

Original: English/Spanish

**ICCAT SECRETARIAT REPORT
TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH
ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES CURRENTLY IN FORCE**

NOTE: This report is based on information and submission transmitted until **16 October 2016**. Any information received after that deadline will be brought to the attention of the COC Chair. This additional information shall not be translated.

The structure presented in 2015 has been maintained for 2016. This document follows the structure of the Compendium (document **PLE_102/16**). The Compliance Committee may wish to give more guidance on how to report on implementation of measures in the future, to obtain a more complete picture.

1. BET - BIGEYE TUNA (*Thunnus obesus*)

[15-01] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas [Note: this plan also relates to yellowfin and skipjack tunas]

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex (**COC_304/16**).

The Philippines confirmed the transfer of 1,200 t to China before the entry into force of Rec. 15-01 (paragraph 3 of Rec. 15-01).

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Rec. 15-01, some Contracting Parties (Belize, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, European Union, France SPM, Ghana, Korea, Mexico, UK-OT, USA and Chinese Taipei) have submitted their quarterly bigeye catches for the first and second quarter of 2016. The data received are presented in **Table 12**. Although a specific quota was assigned to the Philippines, no quarterly reports have been received. The Philippines, however, does not currently have any vessel authorised to fish in the ICCAT Convention area.

In accordance with Rec. 15-01, paragraph 4 (c), El Salvador has submitted its fishing development plan for review by the Commission, as presented in document **PA1_501/16**.

List of authorised Tropical Vessels: as of 15 October 2016, there are 1,026 vessels registered in the ICCAT Record authorized to fish for tropical species (37 of which with authorisation dates expired). For details see Table 3 of **PWG_401/16**. The full list can be downloaded from: www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp

In terms of potential non-compliance with current ICCAT regulations, there have been two cases of information submitted which are not in accordance with the deadlines specified in Rec. 15-01, paras 25-29, mainly due to late submissions:

BRAZIL: Vessels' submission of 24/08/2016: retroactive registration requested of one vessel for more than 50 days back.

BRAZIL: Vessels' submission of 22/08/2016: retroactive registration requested for one vessel, back to 02/05/2016.

These vessels are on the ICCAT Record of vessels and are brought by the Secretariat to the attention of the Compliance Committee (see also **COC_308/16**).

FAD management plans and steps undertaken to use non-entangling FAD: FAD management plan was received in 2016 from Belize, as attached in **Annex 6**. This report also include some information in relation to the use of non-entangling devices.

Data and information collected from sampling programme: In 2015, a tenth statistical data submission form (ST10-PortSamp) was created to collect data and information collected from the sampling programme covered under Rec. [14-01]. For the reporting period, submissions were received from Canada, El Salvador and EU-France. Santa Lucia informed the Secretariat that their financial and human resources constraints did not allow them to collect biological data.

Implementation of the area/time closure: reports received from EU-Spain, Ghana and Curaçao are contained in Annex 3 of document **COC_305/16**. Additional information may be found in the Annual Reports (see COC_301/16). No fishing on FADs during the closure has been identified.

Observer Programme: Other than the data collected by the observers, which is included in statistical data submissions, no direct reporting to the Secretariat is required. However, eight observer reports were received from Ghana in relation to the 2016 closure, together with a report on the time/area closure. The observer reports inform of the fishing activities, by-catch, estimated catch of endangered species, sampling for tuna and monitor FADs. This information is contained in Annex 3 of document **COC_305/16**. The EU-Spain observer's activities are also contained in Annex 3 of document **COC_305/16**.

[14-02] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of an Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

The programme was initiated in 2015. See **PLE_104/16**.

[15-02] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish an ad hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

The Second meeting of this Working Group was held in Bilbao, from 14-16 March 2016. The report is available at http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2016_FADs_2nd_Final_ENG.pdf

2. SWO - SWORDFISH (*Xiphias gladius*)

[94-14] Recommendation by ICCAT for the management of Atlantic swordfish

This measure was left active due to paragraph 6, for which no specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[01-04] Resolution by ICCAT for evaluating alternatives to reduce catches of juveniles or dead discards of swordfish

The SCRS review is contained in **PLE_104/16**.

[03-04] Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

Regarding paragraph 1, which provides "*CPCs shall take the necessary measures to reduce the mortality of juvenile swordfish in the entire Mediterranean*", the SCRS did not specifically analyse whether mortality of juveniles has declined following recent recommendations. However, the SCRS did note that catches of immature fish remain high and the greatest mortality is suffered by fish of age 3. In the assessment it is assumed that 50% of fish mature at age 3.

[13-02] Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see **COC_304/16**. Management plans are contained in **PA4_801/16**. Plans were received in 2016 from the following CPCs:

<i>CPC with N. SWO quota</i>	<i>Plan received in 2016</i>
Barbados	No
Belize	Yes
Brazil	No
Canada	Yes
China	Yes
Chinese Taipei	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	No
European Union-Spain	Yes
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	Yes
Japan	Yes
Korea	No
México	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Philippines	No
Senegal	Yes
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	No
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes
United Kingdom (OTs)/Bermuda	Yes
United States	Yes
Vanuatu	No
Venezuela	No

It would be helpful if Panel 4 could give some guidance as to what information should be contained in these reports.

[15-03] Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see **COC-304/16**.

[13-04] Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT

List of authorized vessels: Algeria, European Union and Morocco made first submissions of authorized vessels before the deadline of 15 January 2016. No list was received from other Mediterranean CPC: Albania, Egypt, Syria or Tunisia.

LIBYA: late submission of "SWO-Med"-list of 6 "+20m"-vessels, made on 15/04/2016.

TURKEY: late submission of "SWO-Med"-list 61 vessels, made on 26/01/2016.

For more information on SWO-Med vessel list, please see **PWG_401/16**.

Annual list by 30 June 2016 of special fishing permits of previous year is contained in **Annex 4**.

Closure reports: Reports of relevant information on controls and inspection related to the closed fishing season were received within the deadline from Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, and are contained in **Appendix 1**. No information on controls and inspections to ensure the closed fishing season was submitted by Albania, Egypt, Libya or Syria.

3. ALB - ALBACORE (*Thunnus alalunga*)

[98-08] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the limitation of fishing capacity on northern albacore

List of vessels no longer required in accordance with Rec. 14-10. No other specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[99-05] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning possible management measures for northern albacore

This Recommendation reiterates the limitation on the number of vessels, but no reporting to the Secretariat is required over and above the normal statistical data (Task I/Task II) and/or through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[13-05] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Programme

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see **COC_304/16**.

[15-04] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the north Atlantic albacore stock

The report of the intersessional meeting of PA2 on harvest control rules (Sapporo, 20-21 July 2016) is available in document **PLE_111/16**.

[13-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the period 2014-2016

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see **COC_304/16**.

4. BFT - BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)

[06-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming

The ICCAT Record of farms is published on the ICCAT web site. Annual lists/authorisations are not required. Some of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT web site do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT). From the 55 farms registered and authorized in the ICCAT Record, only 21 have participated in ROP-BFT for a total of 53 deployments (from October 2015 to October 2016). These 21 farms belong to 4 CPCs: EU (12), Morocco (1), Tunisia (2), and Turkey (6). The ROP-BFT observers' reports are presented in **Annex 2** of **COC_305/16**.

[06-08] Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean

No reporting to the Secretariat by CPCs is required.

[08-06] Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Scientific Research on Stock Origin and Mixing

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports. Scientific studies coordinated by the ICCAT GBYP are reported in **PLE_104/16**.

[11-06] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP)

Although a few problems were experienced with some CPCs, in general cooperation by CPCs with ICCAT GBYP has been good. In addition to the report on activities Appendix 4 to **PLE_104/16**, information has been submitted through scientific papers (see SCRS/2016/138, SCRS/2016/139, SCRS/2016/140/, SCRS/2016/141, SCRS/2016/142, SCRS/2016/143, SCRS/2016/150, SCRS/2016/176 and SCRS/2016/192). Data from the Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) are summarized in SCRS/2016/176.

[14-04] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see **COC_304/16**.

Vessel lists: See also **COC_308/16**.

EU-Greece: Submission of 37 “E-BFT Catching”-vessels made on 04/05/2016 for the starting date of the authorisation period 1 March 2016.

TURKEY: Submission of one “E-BFT Other”-vessel made on 29/01/2016 for the starting date of the authorisation period 1 February 2016.

ALBANIA: Submission of one “E-BFT Catching”-vessel made on 16/05/2016 for the starting date of the authorisation period 26 May 2016.

LIBYA: submission of 1 “E-BFT Catching”-vessel in replacement to a deactivated one in “E-BFT Catching”-list, not sufficiently justified as *Force majeure* (not documented), for dates from 14/06/2016 to 24/06/2016, in accordance with Rec. 14-04, para 52.

Catch Reporting:

The Tables 12a and 12b, as presented in document **PLE_105/16**, show reported weekly and monthly catches of bluefin tuna, respectively. In this document, a summary of CPC reporting of weekly reporting is shown in Table 7 while monthly catch reports is shown in Table 8. A comparison between weekly and monthly catches reported is shown in Table 9.

In accordance with Rec. 14-04, par. 69, CPCs have informed of the following date of closure:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Date of Fishery Closure</i>
Albania	26/06/2016
Algeria	24/06/2016
China*	
Egypt	14/06/2016
EU	
EU-Croatia	24/06/2016
EU-Cyprus	
EU-France	09/06/2016
EU-Greece	
EU-Italy-PS	11/06/2016
EU-Italy-TP	28/06/2016
EU-Malta	03/06/2016
EU-Portugal-TP	
EU-Spain-PS	01/06/2016
EU-Spain-TP	29/06/2016
Iceland	
Japan*	

Korea	12/10/2016
Libya	24/06/2016
Morocco	
Norway-PS	19/09/2016
Norway - LL	
Syria	
Tunisia	
Turkey	23/06/2016
Ch. Taipei	

* Fishing season still open at time of writing.

VMS transmission:

This year, at 15 October 2016, a total of 1,930.654 VMS messages have been received (for this overall calculation the messages that the system identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). This means that for the same period 367,469 more messages have been received or approximately 23% more messages from one year to the next. In this same period, 679 vessels have been active (as is the case for messages, active vessels are considered to be those which have sent at least one message with an out of port position), which are 28 vessels more than last year or approximately 4% more.

It should be highlighted that for the third consecutive year since the inception of the VMS project, messages have not been received from unknown vessels, i.e. not registered on the ICCAT vessel list. This demonstrates the increasing involvement of CPCs in the VMS monitoring programme and this should be congratulated. For more details regarding messages transmitted, please see **Tables 4, 5 and 6**.

Inspection reports under Joint Inspection Scheme and list of agencies and inspectors' names:

Refer to **Tables 1 and 2**. The bluefin tuna inspection reports submitted by the EU, Tunisia and Turkey are available as **Annex 3** (electronically only).

Observer programmes:

National programmes: SCRS suggests the adoption of the standard format for observer data similar to that developed by Sub-committee on Ecosystems to overcome problems of confidentiality in the submission of reports. EU reports were submitted with confidential information for SCRS. Other CPCs included data in regular statistical data submissions, as requested by the Secretariat, until a standard format can be considered.

BFT-ROP: Potential non-compliance (PNCs) issues and responses, as well as copies of the observer reports, are contained in **COC_305/16**. The European Union has requested a discussion on the definition and interpretation of non-compliance and of potential non-compliance in the BFT-ROP programme. Please refer to Appendix 4 of **COC_305/16**.

Farming: **Table 10** shows a summary of the information received through farming reports. No caging after 15 August 2016 has been reported.

Reports on Implementation of Rec. 14-04: Reports have been received from all CPCs which have been allocated a quota for east Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna except from Egypt. The full reports are contained in document **COC_302/16**.

[14-05] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Programme

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see **COC_304/16**.

5. BIL - BILLFISHES: Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*), Spearfish (*Tetrapturus pfluegeri* and *T. belone*)

[15-05] Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks

For compliance with quotas/landing limits, please see **COC_304/16**.

CPCs are requested to report in their Annual Report steps taken to implement the Rec. 15-05 through domestic law or regulations, including MCS measures. Annual Reports are contained in **COC_301/16**.

6. BYC - BY-CATCH SPECIES

Note: in this section, the document does not strictly follow the order of the Compendium since Recommendations and Resolutions are presented under three points: 6.A. General, 6.B. Sharks and 6.C. Sea turtles and seabirds

6.A General

[95-02] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to study on the status of stocks and by-catches of shark species

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports. In 2016 ICCAT and CITES collaborated in order to conduct a training course for 36 field workers, scientists and data managers from the 12 countries in the West Africa region (in English, French and Spanish simultaneously). Training covered issues such as species identification, including the provision of ID cards, biological and fisheries sampling techniques, data reporting requirements and implementation of CITES shark listings on Appendix II. It is hoped that this training will improve the quality of data being collected in the region, leading to significantly increase the member states capacity to make NDFs, which is not currently possible with the information available. It will also improve the data available to ICCAT for the assessment and management of shark stocks in the region through analysis of the data by the ICCAT Shark Species Group.

[11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries

In accordance with this measure, CPCs are to report steps taken to mitigate by-catch and reduce discards as part of their Annual Reports. Annual Reports are contained in **COC_301/16**.

[15-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation

See the report of SCRS (**PLE_104/16**).

[15-11] Resolution by ICCAT concerning the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management

Please refer to the SCRS report (**PLE_104/16**) as the Sub Committee on Ecosystems (SCECO) has provided information on steps to initiate an ecosystem based fisheries management approach. The SCRS has also addressed the precautionary approach, especially with regards to data poor species.

[15-12] Resolution by ICCAT concerning the use of a precautionary approach in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures

Please refer to the SCRS report (**PLE_104/16**) as the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems (SCECO) has provided information on steps to initiate an ecosystem based fisheries management approach. The SCRS has also addressed the precautionary approach, especially with regards to data poor species.

6. B Sharks

[03-10] Resolution by ICCAT on the shark fishery

Paragraph 1 is limited in time to an action in 2004. Paragraph 2 does not require any reporting to the Secretariat.

[04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

Data reporting is through Task I and Task II, and other relevant information regarding implementation should be included in Annual Reports. No direct reporting of shark fins required, no non-compliance on this issue has been reported to Secretariat.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks

See **PLE_105/16** for details of Task I and Task II data received.

[15-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

See **PLE_105/16** for details of Task I and Task II data received.

[09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area

Reporting is through Task I and Task II and using the newly developed National Observer Programme data collection forms. This information is contained in **PLE_105/16**. No documents directly related to research on nursery areas were submitted to SCRS in either 2015 or 2016. Other relevant information regarding implementation should be included in annual reports.

[10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

Actions taken by CPC (improvement of data for direct and incidental catches) shall be reviewed annually by the Compliance Committee. The summaries on the implementation of shark-related measures are contained in **COC_303/16**, Appendix 3.

[10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area

Reporting is through Task I and Task II and using the newly developed National Observer Programme data collection forms. This information is contained in **PLE_105/16**.

[10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on hammerhead sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

Reporting is through Task I and Task II and using the newly developed National Observer Programme data collection forms. This information is contained in **PLE_105/16**. No notification regarding international trade has been received. Other relevant information regarding implementation should be included in Annual Reports (see **COC_301/16**).

[11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

CPCs should report in the Annual Report steps taken to implement the Rec. 11-08 through domestic law or regulations, including MCS measures. Annual Reports are contained in **COC_301/16**. No notification regarding international trade has been received.

[12-05] Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with existing measures on shark conservation and management

CPCs were required to send, in 2013, a report on the actions taken for the implementation of shark measures. **Appendix 3** shows the actions reported to date, and those CPCs which have not reported on this.

[13-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on biological sampling of prohibited shark species by scientific observers

An Annual Report of the results achieved by the research project should be presented to the Shark Species Group and the SCRS. Reports were provided under the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP) (Refer to SCRS report/**PLE_104/16**).

[14-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

CPCs shall include in their Annual Report information on action taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks. Annual Reports are contained in **COC_301/16**.

6.C Sea turtles and seabirds

[07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries

See Rec. 11-09 below.

[11-09] Supplemental recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries

Seabird incidental by-catch is included in **PLE_105/16**. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs are shown below:

<i>Submitted in 2016</i>							
	<i>EU-Spain</i>	<i>Turkey</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Chinese Taipei</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Uruguay</i>
Night setting	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	Voluntary	Yes	Yes
Tori line	Yes	Voluntary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Line weighting		Voluntary	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CPCs explicitly stating the Recommendation does not apply: Norway, Senegal, Liberia, Korea, Mexico, China PR, USA, El Salvador, Algeria, Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago. - UKOT, Barbados and France SPM reported zero/limited interactions with seabirds but agreed to monitor those that occur. - CPCs in the process of adopting measures – Libya. 							

Other information relating to the implementation of this measure may be found in CPC Annual Reports (**COC_301/16**).

The Commission may wish to consider consolidating Rec. 07-09 with Rec. 11-09.

[10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries

See Rec. 13-11 below.

[13-11] Recommendation by ICCAT amending recommendation 10-09 on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries

Incidental by-catch of sea-turtles is included in **PLE_105/16**. Additional information on implementation of this measure and Rec. 10-09 may be found in CPC Annual Reports (**COC_301/16**).

The Commission may wish to consider consolidating Rec. 10-09 with Rec. 13-11.

7. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

7. A GEN - GENERAL ISSUES

[75-02] ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

This measure is currently only in force for E-BFT, as modified by Rec. 14-04, Annex 7. See Rec. 14-04 above.

[94-09] Resolution by ICCAT on compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures (including Addendum)

See also documents **PWG_401/16** and **PWG_405/16**.

[96-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries

COC_304/16 indicates any Party which has exceeded its catch limits.

[96-15] Resolution by ICCAT on large-scale pelagic driftnets

This resolution "CHARGES the Compliance Committee and the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) to monitor compliance with the United Nations Resolutions within the ICCAT Convention Area with a view to adopting adequate measures."

The Secretariat is not in a position to make any report on this.

[97-01] Recommendation by ICCAT to improve compliance with minimum size regulations

Please see document **COC_304/16**.

[97-08] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery

Please see document **COC_304/16**.

[97-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipments and vessel sightings

No information has been reported to the Secretariat under this Recommendation.

[98-11] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ban on landings and transshipments of vessels from non-Contracting Parties identified as having committed a serious infringement

No information has been reported to the Secretariat under this Recommendation.

[99-12] Resolution by ICCAT concerning the need for new approaches to deter activities that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports. Twenty four ICCAT CPCs are signatories to the UNFSA.

[00-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits

See **COC_304/16** for details of authorised adjustments.

[01-12] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas

Authorised adjustments are contained in the various Recommendations and reflected in **COC_304/16**.

[01-18] Resolution by ICCAT further defining the scope of IUU fishing

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[02-26] Resolution by ICCAT concerning cooperative actions to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities by large-scale tuna longline vessels

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[03-12] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in relation to their vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

In Liberia's investigation report concerning reported transshipment activities by Liberian-flagged carrier vessel *M/V New Bai I No. 168* in contravention of ICCAT requirements (refer to document **COC-307/16**), Liberia's Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) states that "*BNF 2010 Fisheries Regulations mainly address fishing activities within the national jurisdiction and does not cover Liberia's fishing vessels' activities (transshipment) beyond national jurisdiction.*"

Liberia has 21 vessels on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area from LSPLVs established pursuant to Rec. 12-06. As of 15 October 2016, four of them have their authorizations expired. From July 2015 to September 2016, 16 ICCAT ROP-TRANS observer deployments have been made to carrier vessels on the ICCAT Record, 8 of which have been to carrier vessels flagged to Liberia.

[03-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

"*All commercial fishing vessels over 24 m length overall shall keep a bound or electronic logbook [for] recording the information...*". No direct reporting to the Secretariat is required, although information may be included in CPC Annual Reports.

The Appendix 1 of **COC_305/16** shows that there are 2 CPCs (Japan and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) which have PNCs pertaining to logbook issue; 18 in total: 16 PNCs for Japan and two for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In Section 4 of the **PWG_401/16** there is a request for clarification raised by ROP-Transshipment Consortium through the Secretariat, namely a request to the question: "*Should the observer record a PNC if the logbook is not shown in its working electronic form on a computer screen?*" and/or a general definition of electronic logbooks.

[03-16] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt additional measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

At the 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission, it was agreed that the Commission Chair would send a letter to the Government of the United Kingdom and to Gibraltar requesting information on the allocation of a bluefin tuna quota by Gibraltar, its bluefin tuna catches and vessels involved in this fishery. The reply from the United Kingdom was circulated by the Secretariat and is attached as **Appendix 5**.

[04-12] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt measures concerning sport and recreational fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea

The SCRS proposed (in document **PLE_104/16**) improvements in the way recreational/sport fisheries (in all the ICCAT Convention area) should be reported to ICCAT under Task I/Task II data reporting obligations. The objective of the SCRS is to clearly identify, and provide CPC the criteria to report sport and recreational fishing Task I catches to ICCAT.

[05-07] Resolution by ICCAT concerning the change in the registry and flagging of vessels

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[05-08] Resolution by ICCAT on circle hooks

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

Information received from China, El Salvador, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey and Chinese Taipei contained in **Annex 1** (electronic only).

[06-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to Promote Compliance by Nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

As presented in document **COC_307/16**, Chinese Taipei indicates that the carrier vessel “New Bai I No. 168” of Chinese Taipei ownership, is under Chinese Taipei regulation and Chinese Taipei request to Liberia for further investigation on the activities of this carrier.

No reports were submitted to the Secretariat in 2016 under this Recommendation.

[07-08] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area

Some of the following should be improved:

- Specific discrepancies regarding data on vessels: among the data received via VMS and those sent by CPCs for the record of vessels on the ICCAT website.
- Messages received and not correctly formatted in accordance with the NAF format established in Rec. 07-08. Once again this year, it should be noted that Panama has sent and continues to send VMS messages which are not correctly formatted, in particular, with incorrect values for some of the fields of the VMS messages. This problem has been reported on several occasions and has not been solved.
- In 2016, VMS messages have been processed manually by two CPCs:
 - Turkey has sent messages in Excel files due to specific issues regarding their vessels. The Secretariat has processed them without problems.

- Korea has sent and continues to send daily messages in plain text files to process later at the Secretariat. These messages include all the messages for their vessels generated the previous day. This is due to the problems of their technicians in establishing a secure connection between the servers and the Secretariat. The Secretariat has provided assistance and support to Korea to remedy this issue. It is still necessary to solve this issue.

Important aspects regarding the dates when the messages were sent by the CPCs:

- EU-Portugal and Syria have not reported any VMS messages during the bluefin tuna campaign [Rec. 14-04].

[08-09] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a process for the review and reporting of compliance information

The Secretariat received in February 2016 a submission from Senegal concerning a potential non-compliance about apparent unauthorized transshipment activities in October 2015 in Senegal's waters among Liberian, Chinese, and Chinese Taipei vessels in violation of ICCAT rules, which were detected through port inspection by Senegal. The three CPCs have submitted information on the potential non-compliance. The information is contained in document **COC_307/16**. More details can also be found under Rec. 12-07 (below).

[08-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to harmonize the measurement of length of the vessels authorized to fish in the area of the Convention

This Recommendation contains only a definition. No submission is required by CPC.

[09-09] Recommendation by ICCAT amending three recommendations in conformity with the 2009 recommendation by ICCAT concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[10-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programmes

Since the adoption of 10-10, the Secretariat developed a form for the submission of information relating to implementation of observer programmes. Nineteen CPCs to date have submitted the completed form. One additional CPC submitted information in 2011 before the use of this format, and one more CPC indicated in its Annual Report that a scientific observer programme is in place, but details have not been received. Submission of ST09 forms has generally increased in 2016, while submission of other observer information has decreased.

The information submitted since adoption of Rec. 10-10 is summarised in the table below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>CP45 form</i>	<i>Alternative measures</i>	<i>ST09 form</i>	<i>No format</i>
2011				Chinese Taipei, Ghana, Korea, Iceland, Japan, Tunisia, Mexico, Namibia, USA, Canada, Uruguay and EU (France)*
2012	Canada, China PR, Chinese Taipei, Mexico, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey, USA, Uruguay, EU (Malta, France, Portugal)	Brazil, Ghana, South Africa, Turkey	Not applicable	Algeria, Brazil, Egypt, EU (Italy, Greece), Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Mauritania, Namibia and South Africa
2013	Iceland, China PR, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Turkey, Tunisia, EU (Malta, France, Italy, Portugal), Uruguay, Japan, Venezuela	Brazil, China PR, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Suriname, Tunisia and Turkey	Not applicable	Algeria, Belize, Canada, Egypt, Morocco, and South Africa
2014	Chinese Taipei, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, EU (Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Ireland, Malta, Portugal), Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela	Belize, EU (Greece, Ireland, UK), Morocco, Turkey	Not applicable	Algeria, Belize, China PR, Uruguay
2015	EU (Croatia, Italy, Malta), Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Korea	Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey	Canada, EU, Bolivia, China PR, Japan, Korea, St Lucia, Chinese Taipei, UK (OT), USA	Algeria, China PR, France SPM, Tunisia
2016	Belize, Turkey	Morocco	Algeria, Belize, Canada, China PR, EU, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Saint Lucia, Turkey, USA, UKOT, Chinese Taipei	

*Information on national observer programmes were submitted in 2011, prior to the development of the ICCAT observer data collection forms. As a result, the information is not directly compatible with the information submitted subsequently.

See also **PLE_105/16** for more details.

[11-11] Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify the application of compliance recommendations and for developing the compliance annex

Please refer to document **COC_304/16**. As informed in **COC_308/16**, 25 CPCs submitted the Compliance tables within the deadline of Rec. 11-11, 16 submitted them late – in general further to some reminders sent by the Secretariat – and nine did not submit them.

[11-13] Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures

No reporting to the Secretariat required by CPCs. For SCRS report, please see **PLE_104/16**.

[15-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation

In 2016, the SCRS shall provide the Commission with a 5-year schedule for the establishment of species-specific HCRs – please see **PLE_104/16**.

[11-14] Resolution by ICCAT to standardize the presentation of scientific information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detailed Reports

No reporting to the Secretariat is required by CPCs. For SCRS report, please see **PLE_104/16**.

[11-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations

Following the 2014 Compliance Committee meeting, the Secretariat followed the instructions of the Chair of the Compliance Committee to determine whether or not actions needed to be taken under Rec. 11-15. Retention prohibitions on certain species remain in force for Barbados, the Philippines, and Vanuatu, while they were lifted for Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, and St. Vincent and Grenadines by the end of year 2015 following the submissions of missing data or confirmation of zero catch had been received by these four CPCs

As decided at the 24th Regular meeting of the Commission, a prohibition letter was sent to Mauritania and to Nicaragua. Since the Secretariat has still not received Task I data of 2014 or confirmation of zero catch: these two CPCs shall continue to be prohibited from retaining ICCAT fisheries, including sharks species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries from 2016 until data have been received at the Secretariat.

The current CPC reporting status of 2015 statistical data (submitted during 2016) are presented in the 2015 data report cards (Tables 1 to 4 and the Species catalogues are in document **PLE_105/16** and in its Appendix 1).

The list of ICCAT CPCs who have not reported Task I information for 2015 (positive catches, zero catches, or, "no" fishing activity) until 15 October 2016, using the standard Task I data reporting process, were Honduras, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Vanuatu and Bolivia (Cooperating Party). In addition, some clarification is also required for some European Union member states (EU-Denmark, EU-Estonia, EU-Germany, EU-Latvia, EU-Lithuania and EU-Sweden) with some historical Task I catches in the last decade. The Task I nominal catches report card for 2015 is presented in **Table 2** of **PLE_105/16**.

[15-09] Resolution by ICCAT establishing guidelines for the implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations

The results of reporting "zero" catches for the first time through form ST02-T1NC (sub-form ST02B), are presented in Table 8c of document **PLE_105/16**. A large number of CPCs have followed literally this resolution. However, some CPC also reported "zero" catches (partially or fully) in the main sub-form (ST02A) of form ST02-T1NC (listed in the footnote of Table 8b). The SCRS, under its standard statistical data review/validation, considered this new way of reporting "zero" catches a success and recommended its continuation. The SCRS adopted the "zero" catches reported in both ways.

[11-17] Resolution by ICCAT on best available science

Please see SCRS Report (**PLE_104/16**).

[11-18] Recommendation by ICCAT further amending recommendation 09-10 establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area

The Provisional IUU list is contained in document **PWG_405/16**.

[12-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on a programme for transshipment

Details can be found in the Secretariat report contained in documents **PWG_402/16** and **COC_305/16**.

[12-07] Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT scheme for minimum standards for inspection in port

The authorised ports are contained in the ICCAT Record of authorised ports: <http://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>. Eighteen CPCs have indicated in their Annual Report that the Recommendation 12-07 is not applicable. No specific information regarding applicability in 2016 is available for the following countries: Albania; Brazil; Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Republic; Honduras; Mauritania; Nicaragua; Philippines; St. Vincent and the Grenadines ; Sao Tomé & Príncipe; Sierra Leone; Syria, Bolivia and Guyana.

The tables below summarise the information available:

<i>List of authorized ports in 2016</i>	<i>Number of reports received in 2016</i>
Angola	none
Canada	none
Cabo Verde	7
Côte d'Ivoire	none
EU (9 Member States)	not available
France SPM	1 (from August 2015)
Gabon	none
Ghana	none
Iceland	none
Korea	none
Libya	none
Morocco	8
Namibia	26
Norway	none
Panamá	none
Senegal	1 (from October 2015)
South Africa	65 from 2014, 188 from 2015 and 34 from 2016
Suriname	0 - seek assistance in training/requests of 2013 and 2016
Tunisia	none
Turkey	none- confirmed no FV entry
Uruguay	none
USA	none
<i>Submission not applicable</i>	<i>Source</i>
Algeria	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Barbados	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Belize	Notified to the Secretariat on 14 th July 2016
Canada	Annual Report submitted in 2016
China	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Chinese Taipei	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Curaçao	Annual Report submitted in 2016
El Salvador	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Guatemala	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Japan	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Liberia	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Libya	Annual Report submitted in 2016
México	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Nigeria	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Russia	Annual Report submitted in 2016
UK-OT	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Trinidad & Tobago	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Vanuatu	Annual Report submitted in 2016
Venezuela	Annual Report submitted in 2016

Inspection reports received in 2016 from Cabo Verde, France SPM (from 2015), Morocco, Namibia (from 2015 and 2016) and South Africa (from 2014, 205 and 2016) with no infringements are available in **Annex 7** (in electronic format only).

One inspection report was submitted by Senegal (inspected in October 2015, report submitted February 2016), indicating an infringement by a Liberian flagged vessel. This vessel received transshipments at sea without authorisation, and without an ICCAT observer on board. One of the donor vessels was flagged to China PR. Following a report to China on this incident, the Secretariat has been informed that severe penalties have been imposed on this donor vessel, including the following:

1. Suspend the issuance of statistical document for the fish caught by Liao Yuan Yu 98 from the date receiving your email until now, and expect to continue to extend the date until the case be settled appropriately.
2. Suspend the authorization of at-sea transshipment of Liao Yuan Yu 98 to any other carrier vessels until now.
3. Permanently revoke the captain's certificate of Liao Yuan Yu 98 and impose a penalty to him. And now the fishing vessel owner has terminated the contract with the captain of Liao Yuan Yu 98, he will be sent back to China when Liao Yuan Yu 98 call at port of Senegal for vessel inspection during August or September this year. Currently, the chief engineer will replace him to assume the position of captain.
4. Impose the maximum fine to Liao Yuan Yu 98, equivalent to around 300 thousand US dollars.
5. Deduct three month salary to the principal staff of this company for dereliction of duty.

In October 2016, the Secretariat has received information from Chinese Taipei and Liberia concerning this inspection report from Senegal. All the information is presented in document **COC_307/16**.

Bilateral agreements/arrangements between CPCs should be included in their Annual Reports (see **COC_301/16**).

[13-12] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

The SCRS Chair has continued work on the proposed Code of Conduct, and has started to compile various codes and asked the Committee to provide further examples to collate and start development of a first draft. This would then be reviewed by the SCRS.

[13-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention area, as amended by Rec. 14-10

There have been two submissions which are not in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 13-13; paragraphs 2 and 3, as amended by Rec. 14-10; paragraphs 1 and 2, mainly due to late submissions:

BRAZIL: Vessels' submission of 24/08/2016: retroactive registration requested for one vessel for more than 50 days back.

BRAZIL: Vessels' submission of 22/08/2016: retroactive registration requested for one vessel, back to 02/05/2016.

From 1 January 2016, flag CPCs only authorize their commercial LSFVs to operate in ICCAT Convention area if the vessel has an IMO number (or a number in the seven-digit numbering sequence allocated by HIS-Fairplay (LR number). The CPCs that have not submitted the IMO number of their vessels are: Algeria (1 vessel), EU-Croatia (2 vessels), Morocco (30 vessels), Mexico (11 vessels), South Africa (16 vessels), Tunisia (1 vessel), and, Venezuela (8). See also **COC_308/16**.

Updates to reports on internal actions were submitted by Brazil, Ghana and Libya. These are contained in the electronic **Annex 2** to this document.

[13-14] Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering

Table 3 shows a summary of the information submitted to ICCAT by CPCs. Summary reports submitted in 2016 by Namibia for 2015 and 2016 and South Africa for 2015 are contained in **Appendix 2** to this document.

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

Information is contained in **PLE_104/16**.

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements

A summary of the information received is contained in **Table 11**. Information included in Annual Reports can be found in **COC_301/16**.

The European Union (EU) informed the Secretariat that all relevant information on access agreements between the EU and other third countries is publicly available on the webpage of DG MARE:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements/index_en.htm

As far as ICCAT is concerned the EU informed that the following agreements are relevant (copied from the webpage above):

Country	Expiry date	Type	Total contribution from the EU budget per year (€)	Earmarked for fisheries policy development (€)
Cabo Verde	22.12.2018	Tuna	550 000 / 500 000	275 000 € / 250 000
Côte d'Ivoire	30.6.2018	Tuna	680 000	257 500
Gabon	23.7.2016	Tuna	1 350 000	450 000
Guinea-Bissau	23.11.2017	Mixed	9 200 000	3 000 000
Liberia	8.12.2020	Tuna	715 000 / 650 000 / 585 000	357 500 / 325 000 / 292 500
Mauritania	15.11.2019	Mixed	59 125 000	4 125 000
Morocco	27.2.2018	Mixed	30 million	14 million
São Tomé and Príncipe	22.5.2018	Tuna	710 000 / 675 000	325 000
Senegal	19.11.2019	Tuna (+ hake component)	1 808 000 / 1 668 000	750 000

A list with web links to the protocols of these agreements is available in **Annex 5** to this document. These EU data have not been included in **Table 11**.

[14-08] Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port

Response to Circulars No. 1159/15 and No. 2583/16 were very few, so the Secretariat remains unsure as to what assistance is required.

The Secretariat continues to seek guidance from the Commission as to the way forward.

[14-09] Recommendation by ICCAT amending recommendation 03-14 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel fishing monitoring system in the ICCAT Convention area

Refer to Rec. 14-04 above. No other reporting to the Secretariat is required, other than through Annual Reports for reporting on implementation or difficulties.

[14-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to harmonize and guide the implementation of ICCAT vessel listing requirements

The changes required through this Recommendation were incorporated by the Secretariat into the database and guidelines in 2015.

The Commission may wish to consider incorporating Rec. 14-10 amendments into Rec. 13-13 in the interest of clarity and efficiency.
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[14-11] Resolution establishing guidelines for the cross-listing of vessels contained on IUU vessel lists of other tuna RFMOs on the ICCAT IUU vessel list in accordance with recommendation 11-18

Refer to the ICCAT IUU list for 2016 as contained in document **PWG_405/16**.

7. B SANC - SANCTIONS, TRADE-RELATED MEASURES

No measures currently in force

7. C SDP - STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMMES

[01-21] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ICCAT bigeye tuna statistical document programme

More details can be found in documents **PWG_401/16** and **PLE_105/16**.

[01-22] Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a swordfish statistical document programme

More details can be found in doc. **PWG_401/16** and **PLE_105/16**.

[03-19] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the amendment of the forms of the ICCAT bluefin/bigeye/swordfish statistical documents

The forms have been amended as stipulated in the Recommendation.

[06-16] Recommendation by ICCAT on an electronic statistical document pilot programme

No information has been reported to the Secretariat.

[08-11] Recommendation by ICCAT amending ten recommendations and three resolutions

No reporting to the Secretariat is required.

[10-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on an electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme (eBCD)

Progress on the implementation of the eBCD is contained in document **PWG_403/16**.

[11-20] Recommendation by ICCAT amending recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme

More details are given in **PWG_401/2016**. Relating to Compliance, the Secretariat has noted that a) the unique identification number sequence as adopted in Rec. 11-20 is not always applied; b) the information on the BCDs is not always complete; c) BCDs are not always received within five working days of the catch and there is also failure to submit summary of tagging programme.

The deadline for receipt of reports on carryover of farmed fish was 9 June 2016. The following reports were received from CPCs with operative BFT farms:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Date</i>
EU	01/06/2016
Morocco	21/06/2016 (no carry over)
Tunisia	10/05/2016
Turkey	06/06/2016

Annual reports on BCDs are published on the password protected area of the ICCAT web site. Reports were received from all concerned CPCs except Egypt, Mexico and the UK-OT.

[12-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on a process towards the establishment of a catch certification scheme for tuna and tuna-like species

This Recommendation is limited in time. The issue was discussed by IMM and Commission, but to date, no agreement has been reached.

[13-16] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Annex 1 of Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme

The addition was made to the ICCAT data base and this data is currently entered in the ICCAT (non-electronic) system.

[15-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and amend aspects of ICCAT's bluefin tuna catch documentation programme to facilitate the application of the eBCD system

The report of the technical Working Group is contained in document **PWG_403/16**.

7. D TOR - TERMS OF REFERENCE

[00-20] Resolution by ICCAT for integrated monitoring measures

The 11th meeting of the IMM Working Group was held in Sapporo, 18-19 July 2016. The report is available in **PLE_101/16**.

[06-17] Resolution by ICCAT to establish a Working Group on sport and recreational fisheries

The Recommendation required the Working Group to meet in 2007 or 2008. No meetings were held in 2016.

[06-18] Resolution by ICCAT to strengthen ICCAT

The mandate of the Working Group stipulated in the Resolution has expired. The Commission may wish to consider future work for this Group, or rescind the Resolution.

[06-19] Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Capacity Working Group

The mandate of the Working Group stipulated in the Resolution has expired. The Commission may wish to consider future work for this Group, or rescind the Resolution.

[11-23] Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Terms of Reference of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)

The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[11-24] Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the mandate and terms of reference adopted by the commission for the ICCAT conservation and management measures Compliance Committee

The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[11-25] Resolution by ICCAT on a programme of work for the Working Group on the future of ICCAT

The mandate of the Working Group stipulated in the Resolution has expired. The Commission may wish to consider future work for this Group, or rescind the Resolution.

[12-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a Working Group to develop amendments to the ICCAT Convention

The fourth meeting of this Working Group was held in Madrid, 7-8 March 2016. The report is available as **PLE_107/16**.

[14-12] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish an ad hoc Working Group for preparing the next performance review

The work of this virtual Working Group was completed in 2015-2016 by establishing terms of reference and selecting three experts. The Second Performance review has now been completed. The report of the review coordinator is contained in document **PLE_103/16**.

[14-13] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation by ICCAT for enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers

No meeting of this Standing Working Group was held in 2016.

7. E MISC - MISCELLANEOUS

[66-01] Resolution on the collection of statistics on the Atlantic tuna fisheries

See document **PLE_105/16**.

[93-08] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

In 2016 ICCAT and CITES collaborated in order to conduct a training course for field workers, scientists and data managers from the West Africa region (in English, French and Spanish simultaneously). There are several countries in this region that were identified as priority countries for assistance under the EU-CITES project with regard to implementing the new CITES listings for sharks and rays.

[93-09] Resolution by ICCAT concerning the composition of the delegations of ICCAT Contracting Parties to CITES

The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[99-07] Resolution by ICCAT on improving recreational fishery statistics

Please see Annual Reports (**COC_301/16**). Although recreational fishery statistics are often included in Task I and Task II, this may not be explicitly stated at time of submission.

[99-13] Resolution by ICCAT endorsing the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA)

No reporting to the Secretariat is required.

[01-16] Resolution by ICCAT on the deadlines and procedures for data submission

See the report of Sub-committee on Statistics attached (Appendix 10) to the 2016 SCRS Report (PLE_104/16).

See report of Sub-committee on Statistics, contained in document PLE_104/16.

[03-20] Recommendation by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT

Four Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities currently enjoy Cooperating status: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana and Suriname.

In August 2016, Costa Rica submitted its request to become a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity [refer to its application in **Appendix 4**]. The Secretariat requested data from Costa Rica that have not been received at time of writing this document.

In 2016, the ICCAT Secretariat wrote to Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis and Sta. Lucia requesting them to consider becoming Cooperating Parties. No response to these specific requests was received although Sta. Lucia and St. Kitts & Nevis have voluntarily submitted ICCAT statistical data for 2015.

[03-21] Resolution by ICCAT on improvements in data collection and quality assurance

For information regarding the Data Fund, please see PLE_109/16.

[05-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations

For details on 2015 statistical data reporting status see the 2015 report cards (Tables 1 to 4 in document PLE_105/16). For a species/stock broader view (1995 to 2015) of the current Task I and Task II data completeness, see the SCRS species catalogues (Appendix 1 in document PLE_105/16). The SCRS Report (PLE_104/16, point 18.11) contains the following in relation to Rec. 05-09:

“18.11 Evaluation of data deficiencies pursuant to [Rec. 05-09]

The Sub-Committee on Statistics will update and submit to the SCRS the evaluation of data elements pursuant to [Rec. 05-09]”.

Data deficiencies are present for many of the basic information used to support ICCAT assessments, however, there are clear differences between stocks on how these deficiencies affect the ability of the SCRS to conduct assessments of stock status and to provide management advice. In general, data deficiencies are more common for by-catch species than for target stocks. For example, one of the major uncertainties for billfish and shark assessments are related to the incomplete reporting of catch. In the past, many CPCs provided data to ICCAT that did not separate by species the catches of sharks and billfish. Although this practice is now relatively rare, it has undermined the usefulness for stock assessments of historical reported catches of many by-catch species. Data deficiencies are also common for small tunas and species of sharks that are now clearly targeted by some fishing fleets.

More specifically, a recent review of Task I billfish data, suggests the potential existence of catches from Caribbean countries that are not reported. Many of such catches are the result of the development of moored FAD fisheries in several Caribbean countries over the last two decades. In addition, several CPCs that previously reported billfish catches have not reported catches in the last three years and the SCRS does not have information to determine if such lack of reporting is related to declines in effort or to lack of reporting.

For assessments of sea birds and sea turtles, the SCRS relies almost exclusively on data obtained by on-board scientific observers, because few fleets record these species in their logbooks. Unfortunately few CPCs submit such observer data with details regarding the time, area and gear used in the fishing operation in a way that can be used to calculate catch per unit of effort for these species. Given that most fleets of artisanal gillnet and longline fleets do not have on board observers, there are very few reports of sea turtle catches for these fleets. These data deficiencies strongly hamper the work of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems in evaluating the impact of fishing upon sea turtles and sea birds.

The SCRS is now working on evaluating data poor assessment methods using management strategy evaluation (MSE). This will allow the performance of stock assessment models that uses alternative data sources to be evaluated. These tools can be used to answer the question of how much a particular data set contributes to the assessment of stock status and to achieving management objectives, thus providing a quantitative evaluation of the impacts of data deficiencies.”

[05-11] Resolution by ICCAT on pelagic Sargassum

The information presented by CPCs was used to draft the response to the Commission, see below Res. 12-12.

[12-11] Resolution by ICCAT regarding the presentation of objections in the context of promoting effective conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT

No objection to the 2015 Recommendations was received.

[12-12] Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea

No input was requested to the SCRS in 2016.

[13-19] Recommendation by ICCAT on the establishment of a scientific capacity building fund for developing states which are ICCAT Contracting Parties

Details on this fund and expenditures are included in **STF_209/16**.

[14-14] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 11-26 on the establishment of a meeting participation fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties

Details on the fund and expenditures are included in **STF_208/16**.

[15-13] Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities

No reporting to the Secretariat is required.