12-07]. The Secretariat shall forward the reports to the flag CPC.
8. The next stock assessment of southern Atlantic albacore shall be conducted in 2016. Scientists of entities actively fishing for southern Atlantic albacore are strongly encouraged to analyse their fisheries data and to participate in the 2016 assessment.
9. All aspects of the southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2016 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2016. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2014 to 2016 TAC.
10. This Recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2011 Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore Catch Limit for 2012 and 2013 [Rec. 11-05].

13-07

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 12-03 BY ICCAT TO  
ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN  
TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

**Part I  
General provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$ , with at least 60% probability.

**Definitions**

2. For purposes of this Plan:
  - a) "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
  - b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources;
  - c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing;
  - d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a cage or a tuna trap to a designated port and / or to a processing vessel.
  - e) "Towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages. "Support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 2a).
  - f) "Fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season;
  - g) "Joint fishing operation" means any operation between two or more catching vessels where the catch of one catching vessel is attributed to one or more other catching vessels in accordance with the allocation key;
  - h) "Transfer operations" means:
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
    - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
  - i) "Trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting.
  - j) "Caging" means the transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming cages.
  - k) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
  - l) "Farm" means installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners.

- m) "Harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- n) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel.
- o) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- p) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.

### Length of vessels

3. All lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as length overall.

## Part II Management measures

### TAC and quotas

4. The total allowable catches (TACs) shall be set at 13.400 t annually, effective beginning in 2014 and thereafter, until such time the TAC is changed following the SCRS advice.
5. In 2014 the SCRS will conduct an update of the stock assessment and provide advice to the Commission.
6. Furthermore, the SCRS shall work towards the development of new assessment modeling approaches and inputs, in a view to minimize uncertainties, which shall be used in a stock assessment in 2015 and thereafter every three years.
7. The Plan shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon SCRS advice.
8. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in the following year. CPCs shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.
9. The allocation scheme from 2014 is set in the table below:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>%</i>
Albania	33.58	0.2506266
Algeria	143.83	1.0733333
China	38.19	0.2850125
Egypt	67.08	0.5006266
European Union (Croatia)	7938.65 (390.59)	59.243509 (2.9148371)
Iceland	30.97	0.2311278
Japan	1139.55	8.5041103
Korea	80.53	0.6010025
Libya	937.65	6.9973935
Morocco	1270.47	9.4811529
Norway	30.97	0.2311278
Syria	33.58	0.2506266
Tunisia	1057.00	7.8880702
Turkey	556.66	4.1541604
Chinese Taipei	41.29	0.3081704
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>100</b>

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 above, and taking into account the historical allocation for this stock, Algeria is granted an extra and temporary allocation of 100t for 2014 prior to any future revisions. The re-establishment of the historical allocation of Algeria will be considered as a priority in future revisions of the TAC. All relevant provisions of this Recommendation apply to such allocation.

The quota transfer of 10t from Chinese Taipei to Egypt in 2014 shall be authorized.

The request of Libya to carryover unused 2011 quota will be considered in 2014.

11. With a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. If prior to 31 March the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC by mail vote.

Non-submission of the plans referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

#### **Associated conditions to TAC and quotas**

12. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the lists referred to in paragraph 57.a).
13. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group referred to paragraphs 21 to 26, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.
14. Each CPC may also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of recreational and sport fisheries as defined in paragraphs 2.o) and 2.p).
15. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or the individual quotas allocated for catching vessels over 24 m and included in the lists referred to in paragraph 57.a), shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
16. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
17. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
18. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
19. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted from 2013.
20. No JFOs between different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Any CPC joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPC if the vessel is equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has an individual quota, and in accordance with the following requirements.

At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 6**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its catching vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- duration,
- identity of the operators involved,
- individual vessels' quotas,
- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
- the information on the fattening or farming farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation.

The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

### **Open fishing seasons**

21. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
22. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June, with the exception of the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October.
23. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October.
24. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October.
25. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 16 June to 14 October.
26. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraphs 21 to 25 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

### **Spawning grounds**

27. The SCRS shall continue working on the identification, as precisely as possible, of spawning grounds, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. It shall advise the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries.

### **Use of aircraft**

28. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

### **Minimum size**

29. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115cms.
30. By derogation of paragraph 29, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75cms fork length shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
  - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
  - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.

31. For catching vessels and traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized. This percentage is calculated on the total incidental catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories. Incidental catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71 and 96 shall apply to the incidental catch.

#### **By-catch**

32. Catching vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time following each fishing operation, bluefin tuna exceeding more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing 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 dies it must be landed where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71 and 96 shall apply to by-catch.

#### **Recreational fisheries**

33. Recreational fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
34. 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.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

35. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
36. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight and length overall of each bluefin tuna from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 14.
37. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole, gilled and gutted.

#### **Sport fisheries**

38. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.
39. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
40. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of sport fishing shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 14.
41. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole, gilled and gutted.

### **Part III** **Capacity management measures**

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

42. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.
43. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 42 to 51, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping.
44. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage, of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels and by vessel type for other fishing vessels.
45. Paragraph 44 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
46. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
47. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
48. Without prejudice to paragraph 47, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 44, 45 and 46 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota, in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting.
49. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account, *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear.
50. The SCRS shall consider the estimated yearly catch rates and update the Commission of any changes annually prior to the Commission meeting.
51. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.

#### **Adjustment of farming capacity**

52. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan in case of modification of the plan approved in 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 53 to 55.
53. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.
54. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
55. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 54, each CPC shall allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
56. The plans referred to in paragraphs 42 to 55 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraph 11 of this recommendation.

**Part IV**  
**Control measures**

**ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna**

57. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel shall be registered in only one of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b). Without prejudice to paragraph 32, for the purposes of this recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

58. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 21 to 25, when applicable, and otherwise by 1 March, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.a).

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.b) shall be submitted one month before the start of their period of authorisation. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a 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 Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 57;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases to the Compliance Committee not sufficiently justified or incomplete as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original change request.

59. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 11-12] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

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

60. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. 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, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
61. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 March each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 60. Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 11-12 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

### Information on fishing activities

62. By 1 April each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year. This information should include:
- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
  - b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
  - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);
  - d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
  - e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- 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.
63. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 62 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

### Transshipment

64. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.
65. Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted transshipping times and places.

The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all transshipping times and at all transshipping places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

66. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival,
  - b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
  - c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
  - d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
  - e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved,
- b) the date and port of the transshipment,
- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
- d) the geographical area of the catch of bluefin tuna.

The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.

### **Recording requirements**

67. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
68. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
69. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all landing times and at all landing places. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

70. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing 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;

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

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

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 11 of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

All caging operations and transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the farming and designated port CPC authorities.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

71. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port.

#### **Communication of catches**

72. a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area, including nil returns.

For purse seiners such daily report shall be on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis including those where the catch was zero.

Such reports shall be transmitted on a daily basis for purse seiners and vessels over 24 meters and for other catching vessels by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate a daily catch report (weight and number of fish), within 48 hours by electronic or other means to their competent authorities including zero catches during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels and traps to the ICCAT Secretariat. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

#### **Reporting of catches**

73. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches by gear type of bluefin tuna including by-catch and from sport and recreational fisheries and nil returns to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
74. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
75. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when they have closed the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 21 to 26 as well as when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

#### **Cross check**

76. CPCs shall verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

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

#### **Transfer operations**

77. Before any transfer operation, as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag State or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
- estimated time of transfer,
- estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
- information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
- Port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. Numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code followed by three numbers.

78. The flag State shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the CPC flag State authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap.

If the flag State of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or a trap or had not been authorized to be caged and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 57.b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the captain of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the following procedures.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT regional observer who shall draft and submit the report together with the video recording to the ICCAT Secretariat.

79. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.
- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC-20\*\*/xxx/ITD).
  - b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
  - c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.

80. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.
81. For transfers of live bluefin tuna as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 9**:

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

82. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 7**) and paragraphs 91 and 92, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 78 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 79.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, or when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag State of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated.

83. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 81 and 82. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

### **Caging operations**

84. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week a caging report, signed by a Regional observer, to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.

85. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:
- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
  - b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
  - c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 78.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation of the catching vessel's or trap flag State which must be given within 48 hours of the request.

Fish shall be caged before the 15 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including *force majeure*, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted.

86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to prohibit placing in cages for farming or fattening bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.
87. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 9**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimate by the regional observer and the farm operator an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with flag state of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of 10% of that declared by the farm operator, then the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the number and or weight in excess. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 88 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision, to refine the number and weight of the fish being caged.

The CPCs farm authorities shall ensure that the release order is carried by the farm operator within 48 hours following the arrival of a regional observer. The release shall be carried out in accordance to the procedures described in paragraph 78. Pending the results of this investigation, harvesting shall not take place and the farming section of the BCD shall not be validated.

88. CPCs shall implement pilot studies on how to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging including through the use of stereoscopic systems and report the results to the SCRS.

SCRS shall continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and report to the Commission at the 2014 Annual meeting.

A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall cover 100% of all cagings in order to refine the number and weight of the fish in each caging operation.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to complete the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD. When the quantities of bluefin tuna are found to differ from the quantities reported caught and transferred, the catching CPC shall be informed and an investigation launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 78.

The results of this programme shall be submitted annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the 2014 Annual meeting.

## VMS

89. Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, CPCs shall implement a vessels monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, in accordance with the 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14].

Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, with effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied for their fishing vessels over 15 m.

No later than 31 January 2008, each CPC shall communicate without delay messages pursuant to this paragraph to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the data exchange formats and protocols adopted by the Commission in 2007.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the convention area in accordance with the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection referred to in paragraphs 99 and 100 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels over 15m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorisation unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs. Such reports shall be weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

### **CPC Observer Programme**

90. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15m),
- 100% of towing vessels,
- 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessel and trap compliance with the present recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
  - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
  - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
  - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the *ICCAT Manual* for different gears.
  - date of catch,
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2009 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

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

### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

91. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure an observer coverage of 100%:
  - on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
  - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners
  - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
  - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
  - during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms.

Such purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

92. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:
  - observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
  - sign the ICCAT transfer declarations, caging report and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations,
  - carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

### **Enforcement**

93. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 21 to 26, 29 to 31 and 67 to 72 (closed seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
  - seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
  - sequestration of the vessel,
  - suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish,
  - reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.
94. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 84 to 87 and 95 (caging operations and observers) and with Recommendation 06-07.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

#### **Access to and requirements for video records**

95. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred in paragraphs 81 and 87 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

#### **Market measures**

96. 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 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08/12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 09-11] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, reexports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 13 are exhausted;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation Rec. 06-07.

#### **Conversion factors**

97. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

#### **Growth factors**

98. The SCRS shall review information from BCDs and other submitted data and further study growth rates so as to provide updated growth tables to the Commission by the 2014 Annual meeting.

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

99. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid\*, as modified in **Annex 8**.
100. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 99 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].

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\* Note from the Secretariat: See Appendix II to Annex 7 in the *Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975)*.

101. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.

**Part VI**  
**Final provisions**

**102. Availability of data to the SCRS**

The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present Recommendation.

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

**103. Evaluation**

All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation.

**104. Cooperation**

All the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain are encouraged to enter into bilateral arrangements in order to improve the compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. These arrangements could notably cover exchanges of inspectors, joint inspections and data sharing.

**105. Repeals**

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 12-03].

**Annex 1**

**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 30**

1. CPCs shall limit:

- The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
- The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
- The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 58 of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6,4 kgs or 70 cms fork length caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 30 of this Recommendation.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean under the conditions of this Annex shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
  - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
  - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

**Annex 2**

**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 (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 seiners 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.

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

1. Date, time and position (latitude / longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
  - a) Species identification by FAO code
  - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages,
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their log book:
  - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
    - amount of catches taken on board
    - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
    - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO;
  - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
    - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
    - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
    - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
    - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

**B – TOWING VESSELS**

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 vessel 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**

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**

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped 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 transshipped, 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 transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

**Document No. ICCAT Transhipment Declaration**

<p><b>Carrier vessel</b>                  Name of vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National Register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  IMO No.</p>	<p><b>Fishing Vessel</b>                  Name of the vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  External identification:                  Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>	<p>Final destination:                  Port:                  Country:                  State:</p>
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Departure	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Return	From:	_____	_____	_____	_____	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	To:	_____	_____	_____	_____		

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

**LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT**

Port	Sea		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
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP 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 transhipping 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 transhipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

## Annex 4

<b>Document No.</b>	<b>ICCAT Transfer Declaration</b>		
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no.	Trap name:  ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name:  Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Name of destination farm:  ICCAT Register no:  Cage Number:
<b>2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:	Species:		
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:		Observer Names, ICCAT No. and signature:
<b>3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS</b>			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	





### ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 91 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 March each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

#### Designation of the observers

5. The designated 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;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm observed.

#### Obligations of the observer

6. 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 State or flag State 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 Secretariat of the Commission;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
  - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag state authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated.
    - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
    - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
    - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
    - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
    - vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
    - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
    - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;

- ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
  - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
  - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
  - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
  - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per that requirements in paragraphs 81 and 82;
  - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- c) 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.
- d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel or farm to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel and farm personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

#### **Obligations of the flag States of purse seine vessels and farm and trap States**

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication;
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be 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
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

### **Observer fees and organization**

12. a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.
- c) The current programme/contract shall be evaluated prior to its re-tender in 2014.
- d) Based on this evaluation and a review of costs of other observer programmes, maximum unit costs shall be established for the programme, including but not limited to, daily rates for vessels, farms and traps and mobilization and training fees.
- e) The Commission shall assist the ICCAT Secretariat on the construction of the terms of reference and training manual prior to the launching of the new tender. New tenders shall be evaluated in accordance with the unit costs referred to in point d).

## **Annex 8**

### **ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT 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 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
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, the authorities of the flag State of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag State 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 State 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 State 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 State 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 Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18], 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 ICCAT 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 ICCAT 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 ICCAT 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 State, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 21 of this Annex;
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 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 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. 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 State 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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\* 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 ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT 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 to the appropriate authorities of the flag State 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 State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity;
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag State 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 Recommendation [94-09] 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;
16.
  - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 January 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;
17.
  - 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;
18. 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 State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report;
19. 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 State;
20. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.



### Minimum standards for video recording procedures

#### Transfers operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer without delay after the end of the transfer operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

#### Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer without delay after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

13-08

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT COMPLEMENTING  
RECOMMENDATION 12-03 WHICH ESTABLISHED A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR  
EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* article 88 of Recommendation 12-03 establishing the requirement to refine the number and weight of fish in each caging operation, using stereoscopic camera systems or alternative techniques;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the 2013 SCRS recommendation on setting up a standardized protocol to set up a common procedure for the implementation and use of stereoscopic camera systems in all the Mediterranean and East Atlantic by 2014;

*CONSIDERING* that modifications of the fishing seasons in the Atlantic should have no incidence on the protection of the spawning grounds of eastern bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean;

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

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 88 of Recommendation 12-03, shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

1. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount 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 should be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
2. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 10 meters and maximum height of 10 meters.
3. 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. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
4. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
5. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed +/- 5 percent.
6. All the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, algorithms (length-weight relationship) shall be reviewed by the SCRS at its 2014 meeting, and if necessary modified based on SCRS recommendations at the 2014 Commission annual meeting.

In relation to the starting date of the fishing seasons for baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic, as defined in paragraph 23 of Rec 12-03, the following technical clarifications are provided:

7. For the year 2014 and 2015, and since it does not affect the protection of spawning grounds, CPCs may specify a different starting date for the fishing seasons referred to paragraph 23 of Recommendation 12-03 for their vessels operating in the Eastern Atlantic, while keeping the total duration of the open season for these fisheries in line with the provisions of the relevant articles of Rec. 12-03.
8. When submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT by 15 February as per paragraph 11 of Rec. 12-03, CPCs shall specify if the starting dates for these fisheries have been modified, as well as the coordinates of the areas concerned.
9. The period and dates for the fishing seasons in the Atlantic may be reviewed in 2015, following advice from SCRS.

13-09

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION  
BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
REBUILDING PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 98-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 02-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 04-05], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 06-06], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 08-04], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 10-03], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 12-02],

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY),

*CONSIDERING* that the 2013 scientific advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates no significant new information about the status of the stock and that under the low recruitment scenario the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock is above the biomass level that can support MSY and is consistent with the Convention objective. Under the high recruitment scenario (under which higher sustainable yields are possible in the future), the stock remains overfished and overfishing will continue under the current total allowable catch (TAC),

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that the SCRS has estimated MSY to be 2,634 t under the low recruitment scenario and 6,472 t under the high recruitment scenario,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the SCRS continues to indicate that there is no strong evidence to favor either the low or high recruitment scenario over the other,

*RECOGNIZING* that the 2015 stock assessments will incorporate new data from the research conducted under the GBYP and related activities and is expected to utilize new methodologies and the SCRS peer review process,

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the value of increasing biological sampling to provide additional support toward addressing key stock assessment uncertainties,

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* the need to re-evaluate the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program no later than 2015 in light of the 2015 stock assessment results and resulting advice from SCRS,

*UNDERSCORING* that the SCRS continues to advise that protecting the strong 2003 year class would enhance its contribution to the spawning stock biomass, which has the potential to increase the productivity of the stock in the future,

*UNDERSCORING FURTHER* that SCRS has advised that increases in spawning stock biomass may help resolve the issue of low and high recruitment potential,

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS noted the uncertainties associated with existing CPUE fishery dependent indices, and suggested using a scientific research quota to help support the improvement of stock abundance indices, including fishery independent indices, for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and overcome this situation,

*NOTING* that the SCRS encouraged Japan to prepare a detailed draft proposal for presentation to the Commission in November 2013 taking into consideration the SCRS and BFT species group's discussions, and Japan submitted a proposal accordingly,

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to affect recovery in the western Atlantic, given that the productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries is linked to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock,

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25],

*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],

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 will continue the 20-year rebuilding program that began in 1999 and continues through 2018.

***Effort and capacity limits***

2. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, CPCs will 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. The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will have a TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 1,750 t in 2014. The annual TAC for 2015 will be set in 2014.
4. The annual TAC, MSY target, and the 20-year rebuilding period shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.
5. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of stock collapse, the Commission shall suspend all bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year.
6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:
  - a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

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

- b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

<b>CPC</b>	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<b>&lt;2,413 t (A)</b>	<b>2,413 t (B)</b>	<b>&gt;2,413-2,660 t (C)</b>	<b>&gt;2,660 t (D)</b>
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1303 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 and 6(b), the TAC for 2014 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

	<i>2014</i>
TAC	1,750 t
United States	923.70 t
Canada	381.66 t
Japan	301.64 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	4 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	4 t
Mexico	95 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (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 86.5 t of its adjusted quota in 2014\* to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2014 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2014\* to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e) and 6(f) above shall notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence and shall present the results of the research to the SCRS in time to inform the 2015 stock assessments.
7. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 6, 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 6, with the exception of those CPCs with initial allocations of 100 t or less, for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 6 (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 7(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.

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\* This transfer provision will continue in 2015 if the TAC in 2015 is set at 1,750 t or higher.

***Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish***

8. CPCs will 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.
9. 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. 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.
- 9bis. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size, except for charitable purposes.
10. 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***

11. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico).

***Transshipment***

12. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

***Scientific research and data and reporting requirements***

13. In 2014, the SCRS will update the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock. In 2015 and thereafter every three years, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.
14. The SCRS shall prepare and present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of western Atlantic bluefin tuna consistent with *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detail Reports* [Res. 11-14].
15. Each CPC will prepare, where practical, a research plan to obtain reliable stock abundance indices for BFT of western origin and exchange it by April 30, 2014, for scientific review and comments, taking into account, as appropriate, the research programs proposed at the 2013 Commission meeting. CPC scientists will exchange views prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment as described in Annex 1 of Rec. 12-02 to be held in June or later of 2014 to review the research plans for their earliest implementation. In addition, the SCRS will be informed of the outcomes of these activities.
16. The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicator trends and evaluate whether they warrant advancing the scheduling of the next stock assessment. In support of this evaluation, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings.
17. In preparation for the 2015 stock assessment, the SCRS should thoroughly review the evidence that initially was used in support of each recruitment scenario as well as any additional information available as a means of informing the Commission on which recruitment scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential. If the SCRS is unable to support one scenario over the other, the SCRS then should provide the Commission with management advice that takes into consideration the risks (e.g., risk of not achieving the Convention objective, lost yield) that would be associated with opting to manage the stock under a scenario that does not accurately reflect the stock-recruit relationship.

18. If scientific evidence results in an SCRS recommendation to alter the definition of management units, or to take explicit account of mixing between management units, then the western Atlantic rebuilding program shall be re-evaluated.
19. CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to ICCAT's GBYP. In particular, CPCs should make special efforts to enhance biological sampling activities in order to provide significant new information for the new assessment. Priority research should be obtaining new information on natal origin, maturity, and age of the catch in all fisheries, following protocols developed by the SCRS. Complementary information will also be required for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock in order to evaluate the effects of mixing. In addition, it is also important to enhance, and where needed develop, an accurate abundance index for juvenile fish.
20. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
- 20bis. 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].
21. As part of the 2015 stock assessment, the SCRS shall review and report to the Commission on new available information on the potential existence of additional western Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning grounds.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. This Recommendation replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 12-02].

13-10

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION ON BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF PROHIBITED  
SHARK SPECIES BY SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS**

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS recommended the adoption of measures to enable scientific observers to collect biological samples from the shark species for which retention is prohibited by ICCAT and which are dead at haulback, provided that such samples are for a research project notified to the SCRS.

*TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION* the shark research and data collection program developed by the Shark Working Group of the SCRS.

*NOTING* that for all these species there is an important lack of biological knowledge, for which the SCRS strongly recommends that such samples be collected.

*FURTHER NOTING* that, as recommended by the SCRS, to obtain approval of such research projects, the proposal should include a detailed document that describes the objective of the work, the number and type of sample that need to be collected and the time-area distribution of the sampling.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the importance of promoting coordination between SCRS scientists and improving collaboration on research related to shark biology, as prioritised by the SCRS shark research and data collection program.

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

1. By derogation to ICCAT conservation measures providing for the prohibition of retaining on board certain shark species, the collection of biological samples during commercial fishing operations (e.g vertebrae, tissue, reproductive tracts, stomachs, skin samples, coil valves, jaws, whole fish or skeletons for taxonomic studies and fauna inventories) by scientific observers or individuals duly permitted by the CPC to collect biological samples is authorised under the following conditions:
  - a) The biological samples are collected only from animals which are dead at the haulback.
  - b) The biological samples are taken in the framework of a research project notified to the SCRS and developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS Shark Group. The research project should include a detailed document that describes the objective of the work, the methodologies to be used, the number and type of samples to be collected, the time-area distribution of the sampling and a chronogram of the activities to be carried out.
  - c) The biological samples must be kept on board until the port of landing or transshipment.
  - d) The authorisation of the flag State CPC or, in the case of chartered vessels, of the chartering CPC and the flag State CPC, must accompany all such samples collected according to this Recommendation until the final port of landing. Such samples and other parts of the shark specimens sampled may not be marketed or sold.
2. An annual report of the results achieved by the research project should be presented to the Shark Species Group and the SCRS. The SCRS should review and assess this report and provide advice on follow up.
3. The sampling campaign can only start once the authorisation by the relevant State has been issued.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 10-09  
ON THE BY-CATCH OF SEA TURTLES IN ICCAT FISHERIES**

*CONSIDERING* that ICCAT adopted in 2010 a recommendation to mitigate the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries (Recommendation 10-09), which requested that the SCRS initiate an assessment of the impact of incidental catch of sea turtles no later than 2013 and advise on approaches to mitigate such incidental capture, including reducing the number of interactions and/or the mortality associated with those interactions.

*NOTING* that on that basis the SCRS in 2013 made specific recommendations to maintain the provisions of Recommendation 10-09 and to call for additional measures to reduce mortality of incidentally captured sea turtles through, safe-handling practices, such as the use of line cutters and the use of de-hooking devices.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that it is necessary to amend Recommendation 10-09 to include the specific recommendations made by the SCRS in 2013.

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

1. The following sub-items are inserted after point 2. c) of Recommendation 10-09:

*d) Regarding safe-handling practices:*

- i) When a turtle is to be removed from the water, an appropriate basket lift or dip-net shall be used to bring aboard sea turtles that are hooked or entangled in gear. No turtle shall be hauled from the water by a fishing line attached to, or entangled upon the body of a turtle. If the turtle cannot be safely removed from the water, the crew should cut the line as close as possible to the hook, without inflicting additional unnecessary harm on the turtle.*
- ii) In cases where marine turtles are taken on board, vessel operators or crew shall assess the condition of sea turtles that are caught or entangled prior to release. Those turtles with difficulties to move or are unresponsive shall be kept on board to the extent practicable and assisted in a manner consistent with maximizing their survival prior to release. These practices are described further in the FAO's Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations.*
- iii) To the extent practicable, turtles handled in fishing operations or during national observer programs (e.g. tagging activities) shall be handled in a manner consistent with the FAO's Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations.*

*e) Regarding the use of line cutters:*

- i) Longline vessels shall carry on board line-cutters and use these when de-hooking is not possible without harming the marine turtle while releasing them.*
- ii) Other types of vessels that use gear that may entangle sea turtles shall carry on board line-cutters and use these tools to safely remove gear, and release sea turtles.*

*f) Regarding the use of de-hooking devices:*

*Longline vessels shall carry on board de-hooking devices to effectively remove hooks from sea turtles.*

*When a hook is swallowed, no attempt shall be made to remove the hook. Instead, the line must be cut as close to the hook as possible without inflicting additional unnecessary harm on the turtle.*

2. Points 4, 5 and 6 of Recommendation 10-09 are deleted and replaced by the following:

*4. The SCRS shall continue to improve the ERA initiated for sea turtles in 2013 and shall advise the Commission on its plan for future sea turtle impact analyses at the 2014 meeting. Upon receipt of advice from the SCRS, the Commission shall consider additional measures to mitigate sea turtle by-catch in ICCAT fisheries, if necessary.*

3. Points 7, 8 and 9 of Recommendation 10-09 become points 5, 6 and 7.

13-12

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)**

*RECALLING* that Resolution 11-17 urges CPCs to adopt SCRS rules, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers;

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

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2(ii) of Resolution 11-17, SCRS shall develop rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientist and observers, in the framework of its Strategic Plan, and submit this to the 2015 Commission annual meeting for endorsement.
2. Until the Commission endorses such rules of procedure for SCRS, the rules of procedure of the Commission shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the operation of SCRS.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
ICCAT RECORD OF VESSELS 20 METERS IN LENGTH OVERALL OR GREATER  
AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE CONVENTION AREA**

*RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 2000 meeting a *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Convention Area* [Rec. 00-17],

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 1994 meeting a *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas* [Res. 94-08],

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission has been taking various measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries conducted by large-scale tuna fishing vessels,

*NOTING* that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the Convention area without timely registration with the Commission,

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on June 23, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission, in 2002, established an ICCAT Record of Vessels 24 meters in length overall or greater and then, in 2009, expanded the list to include all vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater,

*FURTHER NOTING* that the International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee, at its 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting, approved amendments to the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme that remove the exclusion of vessels solely engaged in fishing; which will be considered for final adoption by IMO Assembly at its 28<sup>th</sup> meeting in November 2013,

*RECOGNIZING* the utility and practicality of using IMO numbers as a unique vessel identifier (UVI) for fishing vessels,

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

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of fishing vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater (hereinafter referred to as "large scale fishing vessels" or "LSFVs") authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area. For the purpose of this recommendation, LSFVs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna-like species.
2. Each CPC shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the list of its LSFVs that are authorized to operate in the Convention area. The initial list and any subsequent changes shall be submitted electronically in a format provided by the Secretariat. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number
  - IMO or LR number (if assigned)
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign (if any)
  - Type of vessels, length, and gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT)
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - Gear used

- Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping. However, in no case shall the authorization period include dates more than 30 days prior to the date of submission of the list to the Secretariat.

The ICCAT record shall consist of all LSFVs submitted under this paragraph.

3. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record at any time such changes occur. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 30 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the period of authorization has expired.
4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record and make the record available through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
5. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:
  - a) Authorize their LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if they are able to fulfill in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Convention and its conservation and management measures;
  - b) Take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs comply with all the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - c) Take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs on the ICCAT record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or transship;
  - d) Ensure that their LSFVs on the ICCAT record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their LSFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
  - e) Ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their LSFVs on the ICCAT record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by LSFVs not entered into the ICCAT record in the Convention area; and
  - f) Take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the LSFVs on the ICCAT record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

*5bis.* Effective January 1, 2016, flag CPCs shall authorize their commercial LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if the vessel has an IMO number or a number in the seven-digit numbering sequence allocated by IHS-Fairplay (LR number), as applicable. Vessels without such a number shall not be included in the ICCAT record.

*5tris.* Paragraph 5bis shall not apply to:

- a) LSFVs unable to obtain an IMO/LR number, provided that the flag CPC provides an explanation of its inability to obtain an IMO/LR number in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.
  - b) Wooden LSFVs that are not authorized to fish on the high seas, provided that the flag CPC notifies the Secretariat of the LSFVs for which it is exercising this exemption in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.
6. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report any relevant results of the review to the Commission at its annual meeting. In consideration of any CPC reports on the relevant results of such reviews, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of LSFVs on the ICCAT record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to ICCAT conservation and management measures.

7. a) CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by the LSFVs which are not entered into the ICCAT record.
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
  - i) Flag CPCs or, if the vessel is under a charter arrangement, the exporting CPC shall validate statistical documents only for the LSFVs on the ICCAT record,
  - ii) CPCs shall require that the species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by LSFVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and,
  - iii) CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
8. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting LSFVs not on the ICCAT record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area.
9. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a CPC, the Executive Secretary shall request that CPC to take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area.
- b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party without cooperating status, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.
10. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU LSFVs from the Atlantic to other oceans.
- 10bis. At the 2014 meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and at the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Commission shall review relevant developments on vessel numbering at the IMO, FAO, and other international fora and consider revisions, as necessary, to this Recommendation for adoption prior to the January 1, 2016 effective date of paragraph 5bis.
11. The *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 11-12] is replaced in its entirety by this recommendation.

13-14

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON VESSEL CHARTERING**

*RECOGNIZING* that, under the ICCAT Convention, Contracting Parties shall cooperate in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch;

*RECALLING* that, according to Article 92 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of 10 December 1982, ships shall sail under the flag of one State only and shall be subject to its exclusive jurisdiction on the high seas except as otherwise provided in relevant international instruments,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the needs and interests of all States to develop their fishing fleets so as to enable them to fully utilize the fishing opportunities available to them under relevant ICCAT recommendations;

*MINDFUL* that the practice of charter arrangements, whereby fishing vessels do not change their flag, might seriously undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures established by ICCAT unless properly regulated;

*REALIZING* that there is a need for ICCAT to regulate charter arrangements with due regard to all relevant factors;

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

The chartering of fishing vessels, other than bareboat chartering, shall observe the following provisions:

1. Charter arrangements may be allowed, predominantly as an initial step in the fishery development of the chartering nation. The period of the chartering arrangement shall be consistent with the development schedule of the chartering nation.
2. Chartering nations shall be Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention.
3. Fishing vessels to be chartered shall be registered to responsible Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities or by other responsible non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, which explicitly agree to apply ICCAT conservation and management measures and enforce them on their vessels. All flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities concerned shall effectively exercise their duty to control their fishing vessels to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
4. Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall ensure compliance by chartered vessels with relevant conservation and management measures established by ICCAT, in accordance with their rights, obligations and jurisdiction under international law.
5. Catches taken pursuant to the chartering arrangement of vessels that operate under these provisions shall be counted against the quota or fishing possibilities of the chartering Contracting Party.
6. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to ICCAT catches and other information required by SCRS.
7. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and, as appropriate, tools for differentiation of fishing areas, such as fish tags or marks, shall be used, according to the relevant ICCAT measures, for effective fishery management.
8. There shall be observer coverage of at least 10% of fishing effort, as measured in the manner specified in paragraph 1 of recommendation 10-10, for chartered vessels. All other provisions of recommendation 10-10 apply *mutatis mutandis* in the case of chartered vessels.

9. The chartered vessels shall have a fishing license issued by the chartering nation, and shall not be on the ICCAT IUU list as established by the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18].
  10. When operating under charter arrangements, the chartered vessels shall not, to the extent possible, be authorized to use the quota or entitlement of the flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non- Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. In no case, shall the vessel be authorized to fish under more than one chartering arrangement at the same time.
  11. Unless specifically provided in the chartering arrangement, and consistent with relevant domestic law and regulation, the catches of the chartered vessels shall be unloaded exclusively in the Ports of the chartering Contracting Party or under its direct supervision in order to assure that the activities of the chartered vessels do not undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures. The chartering company must be legally established in the chartering Contracting Party.
  12. Any transshipment at sea shall be consistent with the 2012 *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment* [Rec. 12-06]. Any transshipment at sea shall also be previously and duly authorized by the chartering nation and shall occur only under the supervision of an observer on board.
  13. a) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the chartering Contracting Party shall provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
    - i. the name (in both native and Latin alphabets) and registration of the chartered vessel;
    - ii. the name and address of the owner(s) of the vessel;
    - iii. the description of the vessel, including the length, type of vessel and the type of fishing method(s);
    - iv. species of fish covered by the charter and quota allocated to the chartering Party;
    - v. the duration of the chartering arrangement;
    - vi. the consent of the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity; and
    - vii. the measures adopted to implement these provisions.
  - b) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
    - i. its consent to the chartering arrangement; and
    - ii. the measures adopted to implement these provisions.
    - iii. its agreement to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
  - c) Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall inform the Executive Secretary of the termination of the charter;
  - d) The Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall circulate all the information without delay to all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.
14. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT by July 31 each year, and for the previous calendar year, the particulars of charter arrangements made and carried out under this recommendation, including information of catches taken and fishing effort deployed by the chartered vessels as well as the level of observer coverage achieved on the chartered vessels, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements.
15. Each year the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a summary of all the chartering arrangements to the Commission which, at its annual meeting, shall review compliance with this recommendation.
16. Recommendation [02-21] is repealed and replaced by the present Recommendation.

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SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING ANNEX 1 OF RECOMMENDATION 11-20  
ON AN ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM**

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to analyze BCD information on a cage by cage basis;

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

An asterisk (\*) shall be put on “Date of caging” and “cage number” in “6. Farming information” in Annex 1 of Recommendation 11-20.

**Data to be Included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)**

**1. ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch document number\***

**2. Catch Information**

Name of the Catching Vessel or Trap name\*  
 Name of the Other Vessels (in case of JFO)  
 Flag\*  
 ICCAT Record No.  
 Individual Quota  
 Quota used for this BCD  
 Date, area of catch and gear used\*  
 Number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*<sup>1</sup>  
 ICCAT Record number of Joint Fishing Operation (if applicable)\*  
 Tag No. (if applicable)  
*Government validation*  
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**3. Trade Information for live fish trade**

*Product description*  
*Exporter/Seller information*  
*Transportation description*  
*Government validation*  
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date  
*Importer/buyer*

**4. Transfer information**

*Towing vessel description*  
 ICCAT Transfer Declaration No.  
 Vessel name, flag  
 ICCAT Record No.  
 Number of fish dead during transfer  
 Total weight of dead fish (kg)  
*Towing cage description*  
 Cage number

**5. Transshipment information**

*Carrier vessel description*  
 Name, Flag, ICCAT Record No., Date, Port name, Port state, position  
*Product description*  
 (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)  
 Total weight (NET)  
*Government validation*  
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**6. Farming information**

*Farming facility description*  
 Name, CPC\*, ICCAT FFB No.\* and location of farm  
 Participation in national sampling program (yes or no)  
*Cage description*  
 Date of caging\*, cage number\*  
*Fish description*  
 Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*<sup>1</sup>

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\* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

<sup>1</sup> Weight shall be reported by round weight where available. If round weight is not used, specify the type of product (e.g. GG) in the "Total Weight" and "Average Weight" section of the form.

*ICCAT Regional observer information*

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)

*Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**7. Harvesting information**

*Harvesting description*

Date of harvest\*

Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight\*

Tag numbers (if applicable)

*ICCAT regional observer information*

Name, ICCAT No., signature

*Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**8. Trade information**

*Product description*

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)<sup>2</sup>

Total weight (NET)\*

*Exporter/Seller information*

Point of export or departure\*

Export company name, address, signature and date

State of destination\*

Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)

*Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

*Importer/buyer information*

Point of import or destination\*

Import company name, address, signature and date<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

<sup>3</sup> DATE to be filled by IMPORTER/BUYER in this section is the date of signature.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR AN ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (eBCD) SYSTEM**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) programme;

*RECOGNIZING* the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

*NOTING* the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to implement the eBCD programme to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme;

*FOLLOWING* the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group from and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

*CONSIDERING* the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-11 on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)* [Rec. 11-21] to seek “full implementation of the eBCD system before the 2013 purse seine season,” and recognizing that “a level of flexibility will be maintained based on the results of the pilot phase,”

*RECOGNIZING* the progress in the on-going development of the eBCD system, but noting that the eBCD system could not be fully tested during 2013, including during the 2013 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin purse seine season;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

*COMMITTED* to the successful implementation of the eBCD system and desiring to complete the transition to the system as expeditiously as possible while ensuring trade is not disrupted;

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

1. Prior to 1 March 2015 both eBCDs and paper BCDs issued pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 11-20] shall continue to be accepted. By 16 May 2014, CPCs should notify the Secretariat of whether they intend to use the electronic system or paper BCDs during this period. Validated paper BCDs submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 19 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be entered into the eBCD system by the Secretariat.
2. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for full eBCD system implementation referenced in paragraph 1, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the eBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide the necessary data as defined by the ICCAT Secretariat and endorsed by the eBCD Technical Working Group.
3. The Secretariat, with assistance from the eBCD Technical Working Group, will coordinate with the developing consortium to develop and distribute to CPCs a comprehensive technical manual and training plan before 1 March 2014.
4. During the year, CPCs shall communicate to the Secretariat and the Working Group their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation and report those experiences at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

5. The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than 1 March 2015, unless the Commission determines otherwise based on demonstration of significant problems with the design or functionality of the system.
6. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs. The Permanent Working Group assisted by the eBCD Technical Working Group will consider whether a comprehensive eBCD program recommendation is necessary and, if so, will submit that recommendation and the related technical manual to the Commission for its consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
7. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendations 11-21 and 12-08.

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**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR ENHANCING THE DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS**

*CONSIDERING* scientific advice released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) as the corner stone for establishing a proper management framework on stocks and fisheries under the purview of ICCAT;

*RECOGNIZING* that an in depth understanding by the Commission of scientific advice and management recommendations made by the SCRS should ease the adoption by the Commission of relevant and effective conservation measures;

*NOTING* that the ICCAT Resolution 11-17 on best available science recommends improving the communication between CPCs, the Commission and the SCRS by enabling a constant dialogue;

*RECALLING* the work in the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists held in June 2013 in support of the W-BFT stock assessment;

*HIGHLIGHTING* the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Convention objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

*STRESSING* that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account Target and Limit Reference points, associated level of risks and related Harvest Control Rules consistent with Recommendation 11-13;

*STRESSING FURTHERMORE* that such enhanced dialogue should also allow the Commission to focus on the review and the establishment of research priorities, considering more particularly the development of Strategic Plan on Science, and to explore further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes;

*RECALLING* that provisions laid down in Recommendation 11-26 establishing a meeting participation fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue.

*EMPHASIZING* that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the SCRS.

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

1. A standing working group dedicated to the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers ("SWGSM") is established under the following objectives and rules.
2. The standing working group consists in enhancing communication and in fostering mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists, in particular on management strategies, including data collection, research needs and priorities, and establishment of limit and target reference points, as well as to promote the efficient use of scientific resources and information. The working group will seek to establish management strategies for the ICCAT fisheries which are consistent with the objectives of the ICCAT convention, an ecosystem-based approach and a precautionary approach.
3. The Chair of the standing working group will be selected by the Commission.
4. The standing working group will meet inter-sessionally and its meetings will be open to fisheries managers of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing entities (CPCs), SCRS scientists and accredited observers. Fishery managers of the CPCs and fishery scientists of the SCRS will be considered on an equal footing during the standing working group meetings. Other experts may be invited to specific meetings of the standing working group depending on the topics to be discussed.

5. The structure of the meetings will, include an open forum/dialogue. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through formal sessions of the standing working group.
6. The first meeting of the standing working group will take place prior to the 2014 Commission Annual Meeting. The focus of that meeting will be:
  - a. the use of  $B_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$  and other proxies as Target and/or Limit Reference points, Harvest Control Rules, and associated probabilities, allowing, in particular, the implementation of a precautionary approach and Recommendation 11-13, for the management of stocks under the purview of ICCAT, and
  - b. possible further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes and research needs and priorities, in particular in the light of the SCRS annual work programme and of the development of the Strategic Plan on Science.
7. Further meetings of the standing working group will be decided by the Commission during its special and regular meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING FUND FOR DEVELOPING STATES WHICH ARE ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**

*RECOGNISING* that the ICCAT Commission has noted with concern the low number of participants from developing States at its scientific meetings.

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the concern expressed by several developing States, which are ICCAT CPCs on their difficulties to actively contribute to the works of SCRS and to the formulation of scientific advice due to a lack of capacity and training;

*NOTING* that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) identifies, *inter alia*, forms of cooperation with developing states and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the increasing role and workload of the SCRS and the need of all Contracting Parties to actively and effectively contribute to its works;

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

1. A special Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) be established for the purposes of supporting scientists from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States in their need to acquire knowledge and develop skills on issues related to ICCAT.
2. Funds will be allocated to scientists from those developing States, which are ICCAT Contracting Parties, in order to attend ad-hoc trainings of their choice (up to 14 days) on ICCAT related matters in the scientific Institutes and, or Research Centres, of another ICCAT CPC, based on a training strategy submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the SCRS.
3. The SCBF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €80,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify a procedure for supplying funds to the SCBF in the future.
4. The Fund will be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the SCBF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, and the details of the assistance to be made available.
6. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund;
7. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying to the ICCAT Fund.
8. This Recommendation will be evaluated and reviewed at the latest in 2017.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2013**

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**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO COMPLETE THE STANDARDIZATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION IN THE SCRS ANNUAL REPORT**

*RECOGNIZING* that, in response to ICCAT Resolution 11-14, the presentation of scientific information in the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) annual report and inter-sessional meeting reports have significantly improved.

*NOTING*, however, that the standardization of information included in the SCRS reports with respect to the quality and reliability of input data and projections of stock status can be further enhanced;

*RECALLING* the recommendation of the Kobe II Workshop of Experts to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advice that the Executive Summaries of scientific reports should be standardized to the extent possible;

*RECALLING* that the Kobe III Workshop of Experts on Science recognized that substantial uncertainties still remain in the assessments and recommended that the Scientific Committees and Bodies of the t-RFMOs develop research activities to better quantify the whole uncertainty and understand how uncertainty is reflected in the risk assessment inherent in the Kobe II Strategy Matrix;

*CONSIDERING* the utility of distinguishing, where possible, between the inherent variability in natural system (*i.e.* life history parameters) which is unavoidable, and the uncertainty related to the quality of the state of knowledge of the system and of the fishery data, which could potentially be reduced through improvements to the available data and/or the models applied;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the SCRS, as part of its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for Science, will develop specific formats to provide scientific advice in line with the needs of the Commission.

*FINALLY STRESSING* that the best way to tackle uncertainties related to fisheries data consists for CPCs in complying with their fundamental obligations of reporting basic catch and effort statistics, including reliable Task I and Task II data, in a due time to ensure their availability to the SCRS.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1) The SCRS should clearly identify sources of variability and uncertainty and clearly explain how this variability and uncertainty affect the stock assessment results and the interpretation of the Kobe II Strategy Matrices.
- 2) The SCRS should further standardize the presentation of information included in its reports.
- 3) Therefore, in addition to the minimum elements required by Resolution 11-14, the SCRS may further score the quality of the fisheries data and related to the knowledge of the species (e.g. biological parameters, fishery distribution patterns historical data, selectivity) used as inputs to stock assessments. Qualitative scores on input data and assumptions may be detailed and should summarize the state of knowledge of the different inputs and report on:
  - a) the quality, the reliability and, where relevant, the representativeness of input data and information, such as, but not limited to, (i) fisheries statistics and fisheries indicators (e.g. catch and effort, catch-at-size and catch-at-age matrices by sex and, when applicable, fisheries dependent indices of abundance), (ii) biological information (e.g. growth parameters, natural mortality, maturity and fecundity, migrations patterns and stock structure, fisheries independent indices of abundance) and (iii)

complementary information (*i.e.* consistencies among available abundance indices, influence of the environmental factors on the dynamic of the stock, changes in fishing effort distribution, selectivity and fishing power, changes in target species),

- b) limitations of the assessment models used with respect to the type and the quality of the input data,
  - c) potential biases in the assessment results associated with uncertainties of the input data.
- 4) For the purpose of paragraphs 2 and 3, the SCRS may consider a specific table or any other alternate format to be included in its annual report in association to the Kobe plot in order to summarize the information required in this resolution.
- 5) In cases where the SCRS utilizes different modeling approaches and/or scenarios (*i.e.*, sensitivity runs or alternative hypotheses) to characterize uncertainty in stock assessments, the SCRS should clearly identify what it considers as the most defensible or the most likely scenario (*i.e.*, 'base case') and provide the rationale for its decision. In cases where these different approaches and/or scenarios would finally be considered as equally plausible, this model or structural uncertainty should be accounted for in the calculation of the stock assessment parameters.

## OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2013

## 7.1 PORT ENTRY PRIOR NOTIFICATION FORM

Information to be provided in advance by vessels requesting port entry

<b>1. Intended port of call</b>										
<b>2. Port State</b>										
<b>3. Estimated date and time of arrival</b>										
<b>4. Purpose(s)</b>										
<b>5. Port and date of last port call</b>										
<b>6. Name of the vessel</b>										
<b>7. Flag State</b>										
<b>8. Type of vessel</b>										
<b>9. International Radio Call Sign</b>										
<b>10. Vessel contact information</b>										
<b>11. Vessel owner(s)</b>										
<b>12. Certificate of registry ID</b>										
<b>13. IMO ship ID, if available</b>										
<b>14. External ID, if available</b>										
<b>15. ICCAT ID</b>										
<b>16. VMS</b>		No			Yes			Type:		
<b>17. Vessel dimensions</b>		Length			Beam		Draft			
<b>18. Vessel master name and nationality</b>										
<b>19. Relevant fishing authorization(s)</b>										
<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Issued by</i>	<i>Validity</i>	<i>Fishing area(s)</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>					
<b>20. Relevant transshipment authorization(s)</b>										
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>						
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>						
<b>21. Transshipment information concerning donor vessels</b>										
<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>ID num-</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Product</i>	<i>Catch area</i>	<i>Quantity</i>		
<b>22. Total catch onboard</b>							<b>23. Catch to be landed/transhipped</b>			
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area</i>	<i>Quantity (Kg)</i>				<i>Quantity (Kg)</i>			

**7.2 ICCAT PORT INSPECTION REPORT FORM**

<b>1. Inspection report no</b>				<b>2. Port State</b>			
<b>3. Inspecting authority</b>							
<b>4. Name of principal inspector</b>					ID		
<b>5. Port of inspection</b>							
<b>6. Commencement of inspection</b>			YYYY		MM	DD	HH
<b>7. Completion of inspection</b>			YYYY		MM	DD	HH
<b>8. Advanced notification received</b>			Yes			No	
<b>9. Purpose(s)</b>	LAN	TRX	PRO	OTH (specify)			
<b>10. Port and State and date of last port call</b>				YYYY	MM	DD	
<b>11. Vessel name</b>							
<b>12. Flag State</b>							
<b>13. Type of vessel</b>							
<b>14. International Radio Call Sign</b>							
<b>15. Certificate of registry ID</b>							
<b>16. IMO ship ID, if available</b>							
<b>17. External ID, if available</b>							
<b>18. Port of registry</b>							
<b>19. Vessel owner(s)</b>							
<b>20. Vessel beneficial owner(s), if known and different from vessel owner</b>							
<b>21. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner</b>							
<b>22. Vessel master name and nationality</b>							
<b>23. Fishing master name and nationality</b>							
<b>24. Vessel agent</b>							
<b>25. VMS</b>		No		Yes		Type:	
<b>26. Status in ICCAT, including any IUU vessel listing</b>							
<i>Vessel identifier</i>	<i>RFMO</i>	<i>Flag State status</i>	<i>Vessel on authorized vessel list</i>		<i>Vessel on IUU vessel list</i>		
<b>27. Relevant fishing authorization(s)</b>							
<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Issued by</i>	<i>Validity</i>	<i>Fishing area(s)</i>		<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>	
<b>28. Relevant transshipment authorization(s)</b>							
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>			
<i>Identifier</i>		<i>Issued by</i>		<i>Validity</i>			
<b>29. Transshipment information concerning donor vessels</b>							
<i>Name</i>	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>ID no</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	

<b>30. Evaluation of offloaded catch (quantity)</b>						
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity declared</i>	<i>Quantity offloaded</i>	<i>Difference between quantity declared and quantity determined, if any</i>	
<b>31. Catch retained onboard (quantity)</b>						
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity declared</i>	<i>Quantity retained</i>	<i>Difference between quantity declared and quantity determined, if any</i>	
<b>32. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>33. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>34. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)</b>				<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>35. Type of gear used</b>						
<b>36. Gear examined</b>			<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>	
<b>37. Findings by inspector(s)</b>						
<b>38. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)</b>						
<b>39. Comments by the master</b>						
<b>40. Action taken</b>						
<b>41. Master's signature*</b>						
<b>42. Inspector's signature</b>						

\* The Master's signature serves only as acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of the inspection report.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Wednesday, November 18, 2013 by the Committee Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada).

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

**3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

The Secretariat was designated Rapporteur.

**4. Reports from the Secretariat*****4.1 2013 Administrative Report***

The 2013 Administrative Report was presented by the Chair.

The Chair summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2013, highlighting three specific points. First of all, she referred to the ICCAT Secretariat headquarters and informed that after some remodeling work, the Secretariat will remain at its current offices. She thanked the Spanish authorities for the efforts made to provide improvements to these installations. The second point referred to the revision of the Secretariat Staff Regulations and Rules. These Staff Rules are almost 30 years old and for this reason the Secretariat requested approval from the Commission to present new text in 2014 to update them. Lastly, the third point highlighted, as in previous years, the importance of taking the human and financial resources into account when making decisions that imply an increase in the Secretariat work load.

The Administrative Report was adopted.

***4.2 2013 Financial Report***

At the request of the Chair, the Head of the Department of Finance and Administration presented the Financial Report prepared by the Secretariat, which had been circulated in advance. With regard to the Working Capital Fund, he indicated that this fund remained at the same percentage as last year, i.e., over 120% of the total Budget, and emphasized the strengthening of this Fund. As concerns the financial statements, he pointed out that as of October 25, 2013, expenses incurred amounted to 76.49%, whilst income received amounted to 88.71% of the Budget adopted for 2013. He noted the extra-budgetary expenses incurred for non-scientific inter-sessional meetings (€101,905.94) and the financial resources earmarked for the Meeting Participation Fund [Rec. 11-26] (€150,000.00). He commented on the extra-budgetary income received, i.e., the voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei, observer fees, the overhead received from the various programs managed by the Secretariat, the reimbursement of VAT and financial income. He further pointed out that after October 25, 2013 deposits had been received from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire towards the total cancelation of their respective debts.

The Financial Report was adopted.

***4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights***

The Chair presented the document entitled "Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions", which summarized the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties over several years. She asked the CPCs concerned to contact the Secretariat to settle this situation.

## **5. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests**

The Chair explained that the proposals and requests from the SCRS were included in Option B of the Draft Budget Proposal for 2014 and 2015, which will be discussed under Item 10 of the Agenda.

## **6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism for financing the Meeting Participation Fund**

Following the creation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), the financing of this Fund had been made through allocations from the Working Capital Fund (€60,000.00 in 2012 and €150,000.00 in 2013) and from voluntary contributions received from some Contracting Parties. The Executive Secretary indicated that taking into account the current balance of the fund, an allocation of €100,000.00 would cover the estimate made for 2014 and therefore he asked the Committee to establish how the financing would be carried out, adding that the Working Capital Fund could be used again in view of its current state.

It was explained that in some cases the management of some requests was very complicated as the applicants had not requested the respective entry visas sufficiently in advance of their travel. As a result, in some cases the cost of the tickets was lost and the daily subsistence allowance was returned. For these reasons, he asked that the requests for aid be made well within the deadlines established, with the necessary travel documents.

The Committee approved continuing the use of the Working Capital Fund for this purpose, with an allocation amounting to €100,000.00 for 2014.

## **7. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require extra-budgetary funding**

### ***7.1 ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)***

As the major source of financing of the GBYP (80%) is the voluntary contribution from the European Union, it was noted that the Program activities are closely linked to the payments made by it and that any change in the payment times could have impacts on the activities of the program.

Japan stated that the GBYP was a program that benefitted all the Contracting Parties that participated in Panel 2 and that all of them should cover the expenses of the program based on their catch.

United States stressed that the CPCs' proposals should include all the financial implications and their impact on the human resources.

### ***7.2 Bluefin Tuna Electronic Catch Documentation Program (eBCD)***

After the technical/operational problems that arose associated with the implementation of the eBCD system during the recent trials, and after the Permanent Working Group's (PWG) adoption of the *Recommendation de ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-17]), the full implementation of the Program was delayed for one more year, such that it takes place prior to the 2015 fishing season. For this reason, it was also decided to extend the contract for one year with the TRAGSA, S.A. and The Server Labs, S.L. consortium, which is in charge with developing the program and carrying out the eBCD system.

The Committee agreed that the expense incurred be covered by the Working Capital Fund.

## **8. Review of findings of virtual working group on communications policy**

After considering that it was necessary to establish an ICCAT communications policy, various CPCs agreed to work on this matter in the inter-sessional period through a virtual working group. It was noted that the working group had not reached any firm conclusion and consequently agreed to continue working virtually on this issue in 2014. The group continues to be open to any CPCs that wish to participate in it.

## **9. Procedures for selection of auditor for the next five-year period**

The procedure carried out is described in Item 10.4 of the Secretariat's Administrative Report.

The Chair proposed that the Secretariat make the final selection and then inform the Commission once the new auditor firm has been selected for the next five years. The Committee approved this proposal.

## **10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2014 and 2015**

Two Draft Budget proposals (Option A and Option B) were presented by the Secretariat taking into account the needs expressed.

Option A requested an increase of 6.57%, as compared to the 2013 Budget. The Head of Finance and Administration explained that this option included the hiring of an additional staff member in the professional category for the Compliance Department, the estimate of the updating of the U.N. salary scales for 2014 and minor increments in some sub-chapters such as Statistics-Biology, Computer-related Items, Database Maintenance, and Phone line-Internet Domain, as well as some reductions foreseen to adjust expenses.

In Option B, the increase was 13.50% as compared to 2013 to take into account, in addition to the expenditures foreseen in Option A, the cost concerning the recommendations from the scientific committee following its 2013 meeting.

Dr. Santiago expressed the wish for some hiring and the participation of external experts for occasional support, for example, the ecosystem approach or the peer review process. Regarding the hiring of one person for the Statistics Department, he explained that work on the databases exceeded the current capacity of human resources at the Secretariat due to the requests from the SCRS and from the Commission. Besides, he pointed out that documentation of the databases is currently being carried out, a task that will take three years to complete, and that this diverted staff dedication from other tasks.

During the discussion, various delegations proposed alternatives aimed at reducing some of the external hiring included in Option B. There was discussion that some of the required tasks could be carried out by the ICCAT national scientists, as well as carrying out exchanges of scientists among the RFMOs, although up to now this has not been possible.

Several delegations rejected Option B and did not accept any increase in the budget for 2014. Some asked that Option A be combined with some items of support to the SCRS. Others preferred a new proposal based on Option A and which included downward adjustments in some budgetary chapters, taking into account that the good status of the Working Capital Fund could, if necessary, assume the excess cost of such adjusted items.

Taking into account the opinions expressed by several Contracting Parties, the Executive Secretary informed that another version of Option A would be prepared, with variations. He indicated that one of these adjustments would be to the chapter on Operating Expenses, since this could be reduced by the amount that was allocated for the new headquarters, after informing that the Secretariat would remain at its current offices. On the other hand, and bearing in mind the increase in work inherent with the adoption of recommendations, he stressed the importance that the Secretariat has more human resources. He stated that the person hired in the professional category for the Compliance Department would be in charge of the tasks related to the Tropical Tunas Observers Program, as well as part of the eBCD work, data on vessels and VMS, which would alleviate the work of the Statistics Department.

The United States proposed not to eliminate all the tasks with financial implications presented by the SCRS and to use the Working Capital Fund to cover these. This proposal was supported by some delegations with regard to certain tasks.

The new version of the Budget was presented and included the changes to reduce the increase in the 2014 Budget by 3.21% and the 2015 Budget by 2.47%, as well as the updating of Panel membership and the United Nations Exchange rate for November 2013.

Norway stated that its catch and canning figures referred to shark by-catches and therefore should not be taken into account in the calculation of the contributions. Norway asked that the next information that is communicated to the Secretariat for this purpose not be included in the contribution calculations.

After several interventions, it was agreed that, for the time being, the CPCs should continue transmitting their catch data on sharks for information, but that these data should not be included in the calculations of the budgetary contributions.

With regard to the SCRS recommendations, these were all excluded from the regular Budget, but it was agreed to use the Working Capital Fund in 2014 to cover the following: peer review of tropical tunas (€12,000.00); within the ICCAT Small Tunas Year Program (SMTYP), the recovery of historical Task II data in other areas and biological sampling activities in western Africa (€75,000.00); and the contract to develop an inventory of the recent and on-going initiatives among the CPCs to improve activities for the collection of data on artisanal fisheries (€20,000.00).

As regards the peer reviews, and the importance emphasized by the SCRS Chair of relying on external experts to review the work of the Scientific Committee, it was agreed to defer this matter to the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers.

With regard to the recruitment of a person for the Statistics Department, the Committee asked the Executive Secretary to study the possibility of contracting experts on a short-term basis, if necessary.

The new version of the Budget for 2014 and 2015 was adopted.

### **11. Election of Chair**

Senegal proposed that Mrs. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) continue as Chair of STACFAD. This proposal was seconded by several delegations and hence Ms. Lapointe was re-elected Chair for the next two years.

### **12. Other matters**

The European Union presented a “Draft Recommendation on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties”. This fund would enable supporting scientists from CPC developing States as regards their need to acquire knowledge and develop capacity in ICCAT matters. The procedure would consist of financing the participation of scientists from developing countries in *ad hoc* training courses at institutes and/or research centers of other CPCs. The proposal would start with an initial allocation of €80,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund and later from voluntary contributions.

The United States stated that we currently have a Special Data fund and that one of its purposes included the draft recommendation presented. Therefore, United States supported modifying the recommendation to consolidate it with the existing Data Fund.

The European Union indicated that for the moment the recommendation could not be consolidated with the Special Data Fund, since the purposes were not exactly the same and therefore the financing that could not be received for one fund or another also might not coincide.

After accepting the explanation received, United States raised the need to consolidate the existing ICCAT funds, given the increase in these funds in recent years, to improve their efficiency as well their management.

Following the discussion, the Chair recapitulated that there was unanimous support for the draft recommendation and, after some editorial amendment, the proposal was adopted for its entry into force in 2014 (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-19]**).

### **13. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed to adopt the Report of STACFAD by correspondence.

The 2013 meeting of STACFAD was adjourned by the Chair, Ms. Lapointe.

**Table 1.** 2014-2015 Commission Budget (Euros)

Chapters	2013	Increase	2014	Increase	2015
1. Salaries	1,263,382.86	14.57%	1,447,487.11	2.00%	1,476,436.85
2. Travel	30,000.00	-16.67%	25,000.00	2.00%	25,500.00
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	153,000.00	0.00%	153,000.00	2.00%	156,060.00
4. Publicationes	40,000.00	-37.50%	25,000.00	2.00%	25,500.00
5. Office Equipment	10,200.00	0.00%	10,200.00	2.00%	10,404.00
6. Operating Expenses	204,000.00	-21.57%	160,000.00	2.00%	163,200.00
7. Miscellaneous	7,140.00	0.84%	7,200.00	2.00%	7,344.00
8. Coordination of Research					
a) Salaries	1,014,191.78	3.39%	1,048,536.06	2.00%	1,069,506.78
b) Travel to improve statistics	30,000.00	0.00%	30,000.00	2.00%	30,600.00
c) Statistics-Biology	15,000.00	13.33%	17,000.00	2.00%	17,340.00
d) Computer-related items	35,000.00	5.71%	37,000.00	2.00%	37,740.00
e) Database maintenance	22,000.00	9.09%	24,000.00	2.00%	24,480.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	20,000.00	10.00%	22,000.00	2.00%	22,440.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	102,000.00	-26.47%	75,000.00	2.00%	76,500.00
h) Miscellaneous	6,000.00	-100.00%	0.00	-	5,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,244,191.78</i>	<i>0.75%</i>	<i>1,253,536.06</i>	<i>2.00%</i>	<i>1,278,606.78</i>
9. Contingencies	10,200.00	-100.00%	0.00	-	5,000.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	32,273.21	-69.01%	10,000.00	100.00%	20,000.00
11. Research Programs					
a) ICCAT Billfish Research Program	31,212.00	0.00%	31,212.00	2.00%	31,836.24
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11 / Sous-total Chapitre 11 / Subtotal Capítulo 11</i>	<i>31,212.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>31,212.00</i>	<i>2.00%</i>	<i>31,836.24</i>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>3,025,599.85</b>	<b>3.21%</b>	<b>3,122,635.17</b>	<b>2.47%</b>	<b>3,199,887.87</b>

**Table 2.** Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2014-2015

Contracting Parties	Groups <sup>a</sup>	GNP <sup>b</sup> 2010	GNP <sup>b</sup> 1991	Catch <sup>c</sup>	Canning <sup>d</sup>	Catch + Canning	Panels <sup>e</sup>				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	3,677	2,298	17	0	17	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	4,473	2,796	2,498	1,545	4,043	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	4,322	2,701	3,669	0	3,669	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	14,497	9,061	208	0	208	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,496	2,810	7,632	0	7,632	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	10,716	6,698	34,999	11,742	46,741	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	46,361	28,976	2,232	0	2,232	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cap-Vert	C	3,244	2,028	10,736	1,539	12,275	X	-	-	-	1	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	C	4,354	2,721	6,096	0	6,096	X	X	-	X	3	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	D	1,154	721	1,900	0	1,900	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt	D	2,654	1,659	2,274	0	2,274	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	A	39,608	24,755	42	0	42	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	12,469	7,793	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	1,333	833	120,576	17,333	137,910	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	2,882	1,801	6,750	0	6,750	X	X	-	X	3	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	16,852	10,533	730	0	730	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	427	267	730	0	730	-	-	-	X	1	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras	D	2,026	1,266	0	0	0	X	X	-	-	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	39,278	24,549	1	0	1	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	43,141	26,963	28,765	0	28,765	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	21,052	13,158	3,931	0	3,931	X	X	-	X	3	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	C	11,321	7,076	720	1,623	2,343	X	X	-	-	2	Libya
Maroc	C	2,865	1,791	11,087	460	11,548	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,131	707	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	B	9,101	5,688	9,636	803	10,439	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	C	5,125	3,203	7,050	0	7,050	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,132	708	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,240	775	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	84,589	52,868	3	0	3	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	7,614	4,759	19,906	0	19,906	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,140	1,338	1,790	0	1,790	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	10,351	6,469	1,955	0	1,955	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	6,172	3,858	2,258	0	2,258	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,283	802	1,838	0	1,838	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,033	646	7,982	603	8,586	X	-	-	X	2	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	352	220	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	B	7,255	4,534	5,306	0	5,306	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	2,931	1,832	34	0	34	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	15,205	9,503	3,531	0	3,531	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	4,222	2,639	4,424	2,206	6,630	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,095	6,309	13,336	3,039	16,375	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	33,366	20,854	242,283	266,507	508,790	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	36,189	22,618	658	0	658	-	-	-	-	0	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	46,290	28,931	10,586	11,672	22,258	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	11,952	7,470	1,237	0	1,237	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	2,963	1,852	1,086	0	1,086	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	13,503	8,439	7,811	587	8,398	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the Annex

**Table 3.** Contracting Party Contributions 2014 (Euros)

		Exchange rate: / Taux de change: / Cambio: 1 € = 1,340 US\$ (11/2013)									
Contracting Party	Group <sup>a</sup>	Catch + Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	% Catch + Canning <sup>b</sup>	% Member + Panels <sup>c</sup>	Membership fee <sup>d</sup>	Panel Membership <sup>e</sup>	Variable fees for Member <sup>f</sup>	Variables fees Catch-Canning <sup>g</sup>	Total fees <sup>h</sup>	Contracting Party
Albania	D	17	1	0.09%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,485.29	54.00	<b>3,031.29</b>	Albania
Algérie	D	4,043	2	20.59%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	12,842.38	<b>17,308.32</b>	Algérie
Angola	D	3,669	2	18.68%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	11,654.39	<b>16,120.33</b>	Angola
Barbados	C	208	0	0.10%	1.85%	746.00	0.00	3,028.17	311.45	<b>4,085.62</b>	Barbados
Belize	C	7,632	4	3.49%	9.26%	746.00	2,984.00	15,140.86	11,427.90	<b>30,298.76</b>	Belize
Brazil	B	46,741	4	43.62%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	32,213.47	157,362.26	<b>193,305.73</b>	Brazil
Canada	A	2,232	3	0.40%	13.79%	746.00	2,238.00	86,582.69	4,979.42	<b>94,546.10</b>	Canada
Cap-Vert	C	12,275	1	5.62%	3.70%	746.00	746.00	6,056.35	18,380.16	<b>25,928.51</b>	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	C	6,096	3	2.79%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,112.69	9,127.94	<b>24,224.63</b>	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	D	1,900	2	9.67%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	6,035.25	<b>10,501.19</b>	Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt	D	2,274	2	11.58%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	7,223.24	<b>11,689.18</b>	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	A	42	3	0.01%	13.79%	746.00	2,238.00	86,582.69	93.70	<b>89,660.39</b>	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,084.52	0.00	<b>11,322.52</b>	Gabon
Ghana	C	137,910	1	63.14%	3.70%	746.00	746.00	6,056.35	206,501.71	<b>214,050.06</b>	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	6,750	3	3.09%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,112.69	10,107.22	<b>25,203.91</b>	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	730	2	0.33%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,084.52	1,093.08	<b>12,415.60</b>	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	730	1	3.72%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,485.29	2,318.81	<b>5,296.10</b>	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	0.00	<b>4,465.94</b>	Honduras
Iceland	A	1	1	0.00%	6.90%	746.00	746.00	43,291.34	2.23	<b>44,785.57</b>	Iceland
Japan	A	28,765	4	5.11%	17.24%	746.00	2,984.00	108,228.36	64,172.46	<b>176,130.82</b>	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	3,931	3	1.80%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,112.69	5,886.14	<b>20,982.84</b>	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	C	2,343	2	1.07%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,084.52	3,508.33	<b>14,830.85</b>	Libya
Maroc	C	11,548	3	5.29%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,112.69	17,291.58	<b>32,388.27</b>	Maroc
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	9.52%	746.00	2,238.00	2,970.58	0.00	<b>5,954.58</b>	Mauritania
Mexico	B	10,439	4	9.74%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	32,213.47	35,144.83	<b>71,088.31</b>	Mexico
Namibia	C	7,050	3	3.23%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,112.69	10,556.43	<b>25,653.12</b>	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.38%	746.00	0.00	742.65	0.00	<b>1,488.65</b>	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	0.00	<b>4,465.94</b>	Nigeria
Norway	A	3	2	0.00%	10.34%	746.00	1,492.00	64,937.02	6.69	<b>67,181.71</b>	Norway
Panama	B	19,906	4	18.58%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	32,213.47	67,017.25	<b>102,960.72</b>	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,790	2	9.11%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	5,685.84	<b>10,151.78</b>	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	1,955	1	0.90%	3.70%	746.00	746.00	6,056.35	2,927.35	<b>10,475.70</b>	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	2,258	3	11.50%	9.52%	746.00	2,238.00	2,970.58	7,172.42	<b>13,127.00</b>	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,838	2	9.36%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,227.94	5,838.31	<b>10,304.25</b>	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	8,586	2	3.93%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,084.52	12,856.38	<b>24,178.90</b>	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,485.29	0.00	<b>2,977.29</b>	Sierra Leone
South Africa	B	5,306	3	4.95%	14.29%	746.00	2,238.00	25,770.78	17,863.64	<b>46,618.41</b>	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.17%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,485.29	108.00	<b>3,085.29</b>	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,531	2	1.62%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,084.52	5,287.20	<b>16,609.72</b>	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	6,630	2	3.04%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,084.52	9,927.54	<b>21,250.05</b>	Tunisie
Turkey	B	16,375	4	15.28%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	32,213.47	55,129.48	<b>91,072.95</b>	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	508,790	4	90.41%	17.24%	746.00	2,984.00	108,228.36	1,135,070.66	<b>1,247,029.02</b>	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	658	0	0.12%	3.45%	746.00	0.00	21,645.67	1,467.95	<b>23,859.62</b>	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	22,258	4	3.96%	17.24%	746.00	2,984.00	108,228.36	49,655.86	<b>161,614.22</b>	United States
Uruguay	C	1,237	3	0.57%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,112.69	1,852.24	<b>16,948.93</b>	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	1,086	0	5.53%	2.38%	746.00	0.00	742.65	3,449.62	<b>4,938.27</b>	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	8,398	3	7.84%	14.29%	746.00	2,238.00	25,770.78	28,273.43	<b>57,028.21</b>	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex

**Table 4.** Contributions by group 2014. Fees Expressed in Euros

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	8	21	562,749	---	61.00%	5,968.00	15,666.00	1,883,173.45	1,904,807.45
<b>B</b>	6	22	107,165	3.00%	18.00%	4,476.00	16,412.00	541,186.33	562,074.33
<b>C</b>	17	37	218,412	1.00%	17.00%	12,682.00	27,602.00	490,563.98	530,847.98
<b>D</b>	16	26	19,639	0.25%	4.00%	11,936.00	19,396.00	93,573.41	124,905.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>907,965</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>35,062.00</b>	<b>79,076.00</b>	<b>3,008,497.17</b>	<b>3,122,635.17</b>

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the **Annex**

**Table 5.** Contracting Party Contributions 2015 (Euros)

		Exchange rate: / Taux de change: / Cambio: 1 €							1,340 US\$ (11/2013)			
Contracting Party	Group <sup>a</sup>	Catch + Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	% Catch + Canning <sup>b</sup>	% Member + Panels <sup>c</sup>	Membership fee <sup>d</sup>	Panel Membership <sup>e</sup>	Variable fees for Member <sup>f</sup>	Variables fees Catch-Canning <sup>g</sup>	Total fees <sup>h</sup>	Contracting Party	
Albania	D	17	1	0.09%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,534.34	55.78	<b>3,082.12</b>	Albania	
Algérie	D	4,043	2	20.59%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	13,266.48	<b>17,805.99</b>	Algérie	
Angola	D	3,669	2	18.68%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	12,039.26	<b>16,578.77</b>	Angola	
Barbados	C	208	0	0.10%	1.85%	746.00	0.00	3,109.24	319.79	<b>4,175.03</b>	Barbados	
Belize	C	7,632	4	3.49%	9.26%	746.00	2,984.00	15,546.20	11,733.83	<b>31,010.04</b>	Belize	
Brazil	B	46,741	4	43.62%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	33,041.18	161,405.60	<b>198,176.78</b>	Brazil	
Canada	A	2,232	3	0.40%	13.79%	746.00	2,238.00	88,749.32	5,104.02	<b>96,837.34</b>	Canada	
Cap-Vert	C	12,275	1	5.62%	3.70%	746.00	746.00	6,218.48	18,872.22	<b>26,582.70</b>	Cap-Vert	
China, People's Rep. of	C	6,096	3	2.79%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,436.96	9,372.31	<b>24,793.27</b>	China, People's Rep. of	
Côte d'Ivoire	D	1,900	2	9.67%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	6,234.56	<b>10,774.07</b>	Côte d'Ivoire	
Egypt	D	2,274	2	11.58%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	7,461.78	<b>12,001.29</b>	Egypt	
France (St. P. & M.)	A	42	3	0.01%	13.79%	746.00	2,238.00	88,749.32	96.04	<b>91,829.36</b>	France (St. P. & M.)	
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,327.72	0.00	<b>11,565.72</b>	Gabon	
Ghana	C	137,910	1	63.14%	3.70%	746.00	746.00	6,218.48	212,030.00	<b>219,740.48</b>	Ghana	
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	6,750	3	3.09%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,436.96	10,377.80	<b>25,798.76</b>	Guatemala, Rep. de	
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	730	2	0.33%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,327.72	1,122.34	<b>12,688.06</b>	Guinea Ecuatorial	
Guinea, Rep. of	D	730	1	3.72%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,534.34	2,395.38	<b>5,421.72</b>	Guinea, Rep. of	
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	0.00	<b>4,539.51</b>	Honduras	
Iceland	A	1	1	0.00%	6.90%	746.00	746.00	44,374.66	2.29	<b>45,868.94</b>	Iceland	
Japan	A	28,765	4	5.11%	17.24%	746.00	2,984.00	110,936.64	65,778.30	<b>180,444.95</b>	Japan	
Korea, Rep. of	C	3,931	3	1.80%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,436.96	6,043.72	<b>21,464.69</b>	Korea, Rep. of	
Libya	C	2,343	2	1.07%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,327.72	3,602.25	<b>15,167.97</b>	Libya	
Maroc	C	11,548	3	5.29%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,436.96	17,754.50	<b>33,175.46</b>	Maroc	
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	9.52%	746.00	2,238.00	3,068.68	0.00	<b>6,052.68</b>	Mauritania	
Mexico	B	10,439	4	9.74%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	33,041.18	36,047.86	<b>72,819.04</b>	Mexico	
Namibia	C	7,050	3	3.23%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,436.96	10,839.04	<b>26,260.00</b>	Namibia	
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.38%	746.00	0.00	767.17	0.00	<b>1,513.17</b>	Nicaragua, Rep. de	
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	0.00	<b>4,539.51</b>	Nigeria	
Norway	A	3	2	0.00%	10.34%	746.00	1,492.00	66,561.99	6.86	<b>68,806.85</b>	Norway	
Panama	B	19,906	4	18.58%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	33,041.18	68,739.22	<b>105,510.40</b>	Panama	
Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,790	2	9.11%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	5,873.61	<b>10,413.12</b>	Philippines, Rep. of	
Russia	C	1,955	1	0.90%	3.70%	746.00	746.00	6,218.48	3,005.72	<b>10,716.20</b>	Russia	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	2,258	3	11.50%	9.52%	746.00	2,238.00	3,068.68	7,409.28	<b>13,461.96</b>	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,838	2	9.36%	7.14%	746.00	1,492.00	2,301.51	6,031.11	<b>10,570.63</b>	São Tomé e Príncipe	
Senegal	C	8,586	2	3.93%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,327.72	13,200.56	<b>24,766.28</b>	Senegal	
Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,534.34	0.00	<b>3,026.34</b>	Sierra Leone	
South Africa	B	5,306	3	4.95%	14.29%	746.00	2,238.00	26,432.94	18,322.63	<b>47,739.58</b>	South Africa	
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.17%	4.76%	746.00	746.00	1,534.34	111.57	<b>3,137.91</b>	Syrian Arab Republic	
Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,531	2	1.62%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,327.72	5,428.74	<b>16,994.46</b>	Trinidad & Tobago	
Tunisie	C	6,630	2	3.04%	5.56%	746.00	1,492.00	9,327.72	10,193.31	<b>21,759.03</b>	Tunisie	
Turkey	B	16,375	4	15.28%	17.86%	746.00	2,984.00	33,041.18	56,546.00	<b>93,317.18</b>	Turkey	
Union Européenne	A	508,790	4	90.41%	17.24%	746.00	2,984.00	110,936.64	1,163,474.44	<b>1,278,141.08</b>	Union Européenne	
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	658	0	0.12%	3.45%	746.00	0.00	22,187.33	1,504.68	<b>24,438.01</b>	United Kingdom (O.T.)	
United States	A	22,258	4	3.96%	17.24%	746.00	2,984.00	110,936.64	50,898.43	<b>165,565.08</b>	United States	
Uruguay	C	1,237	3	0.57%	7.41%	746.00	2,238.00	12,436.96	1,901.83	<b>17,322.79</b>	Uruguay	
Vanuatu	D	1,086	0	5.53%	2.38%	746.00	0.00	767.17	3,563.54	<b>5,076.71</b>	Vanuatu	
Venezuela	B	8,398	3	7.84%	14.29%	746.00	2,238.00	26,432.94	28,999.90	<b>58,416.84</b>	Venezuela	

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex

**Table 6.** Contributions by group 2015. Fees Expressed in Euros

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	8	21	562,749	---	61.00%	5,968.00	15,666.00	1,930,297.60	1,951,931.60
<b>B</b>	6	22	107,165	3.00%	18.00%	4,476.00	16,412.00	555,091.82	575,979.82
<b>C</b>	17	37	218,412	1.00%	17.00%	12,682.00	27,602.00	503,696.94	543,980.94
<b>D</b>	16	26	19,639	0.25%	4.00%	11,936.00	19,396.00	96,663.51	127,995.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>907,965</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>35,062.00</b>	<b>79,076.00</b>	<b>3,085,749.87</b>	<b>3,199,887.87</b>

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the **Annex**

**Table 7.** Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties

Parties	2009			2010			2011			Parties
	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	
Albania	50 t		50	0 coo		0	0 t		0	Albania
Algérie	3,054 co	1,695 co	4,749	2,642	1,495	4,137	1,797	1,445	3,242	Algérie
Angola	3,669 t		3,669	3,669 coo		3,669	3,669 coo		3,669	Angola
Barbados	135 t		135	232 t		232	257 t		257	Barbados
Belize	1,664 co		1,664	6,847		6,847	14,386		14,386	Belize
Brazil	35,502 t	12,591 coo	48,093	24,200	10,045	34,245	45,294	12,591	57,885	Brazil
Canada	2,122 co	0 coo	2,122	2,263	0	2,263	2,311	0	2,311	Canada
Cap-Vert	2,894 co	2,217 co	5,111	13,304 t	1,200 co	14,504	16,011 t	1,200 co	17,211	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	6,358 t		6,358	6,872		6,872	5,059		5,059	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	1,105 t		1,105	1,718 t		1,718	2,878 t		2,878	Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt	1,954 coo	0 coo	1,954	2,913	0	2,913	1,954	0	1,954	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	20 t	0 coo	20	104	0	104	1	0	1	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon
Ghana	67,105 t	18,000 coo	85,105	146,182	16,000	162,182	148,442	18,000	166,442	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	7,632 t		7,632	6,658		6,658	5,961		5,961	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	2,189 t	0 coo	2,189	0	0	0	0	0	0	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	730 coo		730	730 t		730	730 coo		730	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	0 co	0 co	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	Iceland
Japan	31,362 t		31,362	29,490		29,490	25,443		25,443	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	3,519 t		3,519	3,833 t		3,833	4,442 t		4,442	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	1,082 t	1,359 coo	2,441	1,078	2,150	3,228	0	1,359	1,359	Libya
Maroc	13,956 t	482 coo	14,438	10,722	417	11,139	8,584	482	9,066	Maroc
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania
Mexico	9,946 t	803 coo	10,749	9,346	803 coo	10,149	9,617	803 coo	10,420	Mexico
Namibia	5,598 co	0 co	5,598	6,232	0	6,232	9,321	0	9,321	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	10 co		10	0	0	0	0	0	0	Norway
Panama	19,230 t		19,230	19,821 t		19,821	20,668 t		20,668	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	2,215 co		2,215	1,602		1,602	1,553		1,553	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	863 co		863	1,647		1,647	3,355		3,355	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	3,195 t		3,195	1,717 t		1,717	1,862 t		1,862	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	1,807 t		1,807	1,854 t		1,854	1,854 coo		1,854	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	13,526 t	337 coo	13,863	4,424	1,136	5,560	5,997	337	6,334	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	5,902 t		5,902	5,168 t		5,168	4,848 t		4,848	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	34 coo		34	34 t		34	34 coo		34	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	3,615 co		3,615	3,745		3,745	3,232		3,232	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	2,944 t	2,205 coo	5,149	5,260	2,208	7,468	5,069	2,205	7,274	Tunisie
Turkey	11,815 co	4,356 co	16,171	12,072	2,578	14,650	16,121	2,182	18,303	Turkey
Union Européenne	186,043 co/*	256,364 co	442,407	263,427 t/*	271,579 co	535,006	277,379 t/*	271,579 co	548,958	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	410 t		410	460		460	1,104		1,104	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	11,030 t	11,106 co	22,136	10,002	12,803	22,805	10,727	11,106	21,833	United States
Uruguay	1,999 t		1,999	644 t		644	1,067 t		1,067	Uruguay
Vanuatu	1,385 t		1,385	1,109 t		1,109	764 t		764	Vanuatu
Venezuela	7,079 t	573 co	7,652	8,373	616	8,989	7,981	573	8,554	Venezuela
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>474,748</b>	<b>312,088</b>	<b>786,836</b>	<b>620,394</b>	<b>323,030</b>	<b>943,424</b>	<b>669,774</b>	<b>323,862</b>	<b>993,636</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

co = Transfer of the data received (S11-0878)

coo = Transfer of the latest data received/obtained from the database

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication

\* Croatia's catches (2009: 622 t / 2010: 470 t / 2011: 470t) have been included in the European Union catches due to the adherence of this country to the European Union on July 1, 2013

(Data updated until 21 June 2013)

## ANNEX: Legends

Table 2

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t
b	GNP: Gross National Product per capita in US\$. Source: UNCTAD / GNP with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1,60 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2009-2010-2011 Catches (t)
d	Average 2009-2010-2011 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

Table 3 and 5 / Tableau 3 et 5 / Tabla 3 y 5

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of catch and canning within the group in which the member is a part
c	Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the group in which the member is a part
d	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership
e	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in which the member belongs
f	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage as a member of the Commission and Panels
g	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage according to catch and canning
h	Total contribution

Table 4 and 6 / Tableau 4 et 6 / Tabla 4 y 6

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Number of Panels within each Group
c	Total catch and canning, in t, of each Group
d	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group according to the Madrid Protocol
e	Percentage of the budget financed for each Group
f	Commission membership fees within each Group
g	Panel membership within each Group
h	Other fees: 1/3 for Commission and Panel membership and 2/3 for catch and canning
i	Total contribution

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. Reports from the Secretariat
  - 4.1 2013 Administrative Report
  - 4.2 2013 Financial Report
  - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests.
6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to financing the Meeting Participation Fund
7. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require extra-budgetary funding
8. Review of findings of virtual working group on communications policy
9. Procedures for selection of auditor for the next five year period
10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2014 and 2015
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

## REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4

### *REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1*

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Helguilé Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) chaired the meeting of Panel 1.

#### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted with no modifications (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

#### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Jean-Marc Philippeau (France, Saint-Pierre & Miquelon) was appointed rapporteur.

#### **4. Review of Panel membership**

Mr. Driss Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary, presented the list of members of Panel 1.

Panel 1 is currently comprised of the following 35 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China (People's Rep. of), European Union, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela. The Republic of Guinea requested Panel 1 membership.

#### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. Josu Santiago, recalled that the three main species caught in the East Atlantic, *i.e.* skipjack (SKJ), bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT), represent 8.5% of world catches of tropical tunas.

These fisheries are multi-gear and multi-species, and 81% of the catches are made by surface gears. The use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for the exploitation of resources is a matter of concern.

Recent changes took place in the European Union's purse seine fishery: the fleet shifted towards the West and Central Atlantic, and an area off Angola. Consequently, the percentage of catches under FADs has continued to increase, reaching more than 90% of the catches.

In 2012, the fishing of these three species reached a volume of 413,323 t. The catches of bigeye and yellowfin tunas were far below the annual average catches for the 1996-2005 period (averages that amounted to 2,500 t and 4,300 t, respectively). On the other hand, skipjack catches showed the opposite trend with much higher catches in 2012 than the average annual catches of 9,000 t from the previous period.

The number of tuna purse seiners has decreased regularly from the mid-1990s to 2006, then increased sharply following the shift of vessels from the Indian Ocean (impact of the piracy off the Somalian coasts). Moreover, there has been a modernisation of the vessels transferred from the Indian Ocean, which are equipped with more powerful fishing gear and greater capacity to store fish.

Some catch statistics are uncertain. Significant catches of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack as well as other species are landed in West Africa and sold as *faux poisson*. The SCRS is concerned about the potential amount of catches which may not be reported (*faux poisson*). Estimated unreported catches of some purse seiners are more important. These could exceed 20,000 t/year for the three major species.

There are also uncertainties regarding biological parameters: natural mortality, growth, stock structure and movements. The Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tagging Programme (AOTTP) will help resolve these uncertainties by providing comparative biological results, indications of stock movements and a possible stock structure, as well as an analysis of interactions between fleets, of data on the effects of FADs on the tuna resources, an assessment of the management measures (for example: impact of the closures). When tagging programs are successful, they provide useful data to address the most important issue: population size. The SCRS Chair encouraged CPCs to contribute to the AOTTP.

For skipjack (last assessment in 2008), the Atlantic provides 6% of the world production. These catches are mainly carried out by purse seiners and baitboats. 2012 catches were very high: 240,821 t of which 207,545 t were for the East Atlantic, representing an increase of 46% compared to the average catches for the 2007-2011 period.

There is no specific recommendation in place for skipjack. The SCRS considers that the catches should not exceed the MSY. The Commission should be aware that the increase of removals and fishing effort on skipjack may have unintended consequences on other species caught in association in some fisheries.

Lastly, the SCRS recommends conducting an assessment of this stock in 2014.

For bigeye tuna (last assessment in 2010), 19% of the world production is from the Atlantic.

The catches, carried out by purse seiners, baitboats and longliners, amounted to 70,536 t in 2012, below the TAC (85,000 t). The average catch for the period 2005 to 2012 is 75,000 t.

A historical peak of 133,000 t was reached in 1994, then the catches declined in relation to the size of the fishing fleet (longliners) and the reduction of fishing effort (longliners and baitboats). The number of active seiners decreased by more than half between 1994 and 2006, yet increased after 2007 (due in part to piracy in the Indian Ocean).

There is considerable uncertainty concerning stock status and the projections for bigeye tuna. Fifty-two percent (52%) of results from the models indicated that the status of the stock for bigeye tuna is consistent with the Convention objectives.

It should be noted that the projections suggest that future catches represent the total removals from the bigeye stocks, and not the TAC (85,000 t) only established by ICCAT. The catches taken by other fleets unaffected by catch limits should be added to compare them with scenarios of constant future catches. Likewise, future changes in selectivity may result in an increase in the relative mortality of small sized-fish, which will change these projections and add to uncertainties.

Concern about the catches of small bigeye tuna has resulted in the establishment of spatial closures in the Gulf of Guinea. The SCRS does not have sufficient information to determine the effectiveness of this closure at reducing the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna.

The SCRS reiterates its concern regarding the underestimation of the amount of the under-reported catches, particularly in the *faux poisson* category.

The SCRS recommends continuing the TAC level for 2014 at 85,000 t or less to maintain the stock in accordance with the objectives of the Convention.

An assessment of yellowfin tuna was conducted in 2011. The Kobe matrix shows considerable uncertainty in the assessment of the state of the yellowfin tuna stock and its productivity. 26% of results are coherent with the objectives of the Convention.

For yellowfin tuna, 9% of the world production is from the Atlantic.

Reported catches of yellowfin amounted to 101,866 t in 2012 and are below the TAC (110,000 t). The selectivity on juveniles has a significant impact on the productivity and recovery of the stock. The yellowfin tuna stock was overexploited in 2010. The time/area closure in Recommendation 11-01 should also provide some benefits to yellowfin tuna stocks.

The SCRS recommends maintaining the TAC at 110,000 t which would result in a biomass above  $B_{MSY}$  towards 2016 with a probability of 60%. The SCRS also recommends reducing fishing under objects (FADs) for this species (high juvenile mortality).

As regards the request from the Commission to the SCRS, gaps have been identified in Recommendation 11-01 concerning the FAD Management Plans. The SCRS recommends that the Commission revise the information to be transmitted by CPCs.

The Chair thanked Dr. Santiago for his presentation and opened the discussion.

Ghana thanked the SCRS and the ICCAT Secretariat and also Dr. Alain Fonteneau (European Union) who has helped improve tropical tuna statistics.

The European Union expressed its desire to strengthen the effectiveness of Recommendation 11-01 on FADs. Although the stock status for skipjack appears to be good, considering the high catch levels, the European Union supports an assessment of this stock in 2014.

Dr. Santiago intervened to provide additional information. He stated that the last SCRS assessment for skipjack took place in 2008. The 2012 catches for the eastern stock exceeded the  $MSY$  level. Also, a new assessment could reduce the level of uncertainty regarding the status of Atlantic skipjack.

United States stressed that the information collected by the regional observer programme should be provided to the SCRS. United States asked the SCRS Chair how CPCs can improve the quality of data on FADs submitted to the SCRS.

Mauritania supported the proposal by the SCRS Chair to conduct a skipjack assessment in 2014 as it is important for Mauritania to update knowledge on stocks in this area.

Dr. Santiago commented on how to improve the FAD management plans, explaining that different elements had been listed and included in working documents presented and discussed at the 2013 Intersessional Meeting on Integrated Monitoring Measures. The proposals would improve the information submitted. For example, the FAD logbooks, the logbooks for visits to fisheries (see ANNEX 4.3 Report of the 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures).

As regards international observers, Dr. Santiago stressed the need for a close collaboration among observers and the SCRS. Finally, coordination between observers who monitor the moratorium of the closed fishing areas and the SCRS is essential.

As regards *faux poisson*, for several years the SCRS has taken these catches into account.

The European Union expressed its concern regarding the problem of the overlapping of observers and asked that this item be discussed by the Panel.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities**

The Chairman gave the floor to the European Union to present its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas Rec. 13-01”, to amend the provisions of Recommendation 11-01 on the management of the FADs. The EU draft Recommendation aims at improving the collection of data on tunas caught under FADs.

This draft recommendation was forwarded for consideration by the Panel by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), which met in Sapporo in 2013. The amendments to the provisions regarding FAD logbooks will improve the collection of scientific information.

Ghana, on behalf of the African group, stated that it could not support this EU proposal.

Ghana questioned the area closure in Recommendation 11-01 noting that it barely covers the spawning grounds. To improve the management of bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

Ghana provided data on canneries. Ghana recommended reviewing the time/area closure first before addressing FADs.

The SCRS Chair clarified that the data on canneries had been used. He added that a lot of effort had been made in recent years to improve these data. The EU proposal will help improve the information available on FADs.

The European Union stated that the objective for an improved capacity assessment of the impact of the closures defended by Ghana would precisely strengthen the information on FADs.

The Chair of Panel 1 invited the European Union and Ghana to collaborate more closely before the next meeting.

At the last Panel meeting, Ghana expressed its satisfaction that the European Union had taken into account its concerns in the new version of the draft recommendation. Ghana requested that the date of entry into force of this new measure be established at January 1, 2015.

The European Union indicated that a compromise on the date is indeed possible and that it will propose an arrangement enabling a delay for certain CPCs to January 1, 2015, provided these CPCs undertake preparatory work. Sierra Leone would like the information which is transmitted to the fishing States to also be transmitted to coastal States.

Gabon noted that it would like support vessels be subject to the same requirements as the fishing vessels. In particular, Gabon would like observers to also be embarked on board the support vessels.

As regards FADs, Sierra Leone indicated that the information on positions/FAD deployment should be transmitted to coastal States.

Panama requested that the FADs be constructed with components that respect the environment and marine biodiversity and which enable reducing the by-catches of sharks or sea turtles.

Brazil supported Panama's position on environmental protection and conservation of the marine biodiversity.

A complete version of the draft was approved by the Panel and forwarded to the plenary for final adoption [see **Annex 5, Rec. 13-01**]

## **7. Research**

The Chairman noted the SCRS work plan and gave the floor to Dr. Santiago.

Dr. Santiago viewed the tropical tunas research programme which is based on three main lines of action:

- The improvement of Ghana's data,
- tagging programme, which is a very important initiative to improve the management, and
- skipjack assessment in 2014.

The Chairman took note of these three research areas and invited the Panel members to participate in the discussion.

Mauritania welcomed this initiative for a skipjack assessment in 2014, as the last assessment was conducted in 2008.

In 2012 and 2013, the exceptional skipjack catches under FADs in Mauritania reinforced the need for better understanding of the dynamics.

Furthermore, it is important to consider a scientific observation programme.

Ghana approved the SCRS research programme and added that it would cooperate closely to optimize the Ghanaian data.

The European Union stated that considering the catches and their increase, it is important that the skipjack assessment takes place in 2014. There is hope for cooperation from other CPCs, including financial.

The United States echoed the previous interventions and reiterated that it supported the large-scale tropical tunas tagging program with a contribution of \$62,500 in 2012, and encouraged other CPCs to contribute.

Senegal encourages further research for better knowledge of the stocks and recalled that Senegal represents an active fishing zone. Senegal expressed its wish to host an assessment meeting in 2014.

The Chair noted the consensus on the research programme. The Chair added that other CPCs were invited to contribute to financing, together with the EU.

The Secretariat informed the Panel that it would be convenient if CPCs that wished to participate in the financing of the research programme make a declaration of interest

## **8. Election of chair**

The Chairman asked the Panel members if any of them wished to make a proposal.

Ghana expressed appreciation to the Chairman for the work carried out and proposed that Côte d'Ivoire's mandate as Chair of Panel 1 be renewed for a period of two years.

Senegal supported Ghana's proposal. Namibia, European Union, Mauritania and South Africa supported Côte d'Ivoire's candidacy.

## **9. Other matters**

The Chair addressed the implementation of the regional observers programme in the framework of the ROP-TROP, in accordance with the Recommendation 11-01. This was in response to a request from the PWG, where it was noted that the delays in 2013 as regards the implementation of the ROP-TROP posed operational problems for some the fishing vessels concerned.

The European Union indicated that the delay in the implementation of the ROP-TROP put some European vessels in a difficult situation, as one vessel had already left port without an ROP observer and others were about to leave port to start their fishing campaign in the Gulf of Guinea without knowing the procedures for embarking ROP observers. To avoid non-compliance by these vessels under Recommendation 11-01, the European Union proposed that, for operational reasons, the same derogation as that agreed for the 2013 fishing campaign be agreed again for 2014, *i.e.* that national scientific observers deployed on board vessels may substitute ROP observers during the period that the vessel is in the closed area—in particular in the case of the the European Union vessel that had already left port. Likewise, the European Union clearly specified that this specific and operational request did not affect the Secretariat's work, or the existence of the ROP-TROP programme.

The European Union also specified that the national scientific observers on board will collaborate closely with the SCRS.

Ghana supported the request of the European Union, but asked that the derogation be general and include the entire fleet concerned. Ghana requested that the national scientific observers embarked be admitted to replace the ROP-TROP observers for the period of the closure of 2014.

The Executive Secretary expressed his concern and responded that further to the call for tenders and the selection of the contractor, the contract with the company responsible for the deployment of the ROP-TROP programme was signed on 23 October. The Secretariat informed the Panel that a training of regional observers was foreseen for the following week. To date, only four requests have been addressed to the Secretariat and only one vessel had carried out the procedures and paid the financial contribution.

The Executive Secretary suggested several solutions regarding the deployment of regional observers once the fishing campaign has already started, such as deploying the observers before or during the closure period if the vessel returns to port, or the transfer of the observer to the fishing area by another vessel.

Japan stated that all the actors concerned had carried out their work in a satisfactory way. However, if the problems of the implementation of the ROP-TROP persist, it would be convenient to question the efficacy of this programme.

United States expressed concern with delaying this important program for another year and proposed establishing a deadline whereby vessels that leave the port after a specified date will be obliged to deploy the ROP-TROP observer. However, this proposal was not acceptable to the parties.

The Chairman proposed that, subject to the advice of STACFAD, the vessels that are able to do so, deploy the ROP observer; the others will be authorized to keep the national scientific observers on board in accordance to Recommendation 11-01 for the 2014 fishing campaign. Resolution of this issue was deferred to the plenary.

#### **10. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The Chair thanked the Contracting Parties and adjourned the meeting of Panel 1.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 1 by correspondence.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Aronne Spezzani (European Union).

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted and is attached at **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Carrie Soltanoff (United States) was designated Rapporteur of Panel 2.

### **4. Review of Panel 2 membership**

Panel 2 comprises 24 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and United States of America. Two new members, Mauritania and Venezuela, joined the Panel at this meeting.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

Dr. Josu Santiago, Chair of the SCRS, presented the Executive Summaries on the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of albacore and the western and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of bluefin tuna. These summaries can be found in Sections 8.4 (Albacore) and 8.5 (East-West Bluefin Tuna) of the 2013 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

The Chair of SCRS also answered questions raised during the 2012 Panel 2 session and the 2013 meeting of the western bluefin tuna Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists, and tasks issued from Recommendations 12-03, 12-02 and 11-04.

#### **5.1 Albacore (North Atlantic and Mediterranean)**

##### *5.1.1 Northern albacore*

North Atlantic albacore was assessed in 2013. According to the assessment, the stock remains overfished, but the current SSB is at 94% of SSB at MSY. The stock assessment also indicated that fishing mortality is below  $F_{MSY}$ . Recent catches have remained below established TACs. Projections at the current TAC level of 28,000 t indicate that the stock would rebuild to levels consistent with Convention objectives by 2019 with a 53% probability. If catches remain at their current level around 20,000 t the recovery of the stock would be faster, by 2016.

The outlook for the stock status was projected using a limit reference point under the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) options, consistent with the policies identified in Rec. [11-13]. Expected catch along different timeframes under different HCR scenarios were presented, allowing the Commission to choose the appropriate probabilities and timeframes to reach specific management objectives.

##### *5.1.2 Mediterranean albacore*

The Mediterranean albacore stock was assessed for the first time in 2011 using available data up to 2010. The results of the 2011 assessment point to a relatively stable pattern for Mediterranean albacore biomass in the recent past. Recent fishing mortality levels appear to have been reduced from those of the early 2000s, which were likely in excess of  $F_{MSY}$ , and might now be at about or lower than the  $F_{MSY}$  level.

Due to the limited quantitative information available to the SCRS, projections for this stock were not conducted. As a result, future stock status in response to management actions could not be modeled. The outlook for this stock is, thus, unknown. The SCRS emphasized the importance of data collection and reporting to improve the quality of the assessment.

## **5.2 Bluefin tuna**

### *5.2.1 East Atlantic and Mediterranean*

In 2013, the SCRS reviewed indices of abundance from the 2012 update of the stock assessment. Since 2008, there has been a significant decrease in catches following more restrictive TACs. In spite of recent improvements in the data quantity and quality for the past few years, there remain important data limitations for the 2012 updated stock assessment.

However, both the data quantity and quality is improving with the introduction of individual quotas, better enforcement of the controls, and acquisition of new sources of information (BCDs, ship board observer data available to national scientists, VMS), observers at all cages, and new technologies (stereoscopic cameras).

The SCRS updated several CPUE indices in 2013. The updated CPUE indices were consistent with the stock rebuilding estimated in the 2012 stock assessment. All CPUE indices displayed positive trends of biomass in recent years, including fisheries-independent information from the aerial surveys performed on juvenile fish in the north-western Mediterranean Sea. Recent regulatory measures significantly affected some of the CPUE series through a change of operational patterns.

In addition to improvements in the data quantity and quality, the assessment methods applied in 2012 will be modified in the future to better accommodate the substantial uncertainties in the historical total catch, catch at age, and effort data. Testing of the methodologies envisioned to improve robustness will require at least three years to complete, by 2015.

Sources of uncertainties have not yet been fully quantified, including population structure, mixing rates, key biological parameters like stock productivity, and potential IUU catch. These uncertainties cannot be taken into account in the Kobe matrices. Despite these unquantified uncertainties, the 2012 updated stock assessment concluded that the recovery plan would enable eastern bluefin tuna to reach  $B_{MSY}$  with a probability of at least 60% by 2022 with catch at around recent TACs. However, the SCRS cannot give robust advice that would support a substantial change in the TAC. Given that the speed and magnitude of the rebuilding of the SSB remains highly uncertain, verification of this outcome needs to be confirmed by future data and analyses. Recent regulatory measures significantly impact some key fishery indicators, revealing a need for a period of stabilization in the main management regulations of the rebuilding plan. An update of the 2012 assessment will be done in 2014. A full assessment is still planned for 2015. However, noting that the SCRS has previously indicated that a full assessment could not be conducted in 2015 if an update were carried out in 2014, the SCRS Chair will report during the 2014 Commission meeting on the feasibility of carrying out a full assessment in 2015.

### *5.2.2 West Atlantic*

The SCRS updated the 2010 stock assessment during 2012. There has not been enough time to detect with confidence the population response to the current management measure, but the available fishery indicators suggest the SSB of western Atlantic bluefin tuna continues to increase. Fishing mortality on spawners has shown a decrease in recent years.

The SCRS considered that the low and high recruitment scenarios are viewed as reasonable (but not extreme) lower and upper bounds on rebuilding potential, but the SCRS has no strong evidence to favor one over the other. Analyses predict that maintaining catches of 1,750 t could allow the more correct recruitment scenario to be identified with reasonable confidence by the year 2024. Maintaining a catch of 1,000 t or less could allow the spawning biomass to rebuild enough to do so by the end of the rebuilding period in 2018. Under either recruitment scenario current catches of 1,750 t should allow the biomass to continue to increase. Larger catches in excess of 2,000 t will not allow the 2003 year class to elevate the productivity of the spawning stock in the future and will not allow for stock growth.

The SCRS recognizes that the large uncertainty in stock status is exacerbated by the lack of appropriate information or data and scientific surveys, and suggests using a scientific research quota to help support the improvement of stock abundance indices for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and overcome this situation, which would be a long-term endeavor. The SCRS noted, however, that any such research quota should be part of the TAC and not in addition.

The Chair reported the results of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment, held in Montréal. The terms of reference of that Working Group referred to an historical description of science advice and management for that stock, the review of current knowledge of mixing populations, and the review of the basis of the current assumptions on spawning stock biomass and recruitment.

The SCRS emphasized that productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery is linked to the eastern fishery. Management actions taken in the eastern management zone are likely to influence rebuilding of the western stock. Mixing from East to West can have significant effects on the western stock because the eastern stock is much larger.

### ***5.3 Answers to questions raised by the Commission in 2012 and tasks derived from the relevant Recommendations***

The Chair addressed the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission:

*1. Evaluate the BFT pilot studies to estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging using stereoscopic system [Rec. 12-03, paragraph 88] (see Item 16.2 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

Recommendation [12-03] requests the CPCs to implement pilot studies through the use of stereoscopic systems and report the results to the SCRS. Seven SCRS documents regarding the use of stereoscopic camera systems describing some work in progress on board Mediterranean cages were presented in 2011 and 2012. Two SCRS documents were presented in 2013: one comparing stereoscopic camera fork length estimates of individual fish to the same measure with calipers [SCRS/2013/182], and the other describing practical difficulties arising during the actual deployment of the stereoscopic camera at sea [SCRS/2013/202].

*2. Evaluate the BFT national observer programmes conducted by CPCs to report to the Commission and to provide advice on future improvements [Rec. 12-03, paragraph 90] (see Item 16.3 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

Most of the data collected from national observer programs are used by the CPCs to comply with the ICCAT data fisheries reporting obligations. Data are already submitted by CPCs under the Task I and II statistics obligations, as confirmed by national scientists during the meeting. The Secretariat developed a form of the national observer program [e-form 45]. The response to this form request has been relatively sporadic, with 12 CPCs in 2012 and 14 CPCs in 2013. The CPCs that have responded to the national observer programs enquiry in 2013 have, in general, provided details of sampling and coverage from each program towards bluefin tuna fisheries. Appendix 2 of the “Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2013” summarizes the responses by each CPC to the national observer program questionnaire.

*3. Provide updated tables of BFT growth rate in weight based on the information from BCDs and other submitted data [Rec. 12-03, paragraph 98] (see Item 16.4 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

The SCRS analyzed the information available for bluefin tuna growth rate in weight, and confirmed its commitment to continue the work of the Trade Group, initiated in 2012, to establish procedures based on BCDs and other available information (stereoscopic cameras or alternative technology to accurately quantify the transferred fish, observer reports, scientific sampling, trade statistics, etc.) to confirm the catch numbers of fish and weights declared on BCDs (Task I data). The framework for the analysis of market/auction data recovered by GBYP, which was discussed by SCRS during the bluefin tuna assessment in 2012 and by the GBYP Steering Committee in December 2012, was defined by the GBYP Steering Committee in 2013.

*4. Response to paragraph 27 of Rec. [12-03] on the creation of sanctuaries in the Mediterranean Sea for bluefin tuna (see Item 16.5 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

The SCRS provided a response in 2012, stating that current knowledge indicates that bluefin tuna spawning locations are probably wider than often assumed in the past and could cover more than half of the whole

Mediterranean Sea surface, mainly in the Southern part. Furthermore, the locations and timing of bluefin tuna spawning is likely to substantially vary from year to year. Consequently, the implementation of a sanctuary aiming at protecting bluefin spawning should be large enough to be really efficient at a population level and would necessitate an integrative approach, through modeling, to evaluate the optimal design in terms of size, location(s) and time or season.

The scientific advice is dependent upon the objectives of a time-area closure, such as an alternative to quota management or protection of spawning individuals. The current recovery plan has shown positive and encouraging results, so a change in the management plan may not be required at this time. If there are other motivations for creating sanctuaries other than to recover the stock, the SCRS requests that the Commission clarifies their goals. The potential efficiency of sanctuaries for stock recovery requires better knowledge of the population structure. Previous studies indicated that reductions in the TAC must be required if protected areas are implemented to avoid negative impacts on the population. The socio-economic impact of such a measure will be unequal between fleets.

*5. Review available fishery and stock indicator trends [of W-BFT] and estimated yearly catch rates [of EBFT], Rec. [12-02], paragraph 16 and Rec. [12-03], paragraph 50 (see Item 16.6 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

The SCRS updated abundance indices for the U.S. rod and reel fishery, the Japanese longline fishery, the U.S. Gulf of Mexico longline fishery, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Gulf of Mexico larval survey. The trends in these indices show no indication of a change in stock status sufficient to warrant advancing scheduling of the next stock assessment.

The SCRS also updated CPUE indices for the Moroccan and Spanish traps and Japanese longliners targeting large fish, as well as Spanish purse seiners. The updated CPUE indices in 2013 are consistent with the stock rebuilding estimated in the 2012 stock assessment. Fisheries-independent information from the aerial surveys performed on juvenile fish in the northwestern Mediterranean Sea showed similar results.

*6. Provide answers to a set of questions on EBFT addressed by Panel 2 to the SCRS (see Item 16.7 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

*a) Discuss and assess data made available to SCRS before the bluefin tuna working group takes place, in particular, the usefulness of taking benefit from information coming from other sources than those related to Task I or Task II, e.g., catch certificates, catch-at-size series when entering and/or exiting cages, fisheries independent abundance indices like those of the GBYP, etc. as regards a likely decrease in the level of uncertainties;*

Size data collected by observers at harvesting in the farms since 2005 offer a better way than currently done, to estimate CAS of bluefin tuna caught by purse seiners in the Mediterranean. This data should be carefully processed and extrapolated, taking into account the period of fattening. This new data processing would possibly allow the SCRS to estimate the new series of yearly total catches that could be different from the current Task I. It is probable that this new CAS estimated for the period 2003-2013 will be quite different from the current CAS for those years. This potential inconsistency between the two CAS might affect the outcomes of the stock assessment. To properly produce this new CAS, the SCRS plans a bluefin tuna data meeting in 2014.

*b) Develop and agree on statistical protocols allowing a quality check, the validation and the inclusion into the assessment process of additional sources of information mentioned above;*

The SCRS adopted procedures for the inclusion of the GBYP catch estimates for the period 1950-2011 (SCRS/2013/169). The SCRS made several other recommendations regarding data compiled and recovered under the GBYP: size distributions; catch and effort with fleet, gear, area, and quarterly strata definition; data on catch and associated effort prior to 1950. All data should be integrated and available before the next stock evaluation, within the work plan defined for 2014/2015.

*c) In light of fisheries and fisheries-independent abundance indices, e.g. aerial surveys, CPUE, etc., is the SCRS in a position to confirm the recovery trend of the stock detected in 2012?*

As written in the Executive Summary of the SCRS report and also reported in the Responses to the Commission on paragraph 50 of Rec. [12-03], the fisheries-dependent and the fisheries-independent abundance indices updated to 2012 are consistent with the stock rebuilding estimated in the last stock assessment.

*d) Would the SCRS specify the nature of the uncertainties in the 2012 stock assessment? In particular, is the SCRS in a position to quantify uncertainties in the 2012 stock assessment results, like the magnitude and the speed of the recovery?*

Unquantified uncertainties are coming from various sources. The major sources are: the poor quality of fisheries information; the increasing difficulties to track changes in abundance through fisheries-dependent information because all CPUE indices are strongly affected by recent management measures; the lack of knowledge regarding some key biological and ecological processes; and lack of knowledge about the fisheries dynamics also affect the outcomes of the stock assessment. The Kobe matrices cannot integrate these important sources of uncertainties because they remain, for the moment, unquantified. The quantifications of those uncertainties will take time and imply intensive research effort, like those deployed under GBYP. The ability of the SCRS to precisely estimate the magnitude and the speed of the recovery depends on the above unquantified uncertainties, but also to the time needed to detect the signal of the effects of the recovery plan. Therefore, the SCRS is in the same position as last year and cannot better quantify the uncertainties about the speed of the recovery in the short-term.

*e) In the light of answers to the questions above, what would the recommendation of the SCRS be in updating the TAC as regards that agreed in 2012 for the year 2013 and thereafter?*

The advice of the SCRS regarding TAC states that given the above unquantified uncertainties, the SCRS cannot give robust advice that would support a substantial change in the TAC. Nonetheless, the SCRS notes that maintaining catches at around recent TACs under the current management scheme will likely allow the stock to increase during that period and is consistent with the goal of achieving FMSY and BMSY through 2022 with at least 60% of probability. A period of stabilization in the main management regulations of the rebuilding plan would allow the SCRS to better estimate the magnitude and speed of recent trends in F and SSB in the coming years.

*7. Provide answer to the requests from the 1st Working Group WBFT Fisheries Managers and Scientists (see Item 16.8 of the 2013 SCRS Report).*

Regarding advice on possible measures to support methodologies and sampling programs aimed at improving and developing fisheries-independent abundance and recruitment indices, two documents submitted by Japan were discussed in 2013: Research Proposal to Improve Stock Abundance Indices for Western Stock of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (SCRS/2013/200) and Talking Points of Scientific Design on Research Plan for Western Bluefin Tuna (SCRS/2013/203). The research proposal identified four areas for development of new research and surveys. The new research is meant to complement, not replace, the existing fishery-dependent indices of abundance.

There was a general consensus on the need for fishery-independent indices of abundance for western bluefin tuna given the uncertainties associated with existing CPUE fishery-dependent indices. During its annual meeting held in October 2013, the SCRS encouraged Japan to prepare a draft proposal for presentation to the Commission at the 2013 annual meeting taking into consideration the SCRS discussions. The SCRS also noted that aerial surveys, acoustic surveys, and scientific tagging studies might be viable alternatives. Pilot studies have already been conducted, particularly for aerial surveys and tagging of juvenile western bluefin tuna and it should be possible to conduct a cost-benefit analysis that compares the relative merits of the various alternatives.

Regarding the request from the Commission on how long it would take the western bluefin tuna stock to reach SSB levels under different TACs that would allow for the testing of the stock-recruitment relationship, a paper was presented to the SCRS examining the statistical power to discriminate between the low recruitment and high recruitment scenarios assumed for western bluefin tuna when the spawning stock is allowed to rebuild under various catch scenarios (SCRS/2013/191).

The results indicated a low power to discriminate between the scenarios if the TAC was increased to 2,500 t, a moderate power to discriminate between the scenarios by 2024 with the current TAC of 1,750 t, and a moderate power to discriminate between the scenarios by 2018 (and high discrimination power by 2025) with TACs of 1,000 t or below. The SCRS also prepared a Report of the 2013 Bluefin Tuna Meeting on Biological Parameters Review and a Report of the 2013 Meeting on Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Methods. These reports outline the 2014 work plan for bluefin tuna biology and the work plan for the bluefin tuna stock assessment and management strategy evaluation out to 2017. The SCRS emphasized the following necessities to conduct the bluefin tuna work plan leading to the full stock assessment in 2015: all CPCs ensure regular funding of GBYP activities, external support is guaranteed for a program coordinator and code developer, CPCs ensure the presence of national scientists at the 2014 bluefin tuna data-biology meeting, and external experts be available to assist with interpretation of data.

In response to the Chair's presentation of the SCRS, several CPCs that harvest eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna expressed concern about what they perceived to be a discrepancy between the SCRS management advice and what fishermen are experiencing in the fishing grounds. These CPCs expressed concern that the recommendations of the SCRS are inconsistent with increasing trends in several stock indicators, and that a recommended TAC increase is justifiable. Other CPCs disagreed that a TAC increase was warranted.

The European Union submitted written questions to the SCRS, to be answered in 2014 (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**).

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]**

### **6.1 North Atlantic and Mediterranean albacore**

The European Union tabled a revised version of the rebuilding program for North Atlantic albacore, cosponsored by Japan. This proposal maintains the current TAC at 28,000 t for the years 2014, 2015, and 2016. The proposal also notes transfers from the European Union to Venezuela and from Chinese Taipei to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to Belize. The proposal simplified the table showing the adjustment year for quota under harvests. The proposal calls on the SCRS to continue development of a Limit Reference Point and Harvest Control Rule for this stock. The *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program* was agreed and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-05]**). The European Union submitted a statement on flexible catch limit mechanisms in [Rec. 13-05], attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

The Panel did not propose any measures regarding Mediterranean albacore.

### **6.2 Western Atlantic bluefin tuna**

Japan tabled a research plan for the western bluefin tuna stock on fishery independent indices of abundance for spawning stock and juvenile bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and in coastal waters of the United States. The proposal called for a research quota of 245 t, which would be added to the current TAC for its research plan. Some CPCs expressed concern regarding whether this research could be considered fishery independent. Conflicts with domestic legislations were noted. There were also concerns that the proposal would increase in the TAC. The United States tabled a resolution on Atlantic bluefin tuna scientific research requesting the SCRS to identify and prioritize among prospective fishery independent indices of abundance. Canada submitted a statement regarding the Canadian western bluefin tuna research program in relation to Rec. [12-02] and the quota transfer from Mexico (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**).

The United States then tabled an amendment to the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program, with a rollover of the current TAC of 1,750 t for two years through 2015. Japan tabled an amendment that would increase the TAC to 1,995 t to include the additional 245 t for research activities described above. The proposals regarding the rebuilding program for western bluefin tuna were combined into a proposal cosponsored by Canada, Japan, and the United States that sets a TAC of 1,750 t in 2014, with the 2015 TAC to be set in 2014. The proposal also prohibits the sale of recreationally harvested fish of any size, calls on CPCs to submit a research plan in 2014 for the development of reliable stock abundance indices (to be discussed in 2014 by the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment), and reiterates an existing requirement that all CPCs implement Recommendation 03-13 on the recording of catch. One CPC suggested that a lower TAC would help discern the more likely recruitment scenario within the timeframe of the rebuilding program. Others raised a concern that parties with smaller allocations may not be able to develop research plans. Following this discussion the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* was agreed and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-09]**).

### **6.3 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna**

Japan proposed increasing the TAC by 400 t to 13,800 t. Following informal negotiations, Japan tabled a revised proposal to maintain the current TAC for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna. The allocation scheme remains the same

for 2014, with the Croatian quota added to the EU quota now that Croatia has acceded to the European Union. Turkey noted that it again intends to object to the recommendation, although it will comply with all provisions. Egypt and Algeria expressed reservations concerning the allocation scheme in paragraph 9. Libya submitted a statement requesting to carryover unused quota from 2011 for eastern Atlantic bluefin beginning in 2014, under paragraph 10 (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**). Libya's request was not adopted but will be considered in 2014. Syria also expressed a desire to carry over unused quota from prior years, but this could not be accommodated. Albania, although not present in the meeting, sent a message recalling its right to fish for bluefin tuna in 2014. Following this discussion, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 12-03 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* was forwarded to the Commission for final decision (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-07]**).

Norway tabled a proposal to alter the current time and area closures in place for longline and purse seine vessels operating in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery such that Norway could fish its quota when bluefin tuna are in Norwegian waters. It was noted that the original time/area closures season were intended to protect bluefin tuna on the spawning grounds. In light of this, one CPC suggested that the issue raised by Norway could perhaps be addressed through a technical clarification. It was also suggested that a better way to address the issue would be to provide the geographic coordinates for the area in question rather than refer specifically to Norway's EEZ. Norway noted that the Norwegian coastline is about 20,000 km long and characterized by a very considerable number of fjords and thousands of islands. Norway questioned the rationale of inserting several pages of coordinates into an already long recommendation and considered that it would be easier to simply write the Norwegian Economic Zone. Another CPC requested additional time to analyze the proposal. As there was no consensus on the proposal, Norway called for a vote. The proposal was adopted with 17 votes in favor (Algeria, Belize, Brazil, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Turkey, Syria, United States, and Venezuela), two against (Canada and France (St. Pierre and Miquelon)), and four abstentions (Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and European Union). The proposal was forwarded to the Commission for final adoption as part of [Rec. 13-07] (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-07]**).

Following the vote, the European Union made the following statement: "We regret not having had the opportunity to discuss further the proposal made by Norway before it was brought to a vote. We remain open to continue working with Norway and other CPCs on such issues." In response, Norway stated that such opportunity has existed since the Norwegian proposal had been posted on the ICCAT website on October 17. Furthermore, Norway had met bilaterally with several CPCs during the Annual Meeting, including the European Union, to discuss the Norwegian proposal and had been available for additional and more thorough discussions for a number of days. Thus, Norway stated that the allegation that Contracting Parties had not been given ample time and opportunity to consider and discuss this document were unfounded. One CPC clarified that highly migratory species must be managed throughout their range and that, in the case of the new text, the reference to Norway's Economic Zone refers to a specific geographical area and should not imply that ICCAT measures are applied differently within domestic zones vs. the high seas. Norway confirmed that all the applicable ICCAT measures would be implemented in the Norwegian bluefin tuna fishery. Nevertheless, Norway reserved its right to implement stricter measures when deemed necessary in the fisheries for bluefin tuna in waters under Norwegian fisheries jurisdiction.

The European Union tabled a proposal to establish a standardized protocol and common procedures for implementation of stereoscopic cameras programme in the eastern Atlantic Mediterranean bluefin caging operations by 2014 and to clarify technical issues referred to the fishing season for bait and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic. Turkey requested that dimensions of transfer gates be increased and Tunisia and Japan also expressed concern with the specifications. The European Union clarified that the SCRS may review the proposal in the future to modify dimensions. With these changes, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Complementing Recommendation 12-03 which Established a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna* was forwarded to the Commission for final decision (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-08]**). The European Union submitted a statement regarding this proposal, attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

Morocco posed two questions to the Chair of the SCRS regarding a TAC for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna: (1) Would a variation of 500 t above or below the current TAC be a significant modification; and (2) Would this variation have a significant impact on the stock's dynamics? The Chair responded that, in his opinion, based on the SCRS recommendations, the amount proposed by Morocco would represent an increase of less than 5%, which cannot be considered significant and it would maintain the TAC at the level of recent values. In response to the second question, the Chair stated that since the changes proposed do not imply significant variations with regard to recent TACs, this variation of the TAC would not be expected to significantly impact the stock dynamics.

#### **6.4 Repeated objections**

Turkey submitted a statement on reconsideration of the TAC for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, calling for a considerable TAC increase within the scientific advice, both in support of scientific analysis and to distribute amounts of this increase to CPCs that feel they have experienced unfair quota allocation. Turkey expressed a desire to find a permanent solution to the issues of quota allocation through a review of allocation criteria so that repeat objections can be avoided in the future. Egypt and Algeria supported Turkey's position. The statement by Turkey is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**.

#### **7. Research**

The Chair of the SCRS gave an update of the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP). The GBYP began in 2010 and in 2013 has completed phase 4. The program focuses on aerial surveys, data recovery, biological sampling, tagging, and modeling. The Chair also outlined the budget for phase 5 of the GBYP. The Executive Secretary explained problems with reaching sufficient funding levels for phase 5.

Japan tabled a proposal establishing a scheme for the funding of the GBYP, requiring a financial contribution from the government of each CPC and/or its bluefin tuna industry that utilizes an eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna allocation. Several CPCs expressed concerns with the proposal. The proposal was not adopted and will be discussed in 2014.

#### **8. Election of Chair**

Japan was elected as the Chair of Panel 2 for the 2014-15 biennial period.

#### **9. Other matters**

The Executive Secretary presented the Report on Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT) in [Rec. 12-03]. An informal Working Group was established earlier in 2013 to assess the ROP-BFT. Turkey and the European Union volunteered for the working group, which produced an evaluation of the ROP in September 2013 (attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**). The informal Working Group also produced a draft call for tenders for implementation of the ROP-BFT, which was forwarded to the Commission.

Regarding requests for clarification of provisions of [Rec.12-03], the Chair instructed CPCs to send responses in writing to the Secretariat.

Written statements were submitted by the following observers at Panel 2: *La Asociación de Pesca Comercio y Consumo Responsable* (APCCR), Blue Water Fishermen's Association, Ecology Action Centre, Pew Environment Group, and a joint statement on behalf of the Ecology Action Centre, Greenpeace, the Ocean Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Oceana, and WWF (attached as **Appendices 11 to 15 to ANNEX 9**).

#### **10. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence.

The 2013 meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Panel 3 Chair, Dr. Johann Augustyn (South Africa).

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted by the Panel members and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 3.

### **4. Review of Panel 3 membership**

Panel 3 currently comprises 12 members as follows: Belize, Brazil, European Union, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay, all of which were present except Honduras.

Panama and China communicated their intention to join Panel 3.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

Relevant information is contained in the 2013 SCRS Report. A stock assessment was carried out for South Atlantic albacore in 2013, and it has been peer-reviewed. The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, reviewed the current state of the stocks covered by this Panel, based on the last meeting of the SCRS held in October 2013.

#### **5.1 South Atlantic albacore**

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that a stock assessment of South Atlantic albacore had been conducted in 2013. Reported catches were 24,726 tons, slightly above the TAC of 24,000 tons. The SCRS opinion is that the South Atlantic albacore stock is probably around  $SSB_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$ , but projections at a level consistent with 2012-2013 TAC showed that possibilities of being in the green area of the Kobe matrix would exceed 50% only after 2020. With catches around 20,000 tons, probabilities of 50% would be exceeded by 2015 and probability of 60% would be exceeded by 2018. Lower catch levels would increase the probabilities within these timeframes, while catches over the present TAC will not permit the rebuilding of the stock with at least 50% probability over the projection timeframe.

South Africa pointed out that, independently of lower catches reported in previous years, the recent stock assessment increased the concerns about this stock and possibly undeclared or IUU catches may contribute to the situation. Better controls might improve the status of the stock and bring it into a safer state.

Brazil shared these views and concerns and suggested that the adoption of a lower TAC might help in achieving the conservation objective.

Namibia and Uruguay also shared the same concerns and asked the SCRS Chair to indicate possible solutions.

The SCRS Chair clarified that, besides any possible unreported catches, environmental conditions should be taken into account in the future for considering the status of this stock and these environmental data are not available at the moment.

#### **5.2 Southern bluefin tuna**

This stock is currently managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]**

South Africa presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2014 to 2016”, and explained all changes in the management measures. The TAC was kept within the limit of 24,000 t to respect the conservation objectives, establishing updated quotas and new provisions for balancing under and over harvesting in a given year.

United States acknowledged the efforts made in putting together the proposal and the efforts for establishing individual catch limits and taking into account the needs of coastal States, but sought clarifications about the changes in the proposed allocations, in particular the reduction of small harvester catch limits and the uneven reduction in the catch limits of the major harvesters.

Japan also acknowledged the proposal noting that the allocation of catches to Japan was not in agreement with previous discussions, implying a catch reduction of 64% and making this very difficult for the fleet. Furthermore, Japan questioned the provision of paragraph 5, implying a 125% reduction in the following year in case of overharvesting in a given year. For these reasons, Japan asked to delay the discussion to 2014.

The European Union acknowledged the proposal and, considering the intervention from Japan, regretted that the proposal could not be approved. Anyway, the EU expressed its concerns about the carry over measures included in the proposal, which constitute a step back from previous measures.

Brazil supported the proposal, declaring that the concerns expressed so far are not really consistent and that Brazil would like not to postpone the management measures included in the proposal, because the effect will be a problem for the right management of this stock, considering that delaying the proposal will not be an option.

Uruguay shared the worries expressed by Brazil, taking into account the fact that this stock is not in good health and that new management measures are urgently needed.

Namibia shared the views expressed by Brazil and Uruguay.

China expressed their support for the views expressed by Japan and asked to delay the decision to 2014.

Chinese Taipei expressed concerns about the distinction among major coastal States, major fishing fleets and other CPCs, requesting that this distinction to be cancelled. Furthermore, Chinese Taipei requested an improved qualification of the last part of paragraph 7.

The European Union reported that further amendments will be necessary for an advanced version of the proposal.

South Africa shared the worries expressed by Brazil, Uruguay and Namibia, about the need to better manage this stock.

After further informal discussions in the margins and small amendments, the revised draft proposal was approved by consensus by the Panel and was referred to the Plenary for final approval and adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-06]**).

## **7. Research**

No further reports were presented by SCRS Chair, but all scientific information was provided under Item 5.

## **8. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed by the Panel.

## **9. Election of Chair**

The Delegates from Japan and Uruguay proposed that South Africa be re-elected as Chair for the next two year period. The proposal was approved by consensus.

**10. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The 2013 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 3 by correspondence.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), opened the meeting.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**) was adopted without changes.

### **3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 4.

### **4. Review of Panel Membership**

Panel 4 is comprised of the following 31 members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic.), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Uruguay and Venezuela.

Mauritania, Panama and Republic of Guinea requested to be members of Panel 4. The Chair welcomed the new Members.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics**

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr. Josu Santiago, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: swordfish, marlins, sailfish, small tunas, and sharks.

#### **5.1 *Swordfish***

The last assessment for North and South Atlantic swordfish was conducted in 2013 and for Mediterranean swordfish in 2010.

##### **5.1.1 *North Atlantic swordfish***

In 2013, the estimated catch including dead discards was 13,972 t, and for the first time since 2002 total catch was slightly over the TAC (13,700 tons). The SCRS noted that this stock is "data rich". Most of the catches are obtained by longliners. The SCRS explored various alternatives in 2013 and all signals were consistent independently from the methodology. The SCRS found that the stock is at or above  $B_{MSY}$ , fishing mortality has been below  $F_{MSY}$  since 2005, and the current TAC of 13,700 provides an 83% probability of maintaining the stock biomass above  $B_{MSY}$ . The estimated relative biomass trend has shown a consistent increase since 2000. The SCRS found that a TAC about 15,000 tons would reduce the probability of maintaining the stock at or above  $B_{MSY}$  to 50% or lower. The SCRS Chair indicated that without a more precise direction from the Commission, the SCRS cannot provide more detailed advice.

Canada thanked the SCRS for establishing a reference level for North Atlantic swordfish, however noted that there are several data deficiencies for some fisheries and asked for more details concerning this issue. The SCRS Chair clarified that despite the overall good quality of the data for this stock, there are uncertainties about the true levels of dead discards, and some of the CPUE data.

##### **5.1.2 *South Atlantic swordfish***

Recent catches for South Atlantic swordfish, at 10,180 t for 2012, are below the current TAC. In this case, the quality of the data was lower than those of the northern stock. Additional fishery indicators have been considered

in the assessment and, despite the high variability of trends, the SCRS believes that the stock is not overfished. Due to the uncertainties in stock assessment results, the SCRS recommended a TAC of no more than 15,000 tons.

South Africa commented on the discrepancy between the outputs of the assessment and the continuous decrease of catches in most of the fisheries in coastal states and expressed concern about the models used for South Atlantic swordfish.

Namibia shared the concerns of South Africa and requested comments from the SCRS.

The SCRS Chair clarified that two different models had been used for assessing this stock and both provided similar results.

### *5.1.3 Mediterranean swordfish*

The Chair of SCRS noted that very little quantitative information was available for this stock, even with some CPCs having improved their reporting. The reported catch in 2012 was 9,162 t, the lowest in the last 15 years. This stock was assessed for the last time in 2010. The majority of catches has been of small swordfish (less than three years old) and the SCRS expressed concern that this would further reduce the biomass. The stock is overfished and the current fishing mortality slightly exceeds  $F_{MSY}$ . Overall results suggest that fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock towards the Convention objective of biomass levels that support MSY, and away from levels that could result in a rapid stock decline. Despite the existing uncertainties, biomass and recruitment levels appear stable over the last 15 years. Various model simulations indicated that only a seasonal closure of around six months or small quotas would allow the SSB to increase within two or three generations. The SCRS also recommended a capacity reduction of 20%. Finally, the SCRS noted again that Recommendation 11-03 contained an error in the length-weight conversion factor and proposed new wording to correct this mistake.

## **5.2 Marlins**

### *5.2.1 Blue marlin*

Blue marlin was assessed in 2011. Provisional reported catch in 2012 was 1,834 t, a further reduction from 2011. Only a few CPCs reported dead discards and the SCRS Chair emphasized the need for this information, while the quantity of unclassified billfish has been minimized. Furthermore, the SCRS Chair emphasized the need for data from non-industrial fleets such as artisanal and recreational boats. The stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. The SCRS considered Rec. 12-04 and the TAC of 2,000 tons and expressed its concerns about the effectiveness of such measures taking into account that most likely there is severe under reporting. The SCRS indicated that technological improvements, such as the use of circle hooks, may reduce by-catch and decrease post-release mortality. The SCRS recommended immediately reducing fishing mortality from non-industrial fisheries.

### *5.2.2 White marlin*

White marlin was assessed in 2012. In 2012, provisional reported catches were at a level of 403 t, slightly higher than those in 2011. The SCRS Chair noted that few CPCs report dead discards and that there were many uncertainties in the data. The SCRS considered various scenarios and found that there had been a relatively stable trend in catch per unit effort for the species since 1991. The 2012 assessment showed that the stock was overfished, but that overfishing was, most likely, no longer occurring. However, the outlook for this stock remains uncertain because of the possibility that reported catches underestimate fishing mortality and the lack of certainty in the productivity of the stock. With catches at or below 400 t, the stock will likely increase in size, but rebuilding in the next ten years is very unlikely. The SCRS recommended that measures be taken to ensure monitoring of dead discards and live releases to better estimate true mortality and that catches do not exceed current levels. The SCRS also suggested that the use of circle hooks may be useful to reduce fishing mortality.

### 5.2.3 Sailfish

Sailfish stocks were last assessed in 2009. Total reported catches in 2012 were 891 t for the western Atlantic and 1,153 t in the eastern Atlantic. Considering that they were historically reported together with spearfish *Tetrapturus spp.*, there is a great deal of uncertainty in the assessment results. The models suggest that overfishing is occurring, being probably more severe in the eastern stock. The SCRS recommended that catches be reduced in the eastern stock and be kept stable in the western one, and that all CPCs report catches and dead discards. The SCRS also suggested that the use of circle hooks may be useful in increasing survival. The SCRS proposed a new assessment to be held in 2015.

### 5.3 Small tunas

The SCRS Chair stressed the importance of small tunas from a socio-economic perspective, as they are an important catch for many artisanal fisheries. Provisional reported catches of accumulated small tunas in 2012 were at 97,274 t. A considerable improvement of available information was noticed in the last SCRS meeting, where 9 scientific documents were presented from developing coastal CPCs. However, information on biology and fisheries is still insufficient in many areas and, currently, it is not possible to conduct stock assessments for small tunas. In the absence of stock assessments, the SCRS had no management recommendations, but appealed for cooperation with regional organizations and countries to improve ICCAT's knowledge of these species.

### 5.4 Sharks

In 2012, the SCRS conducted an ecological risk assessment (ERA) for 16 species of sharks (20 stocks), as had been done in 2008 and 2010. This assessment took various elements of productivity and vulnerability into account. For this purpose, the SCRS held an intersessional meeting to review available information on the biology of shark species. In 2012, the SCRS also carried out an assessment for the shortfin mako shark. There were several small changes in the results of the ERA, with porbeagle sharks exhibiting the largest change, now ranking fourth on the list (previously seventh and tenth, respectively). Many aspects of shark biology are poorly understood or unknown. The Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) is currently under development.

#### 5.4.1 Blue shark

Total reported catches in 2012 were 60,953 t. The results of the last assessment in 2008 showed that the biomass was above  $MSY$  and fishing mortality was below  $F_{MSY}$  for both the North and South Atlantic stocks. A new assessment is proposed for 2015, preceded by a data preparatory meeting in 2014.

#### 5.4.2 Shortfin mako

Reported catches for Atlantic shortfin mako in 2012 were 7,277 t. An assessment of North and South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks was conducted in 2012. The assessment suggested that the stocks were not overfished and overfishing was not occurring, although uncertainties have been noted. The SCRS noted that reporting had increased.

#### 5.4.3 Porbeagle

Reported catches of porbeagle to ICCAT in 2012 were 188 t. The southern stock has very limited data, but is probably below  $B_{MSY}$  and fishing mortality is near  $F_{MSY}$ . Both the northeast and northwest stocks are below  $B_{MSY}$  and fishing mortality is very close to or exceeds  $F_{MSY}$ . The SCRS recommended a precautionary approach and called for additional data. The SCRS Chair also recommended collaboration with other RFMOs in the area to improve the status of stocks. Fishing should not exceed current levels and new fisheries should be prevented.

#### 5.4.4 Other shark species

Reported catches of other shark species in 2012 were 11,180 t. The vulnerability rank of each species was estimated by ERA in 2012.

### **5.5 General comments**

The SCRS Chair indicated that different methodologies are used by the Committee to assess the different stocks and that these also included some fishery independent indices. The SCRS Chair highlighted that many CPCs provided fishery indicators for stock assessment purposes. He indicated that quantity of fishery indicators made available to the SCRS is directly proportional to the quality of the stock assessment.

The European Union expressed regret about the lack of data on sharks, informing that a research project was recently concluded, with the participation of various scientists from the European Union and that the final report was available on a web site, noting that this work might help the provision of better advice in the future. The European Union also informed about various recommendation proposals on shark conservation, shark sampling, porbeagle, sea turtles, North and South Atlantic and Mediterranean swordfish that had been presented at the 2013 Commission meeting.

The SCRS Chair noted that the data obtained by the EU research project were gratefully received by the SCRS, and that they would be used during the inter-sessional meeting in 2014.

Morocco requested clarification about the use of the Kobe matrix for several species in this Panel and also about the quality of the data used for some assessments.

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that the Kobe matrix was used for North Atlantic swordfish and for white marlin but for the other species covered by the Panel the Committee was not confident about the high and unquantified uncertainties.

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that SCRS will continue the cooperation with ICES in relation to shark species and that it also plans to possibly use the data from the observers on board. The plan includes the possibility to evaluate shark catches in purse seine and artisanal fisheries.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]**

### **6.1 Documents introduced by the Secretariat**

The ICCAT Secretariat informed about all information received so far on sharks and about the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles, sea birds and other species. Most of the information was included in the 2013 SCRS Report, while the "Information in Relation to Reports on Sharks and Other Bycatch Species", prepared by the Secretariat, informed in detail about the data received from the CPCs.

Japan acknowledged the Secretariat for preparing the above-mentioned document, but noticed that some paragraphs should better reflect the fact that Japan is complying with all recommendations concerned and not only for the part related to silky shark as it appeared in the document. Japan also informed that some other minor problems were found in some tables and that these would be communicated to the Secretariat.

Uruguay noted that the interpretation of the document was difficult in some parts.

The ICCAT Secretariat responded that the difficulties were due to the lack of a common format for submitting the information, a problem that made the summary of the data particularly complex. It informed furthermore, that due to the variety of information collected by the different CPC's scientific observer programs, the Secretariat was working on a common format to report such information and that this format should be officially adopted by SCRS, later on.

### **6.2 Introduction of proposals**

The Panel Chair listed the eight proposals presented to the Panel and invited the Delegates to introduce their documents.

## **6.3 Sharks**

### *6.3.1 Fins Attached*

Brazil introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, co-sponsored by Belize, Egypt, European Union, Guatemala, Panama, United Kingdom-Overseas Territories and United States of America. This proposed recommendation required to prohibit the finning of sharks on board and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached. Selling or purchasing shark fins in contravention of this recommendation would also be prohibited. Other provisions included in the proposal were explained by Brazil.

Norway required clarification about the definition of shark as “unwanted species”, since ICCAT was always dealing with bycatch species in ICCAT fisheries. Japan expressed similar doubts on other parts of the recommendation, including a more clear definition of fisheries under ICCAT management. Morocco required clarifications about any financial assistance for research.

Following informal discussions, Mexico and Senegal joined as co-sponsors of a revised version of the proposal.

Japan again expressed several concerns, including the definition of ICCAT fisheries and the contents of paragraph 2, since Japan was not aware of any fishery discarding shark carcasses, which had a significant commercial value both for industrial and artisanal fisheries. Japan stated that finning practices were mostly carried out by small-scale longliners targeting only sharks and that these fisheries were not ICCAT fisheries.

China expressed difficulties on accepting the proposal, also questioning the practice of finning, particularly in light of recent declines in the price of shark fins in the Chinese market. Korea shared the same doubts expressed by Japan and China.

Norway, while thanking the authors of the proposal, required explanation about paragraph 5.

The European Union specified the coverage of the proposal in terms of fisheries and species.

United States explained that the proposal would strengthen enforcement of the existing prohibition of shark finning, by providing tools for better identification of the species, which would improve scientific reports. Further, the United States noted that fins-attached policies are gaining wider recognition as an effective management approach and that more countries are moving toward a fins-attached requirement.

Gabon, while supporting the proposal in general, reported on existing shark finning practices known to occur in their waters and also expressed the need to better identify the species concerned. Senegal, supporting the proposal, asked for a special support to developing countries for enforcing the proposal if adopted.

The European Union reiterated the need to adopt a fins-attached requirement for various reasons, all listed in the proposal, particularly for improving shark identification and then the catch statistics.

Due to the lack of consensus, the proposal was deferred to the Commission for further discussion.

### *6.3.2 Shark Sampling*

The European Union introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shark Sampling if Dead on Board and the Provision of Statistics”, clarifying the requirements for carrying out scientific sampling on board and at landing for statistical purposes and the details for reporting the data to ICCAT.

Japan asked clarification about the apparent lack of logic related to paragraph 6, because it also included non-ICCAT fisheries. Brazil required clarifications about the research program. Uruguay expressed the same doubts as Japan and Brazil.

Morocco echoed those doubts, but extended them about species to be collected for museum collection.

The European Union explained that the proposal concerned both sampling and statistics, while the authorization from flag CPC was necessary to prevent abuses.

The revised proposal entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Biological Sampling of Prohibited Shark Species by Scientific Observers” was then approved by consensus and referred to the Commission for final adoption (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-10]).

### 6.3.3 *Porbeagle sharks*

The European Union introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, which reflected several proposals submitted in previous years, now taking into account the outcomes of the ERA conducted by SCRS.

Norway and Japan asked for clarification about the possible conflict between the concept of by-catch and directed fisheries.

The European Union clarified that the proposal applied to all fisheries covered by ICCAT Convention.

Canada, while thanking the European Union for the proposal, recognized that maybe the situation of the stock might be slightly different on the two sides of the Atlantic and that the Canadian fisheries were well below the catch limits and, for these reasons, Canada could not support the proposal.

China requested amendments in the proposal for the parts concerning the prohibition to sell this species.

Norway reiterated that the fisheries targeting this species were not within the ICCAT mandate and that the management objectives were, therefore, outside the possibilities of the proposal. At the same time, the prohibition to sell the catches should take into account also the provisions made by NAFO.

United States requested, as a way to move forward on the porbeagle issue, that SCRS conduct a new stock assessment for this species, and then the Commission could revisit the question of appropriate management measures based on the results of the assessment and guidance from SCRS.

The Observers from Pew Environment Group, Defenders of Wildlife, EAC, Greenpeace, Oceana, Ocean Foundation and WWF noted that some populations of this species within the ICCAT Convention areas are listed by IUCN as “critically endangered” and expressed support for a full prohibition to fish, land and trade this species.

Due to the lack of consensus, the proposal was deferred to the Commission for further discussion.

### 6.3.4 *Shortfin mako*

The European Union introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, which reflected the contents of a previous proposal presented in 2012. The document, among other obligations, includes the provision to prohibit retaining any shortfin mako for those CPCs that have not reported Task I data for this species for 2011 or later and the mandatory release of all live shortfin mako in the best possible condition.

Japan requested if the proposal was related both to fisheries targeting sharks and those fisheries also catching sharks. Norway requested clarification about the fact that catches might be occasional and then the provision of prohibiting the retention on board for those fisheries not reporting catches in 2011 or later presented some problems. Morocco requested a similar clarification, but for those CPCs having problems with the data collection in the reference years.

Guatemala clarified that the text in Spanish seemed to be clearer about the fact that the proposal applied only to non-target fisheries.

The European Union clarified that the proposals applied to both target and non-target ICCAT fisheries, while the reference year was a clear provision.

Japan underlined that, according to scientific advice, most of the concerns for this species were due to targeted fisheries and that there were contradictory signals from the stock, which appeared to be healthy. Furthermore, Japan highlighted that there were already measures in place for protecting shortfin mako. Besides, according to him most of the current effort was due to EU fleets and consequently the major point was not to increase this

fishing effort. For those reasons, Japan stated that he could not support the proposal. China noted that all fisheries could not currently increase the fishing effort and that China could not support the proposal.

Korea noted that it would be necessary to wait for a more updated scientific advice before adopting new measures and that Korea, therefore, also could not support the proposal.

United States noted that this was a “vulnerable” species. There was much uncertainty in the stock assessment and because of these uncertainties the SCRS has advised that catches should not be allowed to increase beyond current levels on either stock. Considering these factors, and as a possible way forward United States offered revisions to paragraph 1 that would cap shortfin mako landings at an average landings level for the major harvesters and would create a basket quota with a specified limit for the minor harvesters.

Morocco noted the problems about the reference year included in paragraph 1 and requested an amendment.

Norway reiterated the concerns about the applicability of the proposal to fisheries targeting this species that should be outside the ICCAT mandate and about some other parts of the proposal.

Japan asked the United States to provide the proposed changes in writing for better evaluating them and requested clarification about the fisheries that might be covered by the proposal.

The Observer from EAC, on behalf of Pew Environment Group, Defenders of Wildlife, Greenpeace, Oceana, Ocean Foundation and WWF welcomed the proposal and underlined that catches should not increase and that this stock should be managed in a sustainable manner. Notwithstanding they expressed their regret over the continued lack of consensus on any proposal for improvement of the management of pelagic sharks which had been a subject for debate for several years, and indicated that this might affect the effective conservation of the various species.

Due to the lack of consensus, the document was deferred to the Commission for further discussion.

#### ***6.4 Mediterranean swordfish***

The European Union presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT”, which corrected the length-weight conversion factor in recommendation 11-03. Further, it was considered important for the assessment of this stock to be carried out in 2014. The proposal was approved by the Panel and referred to the Commission for final adoption [see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-04]**].

#### ***6.5 Northern Atlantic swordfish***

The European Union, after welcoming the positive results of the last assessment, introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish”, which would replace Rec. 11-02, with some limited changes, taking into account the 2013 assessment and the projections for this stock and reducing the quota carryover limits as a precautionary measure.

Japan and Canada noted that the proposal did not put into evidence the changes in the text and that some other changes should be better qualified.

After informal discussion among the CPCs concerned, the proposal was resubmitted with modifications.

Mauritania requested the inclusion of a fishing catch limit of 200 t for Mauritania in 2014, taking into account that this would not impact in a significant manner the total catch. Turkey, Morocco and Côte d’Ivoire supported the request, also taking into account the non-harvested quantities in previous years.

United States, taking note of the request from Mauritania, considered that it would be necessary to further discuss the request for additional quota. United States also noted concern that the quota flexibility provisions were not limited in all cases to the area where there is mixing between the two swordfish stocks, and that the underharvest carry over provision should be maintained at 25% given the very healthy condition of the stock rather than decreased to 15% as proposed by the European Union.

The European Union mentioned the possibility to transfer quota from other CPCs to Mauritania, but Mauritania asked for a specific quota allocation.

Due to the lack of consensus, the proposal was deferred to the Commission for further discussion (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-02]**).

### ***6.6 Southern Atlantic swordfish***

The European Union introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits”. The proposal would then replace and update the catch limits in place and provide indications about the submission of the most recent catch data to the SCRS.

Ghana requested clarifications about paragraphs 3 and 4 of the document. The European Union clarified that these paragraphs had been copied from the previous recommendations.

The revised proposal was adopted by the Panel by consensus and it was referred to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-03]**).

### ***6.7 Sea turtles***

The European Union presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries”, co-sponsored by United Kingdom-Overseas Territories, which took into account the recommendations from the SCRS and incorporated provision for reporting more precise information to ICCAT.

Uruguay welcomed the proposal but required a better and more precise technical clarification on various points of the document.

Morocco requested that specific training should be provided for the crew of fishing vessels and then required clarification on the quality training. China requested more precise details and proposed that technical guidelines should accompany the proposal.

Japan requested clarification about providing data according to Task II requirements and about the fact that CPCs should provide elements for the ERA and the impact of this provision on SCRS.

The European Union clarified that the proposal reflected the recommendations made by the SCRS and maybe some provisions might be delayed, while others could be better clarified and qualified. The SCRS Chair confirmed that the proposal should imply a continuous work of the SCRS Sub-Committee on Ecosystem and the By-Catch Coordinator.

Guatemala pointed out the need of an MOU with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea-Turtles (IAC). The Panel 4 Chair responded that this point would be taken into consideration in “other matters”.

After informal discussions, the European Union tabled a new version of the document which was joined by United Kingdom-Overseas Territories, Canada, United States and Brazil.

Uruguay requested some improvements in four specifying points of the text, for better clarifying and qualifying the contents.

China requested to change the proposal from a recommendation into a resolution.

Guatemala reiterated the urgency for signing the MOU with IAC, because this could contribute to further improve the proposal.

The revised proposal was finally adopted by consensus with the changes, which included Guatemala among the proposers. The document was then referred to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-11]**).

## 7. Research

### 7.1 SCRS activities and work plan

The SCRS Chair reported on the two research programs carried out for Istiophorides (IERPB) and for small tunas (SMTYP), including also other aspects of the SCRS work. He informed that the project on Istiophorides, which included various research subjects in 2013, would also continue in the following year. The research program on small tunas, which was carried out successfully in several areas, providing many data and including historical series, would be also continued in 2014, for the collection of historical series in the Mediterranean and in the southwestern Atlantic, for supporting the biological sampling in western Africa and for data analysis.

The SCRS work plan included the assessment of Mediterranean swordfish in 2014, while the assessment of the North Atlantic swordfish and the South Atlantic swordfish were proposed to be done in 2016. An inter-sessional meeting on billfish data was proposed in 2014, followed by a sailfish assessment in 2015. An inter-sessional meeting to review available shark data, finalize the Program on the Collection on Data and Research on Sharks, and prepare blue shark data for a 2015 assessment was also planned in 2014. The SCRS Chair informed that a coordinated group of CPCs scientists and the By-catch Coordinator will continue the assessment of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles. He also reported that a short-term contract with an external expert should be necessary for developing an inventory of recent and ongoing initiatives to improve the data collection from artisanal fisheries among the various CPCs noting that a better use of all existing different ICCAT funds for helping the activities of scientists from developing CPCs might help for some of these activities.

### 7.2 SCRS response to Commission

The SCRS Chair responded to seven requests by the Commission; the full detailed responses are included in the SCRS report.

- a) The SCRS was requested to develop limit reference point for swordfish (Rec.11-02, paragraph 4). Should the Commission wish to implement an interim limit reference point for the North Atlantic swordfish, then  $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$  will be consistent with the interim proposed for the North Atlantic albacore and other tuna stocks. The current TAC of 13,700 t would translate to a target fishing mortality rate of  $0.90 \cdot F_{MSY}$ . Given that the stock is above  $B_{MSY}$ , most biomass thresholds under consideration in a harvest control would have little impact upon management advice in the short term and therefore the Committee will develop a more thorough evaluation of HCR before providing a more complete response.
- b) The SCRS was requested to evaluate the number of discards and releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) provided by CPCs and report on the sources of silky shark mortality in ICCAT fisheries, including silky shark discard mortality rates, and to provide an analysis and advice regarding the benefits of a range of specific silky shark management options, Rec. 11-08, paragraph 8. The available data were analyzed and the mortality, assessed taking into account the post release mortality, ranged between 84 and 100% of the silky sharks caught. The SCRS was informed also by the mortality due to entanglements in FADs and about experiments using more environmentally friendly FAD methodologies tested in other oceans and then invited the Commission to evaluate the possible adoption of those methodologies.
- c) The SCRS was requested to analyze the potential benefits and applicability of the use of time/area closures as a tool for marlin conservation (Rec. 11-07, paragraph 4), but the SCRS did not have sufficient time during the meeting to carry out the required analysis. The SCRS decided to hold an inter-sessional meeting in 2014 and foresees to prepare the response to the Commission on this issue during the meeting.
- d) The SCRS was requested to review the methods used for estimating live and dead discards of blue marlin, white marlin, and spearfish and to provide advice of any improvements needed (Rec. 12-04, paragraph 8), but the SCRS was not able to assess the methods due to the lack of information from the CPCs concerned.
- e) The SCRS was requested to review existing regional or individual CPC data collection programs, including capacity building programs, for artisanal fishery and to provide a plan to work with relevant regional and sub-regional international organizations and CPCs to expand such programs or implement them in new areas to improve data on billfish catches in these fisheries (Rec. 12-04, paragraph 9). Several CPCs reported on data collection initiatives, some of which are depending on capacity building funds from ICCAT, while several other projects are beyond the scope of ICCAT. All these projects, however, were thought to be contributing to improve the data collection on artisanal fishery, which is a very complex activity. The SCRS recommended initiating interaction with other projects and collate an inventory of the various initiatives in this field.

- f) The SCRS was requested to evaluate the data deficiencies pursuant to Rec. 05-09. The SCRS noted various gaps, including the uncertainties related to stock structure to the number of discarded dead and released alive, to post-release mortality, to unreported catches, CPUE standardization (problems with targeting and changes in the target species). In order to help to reduce these gaps, the SCRS will create a data catalogue.
- g) The SCRS was requested to provide a response to the Commission regarding Rec. 10-09 on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 10-09). The SCRS has initiated an ERA for sea turtles in 2013, with the help of an external expert and the By-catch Coordinator hired by the Secretariat. The preliminary results were reviewed by the SCRS in 2013 and several important recommendations were made for improving the assessment, including a request for updating/improving data from the CPCs. The SCRS will continue to work on the ERA and will advise the Commission on its plan at the 2014 meeting.

During the Panel 4 meeting, the EU submitted written questions to the SCRS Chair concerning the presentation of scientific advice which are attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**.

### **7.3 SCRS research recommendations**

The SCRS Chair presented the following recommendations:

- a) **Swordfish:** (1) An external expertise is required to assist the Group during the next stock assessment in 2014 for the Mediterranean swordfish; (2) The impact of management measures on CPUE data should be assessed in order to maintain the integrity of CPUE series; fishery-independent indices should be also obtained, (3). CPCs shall ensure the participation of their national scientists to the next stock assessment.
- b) **Billfish:** (1) The SCRS recommended that the Commission and all CPCs concerned reaffirm their commitment for funding the IERP research program also in 2014; (2) Greater involvement of SCRS with Caribbean regional fishery management bodies and local government entities in the area would be necessary, in order to improve the catch (Task I) series which are incomplete due to poor sampling of artisanal and recreational fisheries.
- c) **Small tunas:** (1) Extend the annual SMTYP should be continued in 2014 to further improve statistical and biological data; (2) CPCs shall ensure the participation of their national scientists to the ICCAT Small Tunas Species Group Meeting; (3) All CPCs should fully report Task I and Task II data for small tuna species; (4) National scientists should review the catches of small tunas previously reported by the respective CPCs in order to precisely classify them; in particular, CPCs reporting catches of frigate tuna (FRI) from the Mediterranean Sea should report them as bullet tuna (BLT).
- d) **Sharks:** (1) SCRS scientists shall meet in 2014 for defining the operative aspects of the Program on the Collection on Data and Research on Sharks; (2) Adopt measures for enabling scientific observers to collect biological samples from the shark species which are dead in the set and which are currently prohibited provided that these samples shall be used for scientific purposes; (3) Considering the need to improve the stock assessments of pelagic sharks, CPCs should provide data on ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries catching pelagic shark species, including also recreational and artisanal fisheries. The second issue was addressed by the adoption of the proposal (**ANNEX 5, Rec. 13-10**).

## **8. Election of the Chair**

United States, followed by South Africa, proposed the continuation of Brazil as Chair of the Panel. Brazil was re-elected by consensus to serve for the 2014-2015 biennial period.

## **9. Other matters**

Brazil introduced a document concerning an MOU with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea-Turtles (IAC), presented together with Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, United States and Venezuela. It was noted that the MOU had been circulated by the Secretariat but the text of the MOU had been provided only in English.

The Observer from IAC explained the objectives of the IAC Convention, which would like to support the work carried out by SCRS on marine turtles, and expressed the hope to sign the MOU with ICCAT.

Uruguay, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama expressed their support to the proposal, which could improve the scientific efforts for protecting the sea turtles reducing their incidental catches in ICCAT fisheries.

Morocco, Japan, Ghana, China, Tunisia and Senegal encouraged all efforts for sharing the scientific knowledge on sea turtles and reducing incidental catches, but raised doubts about the necessity of signing an MOU with IAC.

United States and the European Union noted the importance of the proposal and pointed out the opportunities that this initiative could produce in terms of cooperation. Belize noted that the proposal was an opportunity for ICCAT also in terms of having external expertise on this matter. Uruguay recalled some points of the ICCAT Convention inviting ICCAT to establish cooperation agreements with various entities.

Due to the lack of consensus within the Panel, the proposal was sent to the Commission for further discussion.

United States introduced a document concerning the MOU with ACAP (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrel) and urged the adoption of this document. Again, it was noted that the draft MOU had been circulated by the Secretariat only in English. ACAP underlined the already existing cooperation with SCRS and reiterated ACAP's desire to continue the cooperation within a more formal framework.

Morocco expressed the same doubts mentioned for the previous MOU proposal.

Brazil invited all delegations having doubts about the two MOUs to contact the two organizations for better understanding their contents.

Due to the lack of consensus within the Panel, the proposal was referred to the Commission for further discussion.

The Observer from CITES intervened and expressed the need for major cooperation between ICCAT and CITES and reminded the Commission that porbeagle shark, oceanic whitetip shark, scalloped hammerhead shark, great hammerhead shark, smooth hammerhead shark and Manta rays were included in CITES Appendix II and that this new situation would necessitate strong cooperation between CITES and RFMOs. For this reason, CITES asked for a deeper and specific discussion in a future meeting about how to improve the cooperation, particularly taking into account the inclusion of these species in the CITES Appendix II list, in the context of the agreed guidelines for cooperation between ICCAT and CITES.

Written statements were submitted by the following observers at Panel 4: Blue Water Fishermen's Association, Ecology Action Centre, Oceana and a joint statement by the Defenders of Wildlife, WWF, Greenpeace and on behalf of other non-governmental conservation organizations (attached as **Appendices 15 to 18 to ANNEX 9**).

## **10. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed to adopt Report of Panel 4 by correspondence.

The 2013 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9****PANEL AGENDAS*****Panel 1***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

***Panel 2***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

***Panel 3***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

***Panel 4***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**

**STATEMENT BY CANADA TO PANEL 2**

The Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Research Program in Canada is currently focused on stock abundance, tagging, movement and migration studies, age and growth research, environmental influences and productivity, and distribution.

Canada has been receiving a western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota transfer from Mexico since 2009. While it was only the transfer in 2013 which linked the transfer to science work (Recommendation 12-02), Canada expanded its Bluefin Tuna Research Program beginning in 2009. The increased quota associated with this transfer has allowed Canada to develop and implement ongoing programs on biological sampling of the catch, tagging (PSAT and conventional) and studies of otolith microchemistry to investigate natal origin and stock mixing. This work has been providing the Atlantic-wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) with better estimates of the occurrence of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna in Canadian waters and will improve the length at age determination for the older components of the population. In addition to the work in support of the GBYP, the consistency of the length at age by decade will be addressed through the examination of archived otoliths.

The primary component of Canada's expanded research program is increased biological sampling of heads for collection of otolith and biological samples. In 2011 and 2012, Canada collected 309 and 294 samples, respectively. In 2013, Canada collected 340 samples throughout Atlantic Canada (which represents approximately 20% of the total Canadian catch for 2013) including in non-traditional bluefin tuna catching areas. The samples are currently being analyzed for natal origin and age determination.

In addition, Canada has invited two Mexican science delegates to Canada for two weeks in the winter 2014. The visit will focus on training and the transfer of expertise in otolith processing and ageing techniques to determine natal origin and age, including analysis of samples collected by Mexico.

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO PANEL 2  
REGARDING THE PROPOSAL AMENDING REC. 12-03 AND INTRODUCING, IN PARTICULAR,  
CLARIFICATIONS ON THE STEREOSCOPICAL PROGRAM**

The EU welcomes the adoption of the proposal amending Rec. 12-03, which has been made possible by the contribution of other CPCs. This is a very important aspect of the new control measures that contribute towards the full implementation of the recovery programme.

Through this recommendation, ICCAT has already been able to identify, in 2013, the baseline parameters to ensure the efficiency of this control programme in establishing the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged.

However, in our view this is only a first step. Some of these parameters, such as the opening of the transfer gates, certainly need to be improved in the future for ensuring an even better control at caging time.

With a view to continuing this very fundamental work, we propose to host a workshop with CPCs to address these issues to exchange and share lessons learned and best practices and keep the momentum going. This would be open to all interested CPCs and hosted by EU control authorities ideally before the 2014 fishing season in the Mediterranean.

In addition to the work that will be done at the CPC level in 2014 to ensure such improvements, we would also welcome the forthcoming advice from SCRS following their review of the implementation of this protocol.

The EU will start implementing the provisions contained in this proposal at the start of the 2014 fishing season.

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9****WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF SCRS CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AND THE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PANEL 2**

1 – In the case of the West Atlantic bluefin tuna stock (W-ATL BFT), taking into account of the management objectives determined by the Commission leads the SCRS to indicate that a catch limit of 1,000 t would ensure an increase in the biomass from now to 2018, the end of the recovery period, which would permit identifying a more correct recruitment scenario. At the same time, the SCRS clarifies that a catch limit of 1,750 t would enable obtaining the same result from now until 2024.

*What is, then, the SCRS recommendation to the Commission? Establish a TAC at 1,000 t enables deciding on a more probable recruitment scenario before the end of the time envisaged for the recovery period? Or establish a TAC at 1,750 t, postponing the possible analysis of the more probable recruitment scenario to 2014?*

2 – With regard to the East Atlantic bluefin tuna stock (E-ATL BFT), a certain amount of data has been collected that enables describing the growth parameters, the development of the abundance indices or even the catch structure, especially through the GBYP. It seems that all these data have not been able to be taken into account in the process of updating the scientific advice.

*Could you clarify for the Commission how the SCRS plans to review this information, as quickly as possible, in order to take it fully into account for the next assessment of the stocks?*

3 – The information in the SCRS Report indicated that the level of biomass and fishing mortality estimated for the East Atlantic bluefin tuna stock would reach from now on levels comparable to those observed in the mid-1950s to 1970. On the other hand, it also seems that the recruitment levels estimated were highest when the spawning biomass was estimated at its weakest levels, between 1990 and 2010.

*Taking this information into consideration, do you believe there a clear stock-recruitment relationship for this stock and that the stock may have reached its maximum reproductive capacity? Consequently, wouldn't an increase in the biomass lead to a decline in recruitment? What influence could this situation have on the definition of reference points?*

4 – Paragraph 88 of Recommendation 12-03 requests the SCRS to carry out pilot studies that enable estimating the number and the weight of fish that enter the cages by stereoscopic systems. But this same paragraph also requests the SCRS to continue exploring methodologies and technologies that enable determining the size and the biomass at the time of capture and at caging and to inform the Commission in 2013.

*What exactly is the current situation as regards this second part of the request made by the Commission to the SCRS?*

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9****STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION ON FLEXIBLE CATCH LIMIT MECHANISMS**

The European Union submitted the draft supplemental Recommendation concerning the North Atlantic albacore rebuilding program with a view to update and modernize the existing recommendation while taking fully into account the advice delivered by the SCRS. So we did submit a new measure of North-Atlantic Swordfish.

In so doing, the European Union hoped that the Commission would have caught this opportunity to establish fixed catch limits for all CPCs taking part to the fishery and, in particular, that the practice of availing of non-binding endeavors would have been put to an end for this stock.

In a spirit of compromise with other CPCs, the EU accepted to maintain such provisions but wishes to request to the Commission to find in the near future viable and acceptable binding mechanisms to all CPCs participating in a given fishery. Otherwise, the current flexible mechanisms could be increasingly used in the future by other CPCs and, we believe, that this would be detrimental to the overall management of stocks in the ICCAT Convention area.

The EU remains fully ready and available to work together with other CPCs in order to progress towards closing the existing loopholes.

If however such loopholes are not closed, the EU will seek similar flexibilities in the future.

#### **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**

##### **STATEMENT BY LIBYA TO PANEL 2**

With regard to the current discussion of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 12-03 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean”, proposed by the Japanese delegation, and to the notifications made by Libya concerning the modified sentence as draft in Article 10 as: “*The request of Libya to carry over unused 2011 quota will be considered in 2014*”, Libya has submitted a request to recoup the unused 2011 quota. The issue of Libya’s bluefin tuna fishing industry, which was forced to forfeit the season due to the circumstances beyond its control, has caused great hardship to the various social sectors concerned.

With respect to what Libya tried to clarify during the recent discussions is that its request could be considered as a matter of resolving the suspension issue which was basically already adopted in Rec.12-03, Article 10.

Considering the good understanding of the recent assessment carried out by the SCRS and the highly evaluated results regarding the improvement of uncertainties, the concept of Libya’s request to recoup its unused quota.

Libya would like to reword the statement in the draft, as follows: “*Considering Libya’s request, the unused 2011 quota will be recouped over the period of the next three years as (175 t, 325 t and 402.65 t, respectively), starting in 2014.*”

#### **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**

##### **STATEMENT BY TURKEY TO PANEL 2**

There are strong signs indicating that Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks are improving owing to the effective implementation of multi-annual recovery plan.

Turkey considers that the findings of the updated stock assessment by SCRS have also supported the obvious progress at stock status. Some of the positive signs of the recovery are listed as follows:

1. A comparison of the data obtained from previous studies of Turkish researchers with the bluefin tuna sampling data of 2013 suggests that average fish length increased slightly from 108 cm-156 cm (1994-2005)\* to the value of 160 cm (FL) for the 2013 fishing season, constituting the highest average length observed so far. The latter average size value (160 cm FL) has been estimated by sampling of 1.574 live bluefin tuna through utilization of stereoscopic camera systems.
2. When compared to past fishing seasons, with an increased abundance throughout the year, bluefin tuna could be observed up to the North Aegean Sea. Furthermore, bluefin tuna catching operations in Turkey ended within 19 days in 2012 and 17 days in 2013 as the allocated quotas were exhausted.
3. The SCRS Report indicates similar findings reported by some other CPCs, such as an increased amount of fish released and a shortened of catching operations, etc. which could be considered as indicators of a stock rebuilding.

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\* Some Remarks on the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in Turkish Waters in 1993-1995. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 46(2): 357-362 (1997); National Research Work on Fishing Technology and Biology of Bluefin tunas in Turkish Waters (1999); Catch and Effort Data of the Turkish Bluefin tuna Fishery. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 60(3): 906-912 (2007); and Remarks on Fluctuations of Bluefin Tuna Catches in Turkish Waters. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 63: 153-160 (2009).

4. In accordance with the 2013 SCRS Report, fisheries-independent information from the aerial surveys performed on the juveniles in the northwestern Mediterranean Sea provided similar indications, showing a three to four-fold increase in juvenile abundance in 2009-2012 as compared to 2000-2003. The same report also shows that CPUE indices updated in 2013 have been consistent with the stock rebuilding estimated in the 2012 stock assessment.
5. While all available CPUE indices are showing a positive trend in the most recent years, the SCRS, by stressing unquantified uncertainties, hesitates to give any clear advice on a substantial TAC increase despite Kobe II matrix estimations suggesting that a much higher level could be recommended. At this point, Turkey considers that a sufficient level of increase in TAC may help to address the issue of uncertainties in stock assessments.
6. Uncertainties which have been expressed by the SCRS in recent years delay a reliable stock assessment which also postpones a definition of a fair quota allocation key which is patiently expected by Turkey.

In light of that mentioned above, Turkey deems that a considerable TAC increase within the scientific advice (Kobe II Strategy Matrix) could be adopted by the Commission. Therefore, a certain amount of this increase could be distributed to CPCs such as Turkey who have suffered many years of unfair quota allocation. This would be a unique opportunity to rectify unjustly distributed quota allocation keys.

Turkey strongly believes that this approach will increase the credibility of the Commission.

## **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**

### **STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM APCCR TO PANEL 2**

The *Asociación de Pesca Comercio y Consumo Responsable* (APCCR) would like to congratulate all the CPCs for their efforts made in implementing the Eastern Bluefin Tuna Recovery Plan.

Nobody doubts the positive effect that all the measures adopted by this Commission have had in the rapid recovery of the stock of this species, as indicated by all the indicators presented by the Chair of the SCRS.

Taking into account the data presented here, we consider that now is the time to reward the effort made by the fleet and this reward should consist in moderate and progressive increased in the TAC, but these always without any increases that could compromise the recovery of the species.

Among the measures established, we would like to point out that the most important are those on the minimum size above sexual maturity, the fleet registry, the time-area closures, the establishment of a TAC that guarantees the desired recovery with 60% probability, port inspection of all the landings, as well as the impressive deployment of observers on board the fleet.

On the other hand, we observe that the western stock, after more than 30 years of recovery plans, has not at all recovered the fisheries to the levels of the 1970s. Without a doubt, we have to admit that the measures adopted have not been sufficient.

Therefore, we ask a strong commitment of all the ICCAT CPCs for the adoption of serious, coherent and effective measures in order to recover the western stock of bluefin tuna, specifically:

- Establish a TAC that guarantees the recovery of the species within the expected timeframe, with a 60% probability.
- Establish a minimum size consistent with the sexual maturity of the species. Currently, the minimum catching size is set at 30 kgs and sexual maturity is estimated at 9 years or 145 kgs (SCRS Report).
- That the current 10% tolerance for catching fish below minimum size be computed in number of fish and for each catch or landing. The current measure establishes the percentage of tolerance only in weight, and in relation to the total quota, which enables important recreational fleet to direct all their catches to fish below minimum size.
- Establish an ICCAT Vessel Register of vessels that carry out fishing directed at bluefin tuna.
- Establish time-area closures that reduce fishing time.
- Mandatory port inspection of all the landings of bluefin tuna

We realize that implementing additional measures can mean considerable sacrifices for the fishing fleet, and particularly those that carry out fishing directed at juveniles. However, in the end it will be these sacrifices that result in a recovery of the stock and achieve sustainable fishing in the long term.

## Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

### EVALUATION OF THE ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVERS PROGRAMME (ROP) BY THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

#### 1. Aims of the programme

The Working Group considers that the ROP currently in place permits the fulfilment of the mission objectives assigned to the ROP under the BFT recovery plan (Rec. 12-03).

Furthermore, the presence of the RO during the operations is being considered to be beneficial.

#### 2. Implementation of the ROP

In general, the logistical organisation of the RO deployment is satisfactory and has greatly improved over recent years mainly related to the ROs' proactive contact with the national administrations, the coordination with the operators, the respect of engagements concerning place/date of boarding and the immediate action taken by the ROP consortium in case of problems.

##### *2.1 Procedures of deployment of RO:*

- The procedures for the deployment of a RO could be adapted to take into consideration some of the specific nature of the operations to be covered, e.g. at the time of farming and-or harvesting.

##### *2.2 Communication:*

- Generally speaking, the reporting of the PNC to the national authorities have greatly improved. A specific protocol and procedure to follow the transmission of such reports could be established.
- Especially in cases where potential non-compliances are detected or where the RO does not sign the declaration of transfer, it may be necessary to consider other ways of communication than electronic messages. This would allow the flag State of the catching vessel to have all the necessary elements to proceed without delay to an investigation in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 12-03.
- The possibility to apply faster communication systems should be evaluated. This should however not raise the costs substantially.

##### *2.3 Specific comments on the available documentation:*

- In general, the documentation implemented by the ROP as well as the procedures for ROs for signing documents improved a lot over the last years. Further standardisation of the signing procedures could be further improving these aspects.

##### *2.4 Training:*

- Overall, the feedback about the experiences and knowledge of the RO deployed was generally very positive. This shows that the recruitment procedures and the training sessions are of high quality.
- Following the changes introduced by ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 and in view of the implementation of the eBCD system, it might be useful to review certain training requirements to allow RO to use all methods and technologies in place. Some EU Member States would welcome if the training of RO could further address the estimation of the numbers and the weight of fish on the basis of transfer video records.

### 3. Evaluation of the costs

We note that there has been a small reduction in costs in 2013 compared to the previous years. However there might be a possibility to streamline some procedures of the programme in order to maximise the use of resources. This issue should be reviewed by the informal working group in the context of the forthcoming ICCAT meeting.

Based on our evaluation, the following processes could be further analysed:

- Distribution of the costs for "Recruitment, training, equipment" over one or several years.
- Training costs established on the basis of experience/knowledge already acquired by the RO.
- Exploitation of all available technologies (distant/internet based training methods etc.).
- Procedures to streamline costs for the RO deployment, especially when there is already a RO present in a certain area.
- As far as the daily rates for RO are concerned, specific cost rates should be established for the harvesting of fresh fish.
- Turkey furthermore suggests that the possibility to establish individual Mobilisation fees for companies on the basis of their number of vessels and/or farms should be evaluated.

### Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

#### STATEMENT BY THE BLUE WATER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION (BWFA) TO PANEL 2

The Blue Water Fishermen's Association (BWFA) is the definitive voice of the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. Our fishery principally targets swordfish, various tunas including bigeye, yellowfin and albacore, and other tuna and tuna-like species. Our fishery also has a relatively small non-directed catch of bluefin tuna.

Collectively our fishery accounts for more than 92 percent of the total U.S. catch of North Atlantic swordfish, more than 67 percent of the total U.S. catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna, more than 55 percent of the total U.S. catch of yellowfin tuna and more than 61 percent of the total U.S. catch of northern albacore tuna.

We are proud to have actively participated in the ICCAT process both independently as an Observer and as part of the U.S. Delegation for over two decades. We are particularly proud of our substantial contributions to ICCAT's successful conservation and management of the North Atlantic swordfish stock as well as being a global leader in advancing bycatch reduction fishing gear and methodologies for a range of species including juvenile swordfish and protected sea turtles. In addition the U.S. pelagic LL fishery has contributed substantially to the available scientific data for many of the ICCAT species.

Fundamentally, BWFA finds highly objectionable the management recommendations set forth in the SCRS Report Executive Summary for the western bluefin tuna stock that would use our and other western Atlantic bluefin fisheries to conduct what is essentially a long-term experiment to resolve their longstanding impasse over the validity of the low (LRS) and high (HRS) recruitment scenarios.

This experiment is largely based on a paper (SCRS/2013/191). While we have concerns with some aspects of this paper, it indicates that by keeping the TAC at 1750 metric tons (t) the probability for this experiment to resolve the LRS/HRS impasse by 2025 ranges from only 62 percent to 82 percent depending on the assumptions applied. In other words, there is a substantial probability that this experiment would fail to resolve this question even if our fishery is held to status quo for the next 11 years. We cannot understand how the SCRS would ask our already struggling U.S. fisheries to make such a long-term sacrifice in lost yield and economic benefits in the face of such uncertain results.

Furthermore, even if the experiment is successful, there is presumably a roughly equal probability that it would conclude that the LRS is the correct description of the stock's population dynamics. Again our fishery would have made a sacrifice unprecedented in ICCAT history to reach a conclusion that had already been the basis for the Commission's management of western bluefin for more than a decade-- beginning at least with the adoption of the rebuilding plan in 1998. Conversely, we note that had the HRS been correct during these past 15 years, the western stock should be approaching extinction.

Perhaps the SCRS did not intend to present this experiment as a definitive management recommendation to the Commission, but instead was attempting to faithfully answer questions raised at the first meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment held in early 2013 in Montreal. In any case, we find this proposed experiment to be a perplexing reversal of the proper and traditional roles of science and management in the ICCAT process. In our view, the role of SCRS science is to help solve the Commission's management problems. In this case fishery management is being asked to solve a scientific problem, and in doing so, asking our fishermen to make a sacrifice they simply cannot sustain.

With this in mind, we urge the SCRS to look to other more constructive means to improve their understanding of the western bluefin stock. For example, while we see areas for improvement in the "Proposal on Scientific Research Plan of the Western Bluefin Tuna Stock" submitted by Japan, this proposal correctly focuses on two crucial but missing elements of western bluefin tuna scientific understanding. We feel the Commission should take this proposal very seriously.

First is the absence of a true and reliable index of abundance of spawning stock abundance. The mixing of eastern origin bluefin into the western fisheries is well documented. Consequently, the only known sources of a reliable measure of SSB that is not contaminated with eastern origin fish are the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We believe Japan is correct to propose that SCRS and the Commission should develop a reliable fishery independent index of abundance for the spawning stock.

Of course, the details of the proposal by Japan should be subject to discussion for possible improvement. For example, we feel the proposed research should only be performed by vessels of the nation in whose waters the research is conducted. But, it should be clear that the core objectives underlying the proposal by Japan are entirely sound.

Second is the absence of a reliable index of abundance of western bluefin recruits. Again, it is well documented that fisheries in the western Atlantic on which several current fishery dependent indices of abundance are based can be contaminated with a substantial number of eastern origin fish. Consequently, a reliable index of abundance for recruits must be based on 0-2 year old fish in the coastal waters of the U.S. east coast which should not include any eastern origin fish.

As above, while there may be some operational details in the proposal by Japan that we feel could be improved, we greatly appreciate the efforts by Japan to advance this critical void in western bluefin science to the forefront of discussion at this meeting.

We feel these two missing elements of western bluefin science must be a priority for the SCRS and the Commission. Frankly, it is difficult for us to imagine how ICCAT can ever effectively manage the western bluefin stock or resolve the spawning stock biomass/recruitment relationship for this stock absent this critical information. It's time to move forward.

Finally, we note that the SCRS Report Executive Summary for western bluefin tuna states that "*Larger catches in excess of 2,000 t will prevent the possibility of the 2003 year class elevating the productivity potential of the stock in the future.*"

We respectfully note, however, that this rather definitive conclusion does not appear to be supported by the spawning stock biomass projections shown in Figure 7 in the 2013 SCRS Report on western bluefin tuna. These projections appear to indicate that any catches below 2500 t will allow the SSB to increase suggesting that such catches would not prevent the possibility of the 2003 year class elevating the productivity potential of the stock in the future.

With all this in mind, we urge the Commission to adopt a reasonable increase in the total allowable catch for the western bluefin stock that is consistent with these scientific results and which will help our fisheries survive. Thank you for your consideration.

**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9****STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE (EAC) TO PANEL 2**

Recent indicators suggest that recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna may be beginning. However, increasing fishing mortality at such a critical time may undermine conservation efforts. Panel 2 members should take the following measures to ensure that this recovery continues.

*Maintain current quotas for western Atlantic bluefin tuna*

Since there is no new stock assessment, the management recommendations for 2013 remain the same as for 2012, and in fact are even stronger do not increase the western bluefin quota. The 2013 management advice shows that maintaining catch at current levels of 1,750 metric tonnes (t) or lower would be expected to protect the 2003 year class, allow the spawning biomass to increase, and allow scientists to develop a clearer understanding of the population growth and recovery trajectory.

In the absence of certainty regarding the correct recruitment scenario, the SCRS has deemed the high recruitment and low recruitment scenarios equally plausible. Making management decisions only based on the low recruitment scenario may prove to be disastrous for the stock and would go against the scientific advice. Further, the 2013 SCRS report noted that a quota of 1,750 t would allow scientists to discern the correct recruitment hypothesis by 2024, and a lower quota of 1000 t could do so by 2018. The report also notes that any total allowable catch should include any scientific research quota.

Given the strong scientific advice, and the possibility of resolving the high and low recruitment debate, we urge the Commission to maintain the current catch limit at 1,750 t for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna population, inclusive of any scientific research quota.

*Maintain current quotas for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna*

ICCAT adopted a 2014 eastern quota in 2012 and there is no new stock assessment on which to base an increase. The SCRS has reiterated in 2013 that there is substantial uncertainty about the speed and magnitude of recovery estimated in the 2012 stock assessment, and has concluded that there is not enough certainty to support a substantial change in quota. In addition, the SCRS notes that management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean likely impact the recovery of the western Atlantic. As the eastern population is much larger than the west, even small rates of mixing from east to west could have considerable effects on the population. Strong management of the eastern Atlantic bluefin stock is critical to population recovery of the eastern stock and also to the health of western bluefin. #

To ensure that the eastern bluefin population continues to grow and that ICCAT management continues to be science-based, ICCAT parties must not increase the quota until the new stock assessment model is in place in 2015 and the existing uncertainty is addressed. We urge the Commission to follow scientific advice on the eastern Atlantic bluefin quota and once again maintain the quota at 13,400 t for 2014 and 2015.

**STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS  
(PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP) TO PANEL 2**

We call your attention to our policy brief, which was circulated electronically to all Contracting Parties, and is available on our website at [www.pewenvironment/ip](http://www.pewenvironment/ip) (in English, French and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements that policy brief as relates to Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Panel 2 convenes this year under unique circumstances for Atlantic bluefin tuna. There is no new stock assessment, nor a new interpretation of the results of the 2012 stock assessment, and thus no new information to support revising quotas this year. Yet the 2014 quota must be set for the western Atlantic, and even though a 2014 quota has already been adopted for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, some parties have expressed interest in reopening the eastern quota debate.

We urge the members of Panel 2 to continue their commitment to following the scientific advice and acting with precaution.

1. *Do not raise the western quota above 1,750 metric tons (t), inclusive of any possible scientific research quota, for 2014 and 2015.*

According to the most recent stock assessment conducted by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistic (SCRS) in 2012, the western population is severely depleted, at just 36% of the 1070 level – a time at which the population had already been severely depleted by industrial overfishing. ICCAT set the 2013 quota at 1,750 t based on the results of the 2012 assessment, and although there was not new stock assessment this year, the new management recommendations are even stronger in favor of maintaining the quota at 1,750 t. According to its 2013 recommendations, the current quota of 1,750 t is the highest quota assessed by the SCRS that would achieve its three main criteria of protecting the 2003 year class, continuing the growth of the stock, and increasing the ability to determine the correct recruitment hypothesis.

A proposal to implement a scientific research quota for western bluefin tuna will also be on the Panel 2 agenda. A proposal on the research was presented, but it lacks sufficient detail to properly evaluate the scientific merit of the work. In addition, the SCRS should be given the opportunity to thoroughly review the proposal, and since that is unlikely in Cape Town, it would be premature to dedicate any quota toward this proposed research. Most importantly, the SCRS has clearly advised that if any research quota is approved by ICCAT, it must be included in the overall quota, and ICCAT CPCs must heed this advice.

2. *Do not renegotiate the eastern quota until after the next assessment.*

The SCRS continues to stress the uncertainty in the estimates of the speed and magnitude of rebuilding in the 2012 eastern assessment, explaining in its 2013 advice that given the uncertainty and lack of confidence in the Kobe matrices, it “cannot give robust advice that would support a substantial change in the TAC.” Since an eastern quota of 13,400 t was already approved for 2014, there is no justification to reopen negotiations on the eastern quota given this advice from the SCRS, which also continues the calls for a “period of stabilization in the main management regulations of the rebuilding plan.”

3. *Cancel the 2014 eastern assessment update.*

In Recommendation 12-03, ICCAT charged the SCRS with running an update of the eastern assessment in 2014, but the SCRS has not included it in its proposed 2014 work plan since it strongly believes its efforts would be better directed toward preparing for the 2015 benchmark mixed stock assessment. ICCAT should cancel the 2014 eastern assessment update in accordance with the SCRS advice.

The 2012 stock assessment provided a glimmer of hope for Atlantic bluefin tuna. The future sustainability of the species depends on ICCAT continuing to follow the scientific advice to maintain quotas so that these first signs of an increase can be turned into a true recovery for Atlantic bluefin tuna.

**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9****JOINT STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVERS FROM ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE, GREENPEACE, THE OCEAN FOUNDATION, PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS, OCEANA AND WWF TO PANEL 2**

The GBYP program has collected a wealth of new scientific information that, among other things, will improve stock assessments and ultimately management advice. However, the program has faced significant challenges, particularly regarding human capacity and funding. As we have heard several times this week, this need for increased manpower extends much more broadly to the SCRS in general.

Furthermore, the discussions in the context of the Compliance Committee prove that substantial issues remain to be sorted out in relation to the traceability of bluefin tuna catches as well as with the quantification of catches and transfers to fattening farms. Regarding the latter aspect, it is imperative that precise technical procedures are adopted that would put an end to the current reliance on dubious growth rates.

We strongly urge Contracting Parties to focus on increasing traceability of bluefin tuna catches and, at a minimum, to support the proposal by the EU for a mandatory standardized procedure on the use of stereoscopic cameras in caging operations. We call on Parties to keep the technical specifications in the current proposal so as to ensure the accuracy of the system. At the same time, we urge ICCAT CPCs to ensure proper financing and human resources for current efforts to increase the scientific knowledge of bluefin tuna by the GBYP.

**Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9****WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF SCRS CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PANELS 2 AND 4 TO ANALYZE DURING THE COURSE OF 2014**

Several stocks (notably the North Atlantic albacore stocks and the North and South Atlantic swordfish stocks) are subject to measures that allow the carryover from one year to another of a part of the fishing possibilities allocated to the CPCs and which have not been fully used during a given year. This situation, which evidently depends on the authorized carryover rates, can cause more or less important variations in the annual catches and in fishing mortality.

- *Can the SCRS analyze the impact of these carryover rates during the course of its work in 2014 and during the working groups that will deal with these species?*
- *After this analysis, can the SCRS make recommendations concerning the level of these rates, taking into account the state of the stocks concerned and their biological characteristics?*

**Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9****STATEMENT BY THE BLUE WATER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION (BWFA) TO PANEL 4**

The Blue Water Fishermen's Association (BWFA) is the definitive voice of the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. Our fishery principally targets swordfish, various tunas including bigeye, yellowfin and albacore, and other tuna and tuna-like species. Our fishery also has a relatively small non-directed catch of bluefin tuna.

Collectively our fishery accounts for more than 92 percent of the total U.S. catch of North Atlantic swordfish, more than 67 percent of the total U.S. catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna, more than 55 percent of the total U.S. catch of yellowfin tuna and more than 61 percent of the total U.S. catch of Northern Albacore tuna.

We are proud to have actively participated in the ICCAT process both independently as an Observer and as part of the U.S. Delegation for over two decades. We are particularly proud of our substantial contributions to ICCAT's successful conservation and management of the North Atlantic swordfish stock as well as being a global leader in advancing bycatch reduction fishing gear and methodologies for a range of species including juvenile swordfish and protected sea turtles.

The Commission will at this meeting consider future action on swordfish management taking into consideration the results of the new stock assessment. This process will include reconsideration of swordfish allocations among the Contracting Parties (CPCs). We note that in prior years it has been possible for ICCAT to make available to other CPCs a portion of the U.S. allocation that remained unused in order to address various ICCAT objectives. This underutilization was the direct consequence of a range of measures voluntarily taken by the United States to achieve various bycatch conservation objectives. This included the closure of large swordfish nursery areas in U.S. waters that was of substantial benefit to all CPCs fishing for North Atlantic swordfish.

Of course, these measures had the effect of severely limiting our domestic pelagic longline fishery's catch of swordfish. However, as documented in detail in the 2013 U.S. Annual Report, U.S. fisheries have steadily adapted to these aggressive conservation and management measures. Consequently, the United States has progressively increased their utilization of the U.S. allocation in recent years and has now nearly reached full utilization. We believe this trend of increased catches by our traditional fisheries is very likely to continue. In addition, the United States recently authorized the establishment of new directed swordfish fisheries and this will further contribute to increasing U.S. swordfish catches. Therefore, we feel it is a certainty that the United States will reach full utilization of its swordfish allocation in the immediate future and will continue to do so in the future.

We appreciate that the transfer of unused U.S. swordfish quota to other CPCs in the past has helped ICCAT to achieve other important objectives. We have always supported those objectives many of which have now been fully realized. Given the status of the U.S. fisheries, however, we can no longer support any future transfers of U.S. swordfish quota to other CPCs.

Finally, we note that the SCRS recently concluded a comprehensive revision and improvement of the swordfish stock assessment. The SCRS Report suggests that based on this new assessment the North Atlantic swordfish stock could sustain an increase in the catch limit to at least 14,000 t while still achieving the Commission's conservation objectives for this stock with a high probability. The BWFA supports the Commission's serious consideration of a reasonable increase in the catch limit.

## **Appendix 16 to ANNEX 9**

### **STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM THE ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE (EAC) TO PANEL 4**

At the 2012 meeting, ICCAT failed to take strong measures for the protection of sharks. While the on-going discussions within the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT to amend the Convention text to explicitly include sharks, instead of just managing them as bycatch, is promising, more needs to be done to protect these vulnerable species now. Panel 4 members should take the following actions this year.

- *Prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks in the ICCAT convention area*

The SCRS Ecological Risk Assessment has named the porbeagle shark one of the most vulnerable sharks in the ICCAT area and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed the species as critically endangered in the North East Atlantic and endangered in the North West Atlantic. In March 2013, porbeagle sharks were included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Current fishing mortality, mostly from bycatch fisheries, in the North West Atlantic adds decades to the already slow recovery trajectory pushing it to upwards of 100 years for this vulnerable shark. While admirable research and management efforts have been made, estimates of dead discards, post release mortality or environmental changes over the possible century of recovery time are not accounted for, and there may be unregulated and unreported high seas catch not represented in abundance models. We urge the Commission to take the most precautionary action possible to ensure the shortest recovery time for porbeagles by prohibiting retention in the ICCAT Convention area.

- *Establish science based catch limits for shortfin mako and blue sharks*

The SCRS continues to recommend fishing mortality does not increase for shortfin mako. Catch should be limited to historical average catches that ensures mortality is below current levels until such a time as scientifically based catch limits can be established.

The SCRS Ecological Risk Assessment has also identified blue sharks as vulnerable and recommends measures to ensure catches stay within the Convention objective. The Commission needs to act with precaution to ensure sustainable harvest of blue shark is maintained before this shark becomes as depleted as other shark species in the convention area. Establishing precautionary catch limits based on historic averages that maintain mortality below current levels is the first step until such time as scientifically based limits can be established.

- *Improve the existing finning ban by moving to a 'fins naturally attached' rule*

ICCAT was the first Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) to ban shark finning, but loopholes exist with the 5% rule that mean illegal shark fins are still being landed. Requiring sharks to be landed with fins attached at the first point of landing is the most straightforward way of enforcing the finning ban and will greatly improve species-specific data collection for sharks. The Ecology Action Centre urges the Commission to support a proposed 'fins attached' regulation.

## Appendix 17 to ANNEX 9

### STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM OCEANA TO PANEL 4

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, ICCAT has the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the responsible management of all its major fisheries – including sharks, which now represent 11% of all reported catches in ICCAT. Their vulnerability to overexploitation is well known, and the SCRS has recommended precautionary management for some sharks, including measures to support threatened species recovery and to limit the mortality of commercially fished species. Despite these recommendations, most shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries remain completely unmanaged. Highly threatened species are still landed and sold; commercial species are caught without limits; the 2004 Recommendation on shark finning is unenforceable; and non-reporting of data remains a serious concern.

To redress this situation, Oceana urges ICCAT Contracting Parties to act four key measures for improved shark management:

#### *1. Assess and penalise non-compliance with shark data reporting requirements.*

2013 marks the first year in which ICCAT will implement the 'no data, no fish' Recommendation 11-15. For sharks, this represents a decisive moment, after years characterised by endemic levels of non-reporting.

To examine compliance with reporting requirements, it is necessary to look beyond just the Task 1 data. In particular, two types of information raise concerns about potential non-reporting. A simple comparison of Hong Kong shark fin import data with ICCAT Task 1 data highlights 15 cases in which CPCs apparently exported fins to Hong Kong in 2012, but did not report any shark catches for that year. Comparing the ICCAT Record of Vessels against Task 1 data identifies 13 CPCs that did not report shark catches in 2012, but that had longliners, which are the type of vessel most likely to catch sharks.

Oceana calls on ICCAT to carefully examine non-compliance with shark data reporting requirements, and to fully apply the penalties applicable under Recommendation 11-15.

#### *2. Require sharks to be landed with their fins attached, thereby closing long-standing loopholes in the ICCAT ban on shark finning*

Recommendation 04-10 was intended to prohibit shark finning, but contains loopholes that render control and enforcement practically impossible. Recognising the problems with ratio-based finning prohibitions, fisheries scientists recommend that the most effective means of banning shark finning is to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. A growing number of CPCs, including some with major shark fisheries, have already adopted such policies under domestic legislation or under GFCM.

By requiring sharks to be landed with their fins attached, ICCAT would close the long-standing enforcement loopholes in Rec. 04-10, and would also facilitate identification of sharks to species level, enabling the collection of data that are critically needed for assessments and management.

Oceana urges CPCs to adopt an effective prohibition on shark finning, by requiring all sharks to be landed with their fins still naturally attached.

3. *Set science-based, precautionary catch limits for the major commercially fished shark species in ICCAT fisheries: shortfin mako and blue sharks.*

a) Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) is listed by the IUCN as Vulnerable in the Atlantic Ocean and Critically Endangered in the Mediterranean Sea, where its capture, retention, and trade are prohibited under the Barcelona Convention and GFCM. Shortfin mako was also identified in the ICCAT sharks ERA as the second most vulnerable shark species to overfishing by longliners in the Atlantic. However, this species has no management measures under by ICCAT, despite the fact that it is commercially fished.

The 2012 stock assessment yielded highly uncertain results, and no management projections could be made. The SCRS therefore recommended a straightforward, precautionary management measure: fishing mortality of shortfin makos should not be permitted to increase until more reliable stock assessment results are available.

Oceana urges ICCAT CPCs to follow SCRS advice, and to adopt a precautionary catch limit for shortfin mako sharks, based on average catch levels from recent years.

b) Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) is listed by the IUCN as Near Threatened globally, and Vulnerable in the Northwest Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The last ICCAT assessment of this species, in 2008, indicated that the status of the stocks was very uncertain.

Blue shark catches in ICCAT have nearly doubled in the last ten years. In 2012, reported catches of blue shark were nearly 61 000 T, making it the fourth most important commercial species in ICCAT fisheries after skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas. However, unlike tunas, blue sharks are fished without any specific ICCAT management measures whatsoever.

Oceana calls upon ICCAT CPCs to fulfil their management responsibilities for blue shark, beginning with the establishment of precautionary catch limits for this species.

4. *Prohibit the retention, landing, and trade of highly threatened species, such as porbeagles.*

Porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) are Critically Endangered in the Mediterranean and North East Atlantic and Endangered in the North-West Atlantic. The joint ICCAT/ICES assessment in 2009 concluded that even with no catches, stock recovery would take decades, and the 2012 ERA confirmed that porbeagle is one of the most highly vulnerable shark species to overfishing.

Outside of ICCAT, some steps for porbeagle management have been taken in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Retention, landing, and/or directed fisheries are prohibited by the EU, Uruguay, and NEAFC. In the Mediterranean, retention, landing, and trade are prohibited under the Barcelona Convention and GFCM. Earlier this year, porbeagle was also added to Appendix II of CITES. Within ICCAT, however, no measures have been adopted for porbeagle, and ICCAT is long overdue in fulfilling its responsibility for managing this threatened species.

Oceana urges ICCAT CPCs to implement precautionary management for porbeagles, by prohibiting their retention, transshipment, landing, and trade in the ICCAT Convention area.

**APPENDIX 18 TO ANNEX 9**

**JOINT STATEMENT TO PANEL 4 BY THE OBSERVERS FROM DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE,  
WWF, GREENPEACE, AND ON BEHALF OF OTHER  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS**

Shark Advocates International, Defenders of Wildlife, Project AWARE, Shark Trust, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Humane Society International, and TRAFFIC appreciate delegates' consideration of our views on key shark conservation issues currently being deliberated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Our organizations maintain a special focus on shark and ray conservation due in large part to the low reproductive capacity that leaves most of these species exceptionally vulnerable to overexploitation. We remain deeply concerned about the precarious status of these species caused by inadequate safeguards and poor compliance with existing rules. Our recommendations and concerns are detailed below.

### *Shark finning*

Our organizations applaud the United States (US), Brazil, Belize, and the European Union (EU) for their leadership in promoting the global prohibition of at-sea shark fin removal to strengthen enforcement of bans on shark finning (slicing off a shark's fins and discarding the body at sea). We offer our strongest support for efforts to replace ICCAT's flawed fin-to-carcass ratio system with this best practice, and underscore the related assertion that the only way to guarantee that sharks are not finned is to require that the bodies be landed with the fins naturally attached. Specifically, we urge the Parties to adopt a prohibition on the removal of shark fins on board vessels, the retention on board, transshipment, and landing of shark fins which are not naturally attached to the shark carcass, before the first landing, without exception.

Under a "fins-naturally-attached" policy:

- Enforcement burden is greatly reduced
- Information on species and quantities of sharks landed is vastly improved
- "High-grading" (mixing bodies and fins from different animals) is impossible.

The technique of making a partial cut (allowing fins to be folded against the body) can address industry concerns about safety and efficient storage. This practice is increasingly being applied to frozen as well as fresh sharks.

Because of the many practical advantages associated with the fins naturally attached method, the policy has been mandated by many Central and South America countries, the US, Chinese Taipei, the EU, and others; and is gaining acceptance in international arenas.

We urge ICCAT to continue to lead shark conservation efforts within the world's tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) by being the first to adopt this best practice for preventing shark finning.

### *Mako limits*

Our organizations strongly support the establishment of fishing limits on exceptionally valuable and vulnerable shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), as a matter of priority. The Sharks Species Group of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has determined through ecological risk assessments that shortfin makos are among the shark species most vulnerable to overfishing in Atlantic longline fisheries. More specifically, shortfin makos were included in the shark species grouped in the high-risk area of the productivity-susceptibility plot in both 2008 and 2012 ICCAT analyses.

The SCRS has noted that high uncertainty in past catch estimates and deficiency of some important biological parameters are obstacles for obtaining reliable estimates of current status of shortfin mako stocks. As a result of the 2012 ICCAT shortfin mako population assessment, the SCRS recommended that fishing mortality on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks not increase on either the north or south stocks.

We stress that SCRS has also recommended precautionary, species-specific management measures for stocks associated with the greatest biological vulnerability, conservation concern, and lacking data. These characteristics clearly apply to shortfin mako sharks.

Both shortfin and longfin mako sharks (*Isurus paucus*) are listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Appendix II (migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation). The associated CMS action plan adopted last year includes a goal to ensure that directed and non-directed fisheries for CMS listed sharks are sustainable; activities described under this objective include cooperation through RFMOs.

These factors combined form a solid basis for the establishment of ICCAT limits to reduce or at least cap mako shark catches. We urge such action without further delay.

### *Porbeagle protection*

Our organizations continue to strongly support EU efforts to protect the porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), a globally threatened, low-productivity shark that has been seriously overfished in major parts of its range. Porbeagle sharks are exceptionally vulnerable to overfishing due to slow growth, late maturity (females mature at 13-18 years), lengthy gestation (8-9 months), few young (average of only four pups) and long life (up to ~65 years).

IUCN classifies the porbeagle shark as a threatened species with the following designations:

- *Vulnerable* globally
- *Critically Endangered* in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea
- *Endangered* in the northwest Atlantic Ocean
- *Near Threatened* in the southern Ocean.

Based on well documented depletion and biological vulnerability, the porbeagle shark is included in Appendix II of CMS, Annex II of the Barcelona Convention, and Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). These designations signal international recognition of the exceptional vulnerability and need for cooperative management of the species, but have not yet led to specific, binding fishery restrictions at ICCAT. In the meantime, national porbeagle conservation measures can be undermined by unregulated catches from adjacent countries' waters and the high seas.

For these reasons, we urge Parties to adopt a prohibition on retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a porbeagle shark, in line with past proposals from the EU. We strongly oppose any exceptions to these measures because of the associated risks to proper enforcement and overall effectiveness.

#### *Population assessments*

In addition to these urgently needed fishery management measures, we urge ICCAT Parties to request that the SCRS commit to:

- reassessing in 2015 the population status of heavily exploited yet essentially unmanaged blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*), and
- developing management advice for common thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*) which are taken regularly in Atlantic tuna fisheries under similarly inadequate controls.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)**

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) was opened on Tuesday, 19 November 2013 by the Chairman, Dr. Christopher Rogers (United States).

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union) was appointed to serve as Rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Chairman proposed to insert a new Item 4 in the Agenda to include the review and adoption of the report of the COC/PA2 Inter-sessional Meeting referred to the COC from Plenary by the Commission Chairman. The Committee agreed with this change and the remaining items of the Tentative Agenda were renumbered sequentially. The revised agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

The Chairman then outlined his planned approach to complete the work specified in the agenda. There would be a general discussion on issues presented under Items 5 and 6, then the Committee would proceed with individual CPC reviews under Items 5/6 taken together through a detailed review of the Compliance Summary Table.

The Chairman then requested the approval of the Committee to convene a Compliance Review Group to assist in making recommendations for actions to address situations of non-compliance. As in past meetings, the small group would reflect the geographical distribution of ICCAT CPCs. The Committee approved the convening of the group, and the Chairman accepted offers to participate by the following delegations:

North America - Canada  
South America - Uruguay  
Europe – European Union  
North Africa - Morocco  
Western/Southern Africa - Ghana  
Asia - Japan

### **4. Review and adoption of the report of the inter-sessional meeting of COC/PA2**

The COC/PA2 Inter-sessional Meeting Report recorded the approval of plans for the management of the 2013 bluefin tuna fisheries in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea required under Recommendation 12-03. Plans for all CPCs were approved (at the meeting or by mail) by Panel 2, except for Syria, because no plans had been submitted. In accordance with paragraph 11 of recommendation 12-03, bluefin tuna fishing by Syria was automatically suspended for the 2013 fishing year.

In addition, the report documented discussions to clarify several ICCAT measures, including treatment of ICCAT species taken as bycatch in fisheries targeting non-ICCAT species, the obligations of chartering states and flag states to document and report catch and effort, the requirement for all concerned parties to report information on fisheries access agreements, and the guidelines for evaluating compliance with basic catch data reporting obligations as required under Recommendation 11-15.

In fact, several of these issues had been referred to Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and conclusions were recorded in the report of that meeting (**ANNEX 4.3**). It was agreed by the IMM Working Group that no changes to recommendations were needed to address bycatch of ICCAT species in non-ICCAT fisheries. CPCs should submit relevant information about unauthorized fishing and trade under the procedures

of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Trade Measures*. The Compliance Chairman noted that information on unauthorized fisheries/activities could also be submitted under procedures for vessel sightings [Rec. 97-11], port inspection [Rec. 12-07], and compliance information [Rec. 08-09].

In discussing the ICCAT measure on vessel chartering [Rec. 02-21] at the COC/PA2 meeting, concerns were raised about duplicate reporting given the requirement for both flag State and chartering State to record catches separately from other catches. This issue was taken up at the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and revisions to the measure were proposed for consideration by the PWG at its 2013 Commission Meeting.

Likewise, in response to discussions at the COC/PA2 meeting, the IMM Working Group proposed revisions for the measure on access agreements [Rec. 11-16] to address the scope of the notification requirement and the provision of details on fishery licensing authorities for the coastal state. The COC Chairman reminded the delegates that both parties to an access agreement must notify ICCAT individually or jointly, and each party individually accounts for fishing activity in its respective Annual Report.

The Report of the Inter-session Meeting of the COC/PA2 was adopted by the Compliance Committee (see **ANNEX 4.1**).

## **5. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from 2012 meeting**

The Chairman initiated a general discussion about the responses to letters issued to some CPCs after the 2012 ICCAT meeting, which were collated by the Secretariat in a document.

In 2012, seven CPCs were identified under Rec. 06-13. Responses to the identifications were received from only four CPCs, and one of these was received after the deadline. Also in 2012, ICCAT transmitted 25 letters of concern. Responses were received from 22 CPCs, three of which were received late.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of timeliness and completeness in responding to letters as responsive actions by the concerned CPCs will advance the work of the Compliance Committee, the SCRS and the Commission. Improvements in response rates were noted from past years. Also, the Chairman clarified that a letter of concern is not necessarily a preliminary step towards identification under Rec. 06-13, but a means to continue the work of the Compliance Committee when resolution of a particular issue is not possible during the annual meeting.

The Chairman proposed that specific CPC issues addressed by the responses would be taken up under Agenda Item 6 in conjunction with examination of the compliance summary tables. However, two particular issues warranted specific follow-up from the 2012 meeting of the Compliance Committee:

- 1) The level of South Atlantic swordfish exports from Belize to the EU in 2011/12 appeared to be in excess of harvest allocations to Belize for the years concerned and both parties agreed to review their respective trade statistics relative to the management period used by Belize for allocating its swordfish quota. The results of the investigation confirmed overharvest due to a misunderstanding of the management period by vessel operators and Belize proposed an adjustment to future swordfish catch limits as compensation. The adjustments are reflected in the compliance table for S-SWO.
- 2) A statement submitted in 2012 by the non-governmental organization, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (see Appendix 5 to the 2012 COC Report) suggested that exports of bluefin tuna from Panama over the years 2000-2010 appeared to be unreported catches. Panama, Japan and Morocco noted that they fully investigated the reported claims and confirmed that the trade statistics were misleading in characterizing the bluefin tuna shipments as underreported catches and exports from Panama. In actuality, these trade figures represent transshipments by its carrier vessels, not bluefin tuna exported by Panama.

## 6. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements

### 6.1 Compliance tables

Under Rec. 11-11, Compliance Reporting Tables are required by September 15 and are the primary means of evaluating each CPC's compliance with catch and size limits and for ensuring transparency in adjusting quotas or applying payback rules.

The Chairman observed that 9 CPCs did not provide compliance tables and 8 CPCs provided tables late. One CPC provided incomplete tables. No concerns were expressed by CPCs about the format of the tables or the timetable for submission.

The tables were updated to include CPC revisions and corrections received as of 18:00 on 18 November 2013.

Specific CPC issues on overharvest and adjustments were taken together as part of the CPC by CPC examination of document on the "Draft Summary Tables". Afterwards, the Committee returned to the individual species in the compliance tables for adoption of each after a final review.

One specific issue raised in the process of adopting individual species in the compliance tables concerned the adjusted balance of W-BFT for Mexico. The clarification was needed to address the specific provisions under the W-BFT measure to allow a transfer from Mexico to Canada and for Mexico to carry forward a portion of unharvested quota. As the adjustments proposed by Mexico affected several past years, the Chairman requested that Mexico, in cooperation with Canada, develop a written note for attachment to the compliance table, so that a full explanation is maintained in the record (see **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**).

The Chairman noted that the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2013 contains information on revisions to historical catch statistics that have been reviewed by SCRS and were accepted into Task I and/or Task II databases. CPCs were advised that these updates should be reflected in compliance tables when updates accepted by SCRS include the relevant time period for the compliance tables under current review by the Compliance Committee.

The Compliance Tables were adopted and are attached to this report as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

### 6.2 CPC Annual Reports, statistical data summaries, compliance summaries

Annual Reports submitted by the CPCs were compiled by the Secretariat into a document. The Chairman recalled the *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* (Res. 12-13). The new format was designed to assist the Secretariat in processing information and to help the Compliance Committee to determine which requirements apply to each CPC. Only about half of CPCs applied the new format in submitting the 2013 Annual reports. The Chairman noted the advantages of the new format and timely submission of the report in that it allows the Secretariat to cross-check each response with the CPC. In its Report to the Compliance Committee, the Secretariat posed several questions that could not be resolved prior to printing the report. Concerned CPCs were encouraged to work with the Secretariat to resolve these questions and to use the required format in the future.

Statistical data summaries were also presented in the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2013. It was observed that six CPCs had clearly reported zero catch of ICCAT-managed species so no further reporting obligations were applied to these CPCs.

The Chairman noted improved response rates and increased use of electronic forms to assist the Secretariat in processing statistical data. However, adverse trends were determined by SCRS in terms of loss of detail in time/space stratification, effort classification and species composition. FAD Management Plans are required by Rec. 11-01, but only three were received. Continued low response rates on implementation of national observer programs and alternative means of monitoring vessels less than 15 meters meant that SCRS could not complete the evaluations requested by the Commission. Only a limited number of CPCs reported on measures to collect data on bycatch/discards in artisanal fisheries [Rec. 11-10].

The Committee made use of the Compliance Summary Tables, prepared by the Secretariat, to conduct a CPC by CPC review of all issues of non-compliance that could be identified from the reports and information that had been submitted to the Secretariat. Explanations about investigations and responsive actions taken by each CPC were recorded in the compliance summary document.

### ***6.3 Inspection and observer reports***

Summary information on inspection reports from the deployment of vessels under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection [Rec. 12-03, Annex 8] was compiled by the Secretariat. The Chairman commended the deployment of inspection vessels by the EU, Turkey and Tunisia under this program and noted the significant contribution such commitments make to the implementation of the recovery plan for eastern bluefin tuna.

The Chairman noted the types of infringements cited in the inspection reports, including bluefin tuna catch without authorizations, poor quality of video records of transfers, incomplete logbooks, inoperable VMS, discrepancies in the estimation of live catch and irregularities in completing BCDs. Under the terms of the program, flag nations were notified of the inspections in order to conduct investigations and take follow-up action if required.

Summary information on reports from the deployment of observers under the Regional Observer Program for Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 12-03, Annex 7] was compiled by the Secretariat. The Chairman noted the types of possible infringements recorded in the observer reports, including failure to record tuna mortalities occurring in transfers, discrepancies in estimating the amounts transferred, issues with video quality/accessibility, incomplete BCDs and logbook entries, and transfers at sea. In all cases, the flag CPCs received copies of the reports to take appropriate actions. Delegates from both Japan and the EU commented on the continuing difficulties in estimating the number and weight of fish transferred at sea and into the farms. It was recalled by both EU and Japan that paragraph 88 of Rec. 12-03 requires CPCs to conduct and report on pilot studies on technologies and methods to estimate number of fish and individual fish size/weight at sea, as well as the full implementation of stereoscopic cameras or alternative systems for all caging operations into farms.

### ***6.4 Actions taken on collection of shark data***

Information on actions taken to improve data collection on sharks is presented in various reports prepared by the Secretariat: the “Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2013, “Information in Relation to Reports on Shark and Other By-catch Species, and the “Secretariat Report for the Implementation of Recommendation 11-15”. The Secretariat noted that the collection and submission of information on sharks and the submission of reports is a requirement of several different recommendations, making it difficult to assess compliance as formats and deadlines are not consistent. The Chairman urged the parties to examine the relevant measures and to improve data collection and reporting on shark fisheries and bycatch by applying the SCRS reporting guidelines and the new format for annual reports.

### ***6.5 Other relevant information***

Two submissions were received under the procedures of Rec. 08-09. One submission was from WWF regarding potential irregularities for farmed bluefin (high growth rates) detected from BCD information and possible bluefin tuna fishing by unauthorized vessels. Another submission submitted by the European Union alleged violations by Ghanaian flagged purse seiners to various ICCAT Recommendations in force, in particular illegal transshipments at sea in the Gulf of Guinea (see also the submission of WWF). The compliance issues were taken up in the review of the compliance summaries for the concerned CPCs, including the EU, Turkey, Tunisia, and Ghana.

During the discussion of the compliance status of the European Union, several CPCs intervened on issues related to the WWF report on growth rates estimated through use of the BCD database. One issue relates to the submission of compliance information by NGOs under the procedures of Rec. 08-09. Several CPCs noted that information from NGOs is a useful contribution to the ICCAT compliance evaluation process, but that NGOs should consult with CPCs during the course of their investigations to validate the approaches to their analyses prior to publication. Such an approach will clarify the compliance issues that need to be addressed by the Committee. Another point raised was NGO access to the confidential databases maintained by the ICCAT Secretariat. It was presumed that CPCs have provided passwords to allow NGOs to access protected areas of the ICCAT website. The Chairman noted that ICCAT’s centralized databases such as VMS transmissions and BCDs greatly facilitate the work of the Compliance Committee and increase the transparency of ICCAT. However,

given domestic requirements of several CPCs to protect confidential fisheries information, failure to secure the ICCAT centralized databases may preclude some CPCs from contributing to those databases. In the Chairman's view, CPCs that do not respect the confidentiality of the centralized data could affect the ability of some CPCs to provide data, and that could undermine the compliance evaluation process.

Information on measures implemented to mitigate sea bird bycatch is presented in the Secretariat's document on "Information in Relation to Reports on Shark and Other by-catch Species" and includes reports from China, EU-Spain, Iceland, Korea, Japan, Turkey and Vanuatu. One issue was raised by Japan concerning two of its flag vessels under charter to Brazil. Brazil had taken action against the vessels for failure to deploy sea bird bycatch mitigation measures required under domestic regulations issued by Brazil to implement Rec. 11-09. While Japan noted that the domestic measures taken by Brazil were more stringent than required by the ICCAT recommendation, Brazil noted that its particular implementation of the ICCAT measure is not inconsistent with the measure and compliance with its regulation is a condition of the chartering arrangement. The Chairman observed that under Rec. 02-21, Brazil, as a chartering state, is jointly responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant ICCAT measures, and may do so consistent with its requirement to issue a fishing license under jurisdiction of its domestic regulations.

Trade information was submitted under the procedures of Rec. 06-13 by 8 CPCs and was compiled in Annex 2 of the "Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee". No particular infractions were noted by the CPCs submitting information, and no identifications specifically related to this trade information were proposed under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13].

The Secretariat presented a report on the implementation of Rec. 11-15. This recommendation associates continued authorization to fish for a particular fish species with the submission of Task I catch data for that species. It was acknowledged that the tabular presentation was ambiguous for some CPCs as it was unclear if a blank value in the table reflected a zero (nil) catch report or was a situation of non-reported catches. Although the measure requires a negative report when no catch occurs, this requirement creates data management concerns because Task I data are arrayed by CPC, time period, fishing area and species. A negative report for all strata where no catch is made would require the insertion of thousands of zero values in the database. This creates data entry and data management burdens. Under the current approach of using the Task I database to determine compliance with Rec. 11-15, the Committee acknowledged the difficulty in determining when fishing authorizations should be withheld. For several CPCs, the Secretariat could confirm that no Task I data for any ICCAT species were submitted and there was no direct confirmation from these CPCs that no catch occurred for any ICCAT species. In such cases, it can be concluded that these CPCs have not fulfilled their reporting obligations and the recommended actions to withhold fishing authorizations were discussed under item 7 of the Agenda. As this was the first time that compliance with Rec. 11-15 was evaluated, several CPCs acknowledged the challenges of applying the recommendation. It was requested that the Secretariat consider alternative means of displaying the information to clarify if zero (nil) catch reports were submitted rather than no data were received. One CPC requested that the Secretariat indicate the length of delay for reports submitted late.

A review of the implementation of national observer programs [Rec. 10-10] was again attempted by SCRS as required by the measure (see item 16.14 of the 2013 SCRS Report, and item 3.4.2 of the "Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2013"). As was noted at the 2012 meeting, a low response rate by CPCs limited the scope of the analysis and ability of SCRS to provide advice. Only 14 responses were received in two years, some not in the format developed by the Secretariat (CP45). In addition, data from such observer programs is not generally available to SCRS given the submission of that data in the diverse formats of the respective national programs. The SCRS Sub-Committee on Ecosystems is developing a standardized electronic reporting form that will facilitate building a common dataset and enable the evaluation of compliance with existing requirements to report bycatch data. The United States expressed concern about insufficient CPC reporting on the design and coverage levels of domestic observer programs as required by paragraphs 4 and 5 of Rec. 10-10, which is essential to enable the SCRS to carry out its requirement under paragraph 6 of Rec. 10-10 to make recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of observer programs, which in turn is essential for the Commission to be able to review and consider revisions to Rec. 10-10 as was required to take place in 2012 under paragraph 8 of Rec. 10-10 but has not yet occurred due to insufficient CPC reporting. To address these concerns, the United States requested and the COC agreed that the Secretariat include the information requirements of Rec. 10-10 in the annual reporting requirements listing, as this will facilitate COC review of observer program obligations of the CPCs, and encouraged CPCs to fulfill their reporting requirements under Rec. 10-10 so that the SCRS can make recommendations on the improvement of observer programs and thereby enable the Commission to conduct a full review of Rec. 10-10 in 2015 as called for in the recommendation.

Access Agreements reported to the Secretariat under Rec. 11-16 were compiled by the Secretariat in the “Summary of Information on Access Agreements Received in 2013”. In some cases the access agreement was reported by the fishing State but not by the coastal State. The Chairman reminded the CPCs that, in the case of government-to-government access agreements, fishing activities under an access agreement are to be reported by both CPCs within their Annual Reports. The Chairman also requested CPCs to submit information on access agreements in the reporting format developed by the Secretariat. The EU explained that it reports pertinent information on access agreements through a public access website. The Chairman noted, however, that Rec. 11-16 requires the CPCs to report specific information and the Secretariat cannot be expected to conduct research on the internet.

The Chairman reviewed the information on chartering arrangements submitted by CPCs in fulfillment of Rec 02-21 and noted improvements in the timeliness and completeness of the reports, especially with regard to the flag State confirmations. The Secretariat noted that there are still some issues where the reported duration of charter authorization differs between the flag state and the chartering State. The Chairman noted that the chartering summary reports are an essential means for the flag State to verify that catch and effort data have been submitted to the SCRS by the charterer, as required by the recommendation. It was noted that summary reports had been received for all charterers except Uruguay, and Uruguay was encouraged to contact the Secretariat.

The Secretariat reported on VMS messages received during the past year. Messages were received from several vessels not on the ICCAT record, making it impossible to identify the vessel sending the report. The Secretariat confirmed that no VMS messages at all had been received from Albania or EU-Portugal. Vessels flagged to some CPCs stopped transmitting VMS messages without the CPCs informing the Secretariat that the vessels were in port or the fishing authorizations had been suspended. Vessels with inconsistencies in the record of transmissions are listed in Table 4 of the “Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee”. In view of current ICCAT VMS provisions, the Chairman advised CPCs to work with the Secretariat to resolve the reported VMS discrepancies as quickly as possible during the fishing season.

The Committee discussed the SCRS evaluation of data deficiencies that is required under Rec. 05-09 (see item 16.16 of the 2013 SCRS Report). The SCRS noted that missing data and delayed submissions had an impact on the albacore stock assessments both in delaying work and limiting the application of certain statistical models. For the northern stock, the SCRS identified the need for size composition data, trawl fishery catch/effort data, and longline fishery spatial dynamics. For southern albacore, SCRS lacked Task II catch and effort from one major harvester, and again, longline fishery spatial dynamics. For swordfish, the late submission of catches, lack of discard data, unreported catches, and limited information on targeting patterns all contributed to limitations on the work of SCRS.

The SCRS also reported on its efforts to improve the data situation. One approach is the development of a data quality score (see Addendum 4 to Appendix 8 of the 2013 SCRS Report) and another is development of criteria for acceptance of statistical data (see Addendum 2 to Appendix 8 of the 2013 SCRS Report). A filter system will be applied to identify data deficiencies and enforce the submission of data in the proper formats. After corrections are applied by the CPC concerned, the date of acceptance by SCRS will be reported. The Chairman observed that this last point is related to the data reporting evaluation under Rec. 11-15. During the discussion of the “Secretariat Report for the Implementation of Recommendation 11-15”, Vanuatu had requested that the Secretariat report the date of submission of Task I data, to distinguish between short delays and significant delays. The Chairman of the Compliance Committee reflected that the date of acceptance by SCRS is the most significant date, and the acceptance date should be evaluated only against relevant dates for data preparatory meetings and stock assessments.

Lists of inspection ports authorized for foreign vessels, as required by Rec. 12-07, were provided by 13 CPCs. It was noted that foreign vessels should not be allowed to enter ports not on these lists or any ports of CPCs that have not provided a list. One report of a potential infraction was received from Uruguay based on a port inspection and Belize and Indonesia provided responses (see Annex 4 of the “Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee”).

The table showing the Task I nominal catch submission status for 2012 data is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**.

## 7. Actions required in relation to issues of non-compliance by CPCs arising from Items 5 and 6

Recognizing the difficulties of assessing compliance with Rec. 11-15 on the basis of individual species, the Committee recommended action only in cases where no data on any species were received. It was agreed that letters will be sent to the following CPCs indicating that retention of any ICCAT species is prohibited for 2014 pending receipt of Task I data acceptable to SCRS or a declaration that no catch occurred in 2012 for ICCAT managed species: Albania, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Guinea, Honduras, and Sao Tome & Principe.

The letters will indicate the procedures under Rec. 11-15 (and implementing guidelines) for these CPCs to provide missing data, or nil catch report, and receive notification from the Secretariat that the CPC that can resume retention of the concerned ICCAT species. The Committee also noted the need for further discussion on Rec. 11-15 to clarify the actions to be taken when a CPC reports Task I data for some ICCAT species, but not all ICCAT species caught by its flag or chartered vessels.

Given information presented at the meeting, written verification of zero catches will be requested of Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Syria. It was agreed that such written confirmation would fulfill the requirements of Rec. 11-15.

For other issues, the Chairman convened the Compliance Review Group to consult on actions required to address issues of non-compliance that were raised in the CPC by CPC review of the compliance summaries. The Chairman recalled that the purpose of the group is to assist the Chairman in evaluating the potential significance of compliance issues in the management context of the regional fisheries. For guidance on appropriate actions, the group considered a Schedule of Actions that had been previously reviewed by the Compliance Committee, although not formally adopted. The recommendations of the group were presented by the Chairman to the full Committee for consideration and to decide what actions will be forwarded to the plenary session of the Commission.

The following actions were recommended by the Committee:

No action was necessary in the case of 25 CPCs.

Two CPCs (Angola, Honduras) had identifications under Rec. 06-13 maintained.

One CPC (Albania) had identification under Rec. 06-13 applied.

Four CPCs (Nicaragua, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Syria) had identifications under Rec. 06-13 lifted.

Letters of Concern will be sent to 18 CPCs, including those four CPCs for which identifications were lifted.

The details of the responsive actions are presented in the “Compliance Summary Tables Adopted in 2013” as revised at the meeting (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

## 8. Review of information relating to NCPs and consideration of any necessary actions

An inspection report under Rec. 12-07 was received from Uruguay regarding a port inspection of a vessel flagged to Indonesia. It was alleged that transshipment occurred with a vessel flagged to Belize prior to entry into the port of Montevideo. Responses from the involved parties confirmed a medical evacuation as the purpose for the approach of the two vessels at sea. However, Uruguay expressed concern that tuna species were on board the Indonesian vessel, but there were no fishing authorizations, fishing gear or logbooks that could account for those catches. Given these facts, the vessel was presumed to have acquired the tuna via transfer at sea in the ICCAT area, and Uruguay proposed that the Indonesian vessel be posted to the IUU list. As the IUU list is a matter for the PWG, the Chairman referred the proposal to PWG.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that in 2012, it was decided to lift the identification under Rec. 06-13 for Georgia and maintain the identification for Cambodia. Cambodia had been previously identified for purse seine vessels alleged to have been involved in illegal transshipment activities in Gulf of Guinea.

Although Georgia provided no concrete response to the communication from ICCAT, no new evidence of catch, landings, or trade in ICCAT species was presented by the CPCs, and no actions were proposed.

Cambodia failed to respond to the 2012 communication from ICCAT. Although no new evidence of catch, landings, or trade in ICCAT species by Cambodia was introduced by the CPCs, it was decided to maintain the identification until Cambodia informs the Commission about actions taken to address the issues for which it was previously identified.

The Secretariat received no communication from Peru regarding the transshipment of tunas from pelagic trawlers under its flag that had been discussed in 2012. No new evidence of catch, landings, or trade was presented and no action was proposed.

India and Madagascar were contacted by the Secretariat regarding validation authorities for the swordfish statistical document program. No response was received from either party. No new evidence of catch, landings, or trade was available and no actions were proposed.

As noted by the Secretariat in its report to the Compliance Committee, five NCPs had voluntarily reported catches to ICCAT: Argentina, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia. No breach of ICCAT measures were noted by the Secretariat. However, the Chairman noted that the catch by St. Lucia of 119.41 metric tons of blue marlin amounted to nearly 6% of the 2000 t TAC established by Rec. 12-04, a significant increase from St. Lucia's reported catches in prior years. The Chairman proposed, and the Committee agreed, that a letter be sent to St. Lucia requesting more information about its fisheries for billfish and the current management program.

## **9. Review of requests for cooperating status**

Rec. 03-20 requires an initial application for cooperating status and an annual review for those previously recognized as cooperators, and provides for the renewal of such status unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, including reporting requirements. The Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee and the Secretariat's document on "Compliance Summary Tables" reviewed the issues, if any, related to the current group of Cooperating non-contracting parties.

The Committee agreed to renew cooperating status for Chinese Taipei. However, South Africa and Uruguay noted catch declarations for southern albacore from Chinese Taipei vessels landing in their ports and speculated that total catches might have exceeded the allocation to Chinese Taipei. South Africa also noted a number of vessels detained in its ports for infractions for which beneficial ownership may be linked to Chinese Taipei. While these vessels are not flagged to Chinese Taipei, it was noted that actions could be taken against nationals under Rec. 06-14, and Chinese Taipei was encouraged to investigate. Brazil expressed concern that unreported IUU catches of southern albacore, if significant, could explain the stalled recovery for this stock. Chinese Taipei stated that it was not able to check the landing numbers of southern albacore provided by South Africa and Uruguay in such short time, but will begin its investigation on this matter as soon as possible. Therefore, Chinese Taipei requested that South Africa and Uruguay to provide the information or data related the catch of southern albacore landed in ports of these States by Chinese Taipei flagged fishing vessels in 2012. As for the incident related to the detained vessels, Chinese Taipei indicated that these vessels are not flagged under its jurisdiction, but still expressed its willingness to cooperate with both States on this incident, and wished that they could provide relevant detailed information about those vessels to assist its follow-up investigation. It was agreed that the letter regarding renewal of cooperating status for Chinese Taipei would request explanations of the irregularities between catch declarations and total reported landings. South Africa and Uruguay agreed to provide the port inspection reports to Chinese Taipei so that investigations could be completed. Japan requested that the letter to Chinese Taipei should include a request for steps to be taken to control catches, similar to the requirements previously imposed by Rec. 05-02 due to a similar situation for bigeye tuna.

Curacao submitted Task I data, but not an Annual Report. A letter was sent to the ICCAT Secretariat requesting a renewal of cooperating status and indicating that steps were taken to apply for full membership to ICCAT. Cooperating status for Curacao was renewed.

Colombia had its cooperating status renewed in 2011 but was identified for lack of reporting. Cooperating status was again renewed in 2012 but ICCAT maintained identification under Rec. 06-13. Given the lack of response from Colombia, and failure to submit data and reports about ICCAT fisheries, cooperating status was revoked and the identification was maintained.

Suriname reported that there are no catches of ICCAT species by its flag vessels and had provided data on catches by foreign vessels fishing in its zone or landing in its ports. Cooperating status for Suriname was renewed.

El Salvador confirmed zero catches of ICCAT species and had submitted several reports. Cooperating status for El Salvador was renewed.

The request for cooperating status from Bolivia was received after the deadline in 2012 and had been deferred by the Compliance Committee for consideration in 2013. The issues that had led to the trade restriction against Bolivia in 2002 had been previously addressed, and ICCAT had lifted that trade restriction for bigeye tuna from Bolivia in 2011. In its request for cooperating status, Bolivia reconfirmed that it had not since licensed any fishing vessels to fish for ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area. Given Bolivia's stated commitment to the requirements of Rec. 03-20, the delegates agreed to grant cooperating party status.

The cooperating status for Guyana was revoked in 2012 due to lack of reporting and submission of data. In 2013, Guyana requested reinstatement but the request was received after the deadline. To be consistent with the approach previously applied to Bolivia, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the case of Guyana until the 2014 meeting.

## **10. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance**

The Chairman called attention to the opening statement by ISSF (included in **ANNEX 3.5**). Point 6 of the statement urged the Commission to adopt a schedule of actions that should be applied in cases of non-compliance. The Chairman recalled for the delegates that proposals to establish a Compliance Review Group and a Schedule of Actions to guide that group had been considered at prior meetings, but no consensus had been reached. The Chairman encouraged the Committee to consider adoption of these instruments at a future meeting.

Other recommendations to improve compliance were proposed by the Secretariat in its working paper on "Streamlining ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures and Associated Reporting Requirements". The Chairman encouraged the delegates to consider these suggestions in the 2013 plenary sessions, or during appropriate 2014 inter-sessional meetings.

## **11. Election of Chair**

Mr. Derek Campbell (United States) was elected Chairman for a two-year term beginning in 2014.

## **12. Adoption of Report and Adjournment**

Dr. Rogers, the outgoing Chairman, thanked the delegates for their efforts in the difficult but necessary work of the Compliance Committee. Improvements to the ICCAT compliance evaluation process have been made possible because of the hard work of the CPC delegates and this has strengthened the Commission for the benefit of all Contracting Parties. The outgoing Chair was sincerely thanked and commended for his commitment and contribution in achieving this.

The Chairman and the delegates acknowledged the efforts of Secretariat staff in assembly of information to support the Committee and the skill of interpreters in facilitating communication on highly technical issues. The rapporteur was thanked for his efficient work.

It was agreed to adopt the Compliance Committee report by correspondence and the 2013 meeting of the Compliance Committee was adjourned.

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review and adoption of the report of the inter-sessional meeting of COC/Panel 2
5. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from 2012 meeting
6. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements
  - 6.1 Compliance tables
  - 6.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries
  - 6.3 Inspection and observer reports
  - 6.4 Actions taken on collection of shark data
  - 6.5 Other relevant information
7. Actions required in relation to issues of non-compliance by CPCs arising from Items 5 and 6
8. Review of information relating to NCPs and consideration of any necessary actions
9. Review of requests for cooperating status
10. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
11. Election of Chair
12. Adoption of Report and adjournment

## Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

**Compliance Tables Adopted in 2013**  
(Compliance in 2012, reported in 2013)

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)																			
YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TAC	30200.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	3.60	5.90	4.30	20.30	296.40	244.10	245.70	179.70	300.00	250.00	250.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	39.00	416.00	351.00	155.00	261.00	-166.00	-101.00	125.00	300.00	250.00	200.00	280.00	280.00	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	10.70	14.30	28.00	34.00	289.30	235.70	222.00	216.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	27.00	150.00	101.00	21.00	273.00	100.00	149.00	229.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	200.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE			200.00	200.00	200.00	24.70	53.40	0.00	145.87	175.30	196.60	250.00	104.13		250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
EU	25462.00	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	12913.45	15316.60	16413.48	21935.47	18914.05	12600.20	11503.32	5003.66	31827.50	27916.80	27916.80	26939.13	26939.13	26554.96
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
JAPAN	521.13	516.79	478.68	640.33		419.56	483.42	285.30	1694.40	105.55	33.37	193.38	-1054.07	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	84.00	201.00	101.00	191.00	166.00	49.00	149.00	59.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	250.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	50.00	200.00	199.80	250.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
ST V & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	135.00	157.90	329.10	304.50	265.00	192.10	20.90	16.40	400.00	350.00	350.00	320.90	216.40	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	17.00	17.10	23.00	46.80	283.00	232.90	227.00	203.20	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.30	0.35	0.76	0.20	299.70	249.60	249.24	249.80	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
USA	538.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	188.79	314.56	422.37	424.56	483.71	344.19	236.38	234.19	672.50	658.75	658.75	658.75	658.75	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	114.46	191.73	197.41	171.92	85.54	58.27	52.59	78.08	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	398.00	288.00	247.40	312.00	-521.50	-559.50	-556.90	-680.90	-123.50	-271.50	-309.50	-306.90	-368.90	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3950.00	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	863.00	1587.00	1367.00	1180.00	4962.00	2402.60	2622.60	2609.62	5825.00	3989.60	3989.60	3789.62	3789.62	
TOTAL CATCH																			
Recommendation n°	07-02	09-05	09-05	11-04	11-04									07-02	07-02	09-05	09-05	09-05	11-04

BELIZE: payback proposal from 2012 to 2014. Also received a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei for 2012-2013 (200 t transfer each year).

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch (2.2% in 2008, 3.2% in 2009 and 3.7% in 2010).

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES: 2012 adjusted quota includes 100 t transfer from Chinese Taipei.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2013 adjusted quota is 3789.62t (=3271.7+3271.7\*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2011 exceeding 25% of 2013 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St. V&G and 200t to Belize.

<b>SOUTH ALBACORE</b>																			
YEAR	Initial quota /catch limit				Reference years Average 1992-1996	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota (only applicable in case of overharvest)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TAC	29900	29900	29900	24000															
BRAZIL						202.00	270.80	1269.00	1856.58										
NAMIBIA	TAC share 27500	TAC share 26336.30	TAC share 26336.30	TAC share 21000.00		1958.00	1792.00	3791.00	2265.00	15978.10	17208.73	21509.00	20330.58						
S. AFRICA						5043.10	4146.93	3380.00	3553.00										
URUGUAY						97.00	24.00	37.00	12.00										
CH. TAIPEI						8678.00	10975.00	13032.00	12644.00										
BELIZE	360.00	360.00	360.00	300.00	327.00	213.00	303.00	364.00	171.00	297.00	204.00	-4.00	129.00						
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	89.00	100.00	80.05	61.02	11.00	0.00	19.95	38.98	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						47.30	43.40	0.00	50.00										
EU	1914.70	1914.70	1914.70	1540.00	1740.60	1374.78	1170.60	410.16	521.99	1374.78	1170.60	1129.84	1018.01						
JAPAN	308.62	315.53	275.06	401.62		958.11	1217.83	1776.40	3707.50	-720.79	-902.30	-1501.34	-3305.88	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
KOREA	100.00	100.00	100.00	150.00	9.00	187.00	39.00	29.00	98.00	-124.00	-63.00	8.00	52.00	63.00	-24.00	37.00	150.00	150.00	
PANAMA	119.90	119.90	119.90	100.00	109.00	51.00	1.00	0.00		68.90	118.90	100.00							
PHILIPPINES	100.00	100.00	100.00	150.00	0.00	98.00	95.00	96.00	142.00	2.00	5.00	4.00	8.00						
STV & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		51.00	47.10	94.00	92.10	49.00	52.90	6.00	7.90						
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	40.00	81.00	3.00	120.00	2.00	19.00	97.00	-20.00	78.00				80.00	100.00	
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		59.75	93.83	86.04	35.11		6.17	13.96	64.89		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
TOTAL CATCH						19188.04	20322.49	24575.45											
Rec. number	07-03	07-03	07-03	11-05										07-03	07-03	07-03	07-03	11-05	11-05

BELIZE: transfer of 25 t from the USA is authorised [Rec. 12-01].

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit its total South albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch in South of 5 degrees North (20.2% in 2008, 16.1% in 2009 and 15.4% in 2010).

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

BRAZIL: Rec. 11-05 establishes a TAC of 21,000 t and an individual catch limit of 3,500 t for Brazil.

SOUTH AFRICA: individual catch limit combined with Namibia of 10,000 t [Rec. 11-05].

NORTH SWORDFISH																			
	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TAC	14000	14000	13700	13700	13700														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	19.80	12.70	25.60	21.00	38.00	54.80	41.90	46.50	57.80	67.50	67.50	67.50	64.40	64.40
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	112.00	106.00	184.00	141.00	83.00	89.00	11.00	75.00	195.00	195.00	195.00	216.00	205.00	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1299.70	1345.60	1550.60	1488.50	43.50	122.90	45.30	59.60	1343.20	1477.80	1595.90	1548.10	1569.80	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	92.00	74.00	74.70	59.00	4.00	5.00	5.30	46.30	96.00	79.00	80.00	105.30	100.00	100.00
CÔTÉ D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	77.28	29.94	0.00	6.60	-27.28	24.12	46.80	68.40	50.00	54.06	46.80	75.00		
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5953.10	5187.80	6110.68	6604.08	2278.90	3447.90	2886.22	1793.42	8232.00	8635.70	8996.90	8397.50	8397.50	8397.50
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	20.10	89.80	0.60	0.00	36.70	30.90	79.40	100.00	56.80	120.70	80.00	100.00	100.00	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	963.00	681.31	669.20	434.83	1754.74	1915.43	2038.23	2360.40	2717.74	2596.74	2707.43	2795.23	3117.40	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-209.50	-159.50	-109.50	10.00	-205.50	-159.50	-109.50	10.00	60.00	
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	724.00	963.00	781.00	770.00	551.00	312.00	381.00	492.50	1275.00	1275.00	1162.00	1262.50	1062.50	
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	32.00	35.00	37.00	40.00	168.00	165.00	246.50	260.00	283.50	283.50	283.50	300.00	300.00	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.50	34.50	25.00	25.00	37.50	34.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	
SENEGAL	400.00	400.00	400.00	250.00	250.00	28.00	11.00	43.00	30.10	372.00	389.00	557.00	344.90	600.00	600.00	600.00	375.00		
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	34.00	17.00	10.70	8.30	78.00	98.50	101.80	104.20	112.00	115.50	112.50	112.50		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	30.20	21.30	15.60	14.10	158.80	166.20	171.90	98.40	188.00	187.50	187.50	112.50	112.50	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	10.10	4.20	6.55	1.40	22.40	28.30	45.95	51.10	32.50	32.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	2878.03	2412.10	2773.70	3651.03	2982.47	3448.40	3086.80	1082.72	5860.50	5860.50	5860.50	4733.75	4733.75	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	10.05	18.49	15.48	25.00	20.95	12.51	15.52	25.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	7.00	24.00	18.00	24.95	135.00	135.00	109.50	102.55	142.00	127.50	127.50	127.50	127.50	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	89.00	88.00	192.00	166.00	316.00	317.00	213.00	204.00	405.00	405.00	405.00	370.00	370.00	
Recommendation n°	06-02	09-02	10-02	11-02	11-02									06-02	06-02	10-02	11-02	11-02	11-02
DISCARDS																			
CANADA						9.30		7.80											
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS						9.30													
TOTAL CATCH																			

BELIZE: transfer of 75 t from Trinidad and Tobago (Rec.11-02).

CANADA: Includes 25 t transfer from USA in 2007-2011 and an annual 100 t transfer from Senegal in 2010-2012, 35 t transfer from both Japan and Chinese Taipei in 2012-2013. 2011 discards (7.8 t) have been taken off 2013 quota.

CHINA: in 2012 and 2013, transfers from Philippines (25 t) have been authorised [Rec. 11-02].

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught Southern SWO.

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2012 exclude 50 t transferred to Morocco and 35 transferred to Canada [Rec. 11-02].

UK-OT: 20t transferred to France (SPM) from UK-OT for up to 2010 (Rec. 06-02) to be discontinued in 2011.

USA: Catches include landings and dead discards.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2013 adjusted quota is 370t (=270+270\*50%-35) due to the underage of 2011 exceeding 50% of 2013 catch limit and a transfer of 35t to Canada.

<b>SOUTH SWORDFISH</b>																			
	<i>Initial quota</i>					<i>Current catches</i>				<i>Balance</i>				<i>Adjusted quota</i>					
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TAC	17000	17000	15000	15000	15000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00														
BELIZE	150.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	111.00	121.00	206.00	197.00	99.00	66.50	-56.00	-40.50	210.00	187.50	150.00	156.50	125.00	105.00
BRAZIL	4720.00	3666.00	3785.00	3940.00	3940.00	3386.00	2925.60	3033.00	2832.60	3694.00	3100.40	2585.00	2999.90	7080.00	6026.00	5618.00	5832.50	5910.00	
CHINA	315.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	291.00	294.00	247.51	315.50	130.00	99.00	114.49	61.99	421.00	393.00	362.00	377.49	263.00	324.99
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	113.17	163.71	145.44	81.76	111.83	23.79	3.35	105.74	225.00	187.50	148.79	187.50	187.50	
EU	5780.00	5282.00	5082.00	4824.00	4824.00	5480.50	6083.30	4962.50	5061.40	236.50	555.10	356.00	317.70	5717.00	6638.40	5318.50	5379.10	5180.00	5141.70
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	132.00	116.00	60.40	54.00	-74.00	-90.00	-50.4	-4.14	58.00	26.00	10.00	49.86	87.72	
JAPAN	1080.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	900.11	1213.74	1276.30	809.57	875.80	437.26	-425.30	478.69	1775.91	1651.00	851.00	1288.26	425.70	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	-30.50	19.50	69.50	8.00	-20.50	19.50	69.50	50.00	58.00	
NAMIBIA	1400.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	534.00	526.50	348.10	404.70	815.00	791.50	1027.40	1276.75	1349.00	1318.00	1375.50	1681.45		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	53.00	13.00	51.00	51.00	-3.00	38.00	24.00	24.00	50.00	47.00	75.00	75.00		
ST. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	188.00	193.00	0.00		-88.00	-93.00	100.00							
SENEGAL	500.00	389.00	401.00	417.00	417.00	195.00	180.00	222.00	161.83	216.00	282.00	395.00	463.67	411.00	462.00	617.00	625.50	579.00	
SOUTH AFRICA	1200.00	932.00	962.00	1001.00	1001.00	170.00	144.70	96.57	50.20	1630.00	1387.30	1465.43	1550.80	1800.00	1532.00	1562.00	1601.00	1601.00	
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50
URUGUAY	1500.00	1165.00	1204.00	1252.00	1252.00	501.00	222.00	179.00	40.00	1749.00	1693.00	1784.00	2104.00	2250.00	1915.00	1954.00	2144.00		
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	200.00	99.75	99.75	100.00	200.00	100.00	99.75	100.00	100.00	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	2.23	0.89	2.74	20.00	17.77	28.11	26.26	20.00	20.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00
CHINESE TAIPEI	550.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	612.00	410.00	424.00	379.00	35.00	84.00	119.00	199.00	647.00	494.00	543.00	578.00	658.00	
TOTAL																			
Rec. n°	06-03	12-01	12-01	12-01	12-01									02-03	06-03	06-03	12-01	12-01	12-01

BELIZE: received a 25m/t transfer of S-SWO from USA which ultimately increased the catch limit to 150m/t.  
 BELIZE: payback proposal from 2014 to 2015 (refer to doc. COC-304-2013 Annex).

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: 25 t transfer allowance from USA to Côte d'Ivoire was not activated.  
 EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught Northern SWO.  
 JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.  
 JAPAN: underage of 2010 and of 2011 may be carried over to 2011 and to 2012 up to 800 t. [Rec.09-03].  
 JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2011 and 2012 exclude 50 t transferred to Namibia [Rec. 09-03].  
 SOUTH AFRICA will transfer 600 t of its uncaught quota of 2010 to 2013 providing an adjusted quota of 1601 t for 2013.  
 SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: No adjustments have been made to initial quotas, as catch figures are based on estimates carried over from previous years.  
 USA: catches include landings and dead discards.  
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2013 adjusted quota includes 199t of 2012 underage.

EAST BLUEFIN																			
YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
TAC	22000	13500	12900	12900	13400														
ALBANIA	50.00	33.83	32.3	32.3	33.58	50.00				0.00				50.00	33.83	32.3		0.00	
ALGERIE	1117.42	684.90	138.46	138.46	143.83	222.82	0.00	0.00	69.00	804.62	684.90	138.46	69.46	1027.42	684.90	228.46	138.46	243.83	
CHINA	61.32	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	41.67	38.20	35.93	36.04	2.09	0.28	0.84	0.73	43.76	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	
CROATIA	641.45	393.50	376.01	376.01	390.59	620.10	388.60	375.00	373.79	19.90	4.90	1.00	2.22	640.00	393.50	376.01	376.01	390.59	
EGYPT	50.00	50.00	64.58	64.58	67.08	0.00	n.a	64.58	64.25	50.00			0.00	0.33	50.00	50.00	64.58	64.58	77.08
EU	12406.62	7604.38	7266.41	7266.41	7548.06	11042.37	6053.56	5656.45	5715.60	864.25	1032.82	99.96	40.81	11906.62	7086.38	5756.41	5756.41	7548.06	
ICELAND	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.97	0.00	0.00	2.35	5.07	49.00	31.20	76.46	24.75	0.72	31.20	78.81	29.82	30.97	
JAPAN	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1858.20	1139.28	1088.82	1092.60	13.24	8.77	8.21	4.43	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	
KOREA	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	102.35	0.00	0.00	77.04	29.21	81.14	77.53	0.49	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	
LIBYA	946.52	580.15	902.66	902.66	937.65	1081.64	645.30	0.00	761.26	10.13	79.85	902.66	141.40	1091.77	725.15	902.66	902.66	937.65	
MAROC	2088.26	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	2278.00	1554.00	1236.94	1223.00	122.00	52.96	1.39	0.07	2400.00	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	
NORWAY	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.97	
SYRIA	50.00	33.83	32.33	32.33	33.58		34.00							50.00	33.83	82.05		0.00	0.00
TUNISIE	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057.00	1931.72	1043.58	851.48	1017.40	6.15	65.93	8.70	0.16	1937.87	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	1057.00	
TURKEY	683.11	419.06	535.89	535.89	556.66	665.47	409.49	527.53	535.55	17.64	9.57	8.36	0.34	683.11	419.06	535.89	535.89	556.66	
CH. TAIPEI	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	41.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.60	106.05	39.75	0.00	41.60	106.05	39.75	31.29	
TOTAL CATCH																			
Rec. number	08-05	09-06	10-04	10-04	12-03									06-08	08-05	09-06	10-04	12-03	

ALBANIA: In accordance with paragraph 9 of Rec. 10-04, Albania was not allowed to engage in bluefin tuna fishing during 2012 fishing season.

ALGERIA: Transfer of 90 t of its 2009 quota to 2011 (1117.42 - 90 = 1027.42 is the quota for 2009). Algeria has lodged an objection to Rec. 10-04.

ICELAND: informed that the unused Icelandic quota went until 2013 to the EU. Iceland was informed by the Secretariat that Rec. 01-12 does not allow quota transfer unless authorised by the Commission.

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

MOROCCO: In 2011, Morocco will have a supplementary amount (15.26 t) from the 2009 voluntary carry over, applied in accordance with the Commission's decision.

SYRIA: In accordance with paragraph 9 of Rec. 10-04, Syria was not allowed to engage in bluefin tuna fishing during 2012 fishing season.

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged an objection to Article 8 (TAC and quota allocation scheme) of Rec. 10-04 and to Article 9 (allocation scheme) of Rec. 12-03.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2013 adjusted quota is 31.29t (=41.29-10) due to the transfer of 10t to Egypt.

<b>WEST BLUEFIN</b>																			
	<i>Initial quota</i>					<i>Current catches</i>				<i>Balance</i>				<i>Adjusted quota/limit</i>					
<i>YEAR</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
<i>TAC</i>	<i>1900</i>	<i>1800</i>	<i>1750</i>	<i>1750</i>	<i>1750</i>														
<b>CANADA</b>	505.29	495.00	396.66	396.66	396.66	<b>533.10</b>	<b>512.90</b>	<b>483.30</b>	<b>487.40</b>	<b>23.60</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>5.60</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>556.70</b>	<b>518.60</b>	<b>488.90</b>	<b>488.80</b>	<b>484.50</b>	
<b>FRANCE (St. P &amp; M)</b>	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	<b>3.40</b>	<b>8.08</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13.90</b>	<b>9.82</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>17.30</b>	<b>17.90</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>8.00</b>	
<b>JAPAN</b>	329.79	311.02	301.64	301.64	301.64	<b>281.67</b>	<b>425.18</b>	<b>303.95</b>	<b>303.60</b>	<b>120.89</b>	<b>6.73</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>402.56</b>	<b>431.91</b>	<b>308.37</b>	<b>306.06</b>	<b>304.10</b>	
<b>MEXICO</b>	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	<b>10.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>50.60</b>	<b>132.50</b>	<b>42.00</b>	<b>36.50</b>	<b>80.90</b>	<b>142.50</b>	<b>56.00</b>	<b>50.50</b>	<b>131.50</b>	<b>175.90</b>	
<b>UK-OT</b>	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>39.53</b>	<b>43.53</b>	<b>47.27</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>39.80</b>	<b>43.53</b>	<b>47.53</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>8.00</b>	
<b>USA</b>	1034.90	977.40	948.70	948.70	948.70	<b>1272.60</b>	<b>952.64</b>	<b>904.70</b>	<b>915.46</b>	<b>279.80</b>	<b>304.56</b>	<b>138.87</b>	<b>128.11</b>	<b>1552.40</b>	<b>1257.20</b>	<b>1043.57</b>	<b>1043.57</b>	<b>1043.57</b>	
<b>TOTAL LANDING</b>						<b>2101.04</b>	<b>1912.80</b>	<b>1685.59</b>	<b>1685.59</b>										
<i>Discards</i>																			
CANADA	<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>				<b>2.90</b>													
JAPAN	<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>			<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>			<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>			<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>			
USA																			
<b>TOTAL DISCARDS</b>						<b>2.90</b>													
<b>TOTAL REMOVAL</b>																			
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>08-04</i>	<i>08-04</i>	<i>10-03</i>	<i>10-03</i>	<i>12-02</i>									<i>06-06</i>	<i>08-04</i>	<i>08-04</i>	<i>10-03</i>	<i>10-03</i>	<i>12-02</i>

CANADA: Adjusted quota for 2013 includes initial quota, 2012 balance as well as 86.5 t transfer from Mexico as per Rec. 12-02.

CANADA: catches inclusive of observed discards, estimated catch and release mortalities and tagging mortalities.

MEXICO: Maximum Carry forward of 47.5t (50% of allocation) in 2009 and 2010 (Rec. 08-04). Up to 100% of initial quota (95t) permitted for carry forward in 2011-2013 (Recs. 10-03 and 12-02).

MEXICO: 2009 Adjusted quota after transfer up to 86.5t to Canada from 2008 underage (Rec. 08-04).

MEXICO: 2010 Adjusted quota after transfer up to 86.5t to Canada (for 2011), from 2010 underage (Rec 10-03). (Initial 95t + 47.5t carry forward - 86.5t transfer)

MEXICO: 2011 Adjusted quota after transfer up to 86.5t to Canada (for 2012), from 2011 underage. (Rec. 10-03). (Initial 95t + 42t carry forward - 86.5t transfer )

MEXICO: Adjusted quota before transfer up to 86.5t to Canada (from 2013, Adjusted quota-Rec. 12-02, paragraph 6d) of Mexico reported catches

USA: Catches include landings and dead discards.

BIGEYE																					
YEAR	Initial catch limit					Reference years		Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average (91-92)	1999 (SCRS 2000)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TAC	90000	85000	85000	85000	85000																
ANGOLA						0.00	0.00				4069.00										
BARBADOS						0.00	0.00	17.20	11.70	7.10	14.80										
BELIZE						0.00	0.00	60.00	249.00	1218.00	1242.00										
BRAZIL						570.00	2024.00	1189.00	1151.10	1799.20	1399.70										
CANADA						46.50	263.00	111.00	102.80	136.90	166.40										
CAP VERT						128.00	1.00	827.00	1164.00	1037.00	713.00										
CHINA	5900	5900	5572	5572	5572.00	0.00	7347.00	4973.00	5489.00	3720.78	3231.00	2927.00	4181.00	4851.22	6942.00	7900.00	9670.00	8572.00	10342.00	8502.00	10173.60
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	0.00	790.00	659.70	47.10	506.58										
EU	24000.00	24000.00	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	26672.00	21970.00	19791.49	18269.40	23526.39	20798.23	11408.51	10430.60	6340.61	9068.77	31200.00	28700.00	29867.00	29867.00	29467.10	29467.10
FRANCE (P & M)						0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00										
GABON						0.00	184.00														
GHANA	5000.00	5000.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	3478.00	11460.00	10554.00	6769.00	4440.00	2913.80	-14087.00	-13366.00	-13074.00	1983.20	-3543.00	-6587.00	-8634.00	4897.00	6423.20	
GUATEMALA						0.00	0.00	987.00	1011.00	281.90	261.70										
JAPAN	25000.00	25000.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	32539.00	23690.00	13127.79	12919.83	11930.00	16008.29	17372.21	16780.17	14964.30	11616.01	30500.00	29700.00	26894.30	27624.30	27624.30	
KOREA			1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	834.00	124.00	2134.00	2646.00	2762.00	1908.00		254.00	21.00	76.00		2900.00	2783.00	1984.00	2039.00	
MAROC						0.00	700.00	795.00	276.00	300.00	300.00										
MEXICO						0.00	6.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
NAMIBIA						0.00	423.00	108.00	71.50	207.70	918.40										
PANAMA	3500.00	3500.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	8724.50	26.00	2405.00	1399.00	3461.55	1994.00	1095.00	2101.00	-155.55	2206.45	3500.00	3500.00	3306.00	4200.45	3306.00	4297.80
PHILIPPINES			1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	0.00	943.00	1880.00	1399.00	1266.00	531.00		584.00	717.00	1452.00						
RUSSIA						0.00	8.00	43.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
SAO TOME & P						0.00	0.00	94.00	97.00												
SENEGAL						7.00	0.00	1041.00	844.00	239.00	225.00										
SOUTH AFRICA						57.50	41.00	179.70	144.80	152.50	47.20	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
St. V. & GR.						0.50		292.00	395.90	37.00	24.70										
TRINIDAD & T.						131.50	19.00	55.50	39.80	33.50	33.30										
UK-OT						6.50	8.00	17.00	11.20	189.05	51.30										
URUGUAY						38.00	59.00	31.00	23.00	15.00	2.00	n.a									
USA						893.50	1261.00	515.20	571.31	722.11	868.86										
VANUATU						0.00	0.00	15.08	41.60	35.16	22.84										
VENEZUELA						373.20	128.00	159.00	85.00	263.80	97.70										
CURACAO						0.00	0.00	581.00	2688.00	3441.40	2890.00										
CH. TAIPEI	16500.00	16500.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	12698.00	16837.00	13252.00	13189.00	13732.00	10805.00	6598.00	8261.00	6525.90	9382.90	19850.00	21450.00	20257.90	20187.90	20187.90	
GUYANA																					
TOTAL CATCH																					
Rec. number	08-01	09-01	10-01	11-01	11-01											08-01	08-01	08-01	10-01	11-01	11-01

GHANA: In 2012-2015, annual transfer of China (70t), Korea (20t), Ch. Taipei (70 t) and Japan (70 t) have been authorised, Rec. 11-01.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t. by year.

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: adjusted quota of Japan in 2011 exclude 3000 t transferred to China and 800 t transferred to Korea [Rec. 10-01].

JAPAN: adjusted quota of Japan in 2012 exclude 3000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 11-01].

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2013 adjusted quota is 20187.9t (=15583+15583\*30%-70) due to the underage of 2011 exceeding 30% of 2013 catch limit and a transfer of 70t to Ghana.

<b>WHITE MARLIN</b>														
	<i>Initial landings</i>				<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	1996	1999	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
					(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS
<b>BRAZIL</b>	51.81	51.81	51.81	51.81	70.00	158.00	<b>52.30</b>	<b>34.97</b>	<b>59.66</b>	<b>70.79</b>				
<b>CANADA</b>	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	8.00	5.00	<b>0.60</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.30</b>
<b>CHINA</b>	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9	30	<b>8.50</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>9.69</b>
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	1.00	7.00	<b>0.65</b>	<b>7.17</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>-4.86</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>2.31</b>
<b>EU</b>	46.50	46.50	46.50	46.50	148.00	127.00	<b>56.32</b>	<b>29.20</b>	<b>22.40</b>	<b>58.40</b>	<b>-9.82</b>	<b>17.30</b>	<b>24.10</b>	<b>-11.90</b>
<b>JAPAN</b>	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	112.00	40.00	<b>28.80</b>	<b>40.78</b>	<b>27.90</b>	<b>27.70</b>	<b>8.20</b>	<b>-3.78</b>	<b>9.10</b>	<b>9.30</b>
<b>KOREA</b>	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	59.00	0.00	<b>8.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>	3.63	3.63	3.63	3.63	0.00	11.00	<b>19.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>36.00</b>	<b>-15.37</b>	<b>-16.37</b>	<b>-24.37</b>	<b>-32.37</b>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	0.00	12.00		<b>1.70</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>		<b>2.26</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>2.96</b>
<b>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b>	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	8.20	13.00	<b>10.90</b>	<b>14.80</b>	<b>14.50</b>	<b>38.50</b>	<b>-6.60</b>	<b>-10.50</b>	<b>-10.20</b>	<b>-34.20</b>
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	50.04	50.04	50.04	50.04	152.00	43.00	<b>49.00</b>	<b>46.00</b>	<b>40.81</b>	<b>63.52</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>-13.48</b>
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	186.80	186.80	186.80	186.80	586.00	465.00	<b>28.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>158.80</b>	<b>166.80</b>	<b>158.80</b>	<b>171.80</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>262.07</b>	<b>224.72</b>	<b>224.92</b>					
<b>USA (# of fish whm+bum)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			<b>97.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>106.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>144.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>
<i>Recommendation number</i>	06-09	06-09	06-09	06-09										

MARLIN CATCH LIMITS ARE TARGETS FOR MORTALITY REDUCTION AND BALANCES ARE NOT INTERPRETED AS ADJUSTMENTS.

BRAZIL: release are of live marlin. Retained marlin are not for commercial use.

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

USA: In numbers of fish landed, white marlin/spearfish and blue marlin were combined. Of the 97 marlins recorded, there were 63 blue marlin, 30 white marlin, and 4 roundscale spearfish.

<b>BLUE MARLIN</b>														
	<i>Initial limits</i>				<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	1996	1999	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
					(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)					LL+PS			
<b>BARBADOS</b>	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	127.80	87.80	<b>36.00</b>	<b>8.60</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>-26.50</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>-3.50</b>	<b>-4.20</b>
<b>BELIZE</b>					0.00	0.00		<b>3.00</b>		<b>47.00</b>		<b>-3.00</b>		<b>-47.00</b>
<b>BRAZIL</b>	254.40	254.40	254.40	254.40	308.00	509.00	<b>149.10</b>	<b>130.10</b>	<b>63.35</b>	<b>48.37</b>				
<b>CHINA</b>	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	62	201	<b>77.00</b>	<b>77.00</b>	<b>99.50</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>23.50</b>	<b>23.50</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>65.50</b>
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>							<b>119.62</b>	<b>42.67</b>	<b>42.08</b>	<b>22.76</b>	<b>-119.62</b>	<b>-42.67</b>	<b>-42.08</b>	<b>-22.76</b>
<b>EU</b>	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	206.00	200.00	<b>165.77</b>	<b>146.80</b>	<b>69.70</b>	<b>88.30</b>	<b>-62.77</b>	<b>-43.80</b>	<b>33.30</b>	<b>14.70</b>
<b>JAPAN</b>	839.50	839.50	839.50	839.50	1679.00	790.00	<b>553.46</b>	<b>425.99</b>	<b>478.00</b>	<b>156.50</b>	<b>286.04</b>	<b>413.51</b>	<b>361.50</b>	<b>683.00</b>
<b>KOREA</b>	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	144.00	0.00	<b>57.00</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>57.00</b>	<b>34.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>38.00</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	13.00	35.00	<b>92.00</b>	<b>88.00</b>	<b>67.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>-74.50</b>	<b>-70.50</b>	<b>-49.50</b>	<b>-87.50</b>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	35.50	35.50	35.50	35.50	0.00	71.00		<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>1.20</b>	35.50	<b>32.50</b>	<b>32.00</b>	<b>34.30</b>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.50</b>	<b>-0.20</b>	<b>-0.10</b>
<b>T &amp; TOBAGO</b>	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.90	13.90	19.70	<b>19.20</b>	<b>21.50</b>	<b>25.10</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>-9.30</b>	<b>-12.10</b>	<b>-15.20</b>	<b>-35.10</b>
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	30.40	30.40	30.40	30.40	60.74	29.99	<b>38.30</b>	<b>42.00</b>	<b>32.98</b>	<b>50.38</b>	<b>-7.90</b>	<b>-11.60</b>	<b>-2.58</b>	<b>-19.98</b>
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	660.00	486.00	<b>195.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>	<b>199.00</b>	<b>133.00</b>	<b>135.00</b>	<b>177.00</b>	<b>131.00</b>	<b>197.00</b>
<b>TO TAL</b>							<b>1502.45</b>	<b>1197.66</b>	<b>1149.31</b>					
<b>USA(# of fish whm+bum)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			<b>97.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>106.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>144.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>06-09</i>	<i>06-09</i>	<i>06-09</i>	<i>06-09</i>										

MARLIN CATCH LIMITS ARE TARGETS FOR MORTALITY REDUCTION AND BALANCES ARE NOT INTERPRETED AS ADJUSTMENTS.

BRAZIL: release are of live marlin. Retained marlin are not for commercial use.

BARBADOS: the values listed under "blue marlin" for years prior to 2010 are total catches of all billfish species (except swordfish) including blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish, as reported to ICCAT under the category "BIL".

JAPAN: 2012 figures are provisional.

USA: In numbers of fish landed, white marlin/spearfish and blue marlin were combined. Of the 97 marlins recorded, there were 63 blue marlin, 30 white marlin, and 4 roundscale spear

**Compliance with size limits in 2012**

Species Area	SWO		BFT						
	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E	AT.E	AT.E	Med	Adriatic	Med	AT.W
Recommendation Number	11-02		10-04 For BB, TROL; <17 m	10-04 For BB, TROL; >17 m	10-04 All other gears	10-04 Coastal artisanal fisheries	10-04 Catches taken for farming purposes	10-04. All other gears	10-03 all gears
Min Weight (kg)	25 or 15		6.4	8	30	8	8	30	30
Min Size (cm)	125 or 119		--	--	--	--	--	--	115
Tolerance (% of total)	15% 125 cm - 0% 119		Up to 7% of quota with max. of 100t	0%	Max. 5% between 10-30 kg	No more than 2% of quota for fresh fish	No more than 90% of quota	5% tolerance between 10-30kg of landing	Average over 2009 and 2010 not more than 10%
Albania									
Algeria						-5%		-5%	
Angola									
Barbados	0								
Belize	0.97%	0.84%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Brazil		3.40%							
Canada	<1%								<1%
Cap Vert									
China	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	0%	0%							
Croatia									
Egypt						0.0%			
EU	2.95	1.18	0.63	0.5	0	0.83	0	0.72	0
France (St.P & M)	0.00%								0.00%
Gabon									
Ghana									
Guatemala									
Guinea Ecuatorial									
Guinée République									
Honduras									
Iceland			0	0	0				
Japan	2.0%	5.4%	n.a	n.a	0.00%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.00%
Korea	<1%	<1%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	<0%	n.a
Libya								3.40%	
Maroc	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a
Mauritania									
Mexico			n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0
Namibia	n.a	0.0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Nicaragua									
Nigeria									
Norway									
Panama									
Philippines		2%							
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome									
Sénégal	1.58%	4.92%							
Sierra Leone									
South Africa	n.a	<2%*	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
St. Vincent & G	0.4%	1.7%							
Syria									
Trinidad & Tobago	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Tunisie								3.5%	
Turkey	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	n.a
UK-OT									
USA	0.13%**	0.00%							6.30%
Uruguay	9%								1%
Vanuatu	0	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Venezuela									
Chinese Taipei	0.27%(<125 cm)	0.64%(<125cm)							
Colombia	0%(<119cm)	0%(<119cm)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Curacao									

South Africa:\* - Typical value in previous years when observers programme was established for vessels fishing in the Atlantic Ocean. All undersize fish handed over to FCO's and not permitted to be marketed.

USA\*\*: \* 0.13% is the total catch of NSWO below 15kg, however these fish comply with the minimum size by length.

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10*

**EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR W-BFT COMPLIANCE TABLE:  
HISTORY OF CARRY FORWARDS, TRANSFERS AND ADJUSTED QUOTA  
FOR MEXICO FROM 2008-2013**

Transfers to Canada in 2009 and 2010 were from Mexico's 2007 and 2008 underage as per Rec. 08-04.

- In 2009, Mexico had a balance of 47.5t (from 2008) as per Rec. 08-04. The 2009 Adjusted Quota was 142.5t.
- In 2010, Mexico had a balance of 47.5t (from 2009) as per Rec. 08-04. The 2010 Adjusted quota was 142.5t.
- In 2011, after transferring 86.5t to Canada (for 2011) from its 2010 under harvest, as per Rec. 10-03, Mexico had a balance of 42t (from 2010). The 2011 Adjusted quota was 137t.
- In 2012, after transferring 86.5 t to Canada (for 2012) from its 2011 under harvest, as per Rec. 10-03, Mexico had a balance of 36.5t (from 2011). The 2012 Adjusted quota was 131.5t.
- In 2013, Mexico had a balance of 80.9 t for a total quota of 175.5t. The Adjusted Quota before transfer up to 86.5t to Canada (from 2013), Adjusted Quota - Rec. 12-02, paragraph 6d), of Mexico's reported catches.

**FORM FOR THE APPLICATION OF OVERAGES/UNDERAGES**

<b>Flag:</b>	<b>Mexico</b>
<b>Stock:</b>	<b>WBFT</b>

		Units: t				
Year		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Limit		95	95	95	95	95
Adjusted limit (A)		142.5	56.0	50.5	131.5	175.9
Formula *						
Catch (B)		10	14.0	14.0	50.6	
Balance (A-B)		132.5	42	36.5	80.9	
Adjustment year**			2011	2012	2013	
Describe the rationale used in the application of overage / underage: A - Adjusted Limit *Initial+ Carry forward-Transfer  2009=95t+47.5t (no transfer to Canada) 2010=95t+47.5t-(86.5t to Canada for 2011) 2011=95t+42t-86.5t (transfer to Canada for 2012) 2012=95t+36.5t (no transfer from 2012 quota) 2013=95t+80.9t  Note: 86.5t from Mexico's underages in 2010 and 2011 transferred to Canada for 2011 and 2012 respectively (Rec.12-02, paragraph 6d)						

\* Enter the formula used to calculate the adjusted limit (A).

\*\*Enter the year used to adjust the balance (A)-(B).

COMPLIANCE SUMMARY TABLES

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ALBANIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Statistics received, but no annual report received.	Letter received from Albania explaining administrative changes and requesting assistance to comply with all ICCAT requirements in the future. Additional letter with more detail received late.	Lift identification but send letter of concern reminding Albania of BFT requirements. Panel 2 will decide in relation to 2013 fishing plan. E-mail message <b>received on 12 Feb 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No annual report submitted.	Not present to respond	Identify due to lack of reporting and communication. Remind Albania that until such time as Task I submission is received, or zero catch is reported as applicable, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 10-04 and 11-20.</i> BFT Fishery prohibited by Commission in 2012.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 12-03</i> - No weekly or monthly catch reports received; no VMS data received; Rec. 112-20: no BCDs received.		
				<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> e-mail message received as reply to letter of concern		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ALGERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected	Data collection system set-up and will be strengthened further in 2013. Algerian scientists now actively participating in SCRS.	No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Full investigation was undertaken. Information however was received after fishing season which impacted investigation. National observers deployed on vessels concerned stated discards were normal practice and did not constitute non-compliance. Regarding reported transshipment at sea, it was not possible to establish proof.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCD contact point details received late.					
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infractions recorded.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Allegation of WWF and response.			<b>Other issues:</b> ROP-BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in <b>COC-305</b> .		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ANGOLA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data. No Annual Report received.	Only artisanal fisheries. Difficult to collect the data. A Ministry of Fisheries has been established and issues reported will be solved in the near future.	Maintain identification and request greater efforts in data collection and reporting. <b>Response received on 5 June 2013</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I data received late. No Task II data or fleet characteristics received. No summary table of requirements received with Annual report.	Delays caused by reorganisation of national administration. Task I and II in process of being submitted to ICCAT Secretariat. Future submissions will improve.	Maintain identification
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No information or reports were received in 2012. It is unknown which elements are applicable to Angola.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received (BET and ALB-S reported in Task I). Rec. 11-05: possible overharvest of <u>S. Albacore</u> .		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			Other issues: Rec. 11-16: no information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Not present to respond	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> It is unclear which elements are applicable to Barbados as reporting requirements response not received in 2012.		Letter of concern requesting Barbados to identify applicable reporting requirements and requesting information on actions taken relating to overharvest of BUM and requesting management plan. <b>Response received 18 October 2012</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02 - No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest in BUM.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2012

2013

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>BELIZE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-05:</i> Minor delay in receipt of first S-ALB report	<b>Note from Belize:</b> Belize is a developing nation dedicated to ensuring compliance with all relevant reporting requirements as is evident by the number of our data submissions. However, due to limited financial, institutional and human resources we are not always in a position to ensure compliance with certain measures within the time allocated or have not realized the necessary resources required to ensure that these measures of implemented accordingly. We therefore seek the consideration of the Commission in this regard. We nonetheless wish to reiterate our dedication to ensure compliance by our fleet in an effort to safeguard the sustainability of the tuna stock in this area. Payback albacore and swordfish plans have been submitted. No tuna transhipped outside ROP, but will register all carrier vessels in future to avoid problems. VMS system has been renewed and now fully operational.	Letter of concern encouraging continued efforts in albacore payback, and requesting further investigation into possible transhipments of by-catch of ICCAT species and more information on new VMS system. Request further information on organisation of south swordfish quota management. <b>Response received 12 Sep 2013.</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-05.</i> Second interim report of S. alb catches 2013 not received.	Will follow up with their authorities and ICCAT Secretariat on the status of report submission as understand it was already submitted. IUU provisional listing was not undertaken in accordance with ICCAT provisions.	No action necessary
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest in N-ALB, in S-ALB and in S-SWO.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of SWO and BUM. Payback plan for SWO submitted.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level not yet finalised - measures are being drafted and implemented. Concerns raised over at sea transhipments outside of transshipment observer programme and with VMS transmission			<b>Other issues:</b> One vessel on provision IUU list.		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> no infractions detected		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report for SCRS received late. No Annual report Part II received.		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management measures:</b>	Brazil has no access agreements. Recs. 11-08, 01-21, 01-22 are not applicable to Brazil.		<b>Conservation and Management measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-12.</i> Problems with data system resulted in vessels being reported for inclusion more than 30 days retroactive. <i>Rec. 11-05</i> . First preliminary S-ALB catch report received late. Second interim report of S. alb catches 2013 not received. No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted in 2013 (received in 2012).	Delays a result of internal restructuring. Late reporting will not be repeated. No directed north Swordfish fishery, as most SWO taken in South Atlantic, hence no obligation to report development plan.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of WHM in 2011.	No sale of this species allowed. Figures refer to discards and donations		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2012			2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 98-08</i> : List of N-ALB vessels received late due to confusion between deadlines for BET/YFT vessels. <i>Rec. 11-20</i> : no BCDs received in 2012 and information concerning BCDs of 2008 to 2011 not yet complete.	All BFT tagged in Canada, so submission of BCDs not required, but Canada will submit any outstanding information after the meeting. Many SCRS submissions contained in Annual Report or scientific documents. Requirement list will be revised and any outstanding information submitted as soon as possible. Need clarification on reporting mechanism for the future.	Letter of concern on implementation of BCD system. <b>Response received 17 October 2013.</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 98-08</i> : List of N-ALB vessels received late; <i>Rec.11-20</i> : wrong unique identification numbering; many BCD are not submitted with complete information.	Delay in vessel list submission as a result of confusions between reporting deadlines in Recs 09-08 and 11-01. BCDs delays as a result of human errors. Expect implementation of eBCD programme to improve situation. Full implementation of a national electronic tagging system has however allowed prompt follow up with ICCAT Secretariat of missing information.	No action necessary
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Some information for SCRS not received.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CAPE VERDE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No issued detected.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. No summary table of requirements received for Part II of Annual Report.	Undertook to improve reporting and timeliness in future.	
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No internal actions (vessel 20m+) received. List of BET/YFT slightly late. It is unknown which reporting requirements are applicable to Cape-Verde		Letter of concern regarding applicability of reporting requirements and lack of internal actions report and compliance tables, and requesting information on monitoring and control of tropical tuna fisheries. <b>No response received.</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		Letter of concern regarding no reply to letter of concern and delay in many requirements submissions.
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance table submitted.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. Rec. 11-16: no information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).		

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CHINA, People's Rep.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec.11-20</i> : BCDs for 2011 received in 2012 and BCDs for 2012 fishing season not yet received.	All bluefin tuna catches are tail tagged. BCDs will be issued once fish are offloaded at port.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
			No action necessary, but concerns on full implementation of BCD system to be reflected in Compliance Committee Report.			
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> ROP; WWF letter and response. Concerns over shark fin ratio raised	Vessels have been instructed to implement recommendation but market price extremely high which could encourage non-compliance. Additional measures will be taken and China will report back in 2013.		<b>Other issues:</b> 1. Further to concerns raised by WWF over Hong Kong imports of BFT in 2012, China reported that in 2012 the Hong Kong SAR imported 92.5 metric tons of Atlantic Bluefin tuna, of which 92.4 mt were imported from Japan and 0.1 mt was imported from U.S. 2. Potential non compliance in ROP.	2. Refer to response to potential non compliance in doc. <b>COC-305/13</b> .	

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task II size data received but format incorrect.	Major improvements to data collection and all submitted to Secretariat. Are working on formats.	Letter of concern recognising efforts and improvements and requesting further information regarding swordfish management  Request further information on marlin fishery and management, and any further available information on shark data and management, and recall importance of timely reporting. <b>Response received 27 Aug 2013</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I fleet characteristics is missing. Report for SCRS received late.	Vessel list for ICCAT Record submitted..	Letter of concern (has to improve in reporting and report on artisanal fisheries).
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01: List of BET/YFT vessels received late due to confusion with forms., Report on closed season not received.	Quota of S-SWO reserved for artisanal/subsistence fisheries. Plan sent in 2011 but not updated in 2012.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02 - No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.	Submitted in 2012, but not in 2013. Will rectify non-submission.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of BUM.	Artisanal/subsistence fisheries, difficult to implement rec. due to very low quotas.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of BUM. No information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama an Curaçao).	New requirement. Will strive to provide artisanal BUM data. Will follow up and provide information on	

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EGYPT</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of annual report not received. Statistical data for 2011 not reported (Egypt submitted statistical data for 2012).	Missing information from 2011 will be submitted as soon as possible.	Letter of concern acknowledging improvement in data reporting but requesting data for 2011. <b>Response received 29 September 2013</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late.	Have made efforts to improve reporting in recent years. Will strive to improve further.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 12-03: monthly reports received late (all weekly reports received on time).		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No infractions detected.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b>			<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) missing for Spain, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Task 2SZ (size data) missing for Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Annual Report part II received late.	Some issues of clarification contributed to reporting delays. Will submit outstanding items as soon as possible.		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT vessels and previous year vessels received late (partially unprocessable).List of observers received late. <i>Rec.11-20:</i> BCDs not always received 5 days after validation.	Many thousands of BCDs issued each year, and many sent on time. eBCD expected to resolve issue of late submission.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> In 2013, information for EU Portugal received late. No other swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted in 2013 (received in 2012). Report of SWO_MED closure received late. <i>Rec. 12-03</i> BFT implementation report received late; <i>Rec. 11-05</i> Second interim S. Alb report received late	SWO-MED closure report plan was late due to the late arrival of the results of the control and inspection information, which indeed confirmed an effective closure. Wrong BCD numbering and 5 day delays are in process of being solved. Noted these represented a small proportion of all BCDs submitted.	
	<i>Rec. 11-09:</i> Some information on bird mitigation measures received late.			Letter of concern, commending improvements made and encouraging continued vigilance in the implementation of driftnet ban, request timely submission of shark data in advance of scheduled stock assessment. Request timely submission of BCDs, and letter of concern regarding continued problems with VMS format, recognising	<i>Rec. 11-20:</i> wrong unique identification numbering by EU-Greece; several non completed BCDs by EU-Italy; several EU Member States send BCDs well after the 5 working days validation; one EU Member State BCD annual report received late.		
							Letter of concern regarding deficiencies and timeliness in reporting

		<p>progress and encouraging further improvements, and requesting report required on SWO-Med closure.</p>		
<p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b></p>		<p><b>Response received 16 October 2013</b></p>	<p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of WHM</p>	<p>Taken as bycatch in longline fisheries, which together with issue of species identification and small quota has lead to an unavoidable overharvest. Nonetheless will continue efforts to improve situation.</p>
<p><b>Other issues:</b> observer reports-BFT-ROP; Allegations from PEW and EU response. Some concerns on shortfin mako data submissions.</p>	<p>Written response to observer allegations submitted during meeting. New legislation adopted and inspections carried out. No further use of driftnets detected in 2012.</p>		<p><b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 12-03:</i> 1. <i>ROP-BFT:</i> several PNCs reported by observers. 2. <i>WWF:</i> potential irregularities in BFT catch and farming reports.</p>	<p>For responses on 1: refer to <b>COC-305/13</b> and on 2.: to <b>COC-307/13</b>. Information on EU Access Agreements is published on webpage. Comitted to transparency and hence also intend to publish private agreements. Call on other CPCs to follow suit. WWF investigations were followed up and are ready to further respond if needed. Note BCD data is confidential.</p>

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>FRANCE (St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> No legislation or contact points for BCD received.	Legislation approved in March 2012 submitted during the meeting.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> list of BET/YFT vessels received late.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2012			2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GABON</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received; no statistical data received. In 2011 Gabon indicated they had no fishing fleet.	Only artisanal catches of small tuna taken by Gabon. Will take steps to ensure that information is sent as soon as possible.	Letter of concern requesting data and information on applicability of ICCAT requirements. <b>No response received.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. (possibly no catches). No report submitted to SCRS other than catches taken under Access agreements. Annual Report received late.	Absence of Task.I and II in 2012 was as a result of no directed fishery in 2012 by national fleet. EU vessels did not fish as agreement was suspended hence again no data to provide. For 2013 data was provided. Report was delayed due to new format.	Letter of concern regarding continued data reporting deficiencies, but noting progress made and encouraging further efforts. Remind Gabon that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No access reports received. It is unknown which elements are applicable to Gabon	One access agreement in currently in force.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received (possibly no catches)	No catches to report.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. <i>Rec. 11-16</i> : no information on the access agreements reported by Curaçao and Panamá.	Curaçao and Panamá agreements were with private sector and hence not reported by Gabon.	

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GHANA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter of concern recognising efforts made, acknowledging payback plan and requesting Ghana to continue in its effort and implementation of catch management plan and data reporting. <b>Response received 15 October 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter of concern regarding analysis of VMS and other control measures to ensure full compliance with all ICCAT conservation and management measures, especially with regard to at-sea transhipment.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-01:</b> BET/YFT vessels list received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>	Payback plan and capacity reduction plan for bigeye tuna has been submitted		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of S. SWO	No overharvest according to data reported and provided in COC-304A (if using non-adjusted quota).	
	<b>Other issues:</b> At-sea transhipment issued raised in 2011	New VMS system in place and transhipment at sea prohibited and specified on fishing licences. Traceability systems in place in the canneries.		<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 08-09: EU allegations on VMS transmission, access agreements and transhipments at sea.	Refer to responses by Ghana: in document <b>COC-310/13</b> . Following investigations no transhipment activity was established. Action was taken for alleged VMS violations, nonetheless burden of proof for unauthorised fishing activity was questionable and hence is without foundation.	

<i>CPC</i>	2012			2013		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual report submitted after SCRS. Task 1 submitted late.		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No infraction detected			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUINEA ECUATORIAL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No fleet characteristics or Task II data received.	No fleet fishing for ICCAT species so far. Plans to register one longliner on the ICCAT list.	Letter of concern regarding late submission of data and reports. <b>Response received 19 March 2013</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. Report for SCRS received late. No summary table of requirements received with Annual report.	According to annual report, some tuna species taken by artisanal fleet, but industrial fishery only by foreign flagged vessels.	Letter of concern regarding data reporting. Remind Guinea Equatorial that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infractions detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.	Will follow up, however delays and non submissions as a result of capacity limitations. Have requested ICCAT for support to collection and reporting of data.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> Information on Access Agreements incomplete	Only one private agreement		<b>Other issues: Rec. 11-16 :</b> no information on the access agreements reported by Panama and Curaçao.		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUINEA Rep.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part II of Annual report not received. No Task I, fleet statistics or size data received.	Some data sent in 2012. ICCAT requirements very complex for Guinea.	Lift identification, commend efforts to improve but send letter of concern over lack of reporting. <b>Response received 6 Sep 2013</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received.	Have and will continue to make considerable effort to improve.	Letter of concern regarding data reporting. Note some improvement but encourage further efforts. Remind Guinea Republic that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No internal report (20m+) submitted.	Two of the vessels on the ICCAT Record no longer flagged to Guinea.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No internal actions report 20m+ received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables not submitted.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received but not correctly completed		
	<b>Other issues:</b> One vessel on IUU list. No report of actions taken.	Vessel no longer flagged to Guinea.		<b>Other issues:</b> No information on investigation concerning the vessel "Daniaa" reported since 2008 on IUU list. No information on access agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).	Have no information on agreements with Panama and Curacao. IUU Vessel no longer associated with Gui Republic as struck off registry and company bankrupt.	

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>HONDURAS</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received. Honduras currently has no vessels 20m+ on the ICCAT register.	Some communication problems in 2012. Honduras is currently totally restructuring its fishery and fishery policy and will submit all information to ICCAT as soon as possible.	Identified due to lack of response and non-receipt of data and/or reports. Request information on applicability of ICCAT requirements. No response to letter of identification.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No report submitted to SCRS. No Annual Report received	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification due to lack of response, and request information on catches. Remind Honduras that until such time as Task I submission or confirmation of zero catch is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> It is unclear which measures are currently applicable to Honduras			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of identification.		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual report received after SCRS.	Delay due to an administrative issue.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCDs never transmitted to Secretariat 5 days after validation.	Situation has been clarified and steps taken to rectify this. BCDs will be sent in timely fashion		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCD annual report received late; wrong unique identification number and incomplete information in some BCDs.	BCD numbering issue has been followed up and rectified. Incomplete BCDs due to catches being recorded as bycatch and do not fit well into BCD programme. All catches sold domestically	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. No other infractions detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2012			2013			
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
JAPAN	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. Report on implementation of shark measures received late.	Future submission deadlines will be respected.	Letter of concern regarding observer coverage and late reporting, as well as possible over-harvest of S.Alb.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20. BCD Annual Report received late.	Fish caught under charter agreements are counted against Brazil quota, in line with Rec 02-21.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> -		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest in WHM.	Only by-catch. Efforts made to release alive WHM, but not always possible.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Rec. 11--05. Possible overharvest of S. Albacore	Catch limit is not binding nonetheless action will be taken to reduce catches in 2014. Unusual high catches were investigated and due to shifting of bycatch to target activities which will be addressed.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> comment on Access agreements	Access agreements made at private level and cannot be reported in accordance with domestic law.		<b>Other issues: Rec. 12-06:</b> potential non compliance under ROP. Rec. 11-16: no information on Access Agreements (reported by Colombia).	Refer to reply in document <b>COC-305/13</b> . Misunderstood Rec.12-06, as vessels were authorised but individual vessel authorisations were not sent and maintained onboard for inspection by ROP observers. Regarding scientific observer programme, Japan confessed to a 3.5% observe coverage in lieu of required 5% as a result of difficulties in predicting fishing effort. Will change sysetm and increase budget to comply. Non submission of private agreement due to national confidentiality requirements.	

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>KOREA, Rep. of</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.		Letter of concern requesting continued actions to ensure Korean nationals do not engage in IUU related activities and request status report in 2013. <b>Response received on 17 October 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> . BCD annual report and SDP data received late. Rec. 12-07, list of authorised ports received late.	Will make efforts to report in due time. Continued action taken to prevent illegal transshipment activities, including restriction of subsidies.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 10-04:</i> Observer reports -transshipment at sea requires clarification from Panel 2. Concerns raised regarding activities of Korean nationals in possible illegal transshipments	Korea is reviewing its current regulation. Information already circulated to all nationals and no further such activity detected since warning issued.		<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-03: potential non compliance in BFT-ROP.	Explanation given in document <b>COC-305/13.</b>	

		2012		2013		
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
LIBYA	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-20:</b> BCDs not always transmitted to Secretariat 5 days after validation.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues: BFT-ROP:</b> PNCs in observer reports, with response from Libya outlining actions taken. Some issues involving VMS messages from non-registered vessels.			BFT-ROP report regarding the vessel exceeding its IQ is still under investigation. Libya had some problems with the format of VMS messages and will contact Secretariat to solve it.		
			No action necessary			

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
MAURITANIA	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received.</p>	<p>No national fisheries so no data to report. All access agreements stipulate that data must be sent to ICCAT by the flag State.</p>	<p>Letter of concern requesting information on access agreements and information on possible transshipment of by-catches of ICCAT species. <b>Reply to letter of concern received late.</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> -Annual Report received late and after SCRS</p>	<p>Mauritania has no tuna fisheries and therefore no data to report.</p>	<p>Letter of concern requesting clarification of access agreements and information on the activities pursuant to these agreements</p>
<p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No information.</p>	<p>Will send information and copies of contracts as soon as possible.</p>	<p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p>		<p>Mauritania reported that it has no access agreements with these Parties, but with Senegal and EU.</p>		
<p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received (only small tunas taken by national fleet).</p>		<p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late with no catches to report.</p>				
<p><b>Other issues:</b> No information on access agreements received. Possible concerns of illegal tuna transshipments in the EEZ of Mauritania.</p>		<p><b>Other issues:</b> - Rec. 11-16: no information on access agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).</p>				

2012

2013

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late.		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Recs. 01-21 and 01-22</i> Data from SDPs received late; <i>Rec. 11-02-</i> Information on N-SWO management received late, but no development plan. and in; <i>Rec. 11-01 :</i> List of BET/YFT vessels received late and incomplete; <i>Rec. 11-21 :</i> BCD Annual Report received late	SDP reports not applicable. Management plan is to catch 200t. List of vessels and BCD report sent late.	Letter of concern recognising efforts and improvements but requesting further efforts on timely submission of reports information on managing fisheries which take marlin species as by-catch. <b>Response received on 18 October 2013</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec.11-01.</i> BET/YFT previous year list received late. <i>Rec. 11-20 :</i> wrong unique identification number.	Working to improve the situation regarding incorrect numbering which will be resolved by early 2014.	Letter of concern regarding the need to implement measures to manage billfish fishery and improve BCD implementation,
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Continuation of overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Quotas were established before Mexico was a member of ICCAT and are very low. Mexico has reiterated several time its request for more equitable quotas. Furthermore, the catches of BUM and WHM are by-catches. Targeted fishing of these species is forbidden by law.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of W-BFT. Continuation of overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Working to address the issue through updating national legislation. Firmer measures will be taken in future to improve the situation.	
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>MOROCCO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: N-SWO plan received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: N-SWO plan received late.		
	Rec. 10-04: BFT management, inspection and capacity plan received late.					
	Rec. 10-04: Information/from national observer programmes received late.					
	Rec. 11-20: BCDs are not always received at the Secretariat 5 days after validation.					
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction recorded.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> List of BFT catching vessels not submitting VMS.	VMS is compulsory in Morocco. Vessels in the list do not actively target BFT.		<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NAMIBIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> T1 fleet characteristics received late.	Information submitted during the meeting.	No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> T1 Fleet characteristics received late. Annual report received after SCRS		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-05.</b> Second interim report of S. alb catches 2013 not received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NICARAGUA</b>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No statistics received - Nicaragua has informed Secretariat that no tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>No fishery for ICCAT species so no data to report.</p>	<p>Maintain identification and request response to issues raised in 2011. <b>Response to letter of identification received late.</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received</p>	<p>No fleet operating for ICCAT species, only coastal artisanal fishery. Request assistance from Secretariat to improve reporting.</p>	<p>Lift identification and send a letter of concern regarding lack of data reporting and requesting confirmation of zero catches as required by Rec. 11-15.</p>
<p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> None recorded</p>		<p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p>				
<p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> None recorded and no Compliance tables received.</p>		<p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received</p>				
<p><b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.</p>		<p><b>Other issues:</b></p>				

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NIGERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Nigeria currently has no fisheries as these are being developed. A VMS system has been installed and a meeting of stakeholders held to inform them of all ICCAT requirements. Full information will be sent to ICCAT after the meeting.	Re-identify given lack of response to concerns raised in 2011 and non-reporting during 2012.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II data received. Annual report received after SCRS (and late)	Currently no directed fishing within Nigerian EEZ and no access agreements with other countries for ICCAT species. Bycatch from the industrial fisheries however are taken, statistics for which have already been forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat. Regret late submission of annual report. In process of reviewing national procedures to improve reporting.	Lift identification and send letter of concern regarding timeliness and completeness of reporting.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No information or reports received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables not submitted.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables not submitted.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No formal reply to letter of identification but e-mail message attaching annual report.		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report to SCRS submitted late.		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction recorded.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>PANAMA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infractions detected.		Lift identification and send letter of concern requesting report of ongoing investigation on transshipment/re-exports as alleged by WWF. <b>Response received on 22 October 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I or Task II data and Annual Report received during Commission meeting.	Delays due to internal restructuring programme. Committed to respecting future reporting deadlines.	Letter of concern regarding timeliness of data and other submissions.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 10-04:</i> List of other BFT vessels - changes received after 1 March.	Panama has eliminated all vessels from BFT other list except carrier vessels renewed in accordance with licence periods. Panama requests Secretariat to inform them when vessels are reported for carrier list by other CPCs.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-01</i> - BET/YFT vessel list received late.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest in BET	Carry over from 2010 used to cover over-harvest.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest in BET.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Some issues with non-emission of VMS signals and confusion with VMS messages of the same name. WWF allegations on possible BFT laundering.	Vessel has been fined and VMS now working and signals being sent.		<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of concern received late.		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infractions detected.	Some formatting difficulties encountered but information has now been submitted.	No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual report received after SCRS.		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT vessels received late due to confusion in reporting forms.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infractions detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 12-06:</i> potential non-compliance.		

2012				2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I fleet statistics received.		Letter of concern over possible at-sea transshipment of by-catch of ICCAT species. <b>Response received on 13 May 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) missing.		No action necessary, Committee requests missing data to be sent as soon as possible,
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No infractions detected	Russia is still investigating the allegations of transshipments at sea to fish factory vessel "Lafayette".		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infractions recorded.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SAO TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Sao Tome has reported no commercial fisheries and insufficient infrastructure to collect reliable data on artisanal catches.	Letter of concern relating over non-submission of data and reports, and requesting additional information on access agreements. <b>No response received.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received.	Delays due to personnel changes in national administration. No targeted industrial fisheries. Data relates to artisanal catches which are difficult to separate by species as required for ICCAT. Will endeavour to improve reporting record.	Letter of concern regarding adequate data collection and reporting. Remind Sao Tome & Principe that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No data available: no Compliance tables received.	Artisanal fisheries not well developed and ICCAT species not targetted by Sao Tome & Principe. Request assistance from ICCAT to improve capacity building.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Information on access agreements incomplete	Info on access agreement already sent by EU.		<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. <i>Rec.11-16</i> : no information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential Issues of Noncompliance - 2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential Issues of Noncompliance - 2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SENEGAL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Fleet statistics data not received.	Two agreements currently in force, but one not operational. Data is sent by flag State	Letter of concern acknowledging improvement but noting deficiencies regarding non-submission of compliance tables and requesting additional information on access agreements. <b>Response received on 21 August 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report for SCRS received late.	Statistical data reporting deadlines were respected.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-16:</i> No information on access agreements received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-02:</i> no swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted in 2013 (received in 2012)	Nothing new to state, plan is the same as that reported in 2012.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Concerns over shark fin ration raised.			<b>Other issues:</b>	Senegal is not in breach of this Recommendation.	

CPC	2012			2013		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
SIERRA LEONE	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	All vessels operating in Sierra Leone area, both national and foreign flag must be equipped with VMS and send daily reports; as well as 100% observer coverage; and inspection at landing in designated ports. No fishing vessels may be registered in Sierra Leone International Register.	Maintain identification pending improvement in data reporting and request clarity on access agreements and activities. <b>Response received on 30 August 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No annual report received.	No data to report, no national fisheries. After the conclusion of access agreements, future reports will be submitted in a timely manner.	Lift identification and encourage complete reporting on access agreements. Request written confirmation that there were 0 catches in 2012, as required by Rec. 11-15.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> no Compliance tables received, but no data to report		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Information on access agreements received late and incomplete.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2012				2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual report received late.		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. Part II Annual Report received late.		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> No list of BET-YFT vessels received. <i>Rec. 11-05:</i> Minor delay in transmission of first S-ALB catch report.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-05</i> Second interim S. Alb report received late. <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT for previous year received late.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infractions relating to overharvests detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>ST.VINCENT &amp; THE GRENADINES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I fleet characteristics received.	Not present to respond.	Letter of concern regarding lack of response to previous letter and requesting clarity on applicability of reporting requirements. Possible at-sea transshipment of by-catch of ICCAT species.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) received late. Annual Report received after SCRS and late.	Not present to respond	Letter of concern regarding repeat of problems encountered in 2012, Encourage participation in future meetings,
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> It is unclear which requirements are applicable to SVG			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-02</i> : no swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance Tables received late. Clarification of S. Alb catches needed		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Concerns over possible illegal transshipment issues.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern and no reply to EU 2012 allegations (although requested the Secretariat on 8 March 2013 to re-submit EU documents).		

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SYRIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received. No statistical data received.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification and refer bluefin tuna fishing possibilities to Panel 2. <b>No response received.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received. No report submitted to SCRS.	Committed to ICCAT conservation and management measures, nonetheless, ongoing internal situation has led to non respect of ICCAT reporting obligations. Will submit fishing plan for 2014 in a timely manner.	Lift identification and send letter reminding Syria of its reporting obligations, Request confirmation of 0 catch in 2012 and 2013, in accordance with the requirements of 11-15, and remind Syria that failure to report Task 1 or zero catch will result in a prohibition of fishing.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> BFT fishery prohibited in 2012 and 2013.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply received to letter of identification		

2012

2013

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
<b>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received.	Raw data available but problems with quality control due to major human resource issues.Steps are being taken to resolve this.	Letter of concern regarding lack of reporting. Request information on plans to control marlin catches. <b>Response to letter of concern received late.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II size data received. Report for SCRS received late. No Annual Report Part II received.	Not present to respond.	Letter of concern regarding lack of fundamental data reporting and encouraging current efforts to improve system.	
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.	Letter explaining non-submission of compliance tables received late.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of BUM and WHM.			According to Annual Report, the aggregation of the catches of Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic sailfish by the artisanal fleet in the data collection system, due to both species being commonly known by a single local name, continues to be addressed. Data collectors have been re-trained with respect to species identification and accurate recording of the species names
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>			

2012

2013

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
TUNISIA	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected		Letter of concern regarding BCD reporting and WWF allegations, requesting final results of investigation for consideration in 2013.  <b>Response received on 18 September 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-03:</i> Very minor delay in submission of list of special Harpoon/LL Med-Swo licences. <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCDs are not always received at the Secretariat 5 days after validation.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCD unique identification number is not always correct since it sometimes starts by "9" (that corresponds to the eBCD during the transitional phase).		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> BFT-ROP observer reports and response from Tunisia. WWF allegations and response.	Written response to first WWF allegation received.		<b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 12-03</i> 1. BFT-ROP observer reports reported PNCs. 2. WWF: potential irregularities in BFT catch and farming reports.	For 1 and 2: see document <b>COC-305/13</b> and document <b>COC-309/13</b> for explanations from Tunisia.	

2012

2013

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2013	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.	VMS servers were updated in 2012 and might have caused some transmission problems. Turkey is investigating the problem and working to resolve this.	No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Refer to document <b>COC-305/13</b> and document <b>COC-307-A/13</b> for explanations from Turkey.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
<b>Other issues:</b> Inspection and Observer reports - response from Turkey that no infringements found. Some vessels on BFT list did not send VMS signals..			<b>Other issues:</b> 1. BFT-ROP observer reports reported PNCs. 2. WWF: potential irregularities in BFT catch and farming reports.			

2012

2013

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>URUGUAY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infractions detected.		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late.		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-05:</i> Minor delay in transmission of first S-Alb catch report.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2012

2013

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infractions detected.	N-SWO management plan is the same as 2011  Work underway with relevant territory to resolve the issue with S-ALB. Report will be made to Commission once clarified.	Letter of concern regarding late reporting and overharvest of southern albacore.  <b>Response received on 16 October 2013</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No size data for BVI submitted. (Statistics for other OTs complete.)		No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No N-SWO management plan received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Overharvest in S-ALB.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b> No information on Access Agreements (reported by Chinese Taipei and South Africa).		

2012

2013

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infractions detected.		No action necessary	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part II of Annual report received late.	Delays largely as a result of recent governmental shut down. Outstanding submissions will be sent.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No infractions detected.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 09-08:</i> List of N. Alb vessels received late.		
				<i>Rec. 11-20 :</i> several models of wrong unique identification number; some re-export certificates received after the 5 working days after validation.	BCDs with incorrect numbering are in the process of being corrected and resubmitted. The 5 day delay for re-export certificates is not required as BFTRCs related to tagged fish consignments.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infractions detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None detected.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>VANUATU</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual report and transshipment report received late.	Small Island State with limited resources, but Vanuatu has made every effort to submit required information. Requests assistance through data fund to ensure continued improvement.	Lift identification and send letter of concern to request greater efforts in timely submission of reports and results of investigation of possible involvement in transshipments at-sea by-catch of ICCAT species. <b>Responses received 10 and 17 October 2013.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics). Task 2 SZ (size data) submitted late. Part 1 Annual report received late and after SCRS.	Significant improvements have been made due to recent governmental restructuring.	No action necessary
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Internal actions report (20 m+) submitted late. North Atlantic SWO management plan received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-02:</i> N.SWO management plan received late. <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> list of BET/YFT vessels and previous year received late. <i>Res. 01-20.</i> LSTLV management plan received late.	Quota is only 25t and is therefore not considered a directed fishery, hence plan is not applicable.	
				<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Some information on bird mitigation received late. Concerns raised by EU on transshipment issues.	Vanuatu not obliged to report carrier vessels under <i>Rec. 06-11</i> . Vessel in question has been deregistered and scrapped.		<b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 08-09:</i> reply to EU allegations in 2012 received in October 2013.	Refer to reply in document <b>310/2013</b> .	

		2012		2013		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infractions detected.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification due to lack of response to 2011 letter and continued overharvest of albacore and blue marlin, and lack of N-SWO management plan. <b>No response received.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Lift identification and send a letter to encourage proper and timely submission of all reports, and encourage efforts made to reduce overharvests of ALB and BUM. Committee requests a report on the national measures in place aimed at reducing overharvest.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No report on N-SWO management received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <i>Rec. 11-02</i> : N-SWO management plan received late.	Delays due to internal reorganisation, and N-SWO only taken as bycatch.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of N-ALB and BUM.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of N-ALB and BUM.	Delays due to internal reorganisation. Plan developed and 'monitoring committee' established to address	
	<b>Other issues:</b> None recorded.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply received to letter of identification.	overharvesting issues. Fishing ban has also been imposed.	

		2012		2013		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter of concern over possible at-sea transshipment and IUU activity by Chinese Taipei nationals
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No infraction detected		Cooperating status renewed	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
			No other action necessary			
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No infraction detected.			<b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 12-06</i> : potential non compliance. One vessel on provision IUU list.	Refer to response in document <b>COC-305/13</b> . Explanation provided but not on action taken.	

2012		2013			
	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	Colombia currently restructuring fisheries authorities and will report as soon as possible. Currently on small foreign flagged fleet operating and data reported by flag State. Considering becoming Contracting Party to ICCAT.		<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received.	No fleet authorised to fish BFT; no authorisation to fish or land SWO-Med (informed by letter to the Secretariat on 4 March 2013). Not present to respond	
		Renew cooperating status but maintain identification regarding lack of data and reporting, lack of response to previous concerns. <b>No response received.</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> no information received with the exception of information on turtles.		Revoke cooperating status and maintain identification due to lack of previous response and data reporting deficiencies.
			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.		
			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of identification.		

	2012			2013		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CURAÇAO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I fleet characteristics received late			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report to SCRS submitted late.		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-12</b> Internal actions (vessel 20m+) received late. Information on access agreements received late and incomplete. It is unclear which requirements are applicable to Curaçao.		Renew cooperating status and request further information on access agreements, and more information on which requirements are applicable to Curaçao.	<b>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-12:</b> Internal actions report 20m+ received late	Have informed Commission that procedure to become full member is underway.	Renew cooperating status
	<i>Rec. 06-11</i> Transshipment report received late					
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late					
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2013

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Zero catches reported. Report for SCRS received late. No Annual Report part II received.		Cooperating status renewed
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2012		2013			
		<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SURINAME</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No statistics received for 2011. Data on foreign landings in 2012 sent.	Suriname does not have any flag vessels yet targeting tunas.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II (Catch and effort/size) data submitted - Task I data corresponds to foreign flagged vessels.		
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		Cooperating status renewed.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		Cooperating status renewed.
	No infraction detected.						
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No catches to report: no Compliance tables received.	Suriname does not have any flag vessels yet targeting tunas.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received (no catches by national flagged vessels)		
	<b>Other issues:</b> None reported				<b>Other issues:</b>		

## Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

## Task I Nominal Catch (form ST02-T1NC) Submission Status for 2012 Data

Dark shading/green: before deadline; Light shading/yellow: after deadline; No shading: not submitted or zero catch).

Flag column: **Bold** = 0 catch reported. Underline = no Task I submitted.

Flag	Tuna (major sp.)										Small tuna	Sharks (major sp.)			Sharks (other sp.)									
	ALB	BET	BFT	BUM	SAI	SKJ	SPF	SWO	WHM	YFT	(any of 13 sp)	BSH	POR	SMA	ALV	FAL	SPK	SPL	SPN	SPY	SPZ	THR		
<u>Flag</u>	01/08/2013										01/08/2013	01/08/2013												
<u>Albania</u>																								
Algerie																								
Angola																								
Barbados																								
Belize																								
Brasil																								
Canada																								
Cape Verde																								
China P.R.																								
Côte D'Ivoire																								
Egypt																								
EU.Bulgaria																								
EU.Croatia																								
EU.Cyprus																								
EU.Denmark																								
EU.España																								
EU.France																								
EU.Greece																								
EU.Ireland																								
EU.Italy																								
EU.Malta																								
EU.Netherlands																								
EU.Portugal																								
EU.United Kingdom																								
FR.St Pierre et Miquelon																								
<u>Gabon</u>																								
Ghana																								
Guatemala																								
Guinea Ecuatorial																								
<u>Guinée Rep.</u>																								
<u>Honduras</u>																								

	ALB	BET	BFT	BUM	SAI	SKJ	SPF	SWO	WHM	YFT	(any of 13 sp)	BSH	POR	SMA	ALV	FAL	SPK	SPL	SPN	SPY	SPZ	THR	
Iceland			■																				
Japan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■								■	
Korea Rep.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
Libya			■																				
Maroc	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	
<b>Mauritania</b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
Mexico	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									■
Namibia	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
<b>Nicaragua*</b>																							
Nigeria		■				■				■							■						
Norway													■										
Panama	■	■				■				■	■	■											
Philippines	■	■						■		■													
Russian Federation											■												
<u>S. Tomé e Príncipe</u>																							
Senegal		■		■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■
<b>Sierra Leone*</b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
South Africa	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■					■				■
St. Vincent and Grenadines	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
<b>Syria*</b>																							
Trinidad and Tobago	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■			■	■
Tunisie			■																				
Turkey	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
UK.Bermuda	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
UK.British Virgin Islands	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
UK.Sta Helena	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
<b>UK.Turks and Caicos</b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
U.S.A.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■		■					■
Uruguay	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■							■
Vanuatu	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
Venezuela	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								■	■
Chinese Taipei	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■						■	■
<u>Colombia</u>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
Curaçao	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
<b>El Salvador</b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									
Suriname	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■									

\* 0 catch informed verbally at the 2013 Meeting of the Commission, to be confirmed in writing.

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting of the PWG was opened by the Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco).

### 2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mr. David Gershman (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no modification and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**.

### 4. Consideration of the Report of the IMM Working Group (Sapporo, July 7-9, 2013)

The Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) presented results and outstanding issues from the Working Group meeting held in Sapporo in July 2013 (see **ANNEX 4.3**) that were referred to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission for further consideration. Resulting discussions of these issues are included in the paragraphs to follow. The report of the IMM Working Group was adopted by the PWG.

### 5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

#### 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs

The Chair referred to the “Explanatory Note on One Addition to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20],” proposed by Japan. Japan explained that to facilitate the ability of CPCs to analyze the fattening ratios of farmed Bluefin Tuna, the Secretariat would need to enter the date of caging and cage number to the information displayed in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program database. The measure was approved by the PWG and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

Japan proposed the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending *Recommendation Establishing an ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Rec. 01-21],” which would apply the program to fresh bigeye tuna products and bigeye tuna caught by purse seine and bait boat vessels that is destined for canneries. Japan explained the draft recommendation was an interim step to a catch documentation scheme, noting that of the bigeye tuna caught in the Convention area, 66 percent is not covered by the current statistical document program. The European Union noted it supported Japan’s approach, but the statistical document would not replace the importation document requested by the European Union to fight illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Several CPCs continued to note that responding to multiple schemes would be a hardship, and the proposal was not adopted by PWG.

#### 5.2 Progress of eBCD

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group provided an update on development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation system, highlighting outstanding technical and policy issues and noting the program is scheduled to be largely operational by May 2014. Several CPCs reported on their implementation of the system and emphasized its importance.

The European Union, Japan and the United States worked on the margins of the meeting to develop the joint “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the *Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* [Rec. 11-20].” The proposal would continue the Technical Working Group and development of eBCD, postpone the operational starting date of the system by one year and urge CPCs to be more diligent in submitting paper bluefin catch documents to the Secretariat during the implementation phase.

The United States noted that a number of policy issues remain to be resolved, but it seemed clear in small working group meetings that there was consensus on several policy issues related to program implementation. These include: Recreationally harvested bluefin tuna that are not offered for sale are excluded from the documentation requirements of Rec. 11-20; and that trade in Pacific bluefin tuna by ICCAT CPCs should be included in the eBCD program commensurate with existing coverage in the paper system. The United States also emphasized that non-CPCs should not be excluded from the ability to trade bluefin tuna with CPCs and that additional funds to develop the system should only cover items outside the terms of the original contract with the developing consortium. There was general agreement by the PWG concerning these matters. The draft recommendation was approved by the PWG and referred to the plenary for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-17]**).

A report from western harvesters on technical issues with the development of the eBCD system was submitted to PWG and is attached to this report as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**. Additional outstanding issues contained in the “Technical and Operational Issues Affecting EBCD System Development and Implementation for the Western Bluefin Tuna Fishery” were referred to both the next eBCD TWG meeting and, as appropriate, for consideration at an inter-sessional meeting of the PWG that will be held in 2014.

### **5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes**

The Chair referred to reports discussing the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme on transshipment, implementation of the program for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and development of the program for surface fleets targeting bigeye and yellowfin (ROP-TROP). The ROP-TROP was discussed in detail by the PWG. The Secretariat had issued a draft call for tenders and awarded a draft contract for the ROP-TROP program to COFREPECHE to develop manuals and train observers. The European Union informed PWG that because of the delay in defining the embarking procedure for the 2014 ROP-TROP, some European Union vessels had already left their ports without the ROP-TROP observer on board, but with a national scientific observer capable to do the same job. PWG noted that a similar situation was encountered for the 2013 campaign and recalled that Panel 1 was considering granting for 2014 the same derogation to the ROP-TROP rules agreed for 2013, preventing the vessels to be in non-compliance situation. The EU stated also that the national scientific observer works closely with the SCRS anyway. Underlying its continued commitment to the ROP-TROP program, the European Union requested however the IMM Working Group to review the operational details of the ROP-TROP program. Ghana replied the ROP-TROP program should apply to vessels uniformly without exceptions for operational issues. No consensus was reached and the PWG referred the matter to Panel 1 (see Agenda item 9 of **ANNEX 9**).

### **5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements**

The Chair referred to the Secretariat’s “Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transshipment 2012/13”, which provided information on the implementation and results of the program. No comments were received on the document.

### **5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangement**

The Chair referred to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering, proposed by the United States and South Africa, which expanded on proposed revisions to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21] that were approved by the IMM Working Group in Sapporo and referred to the PWG. The United States explained the draft recommendation would align the 10 percent minimum standard of national observer coverage with the measurement criteria expressed in *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10]. The proposal was approved by the PWG and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-14]**).

The Chair also referred to Appendix 6 of the Report of the IMM Working Group [see **ANNEX 4.3**], “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements”, which was approved by the IMM and referred to the PWG. The European Union explained the changes were intended to enhance transparency of access agreements in the waters of coastal states and associated reporting. The PWG approved the document and forwarded it to the Commission for final adoption.

#### **5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs**

The Chair referred to a European Union proposal discussed at the 2013 IMM Working Group meeting in Sapporo for a scheme of high seas boarding and inspection. The European Union reported that it had continued to consider the comments that had been made and would continue to work with other CPCs to develop a revised proposal for consideration at the 2014 meeting of the IMM Working Group.

#### **5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures**

The Chair referred to the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 12-07]. Pursuant to paragraph 30 of Rec. 12-07, the Secretariat developed model forms for use as prior notification reports and inspection reports, which were subsequently approved by the IMM Working Group at its meeting in July 2013 and included as Appendix 5 of its report (see **ANNEX 4.3**). Suriname, a cooperating non-contracting party, expressed interest in receiving training from developed CPCs on port inspection procedures, noting that paragraph 26 of Rec. 12-07 states that CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with the recommendation. The Chair suggested CPCs might offer training assistance, noting the opportunity to strengthen cooperation between cooperating parties and non-cooperating parties. Ghana noted that many developing CPCs will experience challenges in implementing the recommendation and also requested the consideration of capacity building activities. The PWG approved the forms and forwarded them to the Commission for final adoption (attached as **ANNEXES 7.1 and 7.2**).

#### **5.8 Vessel listing requirements**

The Chair referred to the document “Clarification of Rules for Submitting Vessel Lists”, prepared by the Secretariat to solicit guidance and provide clarification to CPCs on the submission of vessel lists. Several ICCAT Recommendations on vessel lists are in force. The European Union referred to the “Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)”, which included questions from the Secretariat to CPCs on vessel lists, and suggested preparing a single vessel list for the entire tuna fleet that would consolidate the Task I Fleet Characteristics (form T1FC) with the information on the ICCAT Record of vessels. Following a suggestion by the European Union, it was decided to discuss vessel lists at the 2014 meeting of the IMM Working Group with a view to harmonizing and streamlining them into a single document.

The Chair also referred to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area,” a proposal by the United States, Canada and Norway, and the European Union to fight illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing by requiring certain fishing vessels to obtain International Maritime Organization (IMO) or Lloyds Register (LR) numbers as a condition of being listed on the ICCAT Vessel Register. Several CPCs initially expressed reservations about ICCAT adopting this requirement before additional actions were taken by the IMO. The United States explained the ICCAT measure would enter into force in 2016 to allow for sufficient time for implementation and changes necessary subsequent to the IMO Assembly’s consideration of amendments to the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to include fishing vessels. The draft recommendation would provide exceptions to the IMO/LR numbering requirement in the case of vessels that are unable to obtain a number and for wooden fishing vessels provided the flag State reports the circumstances of this exception to the Secretariat. One CPC expressed concern that the exception could create an undesirable loophole and another CPC responded that concerns about circumvention could be addressed by Compliance Committee review of CPC exercise of this exemption. South Africa proposed to require flag States to submit photographs of the vessels on the ICCAT vessel record. Several CPCs continued to express reservations on operational details and sought to consider the draft recommendation at a later time. No consensus was reached and the PWG deferred the draft recommendation to the Commission for further consideration [see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 13-13]**].

### **5.9 Vessel Monitoring System Requirements**

The Chair referred to the “Draft Recommendation Amending the *Recommendation By ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) For the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14],” proposed by Brazil, European Union, Norway, Senegal, Turkey and the United States. The United States explained that the SCRS, in its 2011 report, indicated the six hour time interval between VMS reports does not have enough resolution to be used for more useful scientific purposes and recommended an interval of no more than two hours. Following an initial discussion in the IMM Working Group, the United States examined technical issues and determined the cost of implementing a more frequent polling interval would be minimal, while recognizing that costs differ for different parties depending on the system used. Several CPCs expressed concerns regarding the potential cost and feasibility of increasing the polling interval, and indicated that they could support a four hour interval instead of two hours. Some CPCs also noted the data would be received by the flag State, rather than being sent directly to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Acknowledging the concerns, the United States offered that CPCs might consider a stepwise approach of moving to a four hour interval with a commitment to increase the interval to two hours at a later time. There was no consensus on the matter, and the PWG deferred the draft recommendation to the Commission for further consideration.

### **5.10 Flag State responsibilities**

No comments were offered under this agenda item.

### **5.11 Other issues**

No comments were offered under this agenda item.

Written statements submitted to the PWG by the observers from Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew Environment Group, and the joint statement by the ISSF, Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF are attached as **Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to ANNEX 11**.

## **6. Consideration of technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures.**

No comments were offered under this agenda item.

## **7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list**

The Chair referred to the document on “Provisional IUU List 2013”. The Chair noted the vessel “*DANIAA*,” which has appeared on the list since 2008 as flagged to the Republic of Guinea. Guinea responded that it has sought for three years to disassociate itself from the vessel. Guinea explained the vessel is no longer authorized by Guinea to fish. The Chair proposed the “*DANIAA*” be kept on the IUU list but will be flagged as “unknown.” Belize requested a change to the list to eliminate an inaccuracy that referred to two vessels, “*CHIA HAO NO. 66*” and “*ORCA*,” as previously flagged to Belize. The Chair noted that request and asked Belize to contact the IATTC, which provided that information to the list. Sierra Leone reported that five vessels listed as operating under its flag are not registered in Sierra Leone and are flying its flag illegally. The Chair replied that the vessels are listed in the ICCAT record. The Secretariat will look into the matter and provide a reply. The PWG approved the IUU list as revised to reflect changes requested by Guinea and Belize and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 11**). Uruguay also expressed concern regarding the listing of the “*PACIFIC 18*,” a matter which was referred to the Commission.

## **8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above**

There was no discussion on this agenda item as recommendations to the Commission were considered under previous items.

## **9. Election of Chair**

Mr. El Ktiri (Morocco) was re-elected Chair of the PWG for the next biennial period.

## **10. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

## **11. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed to adopt the report of the PWG by correspondence.

The 2013 meeting of the PWG was adjourned.

## **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of the Report of the IMM Working Group (Sapporo, Japan, 7-9 July 2013)
5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
  - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
  - 5.2 Progress of eBCD
  - 5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes
  - 5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
  - 5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
  - 5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
  - 5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
  - 5.8 Vessel listing requirements
  - 5.9 Vessel Monitoring System requirements
  - 5.10 Flag State responsibilities
  - 5.11 Other issues
6. Consideration of technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

## TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING EBCD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE WESTERN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

Western Atlantic bluefin tuna harvesters met on the side of the 2013 ICCAT annual meeting to discuss and resolve several technical/operational aspects associated with the implementation of the eBCD system based on their experiences using the recent testing environment. Meeting participants included Canada, France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), Japan, Mexico, UK (in respect of Bermuda), and the United States. The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (Mr. Neil Ansell) and representatives of the ICCAT Secretariat also attended. Below is a summary of the discussion of the outstanding issues, some of them longstanding, that will influence the final functionality and operation of the system together with the agreed way forward, including advice to be given to TRAGSA through the Secretariat.

1. *Bycatch/Directed fishery step:* Unlike the eastern bluefin tuna recommendation, the western bluefin recommendation does not establish separate management rules for bluefin tuna taken as bycatch and that taken in directed fisheries. The current version of the eBCD system, however, continues to provide the option to choose either “bycatch” or “directed fishery” when entering data. Western harvesters agreed that neither of these options are needed and are confusing for users. It was, therefore, decided that both the bycatch” option as well as the “directed fishery” option should be eliminated in the case of western bluefin tuna as this step is not needed by the western bluefin users. The Secretariat will inform TRAGSA of the need to make this change to the eBCD system as soon as possible.
2. *Catch description:* The Catch Description for western bluefin tuna in the eBCD system still contains a field for the ICCAT Transfer Authorization Number although this information is not required or relevant for this stock and fishery. Western harvesters agreed that the request for a Transfer Authorization Number should be removed. The Secretariat will inform TRAGSA of the need to make this change to the eBCD system as soon as possible.
3. *GEAR choices:* TRAGSA has made some updates to the GEAR choices in the eBCD system drop down list so that it is more reflective of the western bluefin tuna fishery, but a choice for “rod and reel” has been omitted. The choices now are: BB (Baitboat), FARM, HAND, HARP (harpoon), HS (Haul Seine), LL (Longline), PS (purse seine), TL (tended line), TRAP, TRAWL, TROL. Western harvesters agreed that RR (Rod and Reel) should be added back in as a GEAR choice and also noted that FARM was not needed as a choice. The Secretariat will inform TRAGSA of the need to make these changes to the eBCD system as soon as possible.
4. *Tagging and validation:* Validation of tagged fish from the western bluefin tuna fishery is not required under Rec. 11-20; however, the eBCD system still gives an option for validation. If the user chooses the “no” option, the system generates an error message and will not save the document. Once this happens, it is necessary to return to the beginning of the program and start over. If a user chooses the “yes” option, the system generates the following message: “Are you sure you want to send to continue? If so, you will lose the exemption, and it must be validated. Western harvesters agreed that this issue should be rectified so that when a user inputs data for tagged fish, a “save” option only will appear and the option “send for validation” will not appear. The Secretariat will inform TRAGSA of the need to make these changes to the eBCD system as soon as possible.
5. *Saving electronic records after creation:* When trying to save eBCD records, often the system does not function properly but the only a vague alert indicating that there was a problem was generated by the system (i.e., “there was an error during saving.”) There is no indication as to the reason an alert was generated, such as that the information entered was deficient or incorrect. Western harvesters agreed that TRAGSA should investigate why this problem is occurring and, in cases where a problem is due to user error, a more specific error message will appear indicating how the user can correct the entry. In addition, TRAGSA should also investigate why this message sometimes appears even where there is no data entry error. The Secretariat will inform TRAGSA of these issues and request them to be corrected as soon as possible.
6. *Re-export documentation:* TRAGSA has inserted, within the section “Description of Fish Imported”, a box entitled “batch” in place of the previous box entitled “BCD Number(s).” This function is of little use with respect to the western bluefin tuna fishery given that a typical re-export document rarely needs to list more than 3 fish. Western harvesters agreed that the “batch” option could be retained for western bluefin tuna but

that TRAGSA should include a pop-up explanation in the title of this section to help users understand that they can, if needed, create a “Batch” covering numerous eBCD records or enter one or more document numbers individually without using the “Batch” function.

7. *Error and alert messages:* In general, the error and alert messages are weak and do not give direction or an indication of why a particular error is occurring, which makes it impossible to determine where to make corrections. Western harvesters agreed that TRAGSA should take steps to clarify and enhance error and alert messages to make them more specific—in particular, to provide sufficient direction to users about the specific error that has occurred and provide clear instructions on how to correct the problem without losing the data that has already been entered up to that point.
8. *Multiple user profiles:* The description of “user profiles” in the current TRAGSA User Guide indicate that there are several profiles that can be issued to include a combination of roles, i.e. importer and exporter, fisher and exporter, exporter and re-exporter. During the testing period, using the test scenarios issued by TRAGSA, each role was independent. At each stage the user would have to enter and exit the system. For example, a user would first log in as the vessel master to catch enter data and if the user also wished to export the product, the person would have to log out of the system, and then re-enter it as a trader to fill out the export section. Such an approach is very cumbersome. Western harvesters wanted confirmation that users could obtain a profile that covers more than one role.

The Secretariat explained that, where appropriate, a profile can contain several roles and, therefore, any user that has a need for multiple roles will be able to access the system using the same username and password. However, in the case where there is a section of the form where validation is required (e.g., trade of untagged bluefin tuna) the system will still require the user to log out of the system and then back in before the next section could be completed. When performing functions where there is no validation requirement, the user can perform multiple functions without logging out of the system between each operation. However, there are still scenarios where a user must save a document, log out of the system, and then log back in before the record is saved in the eBCD system and can be printed. Western harvesters agreed that the system should allow records to be printed immediately after a document is saved, alleviating the requirement to log out before being able to print. The Secretariat will inform TRAGSA of the need to make this change to the eBCD system as soon as possible.

9. *eBCD Guide:* To support use of the test site, a revised Guide was provided. The Guide as it stands needs to be improved. Direct assistance from the contractor has been needed from time to time during testing to answer key questions about the operation of the system. The Secretariat reported that TRAGSA is still revising the Guide, including making it more “user friendly.” TRAGSA will also be preparing a separate set of instructions that will describe how to perform functions step-by-step for end users.

### Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11

#### STATEMENT TO PWG BY THE OBSERVER OF ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE (EAC)

The Permanent Working Group has the opportunity to take meaningful action to decrease illegal and unreported fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area by moving to implement the electronic Catch Document (eBCD) system by March 2014.

The current paper-based system used by ICCAT to track catch is outdated with many flaws. ICCAT put forward a plan at the 2010 meeting to implement the eBCD system to replace the paper-based system. The eBCD has the potential to help combat the serious problem of illegal fishing in the eastern Atlantic bluefin fishery as well as non-reporting of recreational catch in the east and west.

Recreationally-caught bluefin should be reported in the new eBCD system as it is necessary that the amount of bluefin caught from recreational fisheries, for all ICCAT parties, is properly accounted for in catch records and subsequent stock assessment.

The eBCD implementation has already been postponed twice, and members have had the opportunity to trial the eBCD system in 2013. Implementing the eBCD by 2014 is essential to enforce quotas and eliminate fraud and misreporting in the ICCAT bluefin tuna fishery. We urge the Commission to remain committed to the March 2014 eBCD implementation deadline and agree to track all catch, including recreational fisheries, regardless of origin or destination.

**STATEMENT TO PWG BY THE OBSERVER OF THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS (PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP)**

We call your attention to our policy brief, which was circulated to electronically to all Contracting Parties, and is available on our website at [www.pewenvironment/ip](http://www.pewenvironment/ip) (in English, French and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements those materials.

This year, several measures will be considered by the PWG that have the potential to greatly improve monitoring and compliance in fisheries managed by ICCAT. The Pew Charitable Trusts urges the PWG to consider these proposals and adopt strong measures that will be both effective and enforceable.

Reports of unregistered boats in the Mediterranean in 2012, unreported trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna over the last decade<sup>1</sup>, seizures of illegally caught bluefin, and the requirement to more effectively monitor and promote compliance with other ICCAT Recommendations, point to the immediate need for better tracking of vessels, catch and international trade of ICCAT species.

ICCAT must crack down on persistent illegal fishing activity (which includes any fishing not in full compliance with ICCAT Recommendations), by addressing the following issues:

***Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation Scheme (eBCD)***

At its 2010 meeting, ICCAT put forward a plan to implement an electronic version of the Bluefin Catch Document (eBCD) system that would replace the current outdated, paper-based system. While there has been progress in designing and testing the system, the implementation date has already been delayed twice. Any further delay from the current March 2014 deadline would undermine the effectiveness of the system, allow the opportunities for illegal activity to continue, and further increase the burden on the Secretariat staff. Based on the Secretariat's report that highlights the difficulty of introducing the data of the 2013 BCD papers into the eBCD system, CPC's should also commit to immediately providing all the necessary information so that the Secretariat can complete its work quickly and effectively.

Additionally, similar to catch documentation data publications by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), ICCAT should commit to the annual publication of aggregated eBCD statistics. These reports would help track trade, monitor adherence to quotas, and identify sources of unauthorized or illegal catch.

The eBCD has the potential to be the gold-standard of catch and trade tracking for bluefin tuna. However, further delays or exemptions will threaten the effectiveness of the entire system. ICCAT members, fishing vessels owners and industry participants have had the opportunity to trial the system and provide feedback, and the PWG should not allow the implementation deadline to be pushed back again.

***Mandatory International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers for vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels***

Unlike merchant vessels, fishing vessels are not required to have unique identifying numbers that stay with them from construction to scrapping. The lack of such numbers makes it difficult for authorities to distinguish vessels engaged in illegal fishing and enables these vessels to circumvent control measures and avoid being traced.

The IMO ship numbering scheme is widely recognized by users and stakeholders as the best available global identification system. The scheme's records can provide an independent audit trail of data on each vessel and its ownership.

A 2013 review of the ICCAT Record of Vessels indicates that already 54 percent of vessels at least 24 meters long have an IMO number; hence ICCAT is in a favorable position to require its authorized vessels to adopt the IMO number. At the same time, this review indicates that ICCAT vessel data presents inaccuracies and inconsistencies. For example, some IMO numbers in the Commission's active record are for vessels that have sunk. Other vessels are listed twice under different names and flags or are listed with incorrect IMO numbers. Multiple vessels are listed with the same call sign.

<sup>1</sup> Antonius Gagern, Jeroen van den Bergh, and Ussif Rashid Sumaila, "Trade-Based Estimation of Bluefin Tuna Catches in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, 2005–2011," *PLOS ONE* 8(7) (2013), doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0069959, <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0069959>.

To address these challenges, ICCAT must mandate that all vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels have an IMO number by 1 January 2015, that this number be reported in all records and relevant communications, and that this number be permanently marked in a visible location of the hull of each vessel. In this regard, we welcome the proposal submitted by the United States, Canada and Norway. This proposal, if adopted, would be a very positive step towards improving the identification of fishing vessels.

***Mandatory forms for prior notification and port inspection reports***

ICCAT members should adopt mandatory forms for prior notification and port inspection reports to ensure the effective implementation of Recommendation 12-07, on an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port. These practical measures will facilitate the reporting obligations of vessels and port authorities and facilitate the sharing and use of information.

***Increased frequency of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) transmissions***

Currently, a large void exists with regard to VMS data collection times, so much so that the true movements of a vessel cannot be extrapolated from the data. Increasing the frequency of required VMS data transmissions will allow monitoring agencies to have a more comprehensive picture of the genuine movements of a vessel. ICCAT should use this meeting as an opportunity to increase the required frequency of VMS transmissions to every two hours by adopting the proposed amendments to Recommendation 03-14 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system for the ICCAT Convention Area submitted by Brazil, Norway, Turkey, and the United States.

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 11**

**JOINT STATEMENT TO PWG BY THE OBSERVERS OF ISSF,  
PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND WWF**

The use of Unique Vessel Identifiers (UVIs) that allow for the accurate identification of fishing vessels globally is recognized as an essential tool for combatting IUU fishing and protecting fisheries resources. For this reason, UVIs are the subject of market, RFMO and NGO focus. Today, the only internationally-recognized UVI scheme is the IMO number, which is administered by IHS Fairplay.

Our organizations strongly support the changes to the ICCAT vessel record proposed in the *Draft Recommendation By ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* (PWG-409A). We urge ICCAT CPCs to adopt this Recommendation that will require all vessels at least 20 meters in length authorized to fish in the ICCAT Convention Area to obtain an IMO number and for CPCs to report such number.

Considering that obtaining such numbers is easy and represents no cost for the vessel owner we recommend a deadline of January 1, 2015, for paragraph 5bis in the draft recommendation by ICCAT concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area. That is, approximately six months after the entry into force of the new recommendation.

**2013 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and other areas**

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040005	Not available	JAPAN - sighting of tuna longliner in the Convention area, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown	Unknown	BRAVO	NO INFO	T8AN3	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040006	Not available	JAPAN - Reefer company provided documents showing frozen tuna had been transhipped.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040007	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)	AT	
20040008	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(INDONESIA)		

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL -fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	NO INFO	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT	
20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	NO INFO	FN 003883	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	MARIA	NO INFO	FN 003882	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060003	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	NO. 101 GLORIA	GOLDEN LAKE	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060004	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 103	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	

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<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060005	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 101	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060007	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	LILA NO. 10	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060008	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No 2 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060009	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060010	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060011	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No. 3 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060012	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT recorded as AT000GUI000002)	Japan- Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/2008 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QM C	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	LL

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<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB 00039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON 1	MANARA I (previously POSEIDON)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	PS
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB 00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	PS
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	OCEAN LION	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090002	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Georgia	YU MAAN WON	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090003	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Unknown	GUNUAR MELYAN 21	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20100004	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 09/03	07/07/2010	E10-2860	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 11			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.			

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20110003	C-00545	IATTC WCPFC	30/08/2011 14/03/2013	E11-5762 E13-1532	Georgia		Neptune		4LOG	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		Pacific Ocean	LL
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 10	Bhaskara No. 10				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No.9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown		Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Chia Hao No. 66	Chia Hao No. 66	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma alegre, San Francisco, Panamá	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130015	IMO 7355662	WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Georgia		Fu Lien n° 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			
20130016		WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Chinese Taipei		Yu Fong 168		BJ4786	Chang Lin Pao-Chun	161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei		
20130017		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21		OTS024 or OTS 089	Unknown			

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20130018		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown (Belize)		Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International LTD			
20130019		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Dragon III			Reino De Mar S.A	125 metros al Oeste de Sardimar cocal de Puntarenas Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130020		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Panamá	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	HO-2508	Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A	1 Fl, No. 101 Ta-She Road Ta She Hsiang Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130021		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	LL
20130022		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	LL
20130023		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	LL

Serial Number	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign	Owner/Operator Name	Owner/Operator Address	Area	Gear
20130024		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	LL
20130025		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	Tching Ye No. 6	Tching Ye No. 6, (El Diria I)	V3GN		Costado Este de UCR El Cocal Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130026	8994295	IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Wen Teng No. 688	Wen Teng No. 688, (Mahkoia Abadi No. 196)	V3TK4		No. 32 Hai Shan 4th Road Hsiao Kang District Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130027		ICCAT	25/11/2013	COC-303/2013 Annex 4; Plenary report Commission 2013	Indonesia	Uknown	Samudera Pasifik No. 18	Kawil No. 03; Lady VI-T-III	YGGY	Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger Indonesia, PT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar		Drifting longline

Photography available: Serial number 20050001; Photography for Hoom Xuang 11; Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21 and Full Rich are available in, respectively, IOTC Reports IOTC-S14-CoC13-add1 [E]; IOTC-2013-CoC10-07 Rev 1[E] and IOTC-2013-CoC10-08a[E]; Photography for the vessel Wen Teng No. 688 is available at <http://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselDetails.aspx?VesNo=129&Lang=en>

