

**REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING  
OF THE PANEL 2 AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
*(Madrid, Spain- March 3-5, 2014)*

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Morio Kaneko (Japan) and the Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

**2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

At the beginning of the session, the Chair proposed some changes to the original agenda in order to better facilitate discussion of relevant items together. There were no objections. The revised Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2**.

**3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

Mrs. Staci Rijal (United States) was designated as the Rapporteur.

**4. Consideration of adjusted E-BFT quotas for 2014**

After providing a brief explanation of the table, the floor was opened for questions and concerns.

Several small errors were noted for correction and the group agreed to all changes. Among those were the separate quota for Croatia, who is now a member of the EU; the wording regarding Algeria's additional allocation; and a note to reflect Turkey's formal written objection to its quota allocation in Rec. 13-07. Egypt and Algeria also recalled objections they had expressed regarding their E-BFT quota at the 2013 ICCAT meeting, however the PA2/COC observed that this did not necessitate changes to the table as these were not formal written objections made pursuant to Art. VIII of the Convention.

The revised table is attached as **Appendix 3**.

**5. Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2014 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota**

The fishing plans that were considered at the meeting are attached as **Appendix 4**.

***Albania***

Albania was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Albania's plan. A letter will be sent to Albania requesting clarifications on the flags of their vessels, the fishing gears, the past record of bluefin tuna catch for the last three years, observer coverage, whether or not the vessels are engaged in farming related activities and whether or not the vessels are engaged in JFOs. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to March 31, 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 13-07.

***Algeria***

Algeria presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2013 plan, with improvements. They noted for their monitoring measures that they are in the process of preparing for the 2014 campaign for the crew and national observers in order to strengthen knowledge and expertise. No questions or concerns on Algeria's plan were raised by the group.

### ***China***

China was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed China's plan. A letter will be sent to China requesting further clarification on the flags of their vessels as well as the past record of BFT catch for these vessels for the last three years. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to March 31, 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 13-07.

### ***Egypt***

Egypt presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2013 plan, with improvements. They noted that they plan to use eBCD this year, but would still benefit from additional training to ensure full implementation. No questions or concerns on Egypt's plan were raised by the group.

### ***European Union***

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its plan, including that they have indicated very clearly how different gears will be managed. They emphasized their multi-level inspection plan, with engagement with other CPCs, inspection done on the national level, and control at the European Union level. The European Union also noted the importance of capacity management, generally, and the importance of the use of stereoscopic cameras to monitor caging operations. No questions or concerns on the European Union's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Iceland***

Iceland was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Iceland's plan. A letter will be sent to Iceland requesting further clarification of the flags of the longline vessels, the tonnage and lengths of the vessels, the catch record of bluefin tuna for the last three years, and the record for the number of recreational fishing boats and catch volume caught by them for the last three years. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to March 31, 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 13-07.

### ***Japan***

Japan presented its 2014 plan, highlighting their legally binding individual quota system and their reduced capacity since 2008. No questions or concerns on Japan's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Korea***

Korea presented its plan, noting that there were no significant changes from its 2013 plan. No questions or concerns on Korea's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Libya***

Libya presented its plan, noting that there were no significant changes from its 2013 plan. Libya mentioned that they will be activating one new farm installation with a capacity of 1000 t. One CPC sought clarification that the new farm would use stereoscopic cameras, as outlined in the

recommendation. Libya confirmed that they would implement Rec. 13-08 for the activities of this new farm. To make this clearer, Libya sought a slight edit to its plan.

### ***Morocco***

Morocco presented its plan, noting that there were no significant changes from its 2013 plan other than a new pilot caging program with a quota of 200 t. The European Union sought clarification that the new caging operation would be fully complying with Recommendation 13-08. Morocco confirmed that the caging operation would follow and be monitored by current ICCAT regulations.

### ***Norway***

Norway presented its plan, noting they will only have one vessel targeting bluefin tuna and that the quota not allocated to that vessel has been set aside for bycatch. No questions or concerns on Norway's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Syria***

Syria was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Syria's plan. A letter will be sent to Syria requesting further clarification on the flags, allocated quota, gear types, observer coverage, catch record of bluefin tuna for the last three years of each vessel, as well as information on whether or not they are involved in farming related activities or joint fishing operations. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 13-07.

### ***Tunisia***

Tunisia presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2013 plan, with improvements based on a June 2013 Ministerial decree. One CPC sought clarification on how Tunisia would implement Recommendation 13-08, noting that the European Union would be hosting a seminar on cameras and monitoring of caging operations and that all CPCs were invited. Tunisia responded that they have used stereoscopic cameras in the 2013 season and envisages continuing implementation in 2014 of monitoring of caging operations in 2014. Tunisia also envisages participating in the seminar on the use of stereoscopic cameras and monitoring of caging operations which will be hosted by the European Union in 2014. Tunisia noted that they will endeavor to implement all the ICCAT Recommendations including Rec. 13-08.

### ***Turkey***

In Turkey's plan presentation, they noted that they are actively working towards implementation of eBCD this year, but need further trainings to ensure compliance. They also highlighted a pilot farming project and informed the group that results of that pilot project would be conveyed to the SCRS shortly. Following request for confirmation, Turkey confirmed that the information regarding the implementation of Recs. 13-07 and 13-08 included in the plan, was up to date.

### ***Chinese Taipei***

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Chinese Taipei's plan. While the Joint Meeting did not find any serious fault with the plan submitted by Chinese Taipei, some clarifications were requested. Although recognizing that Chinese Taipei's letter indicated it has prohibited its fishing vessels from fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2014, a letter will be sent to Chinese Taipei requesting clarification by the end of March on whether or not they intend to fish in the Mediterranean in 2014 and how they plan to

record and handle bycatch in regard to their quota. The letter will also inquire whether Chinese Taipei has any plans at this time to fish for bluefin tuna in the near future.

### ***Request relating to farming activity***

The review of the fishing plans also highlighted a number of issues that the PA2/COC would like the Commission or its subsidiary bodies to consider in future meetings. The first was regarding the need to properly report in a timely manner to the SCRS on the results of pilot studies and/or programmes using stereoscopic system or alternative techniques in order to refine the number and weight of the fish at point of capture and/ or caging, in accordance with paragraph 88 of Rec.13-07 and Rec.13-08, and which had previously been contained in Rec. 12-03. Second, although noting the difficulties in setting a standard format to be reported to the SCRS, the PA2/COC asked the bluefin tuna data preparatory meeting to be held in May to discuss the issue of lack of reporting and to establish a standard format for reporting so that reported data could be more useful for the upcoming eastern bluefin stock assessment.

All CPCs undertook to implement Rec. 13-07 and, where applicable, 13-08.

## **6. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 5**

Fishing, capacity, and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Algeria, Egypt, EU, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Tunisia, Turkey. The plan of Chinese Taipei was also endorsed, but it was agreed that some clarifications would be sought by correspondence.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Albania, China, Iceland and Syria. Responses to these letters will be requested by 20 March and distributed to Parties for review and response via correspondence. Additionally, all letters will highlight the importance of attending the inter-sessional meeting in the future so that they can discuss their plan in person. If prior to 31 March a member finds serious fault with the plans as clarified by the additional information in any response received by 20 March, then a mail vote may be triggered pursuant to paragraph 11 of Rec. 13-07 to decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2014 by that CPC. If on the other hand no member finds serious fault by 31 March, the plans will be deemed endorsed.

The issue of what to do in the face of repeated absences from this inter-sessional meeting was raised during this discussion. As noted by several CPCs, the purpose of this inter-sessional meeting is to review the eastern bluefin tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans and to answer questions regarding those plans for decisions on endorsement or finding serious fault requiring additional actions prior to the current fishing season. Five CPCs did not attend yet turned in their management plans and are allowed to respond via written correspondence. Since this inter-sessional meeting is held at considerable cost to the delegates who travel to the meeting and to the Secretariat who hosts the meeting, it was requested that the Commission discuss the utility of future meetings and potential consequences for non-participants, should the meetings continue in the future.

## **7. Finalisation and approval of Call for Tenders ROP-BFT**

The group agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference for the Call for Tenders for the ROP-BFT and had no comments regarding the 2014 draft reporting form. The Secretariat still needs information regarding maximum unit costs, which are required to be established for the program, and asked that Parties convey their thoughts on this topic by correspondence by 31 April. In the event that no information was forthcoming, it was agreed that the Secretariat would publish the Call for Tenders without the maximum unit costs.

There were no volunteers to develop the training manual.

## **8. Clarification of requirements of E-BFT in 2014**

The group reviewed several requests for clarification of the provisions of Recommendation 12-03, as outlined in document Request for Clarifications of Provision of Rec. 12-03, attached as **Appendix 5**.

### ***8.1 Dates of vessels***

The group agreed with the current understanding as expressed in the document mentioned above that lists are annual, the start date should change each year, and vessels whose authorizations have expired should be removed from the list.

### ***8.2 Submission of BFT\_other lists***

The group agreed with the current understanding noting that the extensions of authorization periods should be accepted at any time before the expiration of the current authorization and for new vessels, the one month advance rule should apply except for the replacements of authorized vessels.

### ***8.4 End of authorization dates of vessels BFT\_catching/BFT\_other list***

The group agreed that it should be up to each CPC to request modification of authorization dates and that they are allowed to do so.

### ***8.5 Changes to fishing plans***

The group agreed with the current understanding that the 48 hour notification period refers to the start of the fishing activity.

### ***8.6 Transfer declarations JFOs***

The group agreed with the current understanding, noting that only the vessel that catches the fish has to complete the transfer declaration.

### ***8.8 Catching other species***

After significant discussion regarding possible scenarios where this might apply, the group agreed with the current understanding that the vessels may continue to fish for other species and do not need to have an observer on board when they are no longer authorized to fish for bluefin tuna.

### ***8.9 Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs)***

Taking into consideration the various scenarios under which a vessel could be required to cease its fishing activities within a JFO, (e.g. authorization is revoked by the CPC, authorization still in force but no quota left, *force majeure*) the group considered that the provisions of the current Recommendation apply and that any decision to change these should be taken by the Commission.

### ***8.10 Fishing, Inspection, and Capacity Management Plans***

Although seeing the merit of combining obligations, the group agreed that the inspection plans in the Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans and the Provisional Inspection Plans under the International Scheme of Joint Inspection are two separate obligations. Therefore, those Parties required to submit both need to submit them separately according to the deadlines in each provision,

as applicable. The consequences of not submitting the plans should be determined by the appropriate groups overseeing the review of these plans.

### ***8.11 Traps***

The group agreed with the current understanding that the total number of traps should remain at 2008 levels, including if that number in 2008 was zero.

### ***8.12 NCPs and BFT\_other vessels***

The group agreed with the current understanding that non-CPCs can include their carrier vessels on the Record of E-BFT-Other Vessels.

### ***8.3 and 8.7 Vessels to be registered under the BFT -other list and By-catch vessels***

Items 8.3 and 8.7 were discussed together, as both related to the BFT\_other vessel list, bycatch and have implications for the implementation of BCDs. It was noted that this was a larger question than simply if a CPC was required to have that vessel put on a list, but rather a question of how to practically list those vessels, for the sake of transparency and management and efficient implementation of the eBCD, without overwhelming the current system. It was noted that it is very hard, if not impossible to pre-determine which vessels would have bycatch of bluefin tuna and that listing additional vessels could have implications for capacity management. The group decided to refer this issue to the PWG and the IMM Working Group so that a solution can be found that improves transparency and traceability.

## **9. Clarification of other requirements under ICCAT measures**

The Compliance Committee Chair began the session by noting that the outcome of discussions under this section (as well as the Review of the Active Compendium and Information on Tentative and Proposed Adjustments for 2014 under Item 10 – Other Matters) should be seen as provisional, considering that these matters were not within the primary mandate of the joint PA2/COC meeting, which was convened to review the eastern bluefin fishing plans, and given the limited representation of Commission members at this inter-sessional meeting, which consisted primarily of eastern bluefin harvesters.

The following points were raised for consideration in future discussions on the issues highlighted in PA2/COC-006/2014, attached as **Appendix 6**:

### ***9.1 BET/YFT vessel list - Recommendation 11-01***

The COC Chair noted that while this measure did not specify the dates of authorization that should be notified by CPCs when vessels are notified to the BET/YFT vessel list by the 1 July deadline, para. 5 of Rec. 11-01 provides that vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for BET or YFT, and para. 6 requires that CPCs notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list at any time such change occurs. The United States pointed out, and the group agreed, that if there were specific concerns about lack of compliance concerning submission of information to this list, that the Compliance Committee should address that issue at the 2014 annual meeting. The group agreed to refer this item to Panel 1 for further discussion at the annual meeting.

### ***9.2 Port inspection - Recommendation 12-07***

9.2.1 The COC Chair observed that Rec. 12-07 does not explicitly require the ICCAT flag CPC to take measures to prevent its vessels entering ports not on the ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports established pursuant to 12-07. The Chair noted that ICCAT could consider expanding Rec. 12-07 to include specific provisions on flag State obligations, which are found in other international port State measure instruments such as the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures. This item was referred to the PWG and the IMM Working Group for further discussion. The Chair also asked the Secretariat to provide additional information about landings in non-designated CPC ports so that the Compliance Committee can consider the port CPC's failure to designate such ports pursuant to Rec. 12-07 in its review of compliance with this measure at the annual meeting.

9.2.2 This item was referred to the PWG and the IMM Working Group for further discussion.

9.2.3 This item was referred to the PWG and the IMM Working Group for further discussion.

9.2.4 The group noted the importance of capacity building in helping developing CPCs to comply with Rec. 12-07, and recommended that the PWG, the IMM Working Group, and other interested bodies such as the STACFAD, consider the Secretariat's question and develop advice on implementation of paragraph 26, in coordination with other relevant international bodies such as the FAO, as appropriate.

## **10. Other matters**

### ***Review of the Active Compendium of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures***

The COC Chair presented a list of active measures proposed by the Secretariat for removal from the Active Compendium on the grounds that the measures are redundant or have been superseded. As noted by the COC Chair and agreed by the group, the PA2/COC group does not have the authority to remove such measures from the Compendium, which is a decision that must be taken by the Commission. To expedite further review by the Commission and taking into account CPC comments on what procedures should be followed, the Chair proposed that following the inter-sessional meeting of PA2/COC, the list, along with any views expressed at the meeting, will be circulated to the Commission for inter-sessional decision on whether or not these provisions should be removed from the active compendium. There was no objection to this proposal.

No objections were noted regarding the proposed removal of Res. 09-12, Rec. 11-19, Rec. 00-22, Rec 97-03, Res. 01-09, Res. 06-08, Res. 96-13, Res. 02-25, and Res. 01-20.

Objections were noted to the proposed removal of Res. 11-25, Rec. 10-11, Rec. 11-21, Rec. 06-14, and Rec. 06-16.

The COC Chair also suggested that to avoid redundancy and to improve transparency, new species management measures could incorporate payback components of otherwise redundant preceding management measures to allow for the removal of those redundant measures from the Compendium.

### ***Information on tentative and proposed adjustments for 2014***

The Secretariat presented a document that reflected information provided by certain CPCs concerning quota calculations to be approved at the 2014 annual meeting. The Secretariat clarified that this was only presented for informational purposes. With respect to some of the information provided, certain CPCs had contacted the Secretariat with regard to views of the COC on their adjusted quotas. The COC Chair noted that the PA2/COC had no mandate to consider these issues for approval during the inter-sessional period and that these adjusted quotas were subject to change and were to be approved at the 2014 annual meeting. The Chair also expressed his desire that presentation of these matters for action by the PA2/COC inter-sessionally not be considered a precedent for future calls for inter-sessional COC decisions on these types of matters.

The United States recognized the desire of the Secretariat to respond to requests from CPCs for information on their adjusted quotas for the western bluefin fishery, but suggested that CPCs should instead refer to the relevant Recommendation, which clearly outlines the quota and carryover rules. It was noted that it is premature to review and present the tables, as these adjusted quotas are still subject to change and are only to be approved at the 2014 annual meeting. Additionally, it was noted that the presentation of this information in tentative tables is confusing, outside the COC's mandate, and should not be considered by the COC inter-sessionally in this manner in the future.

No comments were received regarding a table submitted by Belize that reflected its calculations of adjusted quotas for NALB, SALB, NSW, and SSW.

With respect to a southern albacore overharvest payback plan proposed by the Philippines, the Chair noted that since the provisions in the southern albacore recommendation concerning payback clearly state how overharvest is to be deducted from future quotas, the Commission was the appropriate body to review and approve the Philippines' proposal to derogate from those provisions.

No comments were made regarding a southern albacore quota transfer between South Africa and Namibia and a northern swordfish quota transfer between the EU and Canada, which had been notified to the PA2/COC meeting by the Secretariat solely for informational purposes.

#### ***Clarifications on fishing vessels***

Tunisia sought clarification from the group as to whether or not a farmer could use a vessel, such as a purse seiner as a support vessel in the farming operation after the fishing season has ended and how to register said vessel on the appropriate list(s). The Secretariat clarified that there is a provision that BFT\_other vessels should be communicated one month in advance of its authorization period and that vessels cannot be on both active fishing and support fishing vessel lists simultaneously. No other comments were made.

#### ***Clarifications on selling parts of dead farmed fish***

Tunisia also sought clarification regarding the procedure that should be followed if a bluefin tuna died in a farm, specifically whether or not that fish could be sold if a national rather than regional observer was present for the harvest. The group said that the Recommendation does not foresee specific provisions for these cases which rarely happen; this case and the issue could be discussed again at the annual meeting in November.

#### ***Senegal BFT catch***

Senegal noted that they had informed the Commission of some bluefin tuna bycatch. They said that they do not intend to become members of the Panel, in the short term, but wanted to be present to highlight this unusual situation and the need for ecosystem management. Senegal expressed their continued desire to better understand what changes and interactions are occurring with ICCAT species and highlighted their continued commitment to transparency and sharing results of sampling.

#### ***Format of E-BFT plans***

The Compliance Committee Chair suggested that PA2 consider developing guidance or a model format for the preparation of eastern bluefin fishing, inspection, and capacity plans to reduce the types of issues that arose at this meeting due to the absence of certain information in CPC plans and to facilitate the efficient review of plans by the PA2/COC. In response to this suggestion, Morocco raised questions about the utility of having the joint PA2/COC meeting and the need for the Commission to consider alternatives for inter-sessional review of the plans or stricter rules for participation in this inter-sessional meeting, and that such considerations should take place prior to movement forward on the development of guidance on the preparation of eastern bluefin plans. The PA2 Chair then



proposed, and the group agreed, that the PA2 should develop a draft model format for the plans at the 2014 annual meeting. The EU requested that such a format also include farming capacity plans.

Morocco asked the Commission to require, in the future, the practice of the submitting fishing, inspection and capacity plans to all CPCs catching BFT in the ICCAT Convention Area.

## **11. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The report was adopted. The 2014 meeting of PA2/COC was adjourned.

## **Appendix 1**

### **AGENDA [PA2/COC-001A]**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of adjusted E-BFT quotas for 2014
5. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2014 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
6. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 5.
7. Finalisation and approval of Call for Tenders ROP-BFT
8. Clarification of requirements for E-BFT in 2014
9. Clarification of other requirements under ICCAT measures
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of Report and adjournment

## **Appendix 2**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [PA2/COC-012]**

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## Appendix 3

## QUOTAS FOR EASTERN BLUEFIN TUNA 2014 [PA2/COC-007A]

CPC	2014 Rec. 13-07	%	Adjusted quotas 2014	Notes 2014
Albania	33.58	0.2506266	33.58	
Algeria	143.83	1.0733333	243.83	100 t extra temporary allocation
China (People's Rep.)	38.19	0.2850125	38.19	
Egypt	67.08	0.5006266	77.08	10 t from Chinese Taipei
European Union	7,938.65	56.328772	7,938.6	
Iceland	30.97	0.2311278	30.97	
Japan	1,139.55	8.504110	1,139.55	
Korea	80.53	0.6010025	80.53	
Libya	937.65	6.9973935	937.65	
Morocco	1,270.47	9.4811529	1,270.47	
Norway	30.97	0.2311278	30.97	
Syria	33.58	0.2506266	33.58	
Tunisia	1,057.00	7.8880702	1,057.00	
Turkey*	556.66	4.1541604	556.66	
Chinese Taipei	41.29	0.3081704	31.29	10 t transferred to Egypt
TOTAL	13400.1			

\*Turkey lodged a formal objection to Rec. 13-07 under Article VIII of the Convention and, consistent with Res. 12-11, submitted measures to be taken.

## Appendix 4

## BLUEFIN FISHING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLANS [PA2/COC-002]

## ALBANIA

## Management plan for fishing the Albanian allocated quota of the bluefin tuna in the Atlantic and Mediterranean for the year 2014

Albania is a member of the ICCAT Convention, by Law No. 9822 dated 29.10.2007 “*For the accession of the Albanian Republic in the International Convention for Atlantic tuna Conservation (ICCAT)*”.

The fishing of large pelagics in Albania is a new activity which began in Albania in 2013. Traditionally, this kind of fishing has not been very developed in Albania. There have been attempts to fish tuna before the 1990s, but the results were not promising or such as to cover the expenses required for the fishing. This concerns the bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus thynnus*, as the type with the highest commercial value. During these years different quantities of tuna and swordfish have been fished, but this has been occasional and concerns items fished during fishing for small pelagics. An important element is the skipjack tuna which is common in Albanian fishing, both in the occasional catch and by traps (stationary gear of coastal artisanal fishing).

The ICCAT Convention covers a variety of tuna species towards which obligatory managing measures are taken for the countries which are or are not members, starting from fishing to the product marketing.

A variety of international recommendations and resolutions have been approved which concern the fishing management as well as the control measurements in an international and national level of the species covered by this Convention. One of the most recently of them is: *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 13-07].

The recommendation by ICCAT [Rec. 13-07] was totally incorporated in the Minister’s decree which has been prepared and substitutes the former recommendation [Rec. 12-07].



Based on the Ministerial Decree No. 44, dated 14.02.2014, “*For the implementation of the multi-annual recovery plan of the blue fin tuna in the Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic, by ICCAT,*” clause 12 states:

*Every country contracting part will draft an annual fishing plan for the fishing vessels and fishing traps of the Blue fin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan will be addressed to the allocated quota for every group of fishing vessel as it has been referred in the paragraphs 21 to 26, the used method for the allocation and the management of the quotas as well as the measurements to maintain the individual quota and the by- catches as well.*”

Based on this clause of the recommendation and the quota allocated to Albania, the following management measures are determined:

***Albania has a catch quota of bluefin tuna of 33.58 tons.***

To exploit this quota there are selected two licensed fishing vessels for pelagic fishing, which in turn have been authorized for bluefin tuna fishing.

Authorization for the Albanian quota is given to the fishing vessels below:

**Vessel characteristics:**

“Rozafa 13”  
 Net weight: 120 tons  
 Length: 21.0 m  
 Width: 6.0 m  
 Diving: 3.50 m  
 Engine: 447.00 KW  
 Crew: 5 fishermen  
 Equipped with Blue box: Yes

“Rozafa 14”  
 Net weight: 120 tons  
 Length: 21.0 m  
 Width: 6.0 m  
 Diving: 3.50m  
 Engine: 447.00 KW  
 Crew: 5 fishermen  
 Equipped with Blue box: Yes

The abovementioned quantities constitute in total 100% of the quota, without anticipating the sport or recreational fishing of bluefin tuna, on which no prediction will be made.

**Fishing period**

***Fishing of bluefin tuna with pelagic trawler will be allowed during the period of June 16 - October 14, 2014.***

**Obligations for the authorized vessels**

The fishing vessels, performing common fishing operations will impose an allocation key among them concerning their common catch.

The catch will be landed in Shengjini fishing harbor between the hours 17:00 and 19:00.

Before returning from the fishing activity to the designed landing port, the bluefin tuna fishing vessels must inform the harbor authorities at least 4 hours in advance of the following:

- Time vessel will enter the harbor
- Estimated quantity of tuna on board
- Information on the geographical area where the tuna was caught
- In case the area the bluefin tuna was fished is closer than 4 hours from the harbor, the quantity of the tuna must be corrected on board on the way to the harbor, but always prior to arrival.

The subjects of the bluefin tuna fishing are obliged to install and maintain active Blue Box within the VMS system, even while in the harbor.

Once the authorized allocated quantity has been accomplished, the tuna fishing vessel(s) will remain in the designed harbor.

### **Data recording and transmittal**

The captains of the bluefin tuna vessels must keep a logbook on the vessel, paper notebook or electronic version, to record their activity, noting especially the quantities of bluefin tuna fished and kept on board, the weight of the catch or the estimated weight, the date and the position of the catches, the kind of fishing tools used in accordance with the anticipated requirements by ICCAT.

Transmitting the VMS data from the bluefin tuna vessels registered in ICCAT must begin 15 days before the authorized fishing season begins and must continue at least 15 days after the season has ended. So that the vessels are kept under inspection, the VMS broadcasting from the authorized fishing vessels must not be interrupted even when the vessels are harbored.

### **Transshipment**

The transshipment of bluefin tuna on the high seas is prohibited.

The fishing vessels may transship bluefin tuna only in the designated harbors, at the time defined by the fishing authorities.

The master of the transshipping bluefin tuna vessels must complete the transshipping declarations according to the form in **Annex 3** of the ICCAT recommendation.

Before entering the fishing harbor, the receiving vessel, or its representative, must give this information to the harbor authorities 48 hours before the estimated arrival time in the harbor:

- Time entering the harbor
- Estimated quantity of tuna on board and information on the geographical coordinates where the tuna was caught
- The name of the transshipping vessel and its number in the ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna
- Tonnage and the geographical area of the caught tuna that will be transshipped
- Quantity of tuna that will be transshipped
- Date and harbor of the transshipment
- Name, register number and flag of receiver fishing vessel and the ICCAT register number of authorized vessels for the fishing of the bluefin tuna in eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

### **Prohibitions:**

The use of airplanes and helicopters to search and observe tuna to be fished in the area of the Convention is prohibited.

It is prohibited to catch, keep on board, transship, transfer, store, sell or make an attempt to sell bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg/ piece.

The authorized bluefin tuna vessels are allowed only 5% accidental catch of fish weighing 10-30 kg.

It is not allowed to charter the allocated tuna quotas.

It is not allowed to carry over to the subsequent year the uncaught quantities of bluefin tuna authorized for the previous year.

### **Obligations and measurements of the fishing authorities**

The fishing Authority is obligated to:

- Inform, by 1 April 2014, the ICCAT Secretariat the quantity of the bluefin tuna caught in the previous year. This information must include:
  - Name and ICCAT number of all bluefin tuna fishing vessels
  - Authorized period for all fishing vessels
  - Landing and transshipment harbor

- Total catch for each fishing vessel during the entire fishing period, including those with zero catches
- Total fishing days for every fishing vessel through the entire authorized period
- Total catch as by-catch of non-authorized vessels, including those with zero catches
- Assure that the harbor authorities keep a register where all the announcements for entering the harbor of the blue fin tuna fishing vessels are kept, throughout the year.
- Guarantee that the authorized vessels have implemented the Blue Box device, have their calling signal inside the system and have communicated their calling signal to the ICCAT Secretariat in order to be observed from the national VMS system, as well as by ICCAT observers. Transmitting the VMS data must begin 15 days before the bluefin tuna season commences and end 15 days after the season ends. The VMS system must stay active even when the vessel is in the designed fishing harbor.
- Make sure that all the active bluefin tuna fishing vessels execute the communication daily throughout the period they have been authorized to fish bluefin tuna, electronically or in other ways, with the competent authority through the correct completion of the logbooks, including date, time, coordinates (geographical width and length), weight and number of bluefin tuna specimens caught and kept on board in the designated area.
- Guarantee the coverage with inspection of all landings, all the time and in all the places of the landings, transshipment (time and place), as well as to cover the off shore inspection during the fishing operation period.
- Guarantee the observation of the authorized vessels, at least for:
  - 20% of trawlers (over 15m long in total)
  - 20% of active longliners (over 15 m long in total)
  - 20% of active trawlers (over 15 m long in total)
  - 100% of trawlers
  - 100% of the activities from the recovery of the purse seiners
- Monitor the tuna fishing activity to be in compliance with the ICCAT recommendations.
- Monitor and register the fishing strain used from the authorized vessels in accordance with the fishing gear type.
- Report to the ICCAT Secretariat the temporary monthly catch by the gear type of bluefin tuna within the 30 days of the calendar month in which the catch was made.
- Report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates of bluefin tuna fishing closure as well as when the allocated quota has been accomplished.
- Take precautions to stop the trade, landing, the import, transfer in fattening cages, transshipment, re-export of bluefin tuna that has not been accompanied with the correctly filled, completed and valid required documentation (ICCAT Recommendation).
- Request the immediate return of the fishing vessels to the designed harbor as soon as it notices that quota allocated by ICCAT for the actual year has been accomplished.
- Perform crosschecking and verification, including reports made by the inspectors and the observers, of data from the VMS system, completed logbooks, transfer or transshipment papers held for the authorized fishing vessels.
- Take precautions that the harbor authority and/or fishing inspectors inspect the receiver vessel once the tuna shipment arrives and also verify the documentation concerning the transshipment. Likewise, take precautions that the harbor authority sends, to the flag State authorities, a transshipment report within 5 days of performing the transshipment.

## ALGERIA

The bluefin fishing, inspection and capacity management plan submitted by Algeria for the 2014 fishing season takes in account the provisions contained in ICCAT Recommendation 13-07 and in the Ministerial Order of 19 March 2013 which establish bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag as well as methods for their distribution and their implementation.

## **1. Fishing plan**

### ***1.1 Quotas***

Algeria's bluefin tuna quota for 2014 is 243.83 metric tons (t), which will be divided among the different types of vessels (purse seiner and longliner) which will be participating in the bluefin tuna fishing campaign, based on the SCRS estimates.

An individual quota allocation for this type of tuna vessel (purse seiner) will be applied based on the SCRS estimates of potential catches by length.

Moreover, the definitive confirmation of the list of Algerian tuna vessels that will be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2014 as well as their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by the dates set by the Commission (one month before the campaign).

Given that there is no bluefin tuna sport fishery in Algeria and that the recreational fishery does not target this species, no specific quota will be allocated for this type of fishery in 2014.

### ***1.2 Trade and joint fishing agreements***

Private trade agreements and/or the transfer of catch quotas/limits with other CPCs will not be authorised under national regulations in force.

Only joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels may be authorised. The methodology adopted to distribute the quota among the tuna vessels will be the same as that applied in 2013, and will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines.

### ***1.3 Granting of fishing permits***

Individual fishing permits will be granted to the vessels authorised to participate in the 2014 fishing campaign by the Algerian Fishing Administration, in accordance with national regulations.

### ***1.4 Fishing periods***

The fishing periods will be those set by the ICCAT and established by the provisions of national regulations. Accordingly, the authorised fishing periods will be as follows:

- For longliners over 24 metres, from 1 January to 31 May 2014
- For purse seiners, from 26 May to 24 June 2014

Moreover, and in the case that the authorised quota is exhausted during the authorised period, the Algerian Fishing Administration will announce the closure of the fishing season.

### ***1.5 Minimum size***

Pursuant to the provisions contained in Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 amending and supplementing the Executive Decree of 18 March 2004 on the minimum sizes of biological resources, the minimum size of bluefin tuna will be 30 kg, or 115 cm.

### ***1.6 Accidental catches/by-catches***

A 5% tolerance of by-catches weighing less than 30 kg or a size of 115 cm per fish will be allowed, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

### ***1.7 Use of aircraft***

The use of airplanes or helicopters to detect bluefin tuna schools will not be authorized during fishing operations by national regulations.

### ***1.8 Transshipment***

Transshipment is prohibited under national regulation, in particular, Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fishing and aquaculture.

### ***1.9 Transfer operations***

In accordance with national regulation, before each transfer operation from the fishing vessel to the towing vessels, the master of the vessel must transmit a prior notification of transfer to the competent authorities. The transfer operation may only be authorised once authorisation has been received from the competent authorities. Moreover, following each transfer operation, the vessel master must forward the transfer declaration to the administration in charge of fishing.

Transfer operations will be monitored by an underwater video camera. The recording will display the date and time of transfer.

### ***1.10 Trade measures***

All bluefin tuna trade must be accompanied by a duly validated bluefin tuna catch document (BCD).

### ***1.11 Sampling requirement***

At the time of transfer of live fish caught by Algerian purse seiners to a towing cage for farming in another CPC, a specific percentage of live fish must be sacrificed for sampling purposes, as required by the provisions of the ICCAT Recommendation. The randomly selected samples must be sacrificed, measured and weighed.

## **2. Monitoring and inspection plan**

### ***2.1 Joint international inspection plan***

As Algeria only has 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, it does not anticipate participating in the joint international inspection plan.

### ***2.2 Requirements of the vessel monitoring system***

The tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a beacon, which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and will start 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the fishing campaign.

### ***2.3 National observers programme***

Bluefin fishing operations for 2014 will be monitored throughout the fishing campaign by the Algerian controllers/observers deployed on board each purse seine and longline vessel, in accordance with the provisions of national regulation in force.

The mission of the controllers/observers deployed will include, among other activities, collecting all information relating to bluefin tuna fishing, completing the standard forms delivered to them before the start of the campaign and they will monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations regarding bluefin tuna fishing.

The controllers will be in permanent contact with the fishing administration and will communicate all the information related to fishing and transfer operations.

### ***2.4 Regional observers programme***

The owners of tuna purse seiners that are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2014 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board.

## 2.5 Landing ports

Bluefin tuna vessels can only land their catches in the ports designated by the competent authorities, which are as follows:

- Algiers, Annaba, Béjaïa, Cherchell, Oran and Ténès

## 2.6 Implementation measures

National regulation, in particular, the provisions of Law 01-11 of 3 July 2001 on fishing and aquaculture, sets out sanctions and penalties in cases of non-compliance with the provisions of regulatory measures concerning fishing activities.

Accordingly, in cases of non-compliance with closed fishing seasons, Article 89 of the above-mentioned law provides for custodial sentences and/or fines.

As regards non-compliance with minimum size and proportions of by-catches, Articles 90, 92 and 93 of the same law also provide for custodial sentences and/or fines.

## 3. Capacity management plan

The current fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e. 654 t (5.073% of the TAC). Accordingly, Algeria does not have overcapacity for bluefin tuna.

However, for 2014, and taking into account Algeria's reduced quota, 243.83 t, its fishing capacity will be adapted accordingly through the distribution of the quota among the active tuna vessels.

**Table 1.** Algeria's fishing capacity.

Vessel category	Best catch rates set by the SCRS		
		Number of vessels	Capacity (t)
PS between 24 and 40 metres	49.87	11	548.57
PS less than 24 metres	33.68	1	33.68
LL between 24 and 40 metres	5.68	1	5.68
LL less than 24 metres	30	2	60

## CHINA

### 1. Fishing Plan

**Fishing vessels:** In 2014, two longline vessels, namely *Jin Feng No.1* and *Jin Feng No.3*, will seasonally participate in a group manned to conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity.

**Fishing period:** Normally the vessel shifts to the fishing ground at the end of September and shall proceed to designated ports immediately when it is deemed that its individual quota is likely to be exhausted.

**Quota:** 38.19 metric tons in the 2014 fishing season.

### 2. Enforcement Plan

**Observers:** 100% observer coverage will be implemented annually during the BFT fishing season. The observers will record the required data and discards, monitor the catch, and 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 must contain the date, area of catch, fork 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 the ICCAT Secretariat.

**Transshipment:** Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes. Mindelo in Cape Verde 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 the aforementioned records do not match the content in the BCD, the document will be rejected by the government.

### 3. Capacity Management Plan

Due to the small quota allocated to China, the number of fishing vessels has been cut from four to two, to limit our catch under quota. Taking into account the serious sea conditions during that season and for the safety of the vessels, it is necessary to maintain two vessels fishing in a group manner and no further reduction could be made for the season.

The Individual Quotas allocated to each vessel authorized for BFT fishing in 2014 are as follows:

*Jin Feng No.1:* half of the BFT quota allocated to China

*Jin Feng No.3:* half of the BFT quota allocated to China

**Methodology used for Individual Quota Allocation:** The Individual Quota has been allocated provisionally in an equal share to each fishing vessel. Since the two vessels belong to one owner and their fishing season begins at the end of September each year, there will be a flexible carry over between the two vessels, provided the total catch by the two vessels is not over the Chinese BFT quota and that a prior notification to the Bureau of Fisheries is made and is so authorized; the Bureau of Fisheries will communicate such authorization to the Secretariat.

### EGYPT

Fishing activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. According to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that was adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of ICAAT in Cape Town (November 2013), the quota allocated to Egypt will be divided equally between the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are *Seven Seas*, which is registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) (50% of the quota) and *Khaled* (50% of the quota) also registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005).

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) will announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the General Authority for Fish Resources Development resolutions regarding bluefin tuna.

### Potential fishing grounds

The potential fishing ground for the eastern bluefin tuna fishery will be off the area along the Egyptian territorial and EEZ waters, Mediterranean Sea (26-32E).

### List of authorized bluefin tuna catching vessels

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development of Egypt (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2014. These 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 in the 2014 season. No towing licenses will be issued, and transshipment operations will not be allowed.

### **Allocation of BFT catch quota**

According to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that adopted at the 23rd Regular Meeting of ICAAT in Cape Town (November 2013), the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Egypt, will be divided equally between the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are *Seven Seas*, which is registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) (50% of the quota) and *Khaled* (50% of the quota), also registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005).

### **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 2014. Bluefin tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next years. Moreover, the closed season for the bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by the 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 these two Egyptian vessels. Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will also be allowed if a JFO is requested by our fishing companies.

#### ***BFT landing/transshipment ports***

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catch in the ports designated for that purpose.

The following ports have been designated by the relevant Fisheries Authority 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 the export and import of tuna

#### ***Vessel Monitoring System requirements***

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2014 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 fully implemented.

#### ***Towing operations***

No towing operations will be allowed for the Egyptian vessels. Live tuna transfer to other CPC towing vessel for the purpose of caging will be authorized. The prior transfer request shall be implemented.

#### ***Caging operations***

There are no caging operations in Egyptian waters.

#### ***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 87 of ICCAT Recommendation 10-4. 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 Mediterranean for better estimation and sampling programs at time of caging, under paragraph 88 of Rec.12-03.

In the case of a JFO with other CPCs this sampling process will be carried out jointly between the Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

BCD Scheme requirements will be fully implemented. In 2014, the eBCD will be used, but Egypt required a short-term training course on eBCD.

### ***Transshipment***

Transshipment at sea is completely 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 -using available inspection reports, regional and national observers reports and VMS data- onboard vessels and at ports.

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 landing declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoices and/or sales notes. Document cross checking with the other CPCs be also carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

### ***Enforcement***

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of bluefin tuna

#### ***Decree Number (827) for 2011***

- Article (1) on the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 25 of June to 25 of May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.
- Article (2) on the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for purposes of farming and development.

#### ***Decree Number (828) for 2011***

- Article (1) on 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 2011***

- Article (1) on 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) on prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD on board.
- 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. In the case of repetition of non-compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from the 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***

Two national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations 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.

Permanent observers will be in ports to follow up the landed catch and to review the on-board observers reports.

Concerning the ICCAT Regional Observers programme, Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have Arabic speaker observers for the two authorized vessels (100%), and to have their data early in order to issue the necessary permissions for them to work in Egyptian ports and waters.

### ***Use of aircraft***

There are no aircraft.

### ***Minimum size***

Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be implanted.

### ***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 ICATT 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 the time of capture for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs for better estimation and the sampling program at time of caging, under paragraph 88 of Rec.12-03,

In the case of a JFO with other CPCs this sampling process will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

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 ICATT.

## **Summary: Framework of MCS for the 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 CPCs; JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels "In case of their request "
- BCD scheme requirements
- Logbook requirements
- 100% ICATT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications

### ***Transfer***

- Prior transfer notification & authorized
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications
- 100% ICATT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessels)
- 100% National Observer coverage (for all towing vessel)
- BCD Scheme requirements
- ICATT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements

**Export**

- 100% GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization
- Representatives coverage
- BCD Scheme, eBCD will be used, but Egypt required a short term training course on eBCD

**Inspections**

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2014 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspectors.

**EUROPEAN UNION****1. Annual Fishing Plan 2014****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 Recommendation [08-05] to establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] amending ICCAT recommendation [08-05] adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] into EU law.

The EU is committed to follow the Recommendation [12-03] in 2014.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Recommendation [12-03], the quota for the EU in 2014 will be 7.939 t.

**1.2 Details**

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [12-03] the EU has drawn up an annual fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 metres and their associated individual quotas. Individual quotas are still being allocated by EU Member States authorities and will be applicable to all purse-seiners irrespective of their length.
- All purse seine vessels over 24 metres will be allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SRCS catch rates as adopted by the Commission for estimating fleet capacity.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [12-03] the EU has allocated quotas to the following sectors:

Purse seiners	[4525.1 t]
Longliners	[989.5 t]
Baitboats and trolling boats and line vessels	[836.2 t]
Atlantic trawlers	[150 t]
Traps	[1056.7 t]
By-catches, sport and recreational, reserve	[353 t]

- The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels' in accordance with paragraph 58 of ICCAT Recommendation [12-03].
- The EU submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all BFT fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 96, 15.04.2009, p.1

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [12-03] and other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries, including Recommendation [06-07], [11-20] and [11-21].

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2014 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 58 of Recommendation [12-03].

## **2. Inspection Plan 2014**

### **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 contains 8 Member States which actively fish BFT across a number of sectors. The authorities for control and inspection fall on different actors across Member States 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 State 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 currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) 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 conservation and management measures found under Recommendation [12-03] and the new SCIP should be implemented from mid-March 2014. The EU will forward details of the SCIP, including benchmarks for inspection, as soon as it is approved.

#### **2.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for bluefin tuna**

The resources of the European Commission are complemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) who will adopt their 2014 Joint Deployment Plan for bluefin tuna (JDP-BFT) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean 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 and as in previous years the 2014 plan brings together the European Commission, Member States and the EFCA and draws on the resources of the eight 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 aircraft. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2014 JDP-BFT will be the eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, 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, the European Commission and the European 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 in the EFCA 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 Recommendation [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.

### *2.2.3 Control of caging operations*

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The recently adopted Rec. 13-08, including the technical aspects involved in the use of the stereoscopic cameras, is to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. In 2014, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras. The EU Member States have also engaged into a wider reflection on how to further improve and harmonize these control procedure. For this purpose the EU, via EFCA, will be organizing a specific workshop prior to the first cagings taking place in 2014. The recently EU contacted the ICCAT secretariat to extend the invitation to this workshop to other Contracting parties. Furthermore, the EU is also preparing the transposition of the provisions contained in Rec. 13-08, for a full implementation for the 2014 fishing and caging season.

### *2.2.4 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 Program for 2014. 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.246/2012), include 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.

These Specific Control and Inspection Programmes and are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [12-03]. The full list of benchmarks to which the programs refer will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as the SCIP is adopted and in any case prior to the start of the fishing season.

### 2.2.5 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 to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfillment 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 2014 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2014.

### 2.2.6 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 will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

### 2.2.7 Cooperation with other CPCs

As in previous years, in 2014 the EU 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 methods and information, as illustrated by the organization by EFCA of a workshop on BFT controls, open to all CPCs.

## 3. EU capacity plan for 2014

<i>Catch rate</i>		<i>No. of Vessels and Traps</i>		<i>Capacity, tons</i>	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Catch Rate</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2014*</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2014*</i>
PS large (>40m)	70,7	38	18	2.685	1.272
PS med. (24-40m)	49,8	91	25	4.530	1.245
PS small (≤24m)	33,7	112	2	3.772	67
<i>PS total</i>		<i>241</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>10.987</i>	<i>2.584</i>
LL med. (24-40m)	5,7 t	7	6	40	34
LL small (≤24m)	5,0 t	329	104	1.645	520
<i>LL total</i>		<i>336</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>1.685</i>	<i>554</i>
Baitboat *	19,8 t	68	22	1.343	435
Handline *	5,0 t	101	101	505	505
Trawler	10,0 t	160	57	1.600	570
Other artisanal *	5,0 t	253	253	1.265	1.265
<b>Total</b>		<b>1159</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>17.385</b>	<b>5.912</b>
Trap	130,0	15	12	1.950	1.560
<b>Total</b>		<b>1174</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>19.335</b>	<b>7.472</b>

\* Within these categories and for the area delimited by 27°N to 29°N and 13°W to 18°W in the eastern Atlantic, the fishing season shall start on 24 March 2014 and shall end on 23 July 2014.

## ICELAND

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland.

In 2014 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 bycatches 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 2014 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 on board 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 2014. 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 bycatches. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it 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 2014.

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 16 June to 14 October. Vessels participation in E-BFT recreational fisheries need to have a licence from 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 bycatches are to be landed and recorded. 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 2014 allocated quota, from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

#### ***c) Quota and number of authorized fishing vessels***

Japan's quota for the 2014 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 2014 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. 13-07)

## **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. 13-07)

### ***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. 13-07)

### ***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. 13-07)

### ***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. 13-07). FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data. (Paragraph 89 of Rec. 13-07)

### ***e) Observers***

FAJ will place observers onboard LSTLVs (Paragraph 90 of Rec. 13-07).

### ***f) Inspection vessel***

FAJ will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2014 (Paragraph 101 of Rec. 13-07).

### ***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**

### ***a) 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, 20 vessels and 8,953 tons in 2012 so that its fishing capacity continues to be commensurate with its allocated quota.

### ***b) Adjustment of fishing capacity***

The Minister will continue to allocate each LSTLV an individual quota more than the capacity (25 t per one LSTLV) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 13-07, will continue to ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota.



	<i>Year 2011 (August 2011 ~ Jul. 2012)</i>	<i>Year 2012 (August 2012 ~ July 2013)</i>	<i>Year 2013 (August 2013 ~ July 2014)</i>	<i>Year 2014 (August 2014 ~ July 2015)</i>
Allocated quota (tons)	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55
Number of large scale longline vessels (Total GRT)	22 (9,831)	20 (8,953)	22 (9,641)	to be decided by June 2014
Individual quota per vessel per year allocated by the Government of Japan (tons)	49.865	54.850	51.797	to be decided by June 2014

## KOREA (REP.)

In accordance with the paragraph 11 of ICCAT Recommendation 13-07 (a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean), the Republic of Korea submits its fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT.

Korea has its bluefin tuna quota of 80.53 tons in 2014 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 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 (5.26-6.24, 2014).

Joint fishing operation with Libya will be conducted this year with bilateral 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.

The ICCAT Regional Observer will be deployed on board. Only bluefin tuna weighing over 30kg can be caught. Adjustment of farming capacity is not applicable as Korea has no farming facility. Transshipment at sea of bluefin tuna is prohibited. The vessel will comply with recording requirements, communications of catches and reporting of catches. The Korean authority will verify, including by using 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 only authorized by our authority in advance.

With regard to by-catch management, longline vessels not authorized to fish bluefin tuna should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any BCD made by the Korean longline vessels are not authorized to be validated by the Korean authority. The amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to our authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. All by-catch of bluefin tuna should be deducted from the quota of Korea.

In accordance with newly enacted Korea's Distant Water Fisheries Development Act (2014), the vessel should comply with other requirements and provisions in the Recommendation 13/07. 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 actions 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 2014
- Bluefin Tuna Quota: 80.53 t

## **LIBYA**

Following ICCAT Rec.13-07 amending ICCAT Rec.12.03 adopted at 2013 ICCAT annual meeting in Cape Town, Libya adopted the Ministerial Decree No.205/2013 amending Decree No. 61/2010 transposing the latest adopted ICCAT Rec.

Libya also will fully implement the new Recommendation in 2014.

### **1. Fishing Plan**

#### ***1.1 Fishing fleet***

The number of fishing vessels that will participate in catching E- BFT for the 2014 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea is: 15 catching vessels [14 purse seiners (PS), 24-40 m and 1 longliner (LL), over 40 m]. No vessels less than 24 m and no recreational or sport fishery will participate in the 2014 fishing season.

The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2014 BFT fishing season is: 6 vessels with no fishing gear on board, except transfer cage or services supplies.

Since the total allocated quota assigned to Libya in Rec.13-07, paragraph 9, is 937.65 t, then the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in the 2014 season will be distributed as follows:

- 14 Purse seiners over 24 m and one longliner over 40 m authorized to fish BFT in 2014 have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration the SCRS best catch rate, whereby 40 t will be allocated to one LL vessel over 40 m and 895 t will be allocated among 14 PS vessels (24- 40 m), with 2.65 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is indicated in **Table 1**, and any changes to this fishing possibilities allocation or vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT (Rec. 13-07).

The authorized vessels are expected to carry out fishing activities during the 2014 season in working groups and the details of these groups and allocation key will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.

The respecting of individual quota limits shall be monitored by the fishery authorities and cross checked with ROP and national observers on board fishing vessels.

All vessels deemed to have exhausted their individual quota shall be ordered into port immediately.

#### ***1.2 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 the ICCAT list.

If any request for a JFO received from a CPC that has less than 5 PS, Libya will study this request very carefully and will consent to the JFO after making sure that all the requirements of JFO required by Rec. 13-07 adapted at the last Commission meeting 2013 are fulfilled, and inform ICCAT Secretariat with its consent within the time frame required.

#### ***1.3 Enforcement of Fishing Plan***

##### ***1.3.1 Regulations***

- Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) No. 205/2013 amending Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic:
- Law No. 14/1989 which organizes the fishing and aquaculture in Libya.
- Other Acts that organize and manage BFT licenses.

### *1.3.2 Licensing*

Individual fishing permits shall be issued by the fishing Authority based upon Decree, No. 205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2014 specifying the following conditions as required by Rec. 13-07. As soon as the individual vessel quota is used, the vessel will be required to return to its home port and its fishing permit will be withdrawn.

- \* Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, Article-3/Decree No. 205/2013).
- \* Individual Quota Acc. (Art.11/Decree, No. 205/2013).
- \* Logbook on board Acc. (Art. 28/Decree, No. 205/2013).

### *1.3.3 Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)*

All fishing vessels and other vessels active in BFT fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a fully active VMS (Art.18/Decree No. 205/2013).

The fishing Authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed up immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

### *1.3.4 Observers*

Regional and national observers shall be placed on board all PS and LL vessels and traps authorized to fish BFT in 2014 (Art. 14/Decree, No. 205/2013).

A Regional Observer will be assigned at caging and harvesting in the BFT farm.

### *1.3.5 Reporting of catch*

The catch vessel master shall communicate by electronic or other means to competent authorities daily and weekly catch reports, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight, (Art.20/Decree No. 05/2013).

Daily ,weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels and traps active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

### *1.3.6 Transfer*

The catch vessel master shall request an authorization, by email or fax, from the competent authorities to transfer BFT catch, 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 the final destination conformed and signed by Regional Observer and the National Observer.

A numbered transfer authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements by paragraphs 77, 78, 79, 80..., of Rec. 13-07 are met.

In case there are indication of differences in the estimated weight of fish, including the number that died during the transfer operation, between the Regional Observer onboard the catching vessel and the vessel master by more than 10%, or 5% in case of number of fish less than 30 kgs, an investigation will take place according to the procedure stated in paragraph 87 of Recommendation13-07.

All BFT 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 the Regional Observer and vessel master (Art.24/Decree No. 205/2013).

The vessel master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to the fishing Authority after confirming the data from the Regional Observer (Art.25/Decree No. 205/2013).

The master of the tug boat shall not leave the transfer site before receiving the original documents which proves the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch Vessels Logbook (Art.23/Decree No. 205/2013).

The master of the fishing vessel or his representative shall inform the flag State competent authorities of the name, location and flag State of the farm to which the fish is marketed (Art. 21/Decree No. 205/2013).

The master of the catching vessel shall keep an on-board logbook of the operation and must complete the information on all vessel activities by midnight every day, and shall declare the number and weight of dead fish retained on board and to be landed in ports (Art.25/Decree No. 205/2013).

### *1.3.7 Sampling requirements*

All catches transfers will be documented by video footage.

All authorized PS vessels will have full deployment (100%) of ROP and National Observers; also all Tugs shall have a National Observer on board.

Libya shall require 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 at the towing cages to their farms.

### *1.3.8 Landing/transshipments ports*

Transshipment at sea is prohibited.

BFT fishing vessels shall only land/transship BFT catches in ports designated by the fishing Authorities (Al-khums, Tripoli and Misurata) ports.

All vessels entering any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities (Art.22/Decree No. 205/2013).

All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by Port and fishing Authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag State with a report (as stated in paragraph 70 of Rec.13-07).

### *1.3.9 Use of aircraft*

Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited (Art.10/Decree No. 205/2013).

### *1.3.10 Minimum size*

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg is prohibited (Atr.15/Decree No. 205/2013).

For catching vessels fishing actively for BFT, an incidental catch of a maximum 5% of fish weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted against Libyan quota.

### *1.3.11 Market measures*

Foreign and domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of BFT and its products, which are not accompanied by accurate, complete and a validated BCD is prohibited (Art.21 & 24/Decree No. 205/2013).

### *1.3.12 Imposing of sanctions*

Any non-compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree No. 205/2013/Art.17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota).

## **2. Fishing Inspection Plan**

The controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Libya are governed by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, No. 14/1989, Decree No. 205/2013, transposing Rec. 09-06, and by the Coast Guard and Port Security Act No. 229/2005, and considers the core legal documents that define activities and actions which are to be infringements of fishery policy.

## 2.1 Human Resources

Fishing inspection will be implemented by Fishing Inspectors from Fisheries Authority and Coast Guard personals and in coordination with Port Authority.

The Coast Guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea of all activities linked to fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with the consent of the Fishery Authority.

A Central Control Room will be established during the 2014 BFT 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 covering the management of fishery resources and a description of inspector tasks as per Rec. 13-07.

## 3. Capacity Management Plan

Libya reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with the requirement of ICCAT measures until its fishing capacity was commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**), considering (Rec.12-03 and Rec.13-07 – Article 9) where the new TACs set as 13400 t and the allocation for Libyan is 937.65 t for the 2013 and 2014 seasons, respectively.

**Table 1.** Catching vessel actually engaged in BFT fishing in the 2014 season.

No.	Vessel name	ICCAT No.	Vessel type	Individual Quota
1	ALHILAL	AT000LBY00016	PS, 24-40m	67.125
2	OZU-2	AT000LBY00009	PS, 24-40m	22.375
3	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	67.125
4	TRIPOLITANIA	AT000LBY00013	PS, 24-40m	67.125
5	MORINA	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	67.125
6	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	67.125
7	ALMAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	67.125
8	AL SSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	89.500
9	AL HARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	78.312
10	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	55.937
11	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	89.500
12	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038	PS, 24-40m	67.125
13	JARJAROMA	AT000LBY00023	PS, 24-40m	44.750
14	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	44.750
15	ZARQA ALYAMAMA	AT000LBY00003	LL over 40m	40.000
TOTAL				934.999

### 3.1 Farming (caging activities)

Libya has authorized and will activate one new BFT farm installation named (Blue Diamond), registered in ICCAT in 2013 / No. AT0001LIB00002, with a total capacity 1000 t of live BFT.

All caging for farming or fattening of BFT shall be accompanied by accurate, complete and validated documentation as required by ICCAT (Rec.13-07, paragraph 86).

All caging and harvesting operations shall be inspected by the competent Authority (Rec.13-07), including the requirement under paragraph 88 to implement a program using a stereoscopic camera system or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision covering of 100% of the caging operations in order to refine the number and weight of BFT caged.

### 3.2 Farming capacity plan

In accordance with paragraphs 52 and 53 of Rec.13-07, the Libyan farming installation targeting a maximum caging foreseen and desired in the 2014 season is about 1000 t; fish will be mostly imported by Libyan catching vessels.

Table 2- FISHING CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LIBYA 2010 - 2013

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)						Fishing capacity				
Type	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	1,493	1,444	1,045	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>1,527</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,045</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>1,627</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>871</b>
<b>TAC</b>								22,000	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
<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								1,092	726	903	903	903
Under/overcapacity								535	801	192	43	-32

Reduction 2011                      78.70%  
Reduction 2012                      95.20%  
Reduction 2013                      103.50%

## **MOROCCO**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with the provisions in force concerning the recovery of the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Recommendation 12-03, the aim of this document is to submit to the Commission for its approval the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for the 2014 fishing season.

In general terms, this plan is identical to the plan submitted to and adopted by the Commission for the 2013 fishing season.

### **1. Quota allocation/operational sectors**

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its last annual session, held in Cape Town, in November 2013, the national quota, which was set at 1,270.47 t, will be distributed among the operational segments, namely: (a) traps, (b) artisanal vessels and coastal vessels fishing not targeting bluefin tuna, and (c) two high seas purse seiners.

The Administration will establish the relevant quota levels for each of the sectors, in accordance with the ICCAT provisions on individual quotas and these will be notified by the deadlines set by the Commission.

### **2. Fishing conditions**

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the current annual bluefin tuna fishing management plan to take 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 undertakes to comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 12-03 during the 2014 fishing campaign, which will start in April for the trap segment.

### **3. Fishing capacity**

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 46 of ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorised to target bluefin tuna directly is broken down as follows:

- 10 traps
- 1 tuna purse seine vessel LOA>40 m
- 1 tuna purse seine vessel 24>LOA<40 m

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorised 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 will, as in the past, be counted against the quota limit allocated to the trap sector.

Accordingly, the national management/capacity reduction fishing plan for the 2014 fishing season is shown below:

	<i>Potential catches SCRS</i>	<i>Units registered with ICCAT before 2010</i>	<i>Theoretical catches</i>	<i>Authorized units for 2014</i>	<i>Theoretical catches for 2014</i>
PS large LOA > 40 m	70.7	2	141.4	1	70.7
PS med 24 < LOA < 40	49.8	3	149.9	1	49.8
PS small LOA < 24 *	33.7	1	33.7	0	0
LL large	0	0	0	0	0
LL med	5.7	1	5.7	0	0
LL small	5	63	315	0	0
Baitboats	19.8	0	0	0	0
Handliners	5	0	0	0	0
Trawlers	10	1	10	0	0
Other artisanal**	5	pm	pm	pm	26.97
Traps (Moroccan indicators)	112.3	18	2,021.4	10	1,123
Total		89	2,691.6	12	1,270.47
2013 quota					1,270.47
Total theoretical catches			2,691.6		1,270.47
Theoretical rate of capacity/quota excess					0.0

pm: To be reported.

#### 4. Fishing periods and areas where fishing is prohibited

In accordance with the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the fishing periods authorised by the Commission for the different gears will be applied.

#### 5. Control and compliance

Fishing monitoring, control and surveillance practices will be implemented in accordance with the national and international regulations in force, and will be carried out in the 2014 *Modus operandi*, which has the following objectives:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities
- Monitoring and control of transfer and caging activities
- Communication scheme and the reporting of fishing, transfer and caging information
- VMS monitoring of fishing vessels and support vessels (trap vessels)
- Documentary procedure for bluefin tuna trade
- Compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
- Compliance with international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco vis-à-vis the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

#### 6. Other information

Morocco will reactivate the authorised farming facility AT001MAR00001 through a pilot scheme whereby 200 t will be supplied from two authorised traps. Moreover, the facility will operate under a new legal identity and a new geographical location.



## NORWAY

### 1. Background

Norway became member of ICCAT in 2004. In light of the stock situation for bluefin tuna, Norway adopted 3 May 2007 a prohibition for that year for Norwegian vessels to fish and land bluefin tuna in Norway's territorial waters, in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in international waters. A new regulation adopted 19 December 2007 provides for the same prohibition. This regulation, which entered into force 1 January 2008, has remained in force until now. Consequently, there has been no targeted fishery for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone during the past years.

Following ICCAT Recommendation [13-07] adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, Norway will in 2014 open up for a limited exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna. The Norwegian fishing and inspection plans are presented below. As Norway has not had any targeted fishery for bluefin tuna over the last years, and hence no fishing vessels targeting this species, no capacity management plan is presented.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2014 adopted 13 February 2014. In addition to national requirements, this Regulation covers the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation [13-07].

### 2. Annual Fishing Plan 2014

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 9, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2014 is 30,97 tonnes.

Norway has established the following fishing plan for bluefin tuna in 2014:

- A targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October.
- One purse seine vessel will be authorized to participate in this fishery.
- The vessel will be allocated a quota of 30 tonnes of bluefin tuna.
- 970 kilos of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catch in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna.
- All catches shall be landed. Vessels not targeting bluefin tuna shall release incidental by-catch of bluefin tuna if alive. Dead or dying bluefin tuna shall be landed.
- Transshipment of bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- Both the purse seine vessel authorized to target bluefin tuna and vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead or dying bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.
- The vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna can be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.
- Recreational and sport fisheries for bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 28, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes or helicopters will be prohibited.
- In accordance with Recommendation [13-07], paragraphs 91 and 92, the vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have an ICCAT regional observer onboard and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 17, no carry-over of any under-harvest will be allowed.

### 3. Annual Inspection Plan 2014

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 58, Norway will submit information concerning the vessel authorized to conduct the exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing season.

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. The Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) will follow also the bluefin tuna fishery closely.

The vessel authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour and electronic logbook on a daily basis. Both position reports and electronic logbooks will be received by the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of either VMS signals or electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by our staff at the FMC.

The Norwegian Coast Guard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.

VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Rec 03-14.

Landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries in real time, and the reported catches will be deducted from the vessel's quota. Officers at the Directorate of Fisheries will also cross-check information obtained from VMS, electronic logbooks and landing/sales notes.

All landings will be monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries.

When the Norwegian quota of bluefin tuna is exhausted, the Directorate of Fisheries will stop the fishery.

## **SYRIA**

### **Fishing Plan of BFT for 2014 Fishing Season**

Referring to the 23rd Regular Meeting of ICCAT held from 18 to 28 November 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa, which was attended by our representative Mr. Bassam Darwish (Syrian Ambassador in South Africa) and according to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2014, Syria has an annual quota of 33.58 tons of bluefin tuna (BFT) from the Mediterranean Sea catch during the 2014 season. The Syrian Arab Republic adopted the following plan for the 2014 season:

#### **1. Fishing vessels**

The number of registered vessels in Syria for catching BFT and other species of tuna 19 boats, with only one boat (Fesal) registered in ICCAT in the past years witch used previously to catch Syrian quota.

The vessels classified according to the length as follows:

- Two vessels with length of more than 20 m.
- 6 vessels with length between 15 m and 20 m.
- 11 vessels smaller than 15 m.

(The tables sent to the Secretariat\* show details about all vessels. ICCAT will be informed of any change on the data.)

#### **2. Fishing procedures**

- The applications submitted by fishermen will be discussed for issuing a special fishing license to each boat authorized to fish BFT in 2014 according to the laws and regulations in Syria, taking into account the recommendations and specifications adopted by ICCAT.
- Fishermen will be informed of the fishing and closed seasons as adopted by ICCAT.
- Observer operations during closing season will be conducted by protection monitors working in the General Commission for Fisheries Resources, and sailing from ports determined by the General Directorate of Ports; sanctions will be applied against violators according to national laws.  
(Syria will submit the names and specifications of the licensed vessels that will participate in the 2014 BFT fishing season before starting fishing operations.)

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\* Available upon request.

### **3. Fishing operations**

- Only vessels licensed to fish BFT will be allowed to participate in fishing operations during the BFT fishing season.
- The catch will be monitored and recorded daily throughout the fishing season by accredited observers.
- The BFT catch will be landed at the specified fishing port in Lattakia.
- Respecting individual quota limits for vessels shall be monitored by national observers on board.
- Monitoring operations by protection observers from the General Commission for Fisheries Resources will continue after the close of the season to prevent any IUU fishing operation.
- No activities for recreational or sport fishery.
- No use of aircraft shall be allowed for catching operations.

(Daily and monthly catch reports of all authorized Syrian vessels active in the BFT catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format established for this purpose.)

### **4. Joint fishing operations**

- The fishing operations will be conducted by national vessels. Foreign vessels are not allowed to catch Syrian allocated quota.
- No joint fishing operations with any foreigner vessels.

(Any fishing contract with foreign vessels or joint fishing operations will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately.)

### **5. Marketing**

- The quota allocated to Syria is very small and often marketed at once in the local market or may export in accordance with regulations after approval of the official authorities.

(The ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of catch quotas at the time.)

### **6. Farms**

There are not net any facilities for farming BFT in Syrian waters; BFT will not be caught in small sizes or weights.

### **7. Important note**

Due to exceptional circumstances in Syria for the past three years we could not attend the scheduled meetings of ICCAT to discuss the matters related to BFT fishing, which led to prevent Syria from fishing BFT during the past two seasons, we request the ICCAT Secretariat to allow Syria to carry over the unused 2012 and 2013 quotas from BFT, and to be added to our quota for the 2014 fishing season. (We should be grateful if our request is discussed and considered in next annual meeting in Italy.)

## **TUNISIA**

### **1. Fishing plan**

All the Tunisian fishing vessels expected to fish for bluefin tuna during the 2014 season are tuna purse seiners.

The fishing management of these vessels in 2014 will be governed, as in 2013, in accordance with the national regulation as well as ICCAT Recommendations.

In 2014, the competent authority will continue to monitor fishing activities between 26 May and 24 June, through the monitoring of VMS data.

In 2014, Tunisia will continue to grant individual quotas to its vessels, and the national quota will be distributed among the tuna vessels in such a manner that the fishing capacity of each vessel is commensurate to the quota allocated to it. The quota allocation methodology that will be adopted in 2014 will be the same as in 2013.

The number of vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna is set at 21 vessels, as in 2013.

The vessel names and the volumes of the preliminary individual vessel quotas are provided in **Table 2**.

Under the Tunisian regulation, transshipment of fishing products is subject to prior authorisation, and the competent authority will maintain this provision in 2014. Consequently, there will be no transshipment at sea of bluefin tuna, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendations.

The Tunisian regulation also requires that the landing of fishing products must take place in Tunisian fishing ports, except where exceptional authorisation is included in the fishing permit. This provision will also be maintained in 2014 and the pertinent measures will be taken to avoid any landing of bluefin tuna outside the designated ports.

In 2013, the Tunisian administration deployed 16 observers on board Tunisian vessels. In 2014, the administration anticipates maintaining the same number of observers.

### ***1.1 Joint fishing operations***

Within the context of implementation of the ICCAT provisions, during the 2014 season the Tunisian administration plans to authorise 21 vessels to engage in joint bluefin fishing operations. Information related to the duration of the joint fishing operations, the identities of the participating operators, the individual vessel quotas, the allocation keys among the vessels for the catches concerned and the information on the farming facilities of destination will be communicated to ICCAT within the required time period before the start of the campaign.

### ***1.2 Chartering***

The Tunisian regulation prohibits foreign vessels, in particular, tuna vessels, from fishing in Tunisian waters, and the chartering of bluefin fishing vessels is therefore prohibited.

### ***1.3 VMS reporting***

In 2014, Tunisia will continue to implement the VMS system for bluefin fishing vessels. In accordance with ICCAT requirements, all vessels over 15 m, including towing vessels and support vessels, will be equipped with VMS devices. Accordingly, in 2014, the activities of some 40 vessels will be monitored by this VMS system.

The data related to the authorised vessels and their itineraries will also be transmitted regularly and within the time periods required by https between the ICCAT server and those of *Centre d'administration et de gestion des informations des pêches-CAGIP* (Fishing Information Administration and Management Centre), located in Tunis.

### ***1.4 Record of farming facilities***

Six Tunisian farming facilities are included in the ICCAT register. Four farms were operational in 2013 and deployed observers. Moreover, a farm associated with one of the four farms, and one (THC) was not ready to operate as a farming facility in 2013. This farm is expected to become operational in 2014.

## **2. Fishing capacity management plan**

### ***2.1 Fishing capacity management plan***

In 2014, Tunisia will continue to comply with the obligation to reduce the capacity defined in the ICCAT Recommendation so that this rate corresponds to at least 100% of the fishing capacity and the capacity commensurate with the quota for 2014. For this purpose, 20 vessels over 24 m long and one vessel less than 24 m long will be authorised to participate in the 2014 bluefin tuna fishing season. There will probably be a change in the structure of the fleet.

The attached **Table 1** shows Tunisia's planned fishing capacity for the 2014 fishing season, in numbers, according to length range of the vessels.

## **2.2 Farming capacity management plan**

Pursuant to paragraphs 52 and 53 of Recommendation 13-07, Tunisia envisages maintaining in 2014 the same farming capacity of bluefin tuna caged in 2013, i.e. 2,134 tonnes, which includes imports entering Tunisian farming facilities (**Table 3**).

The companies SNB and THC plan on carrying out their activities independently from the substitute facility (ex-SMT), which may partner with the company TT in 2014.

## **3. Inspection plan**

In Tunisia, the control and monitoring of bluefin fishing are governed by Law 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing and by its implementing measures, and in particular, the Decree of 21 May 2008, as amended by the Decree of 10 June 2013, on the organisation of bluefin fishing.

This law defines the steps taken to ensure implementation of the fisheries resources conservation and management measures, *inter alia*, the species managed by ICCAT as well as the enforcement measures for fishing vessels infringing the provisions of this law.

Moreover, this law lists the agents authorised to detect fishing infringements.

### **3.1 Human and technical inspection resources**

Inspection in the fishing areas will be carried out by the active maritime surveillance services attached to the fishing administrations, customs and coastal surveillance services. This control will cover, in particular, the activities of fishing vessels in waters under national sovereignty or jurisdiction.

During the 2014 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, and within the context of implementation of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection, it is envisaged that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the joint international inspection scheme during the bluefin fishing season. This vessel will work in partnership with vessels attached to the active at sea surveillance and control services.

The team of inspectors expected to be embarked on board AMILCAR will comprise, in addition to the regular crew, a commanding officer attached to the coastal surveillance services and three inspectors.

The joint activities linked to the fisheries inspection operations will be planned and coordinated among the different inspection vessels and administrations involved.

The agents boarding the inspection vessels will be certified. On this basis, they will be authorised to perform checks on fishing vessels or any means which may contain aquatic species, in particular bluefin tuna, as well as on any fishing gears used. The main tasks will focus particularly on verification of compliance with and observance of ICCAT recommendations as well as the drafting of inspection reports, in accordance with the model established and approved by ICCAT.

A training session for inspectors is scheduled for March 2014. This session will deal with compliance with ICCAT recommendations and specifically with bluefin tuna catches, transfer of fish to towing vessels, on-board documents and the smooth conduct of inspection operations etc.

**Table 1.** Tunisia's fishing capacity for 2014.

<i>Vessel category</i>	<i>Catch level</i>	<i>2010</i>		<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>		<i>2014*</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>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
PS 40 m or over	70.66	1	70.66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS between 24 m & 40 m	49.78	24	1,194.72	19	945.82	20	995.6	20	995.6	20	995.6
PS less than 24	33.68	16	538.88	4	134.72	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68
LL less than 24 m	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>1,809.26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,080.54</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,029.28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,029.28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,029.28</b>
<b>% reduction</b>					<b>76.78 %</b>		<b>98.51 %</b>		<b>103.68%</b>		<b>103.68%</b>

\*Data for information purposes only.

**Table 2.** List of Tunisia's tuna vessels and individual quotas for 2014.

	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT register</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>Vessel owner</i>
1	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065	36.7	98.04	Socoplat
2	Ghedir El Golla	AT000TUN00030	35.05	98.04	Socoplat
3	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051	37	87.72	Meridien Pêche
4	Hassen	AT000TUN00008	26.84	49.02	Meridien Pêche
5	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046	32.3	29.24	Société Ben Hmida et Cnie
6	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024	29.25	49.02	Société Ben Hmida et fils
7	Tijani	AT000TUN00026	27.2	29.24	Société Ben Hmida et fils
8	Horchani	AT000TUN00009	32.65	88.58	Horchani Pêche
9	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014	25.4	29.24	Horchani Pêche
10	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049	35	29.24	Jomaa Chaari
11	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025	31.85	29.24	Jomaa Chaari
12	Haj hedi	AT000TUN00007	28	29.24	Société Chaari et fils
13	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070	34.9	49.02	Spac Services
14	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045	28	29.24	Tahar Hajji-Cnie
15	Sallem	AT000TUN00023	38.13	78.26	Fish Tunisie
16	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037	34.39	49.02	Fish Tunisie
17	Imen	AT000TUN00010	29.10	58.48	Sami Neifer
18	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047	25.3	58.91	Mohamed Chiha

19	Abou Chamma	AT000TUN00002	25.42	39.13	Héritiers Kamel Moncer
20	Ghali	AT000TUN00036	21.94	19.78	Nejib Chiha
21	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479	37.05	29.24	Sté Dauphin
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,056.940</b>		

**Table 3.** Farming capacity for 2014.

<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Facility management</i>	<i>Maximum caging planned in 2014 (t)</i>
AT001TUN00001	S. VMT Sahbi Sallem	356
AT001TUN00002	S. TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane *Substitute facility	444 444
AT001TUN00004	S. TFT Ridha Sallem	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida & Sami Neifer	267
AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji & Mohamed Chiha	267

\* Temporary arrangement, the company being set up plans to partner with VMT.

## **TURKEY**

### **1. Eastern Bluefin Tuna Fishing Plan for 2014**

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 grounds 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 2014 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 2014 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 13 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 2014 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 2014 season, shall be issued for 13 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 2014, the objected quota level of 556.660 metric tons (t) shall be respected to contribute to the multi-annual recovery plan for E-BFT. In this regard, 540.523 t of quota shall be allocated to 13 E-BFT catching vessels acquiring special fishing permits for the 2014 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 2014 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 2014 E-BFT fishing season***

#### ***1.7.1 Fishing period and open season***

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2014 to 24 June 2014 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 2014 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.13-07.

#### *1.7.6 Towing and caging operations*

Provisions regulating towing and caging operations shall be applied as laid down in ICCAT Recommendation 13-07.

#### *1.7.7 Transfer operations*

All transfer operations shall be carried out in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation No.13-07.

#### *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 2014.

#### *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 115 cms shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.14 Sampling requirements*

During the course of the year 2014, E-BFT sampling requirements shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 87 and 88 of ICCAT Recommendation 13-07 and provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 13-08.

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. In this context, technical specifications defined in ICCAT Recommendation 13-08 will be applied.

The operators who will not be able to implement the above-mentioned technological 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 2014***

In 2014, Turkey plans to continue its contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection with 55 vessels from Turkish Coast Guard Command with 183 inspectors and 30 vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command.

## 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
- Log Book requirements
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage,
- Cross-checks for verification



### Transfer

- Prior transfer notification and 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 2014 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL and other CPCs' Inspection/Control Assets),
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season.

**3. Turkey's Fishing Capacity Management Plan for 2014**

Category	Catch rate	Number of vessels			Catch rates of the vessels		
		2008	2010	2014	2008	2010	2014
PS 40	70,66	47	11	0	3.321	777,26	0
PS 24-40	49,78	49	6	13	2.439	298,68	647,14
PS 24	33,68	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		96	18	13	5.760	1075,94	647,14
<b>ALLOCATED QUOTA</b>					887,90	419,183	556,66

**4. Turkey's Provisional Inspection Plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2014****4.1 Introduction**

The Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2014 with 55 Coast Guard boats and 62 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, the participation of high seas inspection vessels from the Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) in the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, the Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 97 inspector staff and 24 vessels to participate in ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2014.

Due to logistical reasons, the envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may subsequently be subject to some changes. The provisional list of active inspection vessels is given in **Annex1**.

Details of the planned at-sea inspection plan are given in the following sections.

#### ***4.2 Planning of inspection activities***

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons are planned to be focus for 2014. It is estimated that the locations where fishing and towing vessels were detected by the inspection assets still have the potential of concentrated bluefin tuna fishing and transferring activities.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored on the premises of the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock and at Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as at regional operation centers of TCGC.

The CGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

#### ***4.3 Inspection time and area by regions***

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Turkey, the high seas of the Mediterranean and the high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of the bluefin tuna (BFT) fishing season.

#### ***4.4 Means of at-sea inspections***

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at BFT fishing grounds which are determined based on 2013 risk assessment data.

As for TNFC, the inspections are being planned to be conducted during the whole period of the fishing season with the NFC flagged frigates and corvettes. However, in accordance with the planned missions, the inspections may be conducted in other areas within the international waters by TNFC, as far as possible.

#### ***4.5 Planned number of ICCAT inspection assets to be deployed***

Number of coastal patrol vessels: 55 (details of 4 Coast Guard boats will be communicated as soon as available)

Number of high seas patrol vessels/inspection vessels: 24 (including 4 search & rescue ships)

Where needed or required, additional vessels and/or inspector staff shall be authorized. Within the bounds of possibility, aerial inspections are also planned to be carried out by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts by NFC during the entire BFT fishing period for 2014.

Five staff will be working permanently in shifts on a 24 hour basis at the Coast Guard Main Operational Center in Ankara. In addition to Main Operation Center in Ankara Headquarters, 3-4 staff will be working in shifts at each operation center of the Turkish Coast Guard Regional Commands which are located in Izmir and Mersin and the operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Group Commands which are located in Iskenderun, Antalya, Marmaris and Çanakkale.

The TNFC Operations Center shall maintain its communication with the inspector vessels during 24 hours. With a view of activities' coordination in the Operations Center, 3 officers and 4 Petty Officers will be employed fulltime.

FlagName	IDName	IDNumber	Type	Active Year
Turkey		TCSG-1	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-101	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-102	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-103	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-104	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-105	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-108	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-109	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-11	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-13	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-14	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-16	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-18	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-2	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-3	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-302	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-304	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-305	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-306	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-308	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-309	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-310	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-311	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-313	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-6	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-61	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-62	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-67	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-68	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-7	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-70	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-73	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-8	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-80	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-81	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-82	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-83	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-89	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-9	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-91	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-92	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-57	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-84	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-85	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-107	Ships	2014
Turkey		TSCG-20	Ships	2014
Turkey		SG-DOST	Ships	2014
Turkey		SG-GUVEN	Ships	2014
Turkey		SG-UMUT	Ships	2014

Turkey		SG-YASAM	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-21	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BAFRA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BANDIRMA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BARBAROS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BARTIN		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BEYKOZ		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BODRUM		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BOZCAADA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG FATIH		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GAZIANTEP		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GEDIZ		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GELIBOLU		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GEMLIK		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GİRESUN		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GOKCEADA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GOKOVA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GOKSU		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG HEYBELIADA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG KEMALREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG ORUCREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG SALIHREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG TURGUTREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG YAVUZ		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG YILDIRIM		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG ZAFER		Ships	2014

## CHINESE TAIPEI

### Chinese Taipei's Regulation Prohibiting Fisheries of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in 2014

In accordance with ICCAT Rec.13-07, I have the honour to inform you that a regulation has been established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2014. Besides, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations, bycatch of bluefin tuna shall be released or discarded, and recorded on the logbook to this Agency:

Furthermore, in accordance with the paragraph 62 of ICCAT Rec. 13-07, I hereby inform you that Chinese Taipei also prohibited our fishing vessels from fishing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in 2013, which was notified to you by mail on 1 February 2013.

## Appendix 5

### REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF REC. 12-03 [PA2/COC-004]

#### 1. Dates of vessels

Where vessels have been on BFT lists in previous years, can the start date of the authorisation remain as the original date, or should it be changed to the current year?

**Current understanding:** The lists are annual and the start date should change each year. Vessels whose authorizations have expired (i.e., previous year vessels) should be removed from the list.

## RESPONSES:

**EU** - *We agree with the understanding of the Secretariat.*

**Tunisia** - *The effective authorization date is the one contained in the document. This document is issued each year. It is therefore suggested that the ICCAT lists of authorised vessels be annual.*

## 2. Submission of BFT\_other lists

For BFT\_other lists Rec. 12-03 currently reads: *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.*

Not all BFT\_other vessels of a given CPC, however, have the same authorisation periods and hence a “list” cannot be submitted, but inclusions in the Record. Guidance is sought on the following:

- a) Can multiple submissions be accepted?
- b) Must these lists be annual?
- c) When a vessel is already on the Record, but an extension to the authorisation period is reported, does the one month in advance rule apply, or is notification before expiry sufficient?

**Current understanding:** As the Secretariat is unsure how to deal with this issue, in 2013 multiple submissions have been accepted, but on the general assumption that authorisations should be for yearly periods. For new vessels, or vessels which have already expired, the one month in advance rule should apply, but for vessels which are still authorised, extensions to authorisation periods are accepted any time *before* the expiry of the current authorisation.

## RESPONSES:

**EU** - *a) Yes; b) Yes; c) We agree with the Secretariat position.*

**Tunisia** - *The extensions of authorization periods should be accepted at any time, before the expiration of the current authorization. For new vessels, the one month in advance rule should apply except for replacements of authorized vessels.*

## 3. Vessels to be registered under the BFT-other list

Rec. 12-03 does not define “other” vessels beyond catching vessels being excluded. Catching vessels are defined as b) *"Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.* Some CPCs have included vessels which may take bluefin tuna as by-catch in the BFT-other vessel list, as the primary use of these vessels is not the commercial capture of bluefin tuna. This results in these vessels being assigned an ICCAT number, which is then used on the BCDs. Can BFT-other vessels catch bluefin and report BCDs?

**Current understanding:** The Secretariat has included the lists of BFT-other vessels as reported by CPCs with by-catch vessels included. While Rec. 12-03 stipulates that a vessel cannot be on both BFT catching and BFT other lists, there is no provision to indicate that BFT-other vessels cannot take bluefin as by-catch. Confirmation that by-catch vessels may/should be included on BFT-other vessel list is sought.

## RESPONSES:

**EU** - *The EU interpretation is that vessels authorised on the "Other Vessels" list are not vessels authorised to have by-catch of BFT during the period of authorisation. It would be useful to have clarification from the Secretariat.*

**Tunisia** - *Vessels that do not carry out commercial fishing can be assimilated to other bluefin tuna vessels in accordance to Rec. 13-07 and can therefore be included on the ICCAT list of bluefin tuna other vessels.*



#### 4. End of authorization dates of vessels BFT\_catching/BFT\_other list

When a vessel is reported as having finished its quota or finished operating in a given year, which of the following actions should be taken:

- a) No action, the vessel remains in the Record for the remainder of the current year with the original dates reported.
- b) The dates of the vessel authorization should be amended to reflect the end date, but the vessel continues to appear on the web site for the remainder of the current year.
- c) The vessel should be removed from the Record of authorized vessels (on the assumption it is no longer authorized).

**Current understanding:** The Secretariat is currently operating under the instructions of the CPCs and modifying dates (option b) when requested. Confirmation that this is in accordance with paragraph 58 of Rec. 12-03 is sought.

RESPONSES:

*EU - The EU advocates the removal of the vessel from the Record of Authorised Vessels, but this removal should be followed by a confirmation from the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - When information is reported that a vessel has caught its quota or no longer operates in a given year, the authorisation dates should be modified upon request of the CPCs concerned.*

#### 5. Changes to fishing plan

Clarification of paragraph 15 in Rec. 12-03 concerning modifications of fishing plan. What is the deadline for last modification of the plan, and which modifications are permitted? Does 48 hours refer to start of fishing season or the start of activity?

**Current understanding:** Rec. 12-03, paragraph 15, allows for modification to the CPC fishing plan and/or individual vessel quotas allocated by the CPC, provided that 48 hours notification is transmitted to the Secretariat. The 48 hour period for advance notification is established in relation to the fishing activity or vessel allocation that is being modified from the previously endorsed plan. The 48 hour notice is not linked to the start date of the fishing season for the vessel and gear type concerned.

RESPONSES:

*EU- We agree with the understanding of the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - The 48 hour information which should be reported to the Secretariat for the last modification of the fishing plan should refer to the start of the fishing activity.*

#### 6. Transfer declarations JFOs

In case of a JFO, does only the vessel which caught the fish need to fill out the transfer declaration, or does every vessel involved in the JFO have to fill out this declaration.

**Current understanding:** In the case of a JFO, the transfer declaration (ITD) must be completed and signed only by the reference vessel associated to the cargo of live fish.

RESPONSES:

*EU - If the Secretariat means that the ITD must only be signed by the catching vessel, then we agree with the Secretariat. [Secretariat confirms this is what is meant.]*

*Tunisia - In the case of a JFO, only the vessel that catches the fish has to complete the transfer declaration.*

## 7. By-catch vessels

Can vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna but are authorised to take this species as by-catch be added to the ICCAT Record of BFT vessels? If so, to which list should they be added, BFT\_catching or BFT\_other.

**Current understanding:** CPCs are not required to register such vessels but may do so if they wish. The Secretariat understands that they should be added to BFT\_catching, but submissions for inclusion in BFT\_other list have been received, and processed as such.

RESPONSES:

*EU - Our understanding is that at the EU level there is no compulsory requirement to register vessels on the list.*

*Tunisia - Vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna and yet are authorised to catch this species as by-catch can be added to the ICCAT record of bluefin tuna vessels on the list of bluefin tuna other vessels.*

## 8. Catching other species

If a BFT purse seiner also licenced to catch other species catches its BFT quota early in the season, can it continue to fish for other species during the BFT fishing season? If so, do they need an ICCAT observer on board during this period.

**Current understanding:** The vessels may continue to fish for other species under the MCS measures of its CPC. Paragraph 91 of Rec. 12-03 states that “An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage - on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna”. However, once the quota is reached, the vessel is no longer authorized to fish for bluefin tuna and hence no longer needs an observer.

RESPONSES:

*EU- We agree with the understanding of the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia- A purse seiner that targets bluefin tuna holds a specific license for bluefin tuna fishing during the fishing season. It is therefore not authorized to target other species with this licence. If the vessel exhausts its bluefin tuna quota before the end of the season, it is requested to proceed to the port of registry until the end of the season. However, the purse seiner could be authorized to operate after the bluefin tuna fishing season if it hold a fishing permit for other species.*

## 9. Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs)

If one of the vessels in a JFO returns to the port and stops its activity, can the other vessels continue to operate in the JFO? If so, what notification period is required for the change in individual quotas of the vessels and allocation key of the JFO?

**Current understanding:** The other vessels may continue fishing, but any changes to individual quotas or the allocation key must be notified in accordance with the deadline stipulated in paragraph 20 of Rec. 12-03.

RESPONSES:

*EU- If a vessel has been de-authorised and stopped its activities, the JFO in which this vessel is involved is no longer operational; it would be useful to get clarification from the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - If a vessel taking part in a JFO proceeds to port and terminates its activities, the other vessels can continue to operate within the framework of the JFO. A 48h notification period could be applied for the modification of individual quotas of vessels and the allocation of the JFO.*

## 10. Fishing, Capacity and Inspection Plans

The deadline for provisional plans for conducting inspection is 1 January according to Annex 8 of Rec. 12-03, but paragraph 11 of Rec. 12-03 requires the fishing, inspection and capacity management plans by 15 February. Does the inspection plan referred to in paragraph 11 include inspection under the International Scheme of Joint Inspection referenced in Annex 8. If not, what should such plan include? Does the non-submission of an inspection plan under Paragraph 11 automatically lead to the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing?

RESPONSES:

*EU-We consider that these are two distinct plans and we advocate the suspension of BFT fishing.*

*Tunisia - Fishing, capacity and inspection plans should be submitted before the 15 February and should include information on inspection within the framework of the Joint International Inspection Scheme. If this plan has not been submitted by a CPC, the provisional inspection plan presented under Annex 8 should prevail and should be submitted for review of the inter-sessional meeting responsible of this issue.*

## 11. Traps

Can traps be added to the ICCAT Record by CPCs that have not previously listed any traps?

The Secretariat has received a request for the inclusion of a new trap in the ICCAT Record of Traps. This CPC did not have any registered traps in 2008 or since then. Rec. 13-07 (and previous Recs.) states that “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”.

**Current understanding:** From the provisions indicated above, it is the Secretariat’s understanding that the total number of traps should remain at 2008 levels for all CPCs. If this number was 0, then the CPC cannot register a trap. Confirmation or otherwise of this sought.

## 12. NCPs and BFT\_other vessels

Can non-CPCs with carrier vessels on the ICCAT Record include such carriers on the BFT-other list (a requirement in order to be able to transport BFT)?

**Current understanding:** Rec. 12-06 allows non-CPCs to include their vessels on the Record of Carrier Vessels. As Recommendation, paragraph 57.b states that “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”, and does not expressly exclude the possibility of non-CPCs including vessels, the Secretariat would understand that such vessels may be included and should be included to prevent any possible IUU transport activity of BFT.

## Appendix 6

### REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS OF PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES [PA2/COC-006]

#### BET/YFT vessel list:

Rec. 11-01: The current deadline is 1 July, but most CPCs are reporting, on 1 July, the list of vessels from January to December of the year of reporting. This often leaves a gap of six months where the vessels on the list do not have current authorization. For which period should the list submitted 1 July cover?

#### Port inspection:

1. Rec. 12-07: It has been noted that few CPCs have sent their lists of authorised ports, but the Secretariat has received information regarding vessels entering ports outside their CPC which are not on the list. The

Recommendation is silent on the obligations of flag CPCs of the vessels in relation to this measure. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendations, can CPCs allow their vessels to enter ports which are not on the ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports?

2. CPCs shall apply Recommendation [12-07] in respect of foreign fishing vessels *carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed or transshipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels"*.  
Does this include carrier vessels and container vessels, or only catching vessels?
3. Para 20 of Rec. 12-07 states that *"The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted."*  
What should the Secretariat do with the reports received if no infringement is reported?
4. Para 26 c) of Rec. 12-07 provides that *"Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation"*. To date, one Cooperating Party has requested assistance with training, and has indicated that they could pay for such training, but the Secretariat has no guidance to offer. What is the role of the Secretariat in the implementation of this provision?