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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCAT REGIONAL  
OBSERVER PROGRAMME FOR EAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA**

*ICCAT Secretariat*

The Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (ROP-BFT) is carried out under the provisions of the *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* [Rec. 14-04]. The provisions of this Recommendation stipulate that observers are to be placed by the Secretariat to ensure observer coverage of 100% of purse seine vessels during all the annual fishing season. In this respect, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation; and during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage; and during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages.

**Implementation in 2016**

Following a Call for tender for the implementation of the Programme and a review of tenders by the selection committee the Commission again awarded the contract to the consortium MRAG/COFREPECHE. The Report of this consortium, available as **Annex 1** (summary attached as **Appendix 1**), contains more details on the implementation of the programme.

There were a total of 125 observer deployments on purse seine vessel in 2016. Ten CPCs participated in the programme. The list of vessels participating in the programme is attached as **Table 1**.

Since 2009, 321<sup>1</sup> farm deployments and 12 trap deployments have been requested, as shown in **Table 2**. The list of farms and traps which currently participate in the programme is attached as **Table 3**. Anomalies remain, with farms continuing on the list of authorised farming facilities even though they do not participate in the ROP programme.

All observer reports have been made available to CPCs as **Annex 1 and 2** to **COC-305/16**. The submissions from the CPCs involved in relation to any issues of non-compliance are contained in **COC-305/16**.

**Implementation difficulties in 2016**

Given the amount of work which ROPs generate, and the logistical complications inherent in such programmes, the Secretariat should like to request that the established procedures be followed for observer requests.

Failure to follow the procedures of requesting deployments and extensions to approved deployments continues to cause difficulties in the implementation, e.g. requests after 96 hours – in some cases one day before - requests for observers are not accompanied by proof of payment. It should be noted that the Secretariat cannot process any requests for which payment has not been made.

Some requests and payments for vessels were also received late. Completion of the section of the request for with details for any reimbursement is important, as in future this will be taken as official information for reimbursement of remnants at the end of the year.

In 2016, several requests for changes to disembark port were received. This causes significant logistical difficulties in addition to extra costs, particularly in cases where observers need visas. Complete and correct information at the time of request should be submitted, in order to make the necessary arrangements in advance

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<sup>1</sup> At 10 October 2016.

With regard to the international aspect of the programme, non-nationals were deployed as far as possible, with the exception of Turkish vessels/farms given the provisions of bullet four, paragraph 5 of Annex 7 of Rec. 14-04, as despite a persistent search, the consortium has been able to recruit only one qualified Turkish-speaking non-Turkish national.

### Future implementation

It should be recalled that with the eBCD system, the observers need electronic signatures to fill these eBCD sections. CPCs were reminded that the digital certificates for the signatures have to be prepared well in advance so as not to delay the validation of the eBCD by the government authority, and hence CPC cooperation is requested in sending accurate information on observer needs as far in advance as possible, especially for farms and traps. The dates of authorisation have been updated in the eBCD system following each request, either for new deployment or extension, and in most cases the observers were able to sign the eBCD. A few minor problems were encountered, but these have been resolved with the assistance of the eBCD consortium

**Table 1.** List of the 125 purse seiner vessels which participated in the ROP-BFT in 2016.

<i>FlagVesCode</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>ICCATSerialNo</i>
Albania	ROZAF 15	AT000ALB00008
Algeria	SIDI SLIMANE	AT000DZA00001
Algeria	EL MADINA	AT000DZA00003
Algeria	YOUNES II	AT000DZA00008
Algeria	CHAHID HASNI SAIDI	AT000DZA00009
Algeria	ELFADJR	AT000DZA00010
Algeria	BENI LOUMA	AT000DZA00015
Algeria	ECHAHID MUSTAPHA BENBOULAID	AT000DZA00017
Algeria	SIDI MAAMAR	AT000DZA00018
Algeria	NOUHA	AT000DZA00332
Algeria	EL HADJA FATMA	AT000DZA00383
Algeria	BORHAN	AT000DZA00384
Egypt	Seven Seas	AT000EGY00003
Egypt	khaled	AT000EGY00005
Libya	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010
Libya	TRIPOLITANIA	AT000LBY00013
Libya	DEELA	AT000LBY00024
Libya	MORINA	AT000LBY00028
Libya	ELHADDER II	AT000LBY00037
Libya	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038
Libya	ALRWASI 1	AT000LBY00046
Libya	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047
Libya	ALSSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060
Libya	ZARQA AL YAMAMA I	AT000LBY00064
Libya	ALBURDI	AT000LBY00071
Libya	ALHARES 2	AT000LBY00074
Libya	ALBAHR ELHADDER	AT000LBY00077
Libya	TAYMA	AT000LBY00083
Morocco	AZROU I	AT000MAR00081
Morocco	MEDIOUNA	AT000MAR01418

Norway	MS Hillersøy	AT000NOR00001
Syria	FESAL	AT000SYR00019
Tunisia	Abou Chamma	AT000TUN00002
Tunisia	Haj hedi	AT000TUN00007
Tunisia	Hassen	AT000TUN00008
Tunisia	El Horchani	AT000TUN00009
Tunisia	Imen	AT000TUN00010
Tunisia	Jamel	AT000TUN00011
Tunisia	Mohamed Adem	AT000TUN00012
Tunisia	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014
Tunisia	Mabrouk	AT000TUN00015
Tunisia	Sallem	AT000TUN00023
Tunisia	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024
Tunisia	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025
Tunisia	Tijani	AT000TUN00026
Tunisia	Ghedir El Gholla	AT000TUN00030
Tunisia	Ghali	AT000TUN00036
Tunisia	Ibn Rachik	AT000TUN00037
Tunisia	Yosri	AT000TUN00040
Tunisia	SAIFALLAH	AT000TUN00043
Tunisia	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045
Tunisia	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046
Tunisia	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047
Tunisia	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049
Tunisia	Essaida Jannet	AT000TUN00050
Tunisia	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051
Tunisia	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065
Tunisia	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070
Tunisia	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479
Turkey	AZİZLER-II	AT000TUR00004
Turkey	BEDEVİ REİS	AT000TUR00011
Turkey	HACI MUSTAFA KULOĞLU	AT000TUR00024
Turkey	İBRAHİMREİS 3	AT000TUR00026
Turkey	MAMULİ REİS-III	AT000TUR00033
Turkey	TUNCAY SAGUN-6	AT000TUR00040
Turkey	KILIÇ 24	AT000TUR00050
Turkey	AKTAŞLAR B 2	AT000TUR00058
Turkey	KÖROĞLU BALIKÇILIK	AT000TUR00070
Turkey	NURSU-3	AT000TUR00104
Turkey	DURSUN ÇINAROĞLU	AT000TUR00131
Turkey	AĞAOĞULLARI-5	AT000TUR00182
Turkey	GEÇİCİLER BALIKÇILIK 1	AT000TUR00220
Turkey	ERGÜN BAŞARAN	AT000TUR00248
Turkey	SÜRSAN-1	AT000TUR00407
Turkey	CİHAN CENGİZ KARADENİZ	AT000TUR00450
Turkey	TUNCAY SAGUN-2	AT000TUR00455

Turkey	GEÇİCİLER BALIKÇILIK	AT000TUR00496
Turkey	AKGÜN BALIKÇILIK-A	AT000TUR00523
EU-Spain	GEPUS	ATEU0ESP00119
EU-Spain	LA FRAU DOS	ATEU0ESP00172
EU-Spain	LEONARDO BRULL SEGON	ATEU0ESP00173
EU-Spain	NUEVO ELORZ	ATEU0ESP00250
EU-Spain	NUEVO PANCHILLET	ATEU0ESP00276
EU-Spain	TIO GEL SEGON	ATEU0ESP00394
EU-France	ANNE ANTOINE 2	ATEU0FRA00003
EU-France	CHRISDERIC II	ATEU0FRA00019
EU-France	CISBERLANDE 5	ATEU0FRA00021
EU-France	GERALD JEAN III	ATEU0FRA00026
EU-France	GERARD LUC IV	ATEU0FRA00028
EU-France	JANVIER GIORDANO	ATEU0FRA00037
EU-France	JEANMARIE CHRISTIAN 3	ATEU0FRA00040
EU-France	JEANMARIE CHRISTIAN6	ATEU0FRA00043
EU-France	ST SOPHIE FRANCOIS 3	ATEU0FRA00065
EU-France	VILLE D'ARZEW 2	ATEU0FRA00077
EU-France	JEANMARIECHRISTIAN7	ATEU0FRA00078
EU-France	JANVIER LOUIS RAPHAEL	ATEU0FRA00083
EU-France	ERIC MARIN	ATEU0FRA00087
EU-France	PIERRE JOSEPH SALVADOR	ATEU0FRA00088
EU-France	VILLE D'AGDE IV	ATEU0FRA00089
EU-France	VENT DU NORD II	ATEU0FRA00090
EU-France	GERALD JEAN IV	ATEU0FRA00093
EU-Croatia	PELAGOS II	ATEU0HRV00017
EU-Croatia	PREKO	ATEU0HRV00021
EU-Croatia	KALI	ATEU0HRV00037
EU-Croatia	PONOS	ATEU0HRV00058
EU-Croatia	SARDINA I	ATEU0HRV00133
EU-Croatia	NEPTUN I	ATEU0HRV00134
EU-Croatia	NEPTUN II	ATEU0HRV00140
EU-Croatia	TULJAN DVA	ATEU0HRV00155
EU-Croatia	SARDINA II	ATEU0HRV00161
EU-Croatia	CARICA	ATEU0HRV00163
EU-Croatia	TACOMA	ATEU0HRV00164
EU-Italy	ATLANTE	ATEU0ITA00065
EU-Italy	GIUSEPPE PADRE SECONDO	ATEU0ITA00289
EU-Italy	MADONNA DI FATIMA	ATEU0ITA00348
EU-Italy	MARIA ANTONIETTA	ATEU0ITA00368
EU-Italy	SPARVIERO UNO	ATEU0ITA00565
EU-Italy	VERGINE DEL ROSARIO	ATEU0ITA00617
EU-Italy	ANGELA MADRE	ATEU0ITA00635
EU-Italy	ANGELO CATANIA	ATEU0ITA00636
EU-Italy	GENEVIEVE PRIMA	ATEU0ITA00654
EU-Italy	LUCIA MADRE	ATEU0ITA00664

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EU-Italy	MICHELANGELO	ATEU0ITA00671
EU-Italy	MARIA GRAZIA	ATEU0ITA00694
EU-Malta	TA MATTEW	ATEU0MLT00001

**Table 2.** Number of farm/trap deployments by year.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of farm deployments</i>	<i>Number of trap deployments</i>
2009	10	
2010	46	
2011	55	
2012	52	
2013	51	2
2014	46	3
2015	37	3
2016*	24	4

\* At 10 October 2016

Table 3. Farming facilities and traps participating in the ICCAT ROP-BFT.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Turkey	AT001TUR00002							
Turkey	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004	AT001TUR00004
Turkey	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005	AT001TUR00005
Turkey*	AT001TUR00006	AT001TUR00006	AT001TUR00006	AT001TUR00006	AT001TUR00006			
Turkey	AT001TUR00010	AT001TUR00010	AT001TUR00010			AT001TUR00010	AT001TUR00010	AT001TUR00010
Turkey	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011	AT001TUR00011
Turkey	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013	AT001TUR00013
Turkey				AT001TUR00014	AT001TUR00014	AT001TUR00014	AT001TUR00014	AT001TUR00014
Tunisia		AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001	AT001TUN00001
Tunisia		AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002	AT001TUN00002
Tunisia*		AT001TUN00003		AT001TUN00003				
Tunisia		AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004	AT001TUN00004
Tunisia					AT001TUN00005	AT001TUN00005	AT001TUN00005	AT001TUN00005
Tunisia						AT001TUN00006	AT001TUN00006	AT001TUN00006
European Union					ATEU1ESP00001	ATEU1ESP00001	ATEU1ESP00001	ATEU1ESP00001
European Union		ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003	ATEU1ESP00003
European Union*			ATEU1ESP00004	ATEU1ESP00004	ATEU1ESP00004	ATEU1ESP00004	ATEU1ESP00004	
European Union*		ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005	ATEU1ESP00005
European Union		ATEU1GRC00001	ATEU1GRC00001	ATEU1GRC00001	ATEU1GRC00001	ATEU1GRC00001	ATEU1GRC00001	
European Union		ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001	ATEU1MLT00001
European Union*		ATEU1MLT00002						
European Union		ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003	ATEU1MLT00003
European Union		ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004	ATEU1MLT00004

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
European Union		ATEU1MLT00007	ATEU1MLT00007	ATEU1MLT00007	ATEU1MLT00007		ATEU1MLT00007	ATEU1MLT00007
European Union		ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008	ATEU1MLT00008
European Union*		ATEU1MLT00009						
European Union*			ATEU1ITA00006	ATEU1ITA00006	ATEU1ITA00006	ATEU1ITA00006		
European Union (Trap)					ATEU2ITA00003	ATEU2ITA00003	ATEU2ITA00003	ATEU2ITA00003
European Union (Trap)					ATEU2ITA00009	ATEU2ITA00009	ATEU2ITA00009	ATEU2ITA00009
European Union*	AT001HRV00001	AT001HRV00001						
European Union**	AT001HRV00003	AT001HRV00003	AT001HRV00003	AT001HRV00003	ATEU1HRV00003	ATEU1HRV00003	ATEU1HRV00003	ATEU1HRV00003
European Union	AT001HRV00006	AT001HRV00006	AT001HRV00006	AT001HRV00006	ATEU1HRV00006	ATEU1HRV00006	ATEU1HRV00006	ATEU1HRV00006
European Union	AT001HRV00008		AT001HRV00008	AT001HRV00008	ATEU1HRV00008	ATEU1HRV00008	ATEU1HRV00008	ATEU1HRV00008
European Union					ATEU1HRV00011	ATEU1HRV00011	ATEU1HRV00011	ATEU1HRV00011
Morocco						AT001MAR00002	AT001MAR00002	AT001MAR00002
Morocco (Trap)								AT002MAR00002
Morocco (Trap)						AT002MAR00005	AT002MAR00005	AT002MAR00005
Libya*						AT001LBY00002		

\* No deployment requests received for this farm in 2016

\*\*Croatia joined EU in July 2013, after which time farm numbers were changed.