

REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2
(Madrid, Spain, 2-3 March 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan).

2 Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Executive Secretary introduced the participants and observers for this intersessional meeting (see List of Participants attached as **Appendix 2**).

3 Appointment of the Rapporteur

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

4 Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2016 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota

The fishing plans that were considered at the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3**.

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 clarification on: whether the purse seine vessel will land or transfer catch for farming purposes, language indicating there may be more than one vessel, the use of stereoscopic cameras, their handling of by-catch, the use of the Regional Observer Program (ROP), and its relationship to the 20% observer coverage level mentioned in the report, and their intentions to implement the electronic bluefin catch document (eBCD). It was requested that not only should Albania respond in a letter, but their plan should be accordingly updated to reflect any clarifications. A response will be requested by 11 March 2016 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2016, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

Algeria

Algeria presented their 2016 fishing plan, highlighting their continued commitment to vessel management. Some clarifications were sought regarding references to Algeria's historical quota and historical capacity in their plan, which were resolved in the final text to the satisfaction of the Panel. The final text also reflected clarifications regarding eBCD implementation, allocation set aside for by-catch, and engagement in the joint inspection scheme.

China

China presented its 2016 plan, noting that its plan was similar to past years but that they planned to have two longline vessels operate this year instead of one in the area west of 10 W and north of 42 N. Observer coverage will be 100% instead of 20% because of the long-distance nature of the deployment. Other CPCs asked for clarifications regarding daily logbooks, China's planned eBCD implementation, vessel monitoring system (VMS) polling rate and vessel size. China reaffirmed their commitment to collect daily logbooks and implement eBCD according to the recommendation. They updated their fishing plan with the requested information.

Egypt

Egypt presented its plan, remarking that it was similar to its 2015 plan. They confirmed that they would fully implement eBCD unless there was a technical problem. CPCs asked questions of Egypt about the meaning of “full inspection coverage” and what sampling they were referring to in their plan. Egypt clarified that inspections will be conducted by the national observer in ports and on board for the fishing activity. The sampling referred to in the plan was regarding the stereoscopic camera. Egypt submitted several requested edits to their plan.

European Union

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its 2016 plan, emphasizing reinforced inspection plans, cooperation platforms to control transfer in caging operations, and their commitment to implementing the eBCD. Although the allocation was only available by sector, they noted that the European Union allocation amongst member states is in an official journal published in late January. This journal will be shared with the Secretariat for all CPCs to access. One CPC asked for clarification regarding the use of the word “superior” to describe their individual vessel quotas in relation to the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) catch rate, which the EU confirmed meant that the allocation was above the SCRS catch rate. Another CPC asked for clarification regarding the coverage of stereoscopic cameras for caging operations. The European Union confirmed that every caging operation would have at least 20% of the fish controlled by stereoscopic cameras in accordance with *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).

Iceland

Iceland began their presentation noting that they have not had active capacity management in place for many years, but instead have chosen to focus on controlling catch through comprehensive inspection and electronic catch recording systems. One CPC asked for clarification on the vessel size as a means to calculate the potential capacity and also asked for the specific VMS polling rate. The VMS information was added to the plan.

Japan

Japan presented its 2016 plan, highlighting monitoring of eastern bluefin tuna landings via daily catch reports, inspection, and tagging. Japanese fishing vessels already began using the eBCD system in 2015 and it was affirmed that this practice would continue in 2016. Although Japan stressed that the individual vessel allocation would be more than the SCRS catch rate, the number of proposed vessels sharing the allocation in 2016 was not presented because the internal process had not started yet. Some CPCs expressed concern that not having this information was potentially unfair because other plans were required to be explicit about their fishing capacity. Others expressed sympathy for Japan’s situation, noting that they faced a similar situation due to their internal processes. Japan noted that they could not put an actual or provisional number in the report this year due to the late start of their fishing season and internal processes. Japan reaffirmed that they planned to submit the vessel list at the latest 15 days prior to the start of the fishing season, in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 and resubmit its fishing plan. The Chair noted that if clarity was needed on the requirements of this measure that CPCs should propose changes to Rec. 14-04 at the Annual Meeting.

Korea

Korea presented its plan, highlighting their intention to have 100% observer coverage and their intention to limit the number of vessels to four or less to match their allocated quota. One CPC asked for clarification as to whether or not Korea would be implementing the eBCD on a voluntary or mandatory basis. Korea confirmed that eBCD would be mandatory. Questioning their lack of a portion of their quota for by-catch, one CPC asked for clarification on how by-catch would be managed. Korea responded that any by-catch would be deducted from its quota, but that by-catch is not likely to occur because of the location and gear of their other fisheries. Updates to the plan to reflect the clarifications were provided.

Libya

Libya gave an overview of their 2016 plan, covering their anticipated allocation, intentions for observer coverage, and monitoring and control efforts. Regarding eBCD implementation, Libya stressed continued problems regarding visas for officials to receive training, but that they already had all of their operators apply for eBCD identities and hoped to be able to fully implement by the deadline. CPCs asked questions regarding the VMS polling rate, a reference to sampling in their draft plan and how by-catch is handled. Libya provided the requested information in an updated plan and confirmed that any by-catch would be deducted from the quota of the vessel.

Morocco

Morocco presented its plan, noting that it was similar to their 2015 plan, but with the addition of one trap. It was requested that Morocco make some minor edits to their plan, including the completion of a fishery capacity table, which Morocco completed prior to endorsement.

Norway

Norway presented its plan on their exploratory fishery with one purse seiner and one long liner. One CPC asked about the observer coverage level for longliners, as that CPC understood the Recommendation to be for 20% of the fleet rather than 20% of fishing time. Norway responded that given they only had one longliner and per past practice they would have an observer for at least 20% of fishing days. The Chair pointed out that 20% means 20% of the fleet in case of long-distant longliners which normally make a single trip to consume the allocated quota, but it could mean 20% of fishing days in case of coastal fishing vessels which make multiple trips. The Chair suggested that if more clarity is required, CPCs should propose changes to Rec. 14-04 at this year's Annual Meeting. No changes were sought to Norway's plan.

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 clarification on the calculations in their capacity table, further detail on how inspections are completed, confirmation of the frequency of VMS transmissions and whether or not daily catch reports are collected. A response will be requested by 11 March 2016 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2016, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

One CPC sought an update to a situation last year regarding potential difficulties deploying a regional observer to Syria. The Secretariat reported that an observer was deployed in 2015, but boarded in Turkey as they could not board in Syria.

Tunisia

Tunisia presented its plan, highlighting its capacity plans, including that of its farms, and inspection plans. Tunisia was asked to confirm their plans for implementing the eBCD program, confirm their VMS polling rate and correct an error regarding the number of vessels in their capacity table. Tunisia provided a document with these edits. The European Union commended Tunisia on their plan and expressed their willingness to cooperate with Tunisia on at-sea inspections.

Turkey

Discussion on Turkey's plan began with the Chair noting Turkey's objection and reminding the Panel that Turkey was not seeking endorsement of their conservation and management plan, but rather than Turkey was presenting it for informational purposes and to answer any questions on the plan outside of their objection. Turkey then presented their plan, giving an overview of their planned allocation by sector, sampling, eBCD implementation, and intentions to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection. One CPC expressed concerns regarding the potential legal framework for Turkey to participate in the international inspection scheme, given their objection to Recommendation 14-04. The Chair noted that Turkey was not legally obligated to participate in the scheme and that CPCs could refuse to let Turkish inspectors board their vessels. Another CPC suggested that in addition, bilateral agreements could be signed to provide legal coverage. Although one CPC sought a full legal and political analysis of the status

of Turkey's engagement in the international inspection scheme, the Chair noted that the fishing season was set to start in three months and suggested proceeding with Turkey and other CPCs working together voluntarily on inspections and, if CPCs deemed it necessary, through the establishment of bilateral agreements.

Several CPCs expressed their continued disappointment with Turkey's intention to set an autonomous quota, while acknowledging their right to lodge an objection. Japan said that they would continue to request that importers, on a voluntary basis, not import catch from Turkey beyond the quota agreed in Recommendation 14-04.

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, which indicated no fishing would occur in 2016. No questions or concerns on Chinese Taipei's plan were raised by the Panel.

By-catch

The issue of by-catch handling was discussed regarding specific CPC plans, as well as a general question to the Panel. A few CPCs expressed that by-catch was inevitable, even if it is unacceptable, and encouraged CPCs to implement a reserve to account for by-catch, either as a separate category or within the individual quota for each vessel. Several CPCs also stressed that dead discards should be deducted from quotas regardless of the situation. The Chair noted that the common understanding of Panel 2 was that dead fish should be counted against the allocation whether it is retained or discarded while live release is not. The Chair further noted that this had not been necessarily the case for other species and the question of how to handle by-catch, especially regarding alive and released by-catch, would require further discussion at the Annual Meeting, taking into account the current practices for other species groups.

Stereoscopic camera algorithms

During the review of the plans, the European Union sought confirmation from those CPCs engaged in farming that they intended to use the most recent length/weight relationship table from the SCRS, or "algorithm", to calculate weights from measured lengths, as required in Recommendation 14-04. Morocco, Libya, and Turkey confirmed their intention to use the most recent algorithm. Tunisia requested that the Secretariat send them the algorithm so that they could implement it.

5 Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4

Fishing, capacity, and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Algeria, China, Egypt, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway and Tunisia. Chinese Taipei's plan was also endorsed.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Syria and Albania. Responses to these letters will be requested by 11 March 2016 and distributed to Parties for review and response via correspondence. It was requested that not only should Albania and Syria respond in a letter, but their plans should be accordingly updated to reflect any clarifications. If prior to 31 March a member finds serious fault with the plans as clarified by the additional information in any response received by 31 March 2016, then a mail vote may be triggered pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04 to decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2016 by that CPC. If on the other hand no member finds serious fault by 31 March, the plan will be deemed endorsed.

Past practice from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting in Barcelona and the 2015 Panel 2 intersessional was followed regarding Turkey's plan and it was deemed that action by Panel 2 was "not applicable" in light of Turkey's legal objection.

6 Consideration of E-BFT quota allocation by CPC

The table showing the adjusted quotas for 2016 is attached as **Appendix 4**.

Algeria began the discussion by noting the difficult situation faced by Algeria, which they believe is caused by loopholes in operating rules and lack of transparency in decision-making on allocations. They expressed their continued desire to return to their historical quota allocation share, which is much higher than the current one. They suggested that an appeal process be considered by the Panel because errors are bound to occur.

The European Union expressed sympathy for the situation facing Algeria. They praised Algeria for the decision to follow the Recommendation, and hoped that Algeria would continue along the same path. They stressed that while the Convention provides for the possibility to object, objections should only be used as a last resort as they deeply undermine the credibility of ICCAT and ultimately of its CPCs. They also reminded the Panel that the Recommendation contains a clear review clause for the Algeria's quota and assured that the European Union would be open to engage in those discussions in a transparent fashion and at the right time.

Japan also acknowledged Algeria's difficult situation and the need to resolve it fairly. Japan, while appreciating no objection exercised by Algeria, stressed that if everyone objected to the agreed quota then ICCAT would be undermined.

Turkey thanked the attendees for their understanding of its situation and sought to finalize the discussion on the issue at the Annual Meeting. Turkey stated that they would like to emphasize their formal objection to Rec. 14-04 based on Article VIII, paragraph 3a of the ICCAT Convention text and establishment of its autonomous quota allocation as 1461.82 t and 1775.09 t for 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Algeria asked that a statement shared at the meeting be attached to the report. It can be found in **Appendix 5**.

7 Other matters

European Union document on farming capacity

The European Union submitted for the Panel's information a document describing its intention to add one farm in Portugal. They affirmed that this farm would be operating in compliance with Rec. 14 04 regarding the use of appropriate cameras and observers and the increase would be consistent with paragraphs 46-50 of Rec. 14-04. After confirming that the additional farm would not put the European Union above their 2008 capacity, the European Union agreed to include their intention to increase their farming capacity in their fishing plan. Details of the farm will also be included in a separate farming capacity plan to be sent to the Secretariat on May 1.

Catch by Gibraltar

At the Annual Meeting, the Commission decided to send a letter from the Commission Chair to Gibraltar regarding the possible bluefin tuna catches by Gibraltar that are outside of the ICCAT management regime. The Executive Secretary reported that letters were sent to Gibraltar and the United Kingdom which both acknowledged receipt of the letter, but no substantive responses have been received to date. The EU reaffirmed that they did not represent Gibraltar.

Standardized plan format

Japan observed during their review of the plans that each plan was different both in terms of formatting and level of detail and suggested a standardized format for the plans to increase ease of review. The European Union and United States agreed with this idea. The Panel welcomed this idea. Japan and the European Union agreed to work together to present a draft format to the Panel.

Marketing of catches exceeding allocated quotas

Algeria wanted to discuss the problem of the marketing of catches exceeding allocated quotas over the past several years, noting that it was likely to happen again in 2016. A lack of a centralized mechanism to cross-check information across different markets was significantly contributing to this problem, according to Algeria. They asked the ICCAT Secretariat to take stock of the situation regarding amounts sold above the official quota allocated to see where those fish go and potentially identify gaps in the current systems so that the Commission could fill that gap. The Secretariat noted that would be difficult because the information would come from the BCD scheme which does not cover all catches because of some exemptions. Libya also raised the issue of illegal catch in the market place. The Chair noted that illegal catch that is marketed is always a difficult problem and asked Panel members to think of concrete ways to address the issue of marketing of catches exceeding allocated quotas at the Annual Meeting. The Panel noted that eBCD could be a useful tool to address this issue.

Requests for clarifications

The Panel reviewed several requests for clarification from ROP-BFT consortium (observer program) and CPCs. All questions and the clarifications are contained in the revised document, attached as **Appendix 6**.

While clarifications were provided on the items requested, it was clear that further discussion and rule making is required regarding trade of bluefin tuna stemming from closed-cycle aquaculture. The Chair noted that this should be discussed at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The Panel advised that any CPC intending to export such fish shall notify the Secretariat pursuant to para 6 (c) of Rec. 15 10 and use a paper-based BCD as a provisional measure.

8 Adoption of Report and adjournment

The report was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2016 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4.
6. Consideration of E-BFT quota allocation by CPC
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report and adjournment.

Appendix 2

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Bluefin fishing, inspection and capacity management plans

ALBANIA*

Based on the recommendation 14-04 which amends the ICCAT Recommendation 13-07, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota, allocated to Albania for 2016 is 47.40 tons, and for 2017 is 56.91 tons (paragraph 5 of the Recommendation).

The Fishing Vessel "ROZAF 15" owned by Gjergj LUCA, with NIPT number: K 48130547V, registered to Port Authority by Nr. P-446, with NFR: ALB22REG0649, provided with Fishing License Nr. LC-4153-03-2014, of date 07.04.2014, with ICCAT Nr.: AT000ALB00008, is authorized to perform the blue-fin tuna fishery in the amount of 47.40 tons (2016) and 56.91 tons (2017), in Mediterranean Sea area, fishing form: Pelagic, fishing gears: Purse Seiners and production landing at Shëngjini Fishing Port, every day, around 18.00 o'clock, if the production is not aimed to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

Vessel characteristics:

Fishing Vessel:	"ROZAF 15"
Gross tonnage:	160 Ton
Length:	34.8 m
Width:	6.4 m
Immersion:	3 m
Engine:	977.Hp
Crew:	5
IRCS:	ZADP9

According to paragraph 10 of the recommendation, each state must develop the Fisheries Annual Plan of the Allocated Quota by authorized vessel in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, identifying quota's for each fishing form, fishing gears group, the method used for quota allocation and management, the measures taken to ensure compliance with the quota and by-catches, reflected, also in Inspection Plan (attached to this Plan).

The obligations for the Authorized Vessel:

Fishing vessel "ROZAF-15" will develop fishing with Purse Seiners of the amount of 47.40 tons (2016) and 56.91 tons (2017), in the period from 26 May to 24 June of each year, is obliged to:

- Fish only the amount for which it is quoted;
- Proceed immediately to Shengjini port once estimated that the quota is exhausted;
- Not to use aircrafts for blue-fin tuna detecting at sea;
- Not to fish, keep on board, transship, transfer, landing, transport, store, sell or offer for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation;
- The captain of the fishing vessel should keep on board the electronic log book, to fill and communicate fishing data every day, even when the result is zero (annex 2 of the Recommendation);
- 4 hours prior entry into port, to announce the port authorities the following information:
 - a) The estimated time to enter to the Port;
 - b) The estimated amount of tuna retained on board;
 - c) Information on the geographical area where the catch was taken.
- If the fishing zone is nearly than 4 hours from the port, the announcement should be done immediately;

* Not endorsed by Panel 2, submission of a revised version has been requested.

- After each trip and within 48 hours the master of fishing vessel should submit the landing declaration to the competent authorities of Shengjini fishing harbor and Fishery Inspectorate of the Port, with a tolerance of 48 hours from the landings;
- Not to undertake the transshipment action of fished blue-fin tunas;
- Keep active the VMS system communication which should start 15 days before the fishing season until 15 days after its completion, without interruption, even when in port; The VMS messages have to be transmitted at least every four hours.
- Provide, through direct communication with ICCAT of the presence of the regional ICCAT observers on board (observer/local fishery inspector, based on ICCAT Regional Program on observation).

The obligations of Fishery Authority in Ministry

- To take the appropriate measures to ensure the allocated fishing quotas;
- To require to the authorized fishing vessel to proceed immediately to the designed fishery port (Shěngjin) when the allocated quota is exhausted;
- Do not allow the chartering actions of fished blue-fin tuna;
- To transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the data's on the authorization vessel for fishing of tuna quota allocated, at least 10 days before starting of fishing operations;
- To provide for ICCAT Secretariat all the required forms according the list of Reporting Requirements from ICCAT;
- Not to allow the authorized entities to use aircrafts for blue-fin tuna detecting over the sea;
- To take action to avoid fishing, keeping on board, the transshipment, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling or offering for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length, up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation; Only an amount up to 5% of the quantity may be allowed to be in the above parameters;
- Do not allow more than 5% by-catches of tuna fish from tuna's inactive vessels. However, the amount of tuna that comes from by-catches should be considered part of the annual blue-fin tuna fishing quotas;
- To send to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least 15 days before starting the fishing season, the list of authorized vessels, according to ICCAT format;
- To inform by 1April the ICCAT Secretariat on the tuna fisheries for the past year, information which should include:
 - a) The name and number of ICCAT for each fishing vessel;
 - b) The authorized period for each fishing vessel;
 - c) The catches in total to each fishing vessel including the zero results on entire authorized period;
 - d) The number of fishing days per authorized vessel and authorized period;
 - e) Catches in total as by-catch outside the authorized period of authorized fishing vessels;
 - f) The name, the number of national registry vessels that are not authorized to active fishing tuna but have catch blue-fin tuna as by-catch;
 - g) The catches in total as by-catch from unauthorized vessels.
- To ensure that active fishing blue-fin tuna's vessels, that are authorized, are communicating every day, in electronic way or by other information, the log book data's regarding their fishing activity to the Port Authorities and Fisheries Inspectorate of Shengjini Port;
- On the bases of the above information to take proper measures to transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the weekly data for all vessels authorized;
- To report to the Secretariat of ICCAT the monthly data's on fisheries for blue-fin tuna caught from active fishing vessels (authorized by it) and the by-catches by inactive fishing vessels for blue-fin tunas;
- To report immediately to the ICCAT Secretariat of the closure of the blue-fin tuna fishing when finds that the quotas is exhausted;

- To verify the VMS system functionality and its using by the authorized fishing vessel, especially 15 days before and 15 days after the tuna fishing season;
- To prohibit trading, marketing, landing, importation, exportation, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of blue-fin tuna species of Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean which are not accompanied by proper documentation, accurate, completed, validated, fished within the season and conform allocated quota by authorized and non-authorized fishing vessels, as required by ICCAT recommendation 14-04;
- To report to the ICCAT Secretariat on the implementation of Recommendation 14-04, until 15 October of this year;
- To ensure the presence of 20% of the period of fishing season of the observers or fishing inspectors on board of the authorized fishing vessel;
- To prepare a program with measures to be applied by Fisheries Inspectorate of Shëngjini Port, the measures in case of violations and reporting as required by 14-04 ICCAT recommendation.

Measures Programme to be applied by Fishery Inspectorate of Shengjini (Mr. Stilian Leka)

Based on:

ICCAT Convention and 14-04 Recommendation;

Annual Fishing Plan of Blue-fin tuna's quota for 2016 and 2017;

The Minister's Order Nr. 1240, date 02.02.2016 and Minister's Authorization, Nr.1240/1, date 12.02.2016

The Fishing Vessel "Rozafa 15" is authorized to fish the blue-fin tuna's quotas, as allocated from ICCAT to Albania, the amount of 47.40 ton for 2016 and 56.91 ton for 2017.

The Fishing form: pelagic, by Purse Seiners.

The Authorized period is 26 May to 24 June 2016 and 2017.

The landings of blue-fin tuna fished will be every day about 18 o'clock in the Fishing Port of Shëngjini if the production is not aimed to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

During this period, in addition to other duties that are listed in the *Bi -Annual Fishing Plan and the Minister's Order*, Fishery Inspector based on fishing port of Shengjini will priority to the implementation and make possible as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished blue-fin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The master of Authorized Fishing Vessel notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the time when evaluates its entry into the port, the amount of tuna caught having on board, the geographical area where fished.

For this, Fishery Inspector takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and provide from the master the landing declaration which reflect the above data already specified (by weighting them) and not at random way.

This action should be daily for the Authorized period.

- Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by fishing vessel authorized and communicated data's as above, of the landing declarations in the fishing harbor, as well as other details that sees the reasonable. These data, fishery inspector shall communicate to the Fishery Resources Division, within 48 hours from landing fish products by authorized fishing vessel;
- Ensure his assistance, through vessel boarding at least 20% of the authorized fishing vessel operations and fishing days;

- To prohibit the transshipment at sea of tuna products caught;
- To ensure that the master of fishing vessel fill correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them;
- To not allow the blue-fin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the mouth to the bifurcation of the tail). The inspector makes measurements of each fish tuna caught, just landed and verify the implementation of the foregoing obligation to weight/minimum size of fish caught;
- To check the functionality of the vessel into the VMS system and with non-stop signal, not interrupted even when in port. The VMS system signal should start 15 days before of starting the season, (according Authorization) and to terminate 15 days after its completion;
- To send to the Fishery Authorities in Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products;
- To observe and identify and monitor any quantity of blue-fin tuna caught by other fishing vessels (as by-catch), also from the Authorized Fishing Vessel (out of authorized fishing season).

ALGERIA

Pursuant to the relevant ICCAT Recommendations, Algeria sets out below its bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for the 2016 fishing season.

In addition to the relevant ICCAT provisions, Algeria's 2016 fishing plan is also based on provisions contained in the national regulation, in particular those of the ministerial order of 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for national flag vessels and sets out the methods for quota allocation and implementation.

Moreover, Algeria's bluefin fishing activities in 2016 will be carried out in accordance with the same conditions and methods as those of previous campaigns, including the use of the eBCD system.

1 Fishing plan***1.1 Quotas and the method used to allocate and manage quotas***

Considering paragraph 5 of Rec. 14-04 which stipulates that in addition to the quotas set, Algeria may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and this adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota amount reaches 5% of the TAC, Algeria will implement a fishing plan to catch 450 t of its quota in 2016. The 450 t will be distributed among the tuna vessel owners selected to participate in the 2016 fishing campaign from the list of vessels in the attached fishing capacity table.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to take part in the campaign will be established in accordance with national distribution criteria, based on the size of the vessels employed. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the required deadline (15 days before the campaign).

Algeria does not have any bluefin tuna recreational and sport fisheries.

1.2 Measures aimed at ensuring compliance with quotas

The 2016 bluefin tuna fishing plan will be implemented so as to ensure compliance with the limit of Algeria's quota.

1.2.1 Trade and joint fishing agreements

No private trade agreement and/or quota transfer/catch limits with other CPCs are authorised.

Joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels may be authorised. Information on these operations, in particular individual quotas and allocation keys adopted for the 2016 campaign, will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines.

1.2.2 Fishing permits

In accordance with the Algerian regulation in force, individual fishing permits will be granted to purse seine vessels authorised to participate in the 2016 fishing campaign by the Fisheries Administration.

1.2.3 Fishing period

The fishing period for purse seine tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2016 fishing campaign will be that established by ICCAT provisions and fixed by the provisions of the national regulation, i.e. from 26 May to 24 June 2016.

In addition, and in the case where the authorised quota is exhausted during the authorised period, Algeria's Fisheries Administration will announce the closure of the fishing season.

1.2.4 Minimum size

The minimum size of bluefin tuna will be 30 kg, in accordance with the national regulation and the provisions of the ICCAT recommendations.

1.2.5 Incidental catches

A 5% tolerance of incidental catches of individuals weighing less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm will be allowed, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

1.2.6 By-catch

Vessels that do not have a specific bluefin tuna fishing permit, issued in accordance with the Algerian regulation in force are not authorised to catch nor retain on board bluefin tuna. Any dead discards will be deducted from the remaining 2.98 t or the Algerian quota.

1.2.7 Use of aircrafts

The use of aircrafts or helicopters for detecting bluefin tuna schools is prohibited.

1.2.8 Transshipment

The transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited under national legislation, in particular Article 58 of Law 01-11, modified and supplemented, on fisheries and aquaculture.

1.2.9 Transfer operations

Transfer operations will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

1.2.10 Trade measures

Algeria participated in the work of the eBCD Working Group and the different international implementation tests, and will implement this system.

2 Inspection Plan

2.1 National inspection

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2016 campaign. This programme consists of carrying out in port inspections of tuna vessels authorised to take part in the 2016 campaign, before and after the campaign, and deploying two national controllers/observers onboard each vessel during the fishing season.

The task, among others, of these controllers is to monitor all fishing and transfer operations, and to verify the information and data related to the fishing campaign recorded in the onboard documents and furthermore to ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller will be required to submit campaign report at the end of the campaign.

The controllers will remain in permanent contact with the Fisheries Administration and will transmit all the information related to fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, and in the context of continuity of the training programme implemented by Algeria for controllers in 2014, a training session is also scheduled this year prior to the campaign during which training will be given on the national regulation and ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing.

2.1.1 Vessel Monitoring System

The tuna vessels authorized to take part in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a beacon, which will be operational throughout the campaign. The transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all the tuna vessels and must commence 15 days before the authorisation period and continue 15 days after the fishing campaign. The reporting rate is every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

A monitoring centre of vessel VMS signals will be implemented by the Fisheries Administration throughout the fishing season.

2.1.2 Landing ports

The ports designated by the competent authorities for landing bluefin tuna caught by vessels flying the Algerian flag and where an inspection of the products to be landed and all onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant States institutions are: port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Béjaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran and port of Ténès.

2.2 Regional observers program

The owners of the tuna purse seine vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2016 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board, in accordance with the provisions of Commission recommendations.

In addition, and in the context of continuous improvement of the execution of bluefin fishing campaigns and as stated above, the relevant observations made by ICCAT observers in 2015 will be taken into account in the 2016 campaign, in particular those related to logbook information.

2.3 Joint international inspection plan

As Algeria does not have more than 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, Algeria will not dispatch any inspection vessel.

3 Fishing capacity management plan

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e. 5.073% of the TAC, as represented in the table below. Accordingly, Algeria does not have overcapacity in the bluefin tuna fishery. For 2016, the fishing capacity will be adapted to the limit of 450 t.

PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2016

Fishing capacity

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)										Fishing capacity									
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	8	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	398.24	696.92	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58		
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	67.36		
Total purse seine fleet		8	15	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	398.24	730.6	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	614.94	614.94		
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	11.36	11.36	5.68	5.68		
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	5	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5		
Total longline fleet		2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	10.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	16.36	16.36	10.68	10.68		
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total fleet/fishing capacity		10	18	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	408.92	746.28	596.94	596.94	596.94	597.62	597.62	625.62	625.62		
TAC											28500	22000	13500	12900	12900	13400	13400	16142	19296		
Algerian historical quota share*											1460.04	1117.42	684.90	654.42	654.42	679.78	679.78	818.88	978.89		
Algerian allocated quota																			452.98		
Difference (historical quota-capacity)											1051.12	371.14	87.96	57.48	57.48	82.16	82.16	193.26	353.27		

*These calculations are based on the overall TAC for each year before adjustment for any special allocations made in those years.

CHINA**1. BFT Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Reduction Plans for 2016****1.1 Fishing Plan**

Fishing Vessel: China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels in 2016, namely Jin Feng No.1 and Jin Feng No.3, to conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Fishing period: These two vessels will shift to BFT fishing grounds to conduct BFT fishing at the end of September or at the beginning of October until the catch quota is exhausted and the landing or transshipment of the catch in the designated port shall be arranged as early as possible. Hopefully the BFT fishing activities could be over in November, because bad weather like typhoons at high latitude will be very frequent from November, which will heavily affect the safety of the crew and the vessel itself. Therefore we wish to finish the catch quota as soon as possible to avoid the bad weather. That is also why we dispatch two fishing vessels this year to catch BFT; they can help each other when they encounter bad weather at sea. We will advise the Secretariat once the catch quota is exhausted.

Fishing quota: China was allocated 53.90 metric tons of BFT in the 2016 fishing season according to Rec. 14-04.

The method used to allocate and manage quotas: Two fishing vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2016, Jin Feng No.1 will be allocated 26 tons and Jin Feng No.3 will be allocated 27.9 tons, basically each vessel hold one half of the catch quota.

Measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch: It is relatively simple to respect the quota since only two fishing vessels share the limited quota, and through observer deployment, catch report (for BFT, we have daily/weekly/monthly catch report), logbook, landing/transshipment report, VMS monitoring and catch documentation to ensure the quotas are respected by these two fishing vessels. BFT by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT.

1.2 Enforcement Plan

Observers: We plan to implement 100% observer coverage during the 2016 BFT fishing season; the coverage rate is higher than the ICCAT requirement for longline vessels. They will record the required data and discards as well as by-catch and incidental catch like seabirds, sea turtles and sharks, monitor the catch and ensure compliance with the minimum size, ensure the strict compliance of ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as carry out other scientific work.

Data record and catch report: The logbook shall be filled in every day. Daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) is required to record and report, which has to contain the date, catch positions by latitude and longitude, fork length, number of catch, weight and tag numbers. Please kindly note that China has implemented a new version logbook from 2015 which covers almost all the by-catch species.

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 according to the requirement of Rec. 14-04. It is a mandatory requirement for vessels to report every four hours to our VMS platform.

Transshipment: Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Mindelo of Cabo Verde and Dakar of Senegal are the ports which BFT caught by China-flagged vessels will enter for transshipment and/or landing, and before the transshipment and/or landing, the transshipment application/pre-notification as well as the authorization letter to tranship must be reported to the Secretariat.

Cross-checks and BCDs/eBCDs: Cross-checks of data from catch reports, VMS, requests for authorization to transshipment, transshipment declarations, and national observer program as well as inspection reports shall be made. In case any of the aforementioned records do not match the content in BCD/eBCD, the BCD/eBCD shall be rejected by the Government. Regarding the e-BCD, we will implement e-BCD from the 2016 fishing season according to 2015-10.

In addition to the above measures, Rec. 14-04 was translated into Chinese and distributed to the fishing vessels to make the fishing captain understand the recommendation more clearly; it was highlighted for the important parts like VMS, catch limit, weekly/monthly report and minimum size, etc.

1.3 Capacity Management Plan

There is nearly a 20% increase of BFT catch in 2016 (53.9 t) compared to 2015 (45.09 t). In order to ensure the allocated catch quota is commensurate with the fishing capacity, and finish the catch quota as soon as possible before the bad weather starts for the safety of the crew and fishing vessel, we have increased the BFT fishing vessels from one in 2015 to two in 2016 in order to exhaust the catch quota in a very short period of time.

Capacity management plan

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)										Fishing capacity									
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																				
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																				
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																				
Total Purse Seine Fleet																					
Longliner over 40m	25	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																				
Longliner less than 24m	5																				
Total Longline Fleet		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50		
Baitboat	19.8																				
Handline	5																				
Trawler	10																				
Trap	130																				
Other (please specify)	5																				
Total fleet/fishing capacity		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50		
Quota											63.55	61.3	38.5	36.77	36.8	38.2	38.2	45.1	53.9		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																					
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																					
Under/overcapacity											-36.5	11.3	-11.5	-13.2	-13	-12	13.2	20.1	3.9		

EGYPT***Allocation of bluefin tuna catch quota***

Fishing activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 and according to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that was adopted in the special meetings of ICAAT (Genoa November 2014, paragraph 5), the quota allocated for Egypt for the 2016 fishing season is 94.67 t, in addition to 20 t and 10 t transferred to Egypt from Chinese Taipei and 25 t transferred from Egypt to Korea, i.e. the total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2016 fishing season as a total is 99.67 t.

This total amount will be divided for the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are *Seven Seas* which is listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) and vessel *Khaled* that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005) according to the following scheme.

Vessel	Allocated Quota (t)
Seven Seas	50
Khaled	49.67

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

Potential fishing grounds

The potential fishing ground for the E-BFT fishery will be off the fishing area along the Egyptian territorial and EZZ water, Mediterranean Sea (26-32E).

List of authorized BFT catching vessels

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development of Egypt (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2016. 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 2016 season. No towing licenses will be issued, and transshipment operations are not allowed.

Coastal recreational, sport fisheries

No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.

Fishing capacity of Egypt

Type	Catch Rate (t)	No. of vessel										Fishing capacity t							
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
PS >40m	70.7																		
PS (24-40m)	49.78																		
PS (<24m)	33.7	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
Total PS Vessel		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
LL >40m	25																		
LL (24-40m)	5.68																		
LL (<24m)	5																		
Total LL Vessel																			
Total fleet					1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
Quota											0	50	33	64.58	64.58	77.08	77.08	79.2	99.67
Undercapacity														30.88	30.88	9.68	9.68	11.8	32.27

Inspections

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e. fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any.

According to the national law No. 124/1983, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to enter any Egyptian fishing port except in cases of emergency.

Regulations for the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season

Fishing period

The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2016. Bluefin tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next year. Moreover, the closed season for 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 (JFO)

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between these two Egyptian vessels, also joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will 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 landing bluefin tuna:

1. El Meadia fishing port for bluefin tuna landing during the fishing season only.
2. Alexandria commercial port for export and import tuna.

Vessel Monitoring System requirements

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2016 shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD, on the basis of a transmission every 4 hours.

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 the Egyptian waters yet.

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, sampling programs at time of caging in a JFO with another CPC will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

BCD Scheme requirements will be fully implemented, in 2016 the eBCD will be used.

Transshipment

Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 14-04.

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 invoice and/or sales notes. As will document cross checking with the other CPCs be carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

Enforcement

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

Decree Number (827) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 25 June to 25 May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly, if necessary, according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.

Article (2) the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for the purposes of farming and development.

Decree Number (828) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.

Article (2) all the fishing operations shall be documented through videos documentaries for all fishing operations and transfer to cages and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions.

Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except in the port of ELMeAdia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.

Article (2) prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD onboard.

In the case of non compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the bluefin tuna fishing for the next season, and in case of repetition of non compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from bluefin tuna fisheries.

Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and its products as well as keeping them onboard without validated documentation from the relevant authority shall be prohibited.

Observer requirements

Two of 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. The permanent observers in ports to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the on board observers reports.

Concerning the “ICCAT regional observers” Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have an Arabic speaker observer for the two authorized vessels (100%).

Use of aircraft

No aircrafts are used.

Minimum size

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

Sampling requirements

In transfer process during a JFO with another CPC the sampling process at the time of caging 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 for the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

Summary: Framework of MCS for bluefin tuna fishery, transfer and trading

Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation
- BFT catching /two vessel to be registered in ICCAT record
- Legal fishing season
- Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) will be allowed with other CPCs, JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels
- eBCD scheme requirements
- Logbook requirements
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications

Transfer

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

Export

- 100% GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization
- Representatives coverage
- BCD Scheme, eBCD will be used

Inspections

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2016 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspector and regional observer programme

EUROPEAN UNION**FISHING PLAN****Background**

The European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009¹ on 6 April 2009 transposing into Community Law the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05]. 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. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan which took place under ICCAT Recommendation 13-07. These additional measures were transposed into EU Regulation 544/2014. Finally, the EU is currently finalising the transposition of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 into EU law.

As in 2015, the EU will follow the Recommendation [14-04] in 2016. In addition, the EU is also committed to implement Recommendation [15-10], before its date of entry into force, and following confirmation by the eBCD TWG that the eBCD system is ready for implementation.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Recommendation [14-04], the quota for the EU in 2016 is 11203.54 t.

Details

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU is drawing up an annual fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 metres and their associated individual quotas. The allocation of individual quotas is still currently being finalised by EU Member States authorities.
- 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 [14-04] the EU has allocated quotas to the following sectors:

Purse seiners	[6390.2 t]
Longliners	[1035.6 t]
Bait boats and trolling boats and line vessels	[1683.13 t]
Atlantic trawlers	[274 t]
Traps	[1468.7 t]
By-catches, sport and recreational, reserve	[340 t]

The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other vessels' in accordance with paragraph 52 of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04],

The EU submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all bluefin tuna fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] and other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries including Recommendation [06-07], [11-20] and [15-10].

¹ OJ L 96,15.04.2009, p.1

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2016 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of Recommendation [14-04].

In accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 14-04, starting in 2016 EU-Portugal will operate a bluefin tuna farm with a capacity of 500 t. The EU will provide a revised farm management plan to the ICCAT Secretariat before 1 May 2016.

INSPECTION PLAN

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 bluefin tuna 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 various 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 and 2014 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 2016 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. Overview of inspection measures adopted in 2016 by the EU

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 16 March 2014 to 15 March 2018 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.

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 2016 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.

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 2016 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). These patrols particularly focus on, but are not restricted to, the fishing seasons for Purse Seiners. In 2016, the EU will conduct around 243 days of Sea patrols and additional 45 days of air surveillance in the context of the joint deployment plan.

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 [14-04].

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.

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 specific measures recently adopted, including Annex 9 of Rec. 14-04, are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. In 2016, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras.

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 2016. 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.17172014), 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 [14-04].

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 bluefin tuna.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the particularities of the 2016 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2016.

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.

3. Cooperation with other CPCs

As in previous years, in 2016 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.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)										Fishing capacity (t)								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	38	35	23	20	20	20	18	18	21	2685.00	2473.10	1625.18	1413.20	1413.20	1413.20	1272.00	1272.00	1484.70	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	91	44	28	18	18	18	25	26	24	4530.00	2190.32	1393.84	896.04	896.04	896.04	1245.00	1294.00	1194.72	
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	112	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3772.00	269.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	67.00	34.00	67.36	
Total Purse Seine Fleet		241	87	51	38	38	38	45	45	47	10987.00	4932.86	3019.02	2309.24	2309.24	2309.24	2584.00	2600.00	2746.78	
Longliner over 40m	25									0									0.00	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	7	13	15	10	8	6	6	5	5	40.00	73.84	85.20	56.80	45.44	34.08	34.00	28.00	28.40	
Longliner less than 24m	5	329	194	191	168	90	89	104	136	142	1645.00	970.00	955.00	840.00	450.00	445.00	520.00	680.00	710.00	
Total Longline Fleet		336	207	206	178	98	95	110	141	147	1685.00	1043.84	1040.20	896.80	495.44	479.08	554.00	708.00	738.40	
Baitboat	19.8	68	69	69	68	68	68	22	23	75	1343.00	1362.75	1362.75	1343.00	1343.00	1343.00	435.00	454.00	1485.00	
Handline	5	101	38	31	31	31	31	101	42	40	505.00	190.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	505.00	210.00	200.00	
Trawler	10	160	72	78	60	60	57	57	57	51	1600.00	720.00	780.00	600.00	600.00	570.00	570.00	570.00	510.00	
Trap	130	15	15	13	13	12	14	12	14	14	1950.00	1950.00	1690.00	1690.00	1560.00	1820.00	1560.00	1820.00	1820.00	
Other	5	253	382	376	222	154	135	253	398	317	1265.00	1910.00	1880.00	1110.00	770.00	675.00	1265.00	1990.00	1585.00	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1174	870	824	610	461	438	600	720	691	19335.00	12109.45	9926.97	8104.04	7232.68	7351.32	7473.00	8352.00	9085.18	
Quota		17044	16523	7981	7642	7642	7939	7939	9373	11204	17043.76	16523.10	7981.37	7642.40	7642.40	7938.63	7938.63	9372.92	11203.54	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		16211	12548	7481	6132	6132	7939	7939	9373	11204	16210.75	12547.62	7481.37	6132.41	6132.41	7938.63	7938.63	9372.92	11203.54	
Undercapacity (t)											-3124.25	438.17	-2445.60	-1971.63	-1100.27	587.31	465.63	1020.92	2118.36	

ICELAND

1 Fishing Plan

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland. In 2016 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel. 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 for a few weeks every year.

In 2016 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One long line vessel will be allocated 38 tonnes of blue fin tuna.
- 5.71 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fishing fleet.

The longliner will be allocated an individual, non-transferable quota.

2 Inspection Plan

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, with an observer from the Directorate of Fisheries present. No transshipments are allowed. Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MRI.

The longline fishing season starts on 1 August and ends on 31 December 2016. The fishing area is south of Iceland. The vessel is required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. 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. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is reached or the vessel notifies of an end to fishing operations in 2016.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on an hourly basis, VMS notifications by the longline vessel will be transmitted to ICCAT every 4 hours.

In 2015 the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates 2016 electronically.

All landings of bluefin tuna will be monitored by an inspector from the Directorate. All Icelandic catches are weighed at landing and registered into the Directorate's online database.

Discards of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial catches must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in logbooks. The longliner will be equipped with an electronic logbook. The Marine Research Institute compiles data from logbooks.

Bycatches of shark-species by the tuna longliner have been submitted in Task I and Task II data to ICCAT.

The provisions of Recommendation 15-06 on Porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT Fisheries will be incorporated into the bluefin tuna regulation 2016 by the Icelandic authorities. This will require that porbeagle shark caught as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries shall be released alive, if practicable; all catches shall be recorded in logbooks.

Should the bluefin tuna longline vessel catch other shark species that are under special provisions by ICCAT, stipulating that retaining, storing, landing and selling are prohibited, these catches must be submitted to the Icelandic Marine Research Institute for scientific research, as discards are banned. The Marine Research Institute will then report relevant information to the ICCAT Scientific Committee.

In 2016 5.71 t of BFT quota will be reserved to account for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fleet.

No recreational or any other directed fisheries for EA-BFT will be allowed in 2016.

JAPAN**1 Fishing Plan*****a) Fishing vessel type***

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic 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 2016 allocated quota, from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017.

c) Quota

Japan's quota for the 2016 fishing season is 1583.21 t (after transferring 25 t to Korea). 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 for 2016.

d) Number of authorized fishing vessels

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for 2016 fishing year as soon as those vessels are selected. The FAJ will, upon Minister's licensing, inform the vessel names, quantities of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing season begins (paragraph 52 of Rec. 14-04).

e) Catch report

The Minister will continue to require fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of following day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the number of catch, the type of product, individual BFT weights and tag numbers (paragraph 66 of Rec. 14-04). The FAJ has developed a database in order to monitor up-to-date status of catch against individual quota for each vessel based on their daily reports.

f) Tagging program

The Minister will also continue to require fishing operators to affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board a fishing vessel. The tag must be identifiable by the particular fishing year, the vessel's call sign, and a serial number in the order of catch throughout the fishing season.

g) Transshipment

The Minister will continue to prohibit transshipment of BFT at sea. The Ordinance allows transshipment to take place only at ports registered to ICCAT with prior authorization (paragraph 58 of Rec. 14-04).

h) Port 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. At the eight ports, landing of BFT will be inspected 100% by government official inspectors who will check the actual total weight and individual tags, count the number of BFT and compare them with the previously reported data including daily reports.

i) 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 June to 31 December by the Ordinance (paragraph 18 of Rec. 14-04). The FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data (paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04).

j) Observers

The FAJ will ensure the observers coverage onboard at 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas (paragraph 88 of Rec. 14-04).

2 Inspection Plan

a) National inspection

The FAJ, as the authorized government agency, will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2016 (paragraph 99 of Rec. 14-04). The FAJ will also continue to have its enforcement officers inspect all BFT landings at the designated ports (paragraph 63 of Rec. 14-04). 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 years' suspension to allocate BFT individual quota.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Japan, as a CPC having more than 15 BFT fishing vessels, will have its own inspection vessel in the Convention area when its BFT fishing vessels are operating in the Convention area.

3 Fishing Capacity Plan

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV an individual quota more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40m) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 14-04, will ensure that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

4 eBCD

All of Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT have already started to use the eBCD system in the 2015 fishing season, and will continue to use it in 2016.

PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2016

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (number of fishing vessels)										Fishing capacity (calculated by multiplying the number of fishing vessels by catch rate defined by the SCRS)							
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40	49.78																		
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																		
Total Purse Seine Fleet																			
Longliner over 40m	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																		
Longliner less than 24m	5																		
Total Longline Fleet		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	
Baitboat	19.8																		
Handline	5																		
Trawler	10																		
Trap	130																		
Other (please specify)	5																		
Total fleet/fishing capacity		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	
Quota		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	1583.21
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Under/overcapacity		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1,206	1,046	598	547	597	590	590	690	

KOREA**Allocation of bluefin tuna quota**

At the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT (Genova, November 2014) it was decided to allocate 113.66t of bluefin tuna quota to the Republic of Korea for 2016. However, in accordance with the paragraph 5*bis* of the Recommendation 14-04, Korea transferred 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt transfers 25t and 25t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Likewise, Korea transferred 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan transfers 25t and 20t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Taking into account of abovementioned transfer, Korea has 163.66t of quota for 2016. Please refer to the following Korea's BFT quota in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Year	2015	2016	2017
Original quota	95.08 t	113.66 t	136.46 t
Adjusted quota	0 t	163.66 t (113.66 + 50)	181.46 t (136.46 + 45)

Number of Authorized Fishing Vessels and Fishing Season

The authorized fishing vessels catching BFT in the Eastern Atlantic will be tentatively two to four large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLV). The fishing season is scheduled to be from 1 October 30 November 2016. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) will authorize longliners to catch BFT for 2016 fishing year with individual quotas as soon as those vessels are selected. MOF will inform the ICCAT Secretariat of the name of vessels, the amount of individual quotas and other necessary information at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Communication and Reporting of Catches

Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch report) to MOF by the end of the next day of their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight and etc. Korea will submit weekly and monthly catch reports to the Secretariat. MOF monitors up-to-date status of catch against individual quota on a vessel-by-vessel basis based on their daily reports.

VMS, Transshipment, Observer and Tagging Program

Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS onboard, and shall be tracked and reported to the Secretariat in accordance with the requirements set out in Rec.14-04 as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea in real time. BFT fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with the prior authorization. MOF will deploy 100% observer coverage for Korean-flagged vessels to which BFT quotas will be allocated during their fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.

By-catch Management

With regard to by-catch management, Korean fishing vessels should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) made by the Korean fishing vessels should not be validated by the Korean authority. The amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. At the same time, all by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Korea.

Inspection Plan

Korea has no scheme of Joint International Inspection plan.

eBCD

Korea has been preparing to use the eBCD system and will implement it from the beginning of the 2016 fishing season on a mandatory basis.

Fishing Capacity Management Plan

Taking into account the catch rate by the SCRS and allocated quota in 2016, Korea may be authorized with six longline vessels (over 40m) which are commensurate with its fishing capacity. However, Korea will limit the number of authorized BFT fishing vessels to four or less this year.

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (No. of fishing vessels)</i>	<i>Fishing capacity</i>
Type	Catch rate by the SCRS	Year of 2016	Year of 2016
Longliner over 40m	25	4 (maximum)	100.00
Quota(t)	-	-	113.66
Adjusted quota (t)	-	-	163.66
Over/under capacity(t)	-	-	-63.66

LIBYA

Libya's legislation, management and control measures are in line with ICCAT Rec. 14-04 amending ICCAT Rec. 13.07 adopted at the 2014 ICCAT Annual meeting in Genoa.

Although facing several difficulties because of the present political situation in the country the operators from both the West and East side of the country adhered to parameters laid out by ICCAT recommendations as transposed into the local legislation and the tuna season for 2015 was conducted with success and it is the intention of this Authority to ensure that the 2016 season will bear the same positive results.

Fishing fleet

The number of fishing vessels which will participate in catching E- BFT for the 2016 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea are 14 catching vessels (14 purse seiners (PS), 20-40 m and no longliner (LL)), no vessels less than 20m, no traps and no sport/recreational fishing will participate in 2016 fishing season.

The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2016 BFT fishing season is a maximum of 8 (eight) vessels with no fishing gear on board, to provide services of towing cages or services supplies.

The total allocated quota assigned to Libya for 2016 in Rec. 14-04 para 5 amounts to 1323.28 t plus 50 t carry over and the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in season 2016 will be as follows:

14 purse seiners over 20 m, authorized to fish for BFT in 2016, have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration SCRS best catch rate, where 1320 t plus 50 t carry over will be allocated between 14 PS (20 – 40m) with 3.28 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by-catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is indicated in **Table 1**, and any changes to this allocation or to the vessels list will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT.

The authorized vessels are expected to carry out fishing activities during the 2016 season in working groups and the details of these groups and their relative allocation key will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.

Respecting individual quota limit shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with the ROPs assigned to the catching fishing vessels.

When a vessel fishing on its own is deemed to have caught its individual quota it shall be ordered back to port immediately.

As also when a JFO is deemed to have exhausted its aggregated quota the member vessels of that JFO shall be ordered back to port

Joint Fishing Operations

No other CPC has so far presented a request for JFO operation with any of the Libyan vessels.

Fishing season

In line with ICCAT Rec. 14-04 the fishing season for purse seiners shall start on 26 May 2016 and end on 24 June 2016.

Farming (caging activities)

Libya will have no farming activity in 2016.

Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

- Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) # 205/2013 amending Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 which was amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic.
- Law # 14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.
- Other Acts organize and manage BFT licenses.

Licensing

Individual fishing permits shall be issued by this Authority based upon Decree 205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2016 specifying the conditions as laid out in Rec. 14-04.

- Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Med Sea, Article 3/Decree #205/2013).
- Individual Quota Acc. (Art. 11/Decree #205/2013).
- Log Book on board Acc. (Art. 28/Decree #205/2013).

Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)

Following ICCAT Rec. 14-04 (para 87) and by Decree #205/2013/Art. 18), all fishing vessels and other vessels active in BFT fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a full active VMS which shall send vessel position every four hours.

This 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. A vessel with defective VMS transmission will be requested to withdraw from fishing activity.

Observers

ICCAT regional observers (ROPs) shall be placed on board all PS authorized to fish BFT in 2016 (Art. 14/Decree, #205/2013).

All authorized PS vessels shall have full deployment (100%) of ROP observers; all tugs / towing vessels shall have a national observer onboard.

Reporting of catch

The catching vessel Master shall communicate by electronic or other means to the competent authorities on a daily and weekly basis by way of catch reports, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight, (Art. 20/Decree#205/2013).

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

Transfer

The catch vessel Master shall request from the competent authorities an authorization to transfer BFT catch by email or fax, specifying, date, area and position of catch, number of fish and estimated weight and expected date, time of transfer, towing vessel information, number of cages and their final destination conformed and signed by Regional Observer and National Observer.

A Numbered Transfer Authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements under Para. 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77 of Rec. 14-04 are met.

In case there are indications of differences in estimated weight of fish including the number that died during the transfer operation between ROP onboard the catching vessel and vessel Master of more than 10%, or 5% in the case of the number of fish less than 30 kg an investigation will take place according to the procedure stated in Para 81 of Recommendation 14-04.

All BFT transfers to tugs shall be documented by video camera and a copy shall be on board of the tug boat and another copy shall be handed to ROP and the vessel Master (Art. 24/Decree#205/2013).

The vessel Master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to the fishery authority after confirming the data from ROP (Art. 25/Decree#205/2013).

The Master of the tug boat shall not leave the transfer site before he has received the original documents which prove the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch vessels logbook (Art. 23/Decree#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#205/2013).

The Master of the catching vessel shall keep on board a logbook of their operation and all vessel activities information must be completed 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 #205/2013).

Sampling requirements

All catch transfers will be documented by video footage.

At the time of transfer of live fish to towing cages, certain percentages of fish transferred could be randomly sampled and killed.

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 of towing cages to their farms.

eBCD

Libyan authority personnel are always facing difficulty in obtaining visas to attend training sessions in this regard. This Authority is committed to implement the eBCD system in 2016.

Landing /transshipments ports

Transshipment at sea is prohibited.

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

All vessels entering any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from the port authorities (Art. 22/Decree#205/2013).

All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by Port and Fishery Authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag State with a report (as stated in Para. 71 of Rec. 14-04).

Use of aircraft

Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited (Art. 10/Decree#205/2013).

Minimum size

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg is prohibited (Art. 15/Decree 205/2013).

Catching vessels fishing actively for BFT, an incidental catch of max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted in the Libyan quota.

Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of BFT and its products which are not accompanied by an accurate, complete and validated BCD is prohibited (Art. 21 & 24/Decree 205/2013).

Imposing of sanctions

Any non compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree 205/2013/Art. 17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota).

Fishery Inspection Plan

Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Libya are governed by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, #14/1989, Decree #205/2013, transposing Rec. 14-04/para 97/Annex 7 and by The Coast Guard and Port Security Act #229/2005 which constitute the core legal documents which define activities and actions which are to be infringements of fishery policy.

Human resources

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

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

Central Control Room will be established during the 2016 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 management of fishery resources which also contain a description of inspector tasks as per Rec. 14-04.

Capacity Management Plan

Libya reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with ICCAT measures requirements till its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**). Considering Rec. 14-04 – Article 5 here the new TACs are set as 16142 t for 2015, 19296 t for 2016 and 23155 t for 2017. Allocation for Libya is 1323.28 t, and 1588.77 t in seasons 2016 and 2017 respectively. In addition Libya will carry over 50 t of its 2011 unused quota in each year up to 2017. Hence the total allocated quota for Libya in 2016 is 1373.28 t.

Moreover the capacity plan shows a planned reduction of fishing capacity in 2016 by 249% comparing to 2008 fishing capacity.

Table 1. Catching vessel actually engaged in BFT fishing 2016 season.

<i>NO.</i>	<i>VESSEL NAME</i>	<i>ICCAT NO.</i>	<i>VESSEL TYPE</i>	<i>INDIVIDUAL QUOTA</i>
1	DEELA	AT000LBY00024	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
2	OZU II	AT000LBY00009	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
3	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
4	TRIPOLITANIA	AT000LBY00013	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
5	MORINA	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
6	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
7	ALMAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
8	ALSSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
9	AL HARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
10	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
11	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
12	Tayma	AT000LBY00083	PS, 20-40m	98.091 t
13	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
14	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
TOTAL				1373.274

Table 2- FISHING CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR Libya - 2016

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS(24-40)m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	14	14	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	697	697
PS < 24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PS fleet		33	31	30	21	18	17	17	14	14	1577	1527	1478	1045	896	846	846	697	697
Longliner >40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0
LL(24-40)m	5.68		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner <24m		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total LL fleet		5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0
Total fleet capacity		38	35	32	23	20	18	18	14	14	1702	1627	1528	1095	946	871	871	697	697
Quota											1237	947	581	903	903	938	938	1107	1323
Adjusted quota											1237	1092	726	903*	903	938	938	1157	1373
Sport/recreation											0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/over capacity											465	535	947	192	43	-67	-67	-460	-676

Reduction

* Libya did not use its quota of 2011.

MOROCCO

Introduction

In accordance with the provisions in force on the recovery of the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07, the objective of this document is to submit to the Commission for its consideration the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for the 2016 season.

In general terms, these plans are identical to the plans submitted and adopted by the Commission for the 2015 fishing campaign.

1 Quota allocation plan/operational sectors

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its annual meeting held in Genoa in November 2014, the national quota for 2016 which is fixed at 1792.98 t will be distributed among the following operational sectors: a) traps, b) artisanal vessels and coastal vessels fishing bluefin tuna as by-catch and c) two offshore purse seiners.

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

2 Fishing conditions

The fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual bluefin tuna fishery management plan updated to take account of 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 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07 during the 2016 fishing campaign, which will start in April for the trap sector.

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 authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 12 traps
- 2 purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorized by the Moroccan Administration catch bluefin tuna as by-catch during their migration period and as in the past, their catches will be counted against the limit of the quota allocated to their segment.

Therefore, the national management/reduction of fishing capacity plan for the 2016 fishing season is as follows: (See **Table 1** Capacity management plan.)

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 authorized by the Commission for the different gear will be applied.

Bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by large pelagic longliners over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May, with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10° West and North of 42° N, where this fishing shall be authorised from 1 August to 31 January.

Purse seine bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June.

Baitboat and handline bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October.

5 Stereoscopic cameras

For the vessels and traps targeting live bluefin tuna destined for farming facilities, stereoscopic camera systems will continue to be used for this fishing season, in accordance with the conditions stipulated in ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

6 Implementation of the eBCD system in 2016

At national level, the operability of the eBCD electronic certification system will depend on the integrated development required of the application program, on its stabilisation and the command of its effective implementation by all parties concerned.

The Kingdom of Morocco which has taken all appropriate measures to use this system can only operate it if the required technical conditions of development and functioning are fulfilled and if the importing CPCs with which the Kingdom of Morocco engages in trade transactions are ready to use the eBCD system.

As a reminder, the Kingdom of Morocco has made all the arrangements to implement the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation/eBCD program for the 2015 fishing season, but it encountered technical problems when the first eBCD was being issued, due to an absence from the system of certain data for which the Kingdom of Morocco is not responsible. Therefore, resource had to be had to paper-based BCDs so as not to disadvantage national operators.

7 Control and compliance

Fishery monitoring, control and observation procedures will be implemented in accordance with the national and international regulations in force, which form the basis of the 2016 method of operation whose objective is the following:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities;
- Monitoring and control of transfer and caging operations, in particular the use of stereoscopic camera systems in accordance with the conditions stipulated in ICCAT Recommendation 13-08;
- Reporting scheme and recording of fishing, transfer and caging information;
- VMS monitoring of fishing and support vessels (auxiliary vessels);
- Documentary procedures for trading bluefin tuna;
- Application of international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean; and
- Compliance with international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco in relation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

8 Other information

The bluefin tuna farming facility “Blue Farm” will be authorised this year in accordance with the specific conditions and methods which will be determined by the administration in accordance with the regulatory provisions in force.

Table 1. Capacity management plan.

Tuna vessel fleet		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity (t)								
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	141.4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.8	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	149.4	149.4	0	49.8	0	49.8	49.8	49.8	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet	-	5	5	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	253.5	253.5	70.7	120.5	70.7	120.5	120.5	120.5	141.4
Longliner over 40 m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others /Artisanal**	5	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	20.7	20.7	30	33	130	140	26.97	109.19	150
Trap	112.3	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	1684.5	1909.1	1459.9	1010.7	1010.7	1123	1123	1235.3	1347.6
Total capacity of fishing fleet		20	22	14	11	10	12	12	13	14	20	22	14	9	10	12	12	13	14
Quota		2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98
Undercapacity (t)		0	0	0	0	-13.07	-20.47	-35.47	-35.01	-153.98	0	0	0	0	-13.07	-20.47	-35.47	-35.01	-153.98

*tbr: to be reported.

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 provided for the same prohibition. This regulation, which entered into force 1 January 2008, remained in force until 2014.

In accordance with the Norwegian Fishing and Inspection Plan for 2014 approved by ICCAT, a limited exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna by one purse seiner was opened up in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October. In line with the approved Plan for 2015, Norway opened up for an exploratory fishery by one purse seiner during the same fishing period as in 2014, and by one longline vessel from 1 August to 31 December 2015.

Norway will also in 2016 open up for an exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to be conducted by one purse seiner and one longliner. The Norwegian fishing and inspection plans are presented below. As Norway prohibited targeted fisheries for bluefin tuna for conservation and rebuilding purposes for a number of years, and is only envisaging a limited exploratory fishery in 2016 as in 2014 and 2015, no capacity management plan is presented.

The exploratory fishery conducted in 2014 and 2015 indicated a change in the distribution of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone compared to the previous period when Norwegian vessels conducted targeted fisheries for this species. Bluefin tuna was observed simultaneously in the south and far north, from 60° - 68°N, and in coastal as well as offshore waters in July-September in both 2014 and 2015. As the fishery was conducted by a single vessel in 2014 and only by two vessels in 2015, it proved challenging for these vessels to locate the bluefin tuna. This is due to the large extension of the Norwegian Economic Zone (968 700km²) and the highly migratory nature of the bluefin tuna during the main feeding season.

Hence, the lessons drawn from the 2014 and 2015 seasons are that one vessel is insufficient to conduct exploratory fisheries for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone and that even with two vessels this is a highly demanding task. Moreover, as Norwegian fishermen have not conducted targeted fisheries for bluefin tuna since 1986, more knowledge about the changes in distribution and feeding migration is required. At the same time, we need to explore which fishing methods would be the most convenient in our waters today. To facilitate and enhance a successful exploratory fishery, Norway plans to authorize two vessels in 2016. One of these vessels will be a purse seiner and the other a longline vessel.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through a Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2016, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing and inspection plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, this Regulation will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program (Rec. 11-20), Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Amend Aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program to Facilitate the Application of the eBCD System (Rec. 15-10), as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system to the extent possible in 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2016.

2 Annual Fishing Plan 2016

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2016 is 43,71 t.

Norway has established the following fishing plan for bluefin tuna in 2016:

- A targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be authorized in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October for one purse seine vessel and from 1 August 2016 to 31 December for one longline vessel.
- Each vessel will be given an individual vessel quota, and the total allocation for the two vessels will be 32 t. At the outset, the purse seiner will be given an individual vessel quota of 20 t and the longliner an individual vessel quota of 12 t. 11.71 t of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catch in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna. Any subsequent modification of these quotas will, in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 12, be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.
- 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.
- The vessels 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 vessels 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 14-04 paragraph 25, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.
- In accordance with Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 89, the purse seine 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 Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 88, the longline vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have a national observer onboard during 20% of the time the vessel is targeting bluefin tuna.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 14 no carry-over of any under-harvest will be allowed.

3 Annual Inspection Plan 2016

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 52 Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorized to conduct the exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days 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 14-04. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) at the Directorate of Fisheries will monitor the bluefin tuna fishery.

The vessels 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 the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard 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 Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 87 and Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area (Rec. 14-09).

As the exploratory fishery will be limited to two vessels only authorized to fish bluefin tuna within the Norwegian Economic Zone, participation in the Joint ICCAT Scheme of Inspection is not foreseen in 2016.

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.

SYRIA*

In accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the 19th Special meeting and 24th Regular meeting of ICCAT, and until the Commission considers Syrian request of allowing Syria to carry over unused quotas of BFT (2012, 2013 and 2014), we have the honour to present a bluefin tuna fishing plan of the national quota for this season 2016.

1. BFT fishing vessel and operations

- According to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2016, Syria has an annual quota of 47.40 tons of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea catch during the 2016 season. Syria adopted the following plan:
 - The quota of 47.40 tons will be caught by one fishing vessel (Syria will submit name and specification of licensed vessel as soon as the vessel is selected).
 - Special fishing license shall be issued by the fishery authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) for the vessel authorized to fish Bluefin tuna in 2016.
 - The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
 - The authorized period for fishing is from May 26 to June 24, 2016 (if there is no other recommendation adopted by ICCAT).
 - No joint fishing operations will be allowed (Any joint fishing operations will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately).
 - Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.
 - No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria
 - There is no facility for farming BFT in the Syrian water yet.
 - Longliner, Baitboat, hand boat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria.
 - The fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiner shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
 - Fishing in Syria is traditional in territorial water with no commercial fishing operations, and bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fishermen.
 - All catch shall be inspected by fishery authorities (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).
 - ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of BFT catch at the time.

2. Control Measures***Minimum size and Incidental catch / by-catch***

- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg is prohibited.
- An incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted for the vessel fishing actively for BFT.

VMS

- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be provided as required in ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishery authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

* Not endorsed by Panel 2, submission of a revised version has been requested.

National Observers Program

- The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by one controller observer (General Commission For Fisheries Resources) who will be embarked on board of tuna vessel.
- The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations.

(Syria will submit name of national observer as soon as possible)

Regional Observers Program

- According to the recommendation concerning the regional observer programme for purse seine vessel, Syria is ready to receive regional observer appointed by ICCAT.
- It is kindly requested that the observer transmits his personal information and copy of his passport in appropriate time to be able to take the necessary arrangement with the relevant agencies.

Reporting of Catch

- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a weekly catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight.
- Weekly and monthly catch reports of vessel active in the BFT catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

Imposing of Sanction

- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission For Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports.
- In case of non compliance with this plan or any of ICCAT recommendations by the fishing vessel regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties (confiscation of fishing gear, confiscation of catches, suspending or withdrawal of license).

3. Capacity Management Plan

- Due to the small quota allocated to Syria, only one fishing vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2016 to catch Syrian allocated quota (Syria will submit name and specification of licensed vessel as soon as possible)

Fishing Capacity

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40 m	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	39.65	47.40
Purse seiner less 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.58	33.58	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	33.58	33.58	0	0	0	39.65	47.40
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	33.58	33.58	0	0	0	39.65	47.40
Quota										33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.40

TUNISIA

1 Fishing capacity management plan

In preparation for the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia has adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT (paragraph 41, Rec. 14-04).

On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia has established a fishing plan and has allocated individual quotas to 27 vessels to fish bluefin tuna in 2016, including the re-commissioning of 2 purse seiners which had been inactive since 2011 (**Table 1**).

2 Fishing plan

During the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing campaign (26 May - 24 June), the competent Tunisian authority envisages granting bluefin fishing permits for 27 purse seine vessels: 23 vessels with a length greater than 24 m, 1 vessel measuring 24 m and 3 vessels less than 24 m.

The management of fishing activity will be governed by the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing and its implementing texts in particular the Order of 21 May 2008 as amended by the Order of 10 June 2013 on the organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery).

Tunisia's TAC is fixed at 1491.71 t for 2016 and will be distributed as follows:

- 1461.88 t (i.e. 98%) among the 27 bluefin tuna catching vessels taking into account the methodology established by ICCAT (catch level and length ranges).

A list of catching vessels and the corresponding individual quotas are attached to this report (**Table 2**).

Within the context of their joint fishing operations, the purse seine vessels will share their common catches according to the allocation key pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 17 of Rec. 14-04.

- 29.83 t (i.e. 2%) for by-catch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29 of Rec. 14-04.

2.1 Data recording and reporting

Prior to entry into any port, the vessel masters or their representatives will report to the relevant port authorities no later than four hours before the estimated time of arrival the following:

- Estimated time of arrival
- Estimated volume of bluefin tuna caught
- Information on the geographic position where the catch was taken

The daily information of the fishing logbooks including zero catch data which will be notified to the competent authority throughout the fishing period via the representatives of the fishing masters.

Nevertheless, real time monitoring of transfer operations of products that are performed and their destinations will be ensured by the U3C Terminal (Control and Communication Unit in conjunction with the Fishing Information Administration and Management Centre (CAGIP)).

2.2 Vessel monitoring by VMS

All bluefin tuna vessels with a length greater than 15 m will be equipped with VMS. Transmittal to ICCAT of VMS data by vessels authorised to participate in the 2016 bluefin fishing season which will be carried out every four hours will commence 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the end of the authorisation in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04.

2.3 Implementation of observation programmes

In 2016, the Administration will maintain implementation of the regional observers programmes (onboard catching vessels) and deployment of national observers (onboard towing vessels) in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 14-04.

3 Inspection plans

3.1 National inspection

In compliance with the national regulation in force, at-sea inspection missions in fishing areas during the campaign will be ensured by permanent fisheries and coast surveillance officers. They are responsible for monitoring and assessing compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Authorisations for entry of foreign flag vessels to designated Tunisian ports are granted by the competent port authorities.

In-port inspections are ensured by certified officers of the fishery services responsible for control of bluefin tuna landings, fishing gears and onboard documents.

3.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspection

In compliance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Rec. 14-04, the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 is expected to participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Three onboard inspectors will ensure the carrying out of the inspection and boarding activities for Tunisian and foreign vessels during the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- onboard documents
- catching activities and transfer activities to towing cages
- the video recordings of catch transfer operations
- possible infringements of management measures in Rec. 14-04

Detailed inspection programmes as well as measures to be taken in relation to vessels inspected will be decided jointly with the Fisheries Administration.

3.3 eBCD

Having participated in the work of the eBCD Working Group, Tunisia will take this year all the steps to implement the electronic catch documentation (eBCD) program.

4 Farming capacity management plan

In accordance with paragraphs 46 and 47 of Rec. 14-04, the farming capacity for 2016 will be maintained at 2,134 t, which is the same caging capacity as in 2015 (**Table 3**).

Six (6) companies plan to carry on their activities in 2016. If there is a change in the farming plan, it will be notified to ICCAT by the required deadlines.

Table 1. Adjustment of Tunisia's fishing capacity – 2016.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.7	70.7	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	24	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72	1144.94
Purse seiners less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	3	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	134.72
Total purse seine fleet		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (specify)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total capacity of fishing fleet		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	27	1809.3	1809.3	1809.3	1080.54	1029.28	1029.28	1029.28	1228.4	1295.76
Vessel quota		2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71	2254.48	1735.87	1735.87	1017,56	1017,56	1057	1057	1247.97	1461.88
By-catch		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29.83
TAC		2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71	2254.48	1735.87	1735.87	1017,56	1017,56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491,71
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71	2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71
Undercapacity														76.78%	98.51%	103.68%	103.68%	103.48%	

Table 2. List of tuna vessels and individual quotas - Tunisia (2016).

	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT registration</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Vessel owner</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
1	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065	36.7	Ridha Sallem	108.98
2	Ghedir El Gholla	AT000TUN00030	35.05	Ridha Sallem	108.98
3	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051	37	Meridien pêche	66.04
4	Hassen	AT000TUN00008	26.84	Meridien pêche	41.18
5	Mabrouk	AT000TUN00015	25.4	Meridien pêche	41.18
6	Yosri	AT000TUN00040	22.36	Meridien pêche	28.10
7	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046	32.3	Sté ben Hmida et cie	41.18
8	Saifallah	AT000TUN00043	23.28	Sté ben hmida et fils	28.10
9	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024	29.25	Sté ben hmida et fils	41.18
10	Tijani	AT000TUN00026	27.2	Sté ben hmida et fils	41.18
11	EL Horchani	AT000TUN00009	32.65	Sté Horchani de pêche	120.77
12	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014	25.4	Sté Horchani de pêche	41.18
13	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049	35	Jomaachaari	41.18
14	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025	31.85	Jomaachaari	41.18
15	HajHedi	AT000TUN00007	28	Sté chaari et fils	41.18
16	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070	34.9	Spacservices	66.04
17	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045	25.25	Spacservices	41.18
18	Sallem	AT000TUN00023	38.13	Hamed Sallem (fish tunisie)	41.18
19	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037	34.39	Hamed Sallem (fish tunisie)	41.18
20	Imen	AT000TUN00010	29.1	Sami Neifer	79.12
21	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047	25.3	Mohamed chiha	78.47
22	AbouChamma	AT000TUN00002	25.42	Héritiers Moncer	53.61
23	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479	37.05	Sté dauphin	41.18
24	Ghali	AT000TUN00036	21.94	Néjibchiha	28.10
25	Essaidajannet	AT000TUN00050	37	Etat	90.90
26	Jamel	AT000TUN00011	26.29	Héritiers raouine	41.18
27	Med Adem	AT000TUN00012	24	Sté radhouène de pêche	28.10
Total				1461.88 t	

Table 3. Adjustment of farming capacity - Tunisia (2016).

<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Facility / Facility Owner</i>	<i>Maximum caging planned in 2016 (t)</i>
AT001TUN00001	VMT (Sahbi sallem)	356
AT001TUN00002	TT (Abdelwaheb Ben Romdhane)	444
AT001TUN00003	SMT (substitute facility)	444
AT001TUN00004	TFT (Ridha Sallem)	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB (Jaouher ben Hmida et Sami Neifer)	267
AT001TUN00006	THC (Taher Hajji et mohamed Chiha)	267

TURKEY***Turkey's Provisional Inspection Plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2016*****Introduction***

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016 with 58 Coast Guard boats and 203 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, 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, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 309 inspector staff and 63 vessels for participation to the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel assigned by Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL)'s (ARAMA 1) will conduct ICCAT inspections in the region.

Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently. The provisional list of active inspection vessels are given in **Annex 1****.

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

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 focused on for the year 2016. It is estimated that these will be the locations where fishing and towing vessels carry out bluefin tuna fishing and transferring activities.

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

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

Inspection time and area by regions

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

Means of at-sea inspections

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at BFT fishing grounds which are determined based on 2015's risk assessment data.

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

* Turkey lodged an objection to Rec. 14-04. Endorsement of this plan was not sought.

** Available electronically.

Planned number of ICCAT inspection assets to be deployed

Number of Coastal Patrol Vessels: 58

Number of High Seas Patrol Vessels/Inspection Vessels: 63

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 performed by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts by the TCGC during the whole BFT fishing period for 2016.

Permanently 5 personnel will be working in shifts on a 24 hour basis at the Coast Guard Main Operational Center in Ankara. In addition to the Main Operation Center in Ankara Headquarters, 3-4 personnel will be working in shifts at each operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Regional Commands which are located in Izmir and Mersin and operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Group Commands which are located in Iskenderun, Antalya, Marmaris and Çanakkale.

Alternative management and conservation measures for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

Through the instrument of ICCAT Circular # 00649/15, Turkey has lodged a formal objection to *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]. Correspondingly, this document, comprising of the alternative management and conservation measures set by Turkey for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, has been prepared and herewith presented to the attention of PANEL 2 to take place on 2 – 3 March 2016. Turkey has presented this alternative management plan, not requiring endorsement from Panel 2 in line with the precedence from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting, as an indication on how Turkey will voluntarily put into practice the current conservation and management measures set by ICCAT.

1 Fishing Plan

Through the *Note Verbale* dated 12 February 2015 (as announced by ICCAT Circular # 00649/15), Turkey has declared an “AUTONOMOUS QUOTA” of 7.73% of the TAC adopted by the Commission in its 19th Special Meeting.

In this context, Turkey will implement a total of 1,461.82 t catch limit for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2016.

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for Eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted by individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel.

The Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Communiqué and Notifications regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

1.1 Potential fishing grounds

The potential fishing ground for E-BFT fishery will be off the western and southern coasts of Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Sparse fishing activities may occur in the southern parts of the Aegean Sea.

1.2 List of authorized E-BFT fishing vessels

MoFAL shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2016. All fishing vessels authorized by MoFAL shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

1.3 Licensing

Fishing permits issued by MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2016 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline of May 12, fishing permits are planned to be granted to 23 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoFAL. Similarly, a total of 55 BFT other vessels including towing, support and auxiliary vessels are planned to be authorized by MoFAL.

1.4 Allocation of E-BFT catch quota

In accordance with the formal objection lodged and the declaration made by Turkey on 12 February 2015, Turkey shall implement the catch limit for 2016 as 1,416.82 t. In this regard, a viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 23 E-BFT catching vessels (if no conceivable changes happen until May 12 deadline) acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2016 E-BFT fishing season.

1.5 Methodology used for quota allocation

MoFAL plans to allocate 90% of the total Turkish allocated quota for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels.

For the fishing vessels having allocated an individual quota but not intending to operate for the 2016 E-BFT fishing season, the right to transfer its individual quota to another fishing vessel shall be given. Should any E-BFT catching vessel 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 10% of the total. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.

1.7 Regulations for 2016 E-BFT fishing season

1.7.1 Fishing period and open season

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2016 to 24 June 2016.

1.7.2 Joint fishing operations

No joint fishing operation (JFO) 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 have 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 purpose.

In case of dead bluefin tunas derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.

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 fishing 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 E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2016 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoFAL. Position reporting every two hours will be required from the authorized fishing vessels.

1.7.5 Recording and reporting

Recording and reporting shall be made in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

1.7.6 Transfer, towing and caging operations

Transfer, towing and caging operations shall be conducted in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

1.7.7 Cross check

As a part of measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch, 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 as well as through a National Fisheries Information System called SUBIS.

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.

1.7.8 Enforcement

Any noncompliance to the regulations regarding E-BFT fishing and transfer shall lead to nullification of the fishing permit or the towing permit issued by MoFAL. Noncompliant fishing vessels shall not get any of the above mentioned permits for future operations.

1.7.9 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.

1.7.10 Observer requirements

Presence of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations); 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 2016.

1.7.11 Use of aerial means

Any use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for E-BFT shall be prohibited.

1.7.12 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 cm shall be prohibited.

1.7.13 Sampling requirements

E-BFT samplings shall be made in parallel with the procedures set by ICCAT management and conservation measures. In 2016, 100% of caging operations shall be covered by a programme using stereoscopic cameras systems in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out by ICCAT. The results obtained will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat, as required by the SCRS. On the other hand, sampling of dead E-BFT derived from fishing shall be treated in accordance with the Turkish National Sampling Program.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned in this plan and in domestic legislation.

1.8 Implementation of e-BCD system for 2016 E-BFT fishing season

Turkey plans to put into place the eBCD system effectively from the beginning of the fishing season in a way to fully implement the relevant provisions of Rec. 15-10.

2 Inspection Plan

2.1 National inspection

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoFAL during 2016 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel – namely ARAMA 1 – will be commissioned by MoFAL to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoFAL inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports to check and record any landing of dead E-BFT.

As for E-BFT caging operations, MoFAL inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. Modern technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

2.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspections

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016 with 58 Coast Guard boats and 203 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from 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, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 309 inspector staff and 63 vessels for participation in the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel – namely ARAMA 1 – that has been assigned by the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock will also contribute to the activities under ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

The provisional list of inspection vessels has been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat on 12 February 2016.

2.3 Framework of MCS

2.3.1 E-BFT fishery, transfer, farming and trading of Turkish allocated quota

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 / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- Log Book requirements
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross checks for verification



Transfer

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorization
- Video footage
- Cross checks for verification
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessels)
- 100% National Observer coverage (for all towing vessels)
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements



Towing

- 100% National (CPC) Observer coverage
- BCD / e-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 / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- Caging Declaration



Farming

- Random MOFAL Inspections
- 100% MOFAL Representative coverage
- 100% video footage



Transport

- 100% National (CPC) Observer coverage
- 100% dead fish
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and Transport Declaration requirements



Landing Ports

- Random MOFAL Inspections at 7 authorized landing ports for dead E-BFT
- Random MOFAL Inspections at landing ports used for by-catch dead E-BFT



Harvest

- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements



Export

- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements



Inspections

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2016 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL),
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season.

3 Capacity Plan

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)										Fishing capacity									
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (*)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	16	2899	2262	848.4	919.1	0	212.1	0	1131	1131		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40	49.78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	3	2439	1693	547.58	199.12	547.58	348.46	647.14	0	149.3		
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134.7		
Total Purse Seine Fleet																					
Longliner over 40m	25																				
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																				
Longliner less than 24m	5																				
Total Longline Fleet																					
Baitboat	19.8																				
Handline	5																				
Trawler	10																				
Trap	130																				
Other (please specify)	5																				
Total fleet/fishing capacity											5439	3955	1395.98	1118.22	547.58	560.56	647.14	1131	1415		
Quota											887.2	683.1	419.18	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	1223	1417		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																					
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																					
Under/overcapacity											4552	3272	976.8	582.33	11.69	3.9	90.48	-92	-1.54		
(*) Number of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional figures based on presumptions. Definite number and breakdown of vessels will add up by May 12.																					

CHINESE TAIPEI

In accordance with *ICCAT Rec. 14-04*, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we are continue to implement the temporary regulation established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2016. The aforementioned Atlantic Ocean means the ICCAT Convention area, including the Mediterranean Sea.

As for the by-catch of Bluefin tuna, it shall be released or discarded, recorded on the logbook or e-logbook, and reported to this Agency in accordance with pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations. Up to date, there is no by-catch of bluefin tuna reported to this Agency. We are sure that if we get any by-catch report of Bluefin tuna in the future, we will report to ICCAT through formal channels and deducted from the Chinese Taipei quota.

Furthermore, with reference to the paragraph 5bis of the *ICCAT Rec. 14-04*, I would like to confirm that Chinese Taipei transfers 10 tons of Atlantic bluefin tuna within its catch limit to Egypt in 2016.

E-BFT quotas for 2016

Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5, sets initial quotas for 2015-2017 for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and stipulates that, in addition to the initial quotas:

- Algeria may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. This adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota amount reaches 5% of the TAC.
- Turkey and Egypt may catch up to the following adjustment amounts.

CPC	2015 (t)	2016 (t)	2017 (t)
Turkey *	50	60	70
Egypt *	16	20	25

* Adjustment shall be re-established at the 2017 Commission meeting.

- Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017.**

** Under this quota Mauritania will conduct research activities that will be reviewed by the SCRS by the end of 2017. Such activities will be conducted in cooperation with an ICCAT CPC of its choice and will be subject to the presentation of a specific programme to the SCRS. The result will be made available to the Commission.

- Libya may carry over up to 50 t of its 2011 unused quota in each year until the end of 2017.

These TACs shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

5bis. Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 10 t of its quota to Egypt in each year until the end of 2017.

Depending on availability, Korea may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt may transfer up to 25 t and 25 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Depending on availability, Korea may transfer up to 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan may transfer up to 25 t and 20 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

In accordance with the above, the Secretariat has calculated the adjusted quotas for 2016 as shown below. Confirmation from Panel 2 members is requested.

E-BFT quotas for 2016

CPC	Quota 2016 (t)	Adjusted quota (t)
Albania	47.4	47.4
Algeria	202.98	452.98
China	53.9	53.9
Egypt	94.67	99.67
European Union	11203.54	11203.54
Iceland	43.71	43.71
Japan	1608.21	1583.21
Korea	113.66	163.66
Libya	1323.28	1373.28
Morocco	1792.98	1792.98
Norway	43.71	43.71
Syria	47.4	47.4
Tunisia	1491.71	1491.71
Turkey	785.59	845.59
Chinese Taipei	58.28	48.28
Mauritania	(research quota) 5	

STATEMENT BY ALGERIA

Algeria reiterates its claim regarding re-establishment of its historical quota by denouncing the unfair treatment by ICCAT in relation to this issue which only leaves Algeria with a single choice, that of lodging an objection to any later recommendation on bluefin tuna which does not refer to the full re-establishment of its historical quota.

Requests to Panel 2 for clarification of ICCAT conservation and management measures

1 Requests from ROP-BFT consortium (observer programme)

<i>Clause Reference/Topic</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
Control Transfers	Given that 2015 was the first year of sanctioned control transfers, we would like to confirm that the recording procedure for these operations by the observer programme was appropriate.	Confirmed, appropriate. The presence of a Regional Observer is not a requirement for control transfers to take place. If a regional observer is requested, wherever possible, the observer deployed for the control transfer should be the same as the observer present at the original deployment, but this is not strictly necessary. A different observer may observe the control transfer.
Intra Farm Transfers	There have been some incidents where intra farm transfers have occurred outside of period of observer coverage and the cage numbers recorded on the BCDs have not been updated and validated. In these situations it is our understanding that BCDs cannot be signed until national authorisation documents have been shown explaining the difference in cage numbers on the BCDs.	Correct. National authorization documents are not specifically required to be provided to observers; however, verification that intra-farm transfers of bluefin tuna between cages were authorized by the concerned CPC and occurred in the presence of farm State control authorities, as required per Para 84 of Rec 14-04, must be provided. With such verification, the observer may sign the BCD.

<i>Clause Reference/Topic</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
Harvests	On an individual farm it was attempted to compensate fish across BCDs and across cages, when following completion of the harvest of the number of fish listed on the BCDs there were still fish remaining in the cage. These were subsequently harvested and allocated to a BCD from another cage from which less than the number of fish listed on that BCD were harvested. It is our understanding that such compensation is not allowed and that those BCDs will not be signed by the observer as the BCD and cage numbers will not be consistent with their observations.	If it so happens that after the completion of harvest of a cage it results that there was a lower number of fish than that listed on the BCD, then the farm can compensate the said deficiency with any BCD from any other cage on the farm so long as the catches originate from the same CPC quota or JFO quota of the same year. Such compensations have to take place with the explicit consent and authorisation of the farming CPC.
Rec. 14-04, para 83	When revised transfer results are distributed following analysis of stereoscopic footage it is not clear what procedure should be followed, particularly when these results are distributed after completion of a deployment.	No action is required of the consortium if the results are received after the end of deployment. The procedures for 2016 will continue as in 2015 until such time that the Recommendation can be amended to take into account the chronology of events.

2 Request received from CPCs

<i>Clause Reference/Topic</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
Rec. 11-20, paras 3 and 10	<p>Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into, exported or re-exported from the territory of a CPC shall be accompanied by a validated BCD. However, there is an exemption from this requirement in paragraph 10 for fish parts other than the meat, i.e. heads, eyes, roes, guts and tail. Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does this exemption cover fertilized roes from farmed bluefin tuna. 2. Do the requirements in this Recommendation apply to bluefin tuna stemming from eggs from a farmed bluefin tuna (rearing of bluefin tuna in captivity for the entire lifecycle). 3. Are there any other ICCAT requirements applying to such bluefin tuna? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, they are exempt. 2. Yes, they need a BCD, but this would not be counted against the quota as long as the CPC demonstrates that the fish is a product of rearing of bluefin tuna in captivity for the entire lifecycle. Those CPCs intending to export such fish shall notify the Secretariat pursuant to para 6 (c) of Rec. 15-10 and use a paper-based BCD as a provisional measure. 3. No other requirements were identified but the Panel recommended that the Commission consider the development of rules, particularly within the context of the BCD program and eBCD system, covering bluefin tuna produced through closed cycle aquaculture operations.
Rec. 14-04, para 9	<p>While it is accepted by all CPCs that the ICCAT catch rates per gear are to be applied for the preparation of the capacity plans, there seems to be less clarity regarding whether or not the catch rates in question should also be applied to determine the maximum number of fishing units per gear in the fishing plan. On the basis of paragraph 9 of Rec 14-04, it is our understanding that this should be the case and we would like to receive confirmation from the Panel 2.</p>	<p>Yes, confirmed. This is addressed in the capacity plans.</p>