COC_301_ADD_1/2026
18/11/2026 16:44
Original: English / French / Spanish

Annual report updates received after first publication
Actualisations des rapports annuels reçus après la première publication
Actualizaciones de los informes anuales recibidos después de la primera publicación

This addendum contains the updates of the annual reports received after the first publication.

Cet addendum contient les actualisations des rapports annuels reçus après la première publication.

Este addendum incluye las actualizaciones de los informes anuales recibidos después de la primera publicación.

- **Egypt** – Summary and written sections 1 and 2
- **Grenada** – Written sections 1 and 2
- **Barbados** – Summary and written sections 1 and 2

ANNUAL REPORT OF EGYPT
RAPPORT ANNUEL DE L'ÉGYPTE
INFORME ANUAL DE EGIPTO

SUMMARY

The allocated quota of BFT for Egypt for the 2026 fishing season is 549 t. The adjusted quota is 543.51 t, as Egypt has assigned 1% of its total quota for bycatch. . The Egyptian fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea are "Golovik" under ICCAT registration number AT0063105 and national registration number 5365 in the port of Alexandria and "SAFINAT NOOH" under ICCAT registration number AT0045845 and national registration number 4274 in the port of Alexandria. Egypt specifies an amount of 271.755 t for "Golovik" and 271.755 t for "SAFINAT NOOH" as shown in (Table 1). Egypt conducted Joint fishing operations with Tunisia. All JFO Details have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat according to the latest required format. Egypt has recorded tuna-like species in 2024, approximately 100 t of swordfish, 1266t of little tunny, 159 t of albacore, and 840 t of Scomberomorus *spp. According to the 2024 yearly statistical book published by the Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA), tuna and tuna-like species, mainly* Scomberomorus *spp and* Euthynnus alletteratus*, were caught by purse seiners, longliners, and trammel nets fishing vessels in coastal fisheries within the territorial waters. The total catch of tuna-like species for 2020-2024 was 2656.00 t-2365.00 t respectively*(Table 2)*. Egyptian regulations prohibit catching and trading of sharks and sea turtles.*

RÉSUMÉ

RESUMEN

Section 1: Information on fisheries, research and statistics

1.1 Annual fisheries information

Egyptian marine landings from the Mediterranean Sea in 2024 was shown in (**Table 3**) summed of 63355.325 t which representing 3.08 % of the total production of Egypt.

The most common fish species caught from the marine resources are: sardine, shrimp, sea bass and sea bream, mullet, common sole, snappers, groupers, siganus, meagre, anchovy and other species of those managed by ICCAT as *Scomberomorus spp*, little tunny (=Atl. black skipjak) swordfish and Albacore.

The total number of registered vessels fishing in the Mediterranean Sea is 2554 machinery fishing vessels with engines, more than 50 up to 1000 HP, using different fishing gears: 835 trawlers, 238 purse seiners, 802 long liner and 753 trammel net, gillnets. As shown in (**Table 4**).

1.1.1 Tuna fisheries information

The Egyptian tuna vessels authorized to fish for BFT were only two fishing vessels, from 2013 to 2017, 1 vessel from 2018 to 2021 and became two from 2022 up tell now (**Table 5**). Egypt conducted Joint fishing operations with Tunisia. All JFO Details have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat according to the latest required format.

1.1.2 Tuna-like species vessels

According to the yearly fish statistical book 2024, the Albacore catch was 159 T caught by fishing boats, **Table 1**. Also it has been noticed that Egypt has recorded Tuna-like species in 2024 as swordfish approximately 100 tons, little tunny 1266 T, and 840 T. Scomberomorus spp. (**Table 2**).

1.1.3 Sharks and sea turtles

Catching and trading in the Mediterranean of sharks whether whole or in parts is prohibited in Egypt according to the fisheries law and legislations. A scientific survey for sharks along the Mediterranean was conducted and the data of bycatch will be submitted to SCRS in Task 1 .

Egypt is prohibiting any fishing for sea turtles, and if there is any accidental by-catch of sea turtle it should be returned alive to the sea and reported to the concerned fisheries management office at the port, including the date and location of this accidental fishing, also the appropriate procedures accordingly are applied.

1.2 Research and statistics

1.2.1 Scientific research

Diversity and Distribution of Cartilaginous Fishes Along the Egypt's Mediterranean Coast

- As part of ongoing research efforts to protect the marine environment and manage fisheries in Egypt, a comprehensive scientific survey was conducted from 2023 to 2025 along the Egyptian coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This survey aimed to evaluate the status of cartilaginous fish (sharks, rays, and chimaeras) in Egyptian territorial waters, determine their biodiversity, monitor breeding and nursery grounds, and estimate the biomass of harvested fish (whether as bycatch or targeted catch), while also providing scientific recommendations to enhance protection and control measures for endangered species.
- The research documented the presence of 69 species of cartilaginous fish distributed across 28 families.

- The research divided the Egyptian coast into five zones (from A to E); it revealed that Zone (D), extending from west of Alexandria to Marsa Matrouh, represents a major nursery and breeding ground, ranking first in terms of biodiversity, followed by Zone (C) off the coast of Alexandria



- The research recommended tightening control measures on fishing and trade operations from April to October, with a specific focus on April and May, to curb overfishing, protect sensitive and juvenile species, and ensure the sustainability of fish stocks.

Combating ALDFG in Egypt

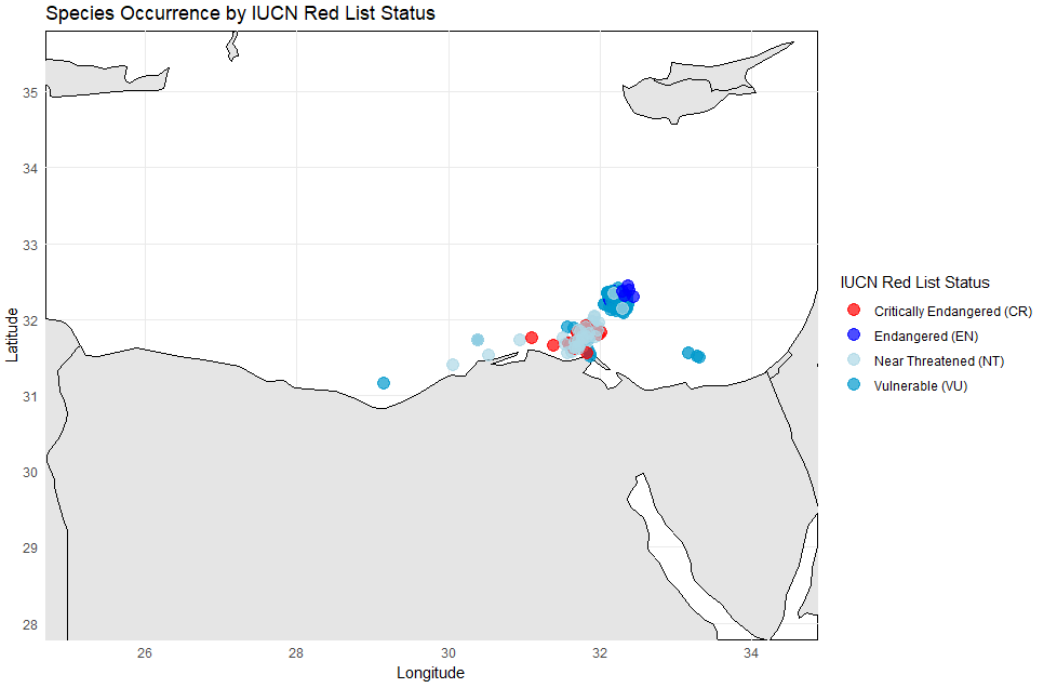
- Egypt, in cooperation with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), is implementing practical measures in alignment with GFCM Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/11, and consistent with ICCAT Recommendation 19-11 on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). This aims to operationalize regional and international recommendations regarding the marking and identification of fishing gear, specifically those used by fishing vessels ranging from 12 to 15 meters length overall (LOA) and above.

- This cooperation includes taking serious steps toward developing national legislative and legal frameworks based on Law No. 146 of 2021 and Prime Minister's Decision No. 706 of 2023, alongside preparing for a pilot project to be implemented by the end of 2026 in selected Egyptian ports to test unique marking mechanisms for passive fishing gear and document them, as well as organizing specialized training programs to build the capacities of inspectors and relevant stakeholders. This cooperation helps improving the tracking and monitoring of fishing activities, and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, thereby supporting the recovery of fish stocks and preserving the sustainability of aquatic, environmental, and ecological ecosystems.

Vulnerable Species Observation Programme (2024 - 2026)

- Within the framework of international commitments and with the support of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and under the MedSea4Fish programme, LFRPDA in cooperation with AASTMT continued implementing the monitoring programme for bycatch and vulnerable species (including seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks, and rays) in Egyptian Mediterranean waters (GSA 26), throughout 2024, 2025 and 2026.
- Activities were carried out through onboard observations on trawlers, questionnaires, and landing observations involving qualified observers.

- Recorded species were classified according to the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU) In addition to other Near Threatened (NT) and Data Deficient (DD) species.
- Records of vulnerable species were notably concentrated in marine areas east of the Nile Delta, emphasizing the importance of continuing protection and bycatch mitigation efforts.
- Egypt can provide the ICCAT with further details upon the full completion of the programme.



<u>Implementation of IMO on Egyptian Fishing Vessels</u>

- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) number is the established, reliable, and unique global standard for vessel identification (consisting of 7 digits). It remains permanently assigned to a vessel throughout its lifecycle, regardless of changes in name, flag, ownership, or marking. It serves as a pivotal tool for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Supporting Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Mechanisms.
- With the support and technical assistance provided by the GFCM Secretariat that facilitated the contact with the IHS Maritime & Trade IMO Ship Numbering Departmentand, Egypt successfully established and assigned IMO numbers to 57 fishing vessels exceeding 15 meters in length.
- Technical consultations and discussions are currently ongoing to complete the remaining engineering and administrative data, aiming to expand the numbering scope to encompass a larger number of vessels within the Egyptian fleet to ensure full compliance with international regional body decisions and recommendations.

1.2.2 Statistics

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) is officially responsible for overall fishery data collection. There is statistical evidence that its capacity improved during the preceding years in cooperation with GFCM MedSea4Fish project that helped in terms of data collection on capacity building, catch & effort, by-catch and fisheries landing. Furthermore, LFRPDA in collaboration with GFCM under the umbrella of GFCM-Mid Term Strategy 2017-2020 had conducted more activities regarding capacity building and discard data collection. Large pelagic data and local marketing data are collected regularly (daily, monthly and annually) by LFRPDA and published in a statistical book, including the statistical data of the fisheries production from the Mediterranean Sea.

Beside the periodical data collection mechanism implemented by LFRPDA, many fisheries research for Mediterranean species is carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and universities, the landing data of tuna and tuna-like species are reported to ICCAT in Task 1.

Section 2: Information on conservation and management measures

2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

2.1.1 Data and minimum size

Egypt conducted Joint fishing operations with Tunisia. All JFO Details have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat according to the latest required format.
LFRPDA has issued Resolution Number 121/2023 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean which covered the following points:

Regarding the minimum size regulations, article (4) stated that "(1) the minimum conservation reference size for Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115 cm fork length. (2) catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale Bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited. (3) Incidental catch of BFT weighing between 8 kg and 30 kg or, in the alternative, with fork length between 75 and 115 cm doesn't exceed 5% of total catch".

Regarding fishing season article (3) stated that "Purse seine fishing for Bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July. This period will be amended, if necessary, according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT". An announcement of the closure of fishing season on 19th June 2023 was sent to the ICCAT on 19/06/2023.

Regarding national scientific observer program, article (14) stated that "(1) Prohibition on vessels licensed to fish Bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there is a national scientific observer onboard. (2) The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the national scientific observers are detailed in Annex IV".

Regarding designated ports, article (9) stated that "It shall be prohibited to land or transship from fishing vessels any quantity of Bluefin tuna fished at any place other than the designated port listed in ICCAT port list, Exporting BFT is prohibited at any place other than these ports in ICCAT port list".
Regarding landings, article (10) stated that "In case of landing, all landed catches shall be weighed and inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort by national inspectors".

2.1.2 Measures relating to individual species
Mitigation of Seabird Bycatch in Egyptian Longline Fisheries
In compliance with the Recommendations 07-07 and 11-09 regarding the mitigation of seabird bycatch, and despite the inherent safety and visibility challenges that nighttime operations pose to the crew, most Egyptian longline vessels actively implement night setting measures. It is worth noting that while seabird sightings remain extremely rare in the Mediterranean, fishers continue to proactively apply these necessary precautionary measures.

Longline fishing offers practical, cost-effective solutions for reducing seabird interactions. A primary deterrent utilized locally involves employing empty plastic bottles as a low-cost tool to shield baited hooks and prevent birds from accessing the bait or becoming entangled in the lines. Additionally, fishers employ other traditional methods, such as using worn-out, unusable cooking utensils to generate loud noises that scare away birds.

Furthermore, despite the rarity of seabird sightings, an official circular has been circulated across all landing ports, obligating fishers to record any seabird interactions with their fisheries and their condition upon release. This ensures that data will be accurately recorded and submitted to ICCAT within the specified deadlines. Due to a lack of practical and technical experience with scaring lines (Tori lines), operators strongly prefer these traditional methods, as they achieve the same conservation objectives without incurring high costs or operational complications.



Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Egyptian Fisheries

Egypt takes serious and decisive steps to protect endangered marine species, foremost among them being sea turtles. This commitment is supported by the Law on the Protection and Development of Lakes and Fish Resources, the Environment Law, and our international obligations.

The national framework strictly prohibits fishing, collecting, transporting, or possessing sea turtles in either the Mediterranean or the Red Sea, and bans any tampering with their nesting and breeding habitats along the coasts.

In practice, fishers and environmental officials follow a clear protocol for accidental bycatch: unharmed sea turtles are immediately released back into the sea. However, if a turtle is harmed, officials from Ministry of Environment take charge, transferring it to specialized rehabilitation centers for proper veterinary care and rehabilitation, and subsequently releasing it back into the wild once it has recovered.

Furthermore, to ensure compliance with international agreements, official circulars are distributed across all landing ports, obligating fishers to safely release unharmed sea turtles, while transferring harmed ones to protected areas under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment for care and eventual release into the water after recovery.

National Measures and Procedures Taken by Egypt for the Protection and Conservation of Sharks

Egypt adopts a strict and unified legislative and executive system to protect sharks and cartilaginous fish in its territorial waters (the Mediterranean and Red Seas), in compliance with national legislation and relevant international agreements. The most prominent of these measures include:

1. Total Legal Prohibition and Comprehensive Criminalization

- Egyptian law strictly prohibits targeting or intentionally catching sharks and cartilaginous fish in Egyptian waters. This ban is based on Law 146/2021 article (31) which stated that "It is prohibited to catch, collect or transport sea turtles, and marine mammals from the sea, lakes, or other aquatic bodies.
- Executive Regulation 706/2023 Article (31) stated that "Fishing vessels must comply with the measures established by the authority to improve the conservation status of sea turtles and marine mammals and mitigate the risks of incidental catch (bycatch)". Article (32) said that "The owner and the captain of the vessel are obligated to monitor, record, and report incidental fishing operations of sea turtles, marine mammals, large marine organisms, and endangered organisms, as well as to determine the fishing location, release operations, and specifications of the captured organisms in accordance with the forms prepared by the authority. Article (62), paragraph 6 mentioned that "Any person who violates the provisions of Articles (30) and (31) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and not exceeding three years, and by a fine of not less than EGP 10,000 and not exceeding EGP 50,000, or by either of these two penalties. In the event of recidivism, the penalty shall be doubled.
- Decree No. 424 of 2024 issued LFRPDA stated that" Targeting of Sharks and Cartilaginous fish is prohibited in Egypt"
- Environment Law No. 4 of 1994 (amended by Law No. 9 of 2009) Article (28) stated that "It is prohibited, by any means, to perform any of the following acts: Hunting, killing, catching, or possessing wild birds, terrestrial animals, live aquatic organisms, keeping them, transporting them, exporting them, importing them, trading them—whether alive or dead, whole or in parts, or their derivatives; or performing any acts that would destroy their natural habitats, change their natural characteristics or habitats, destroy their nests, or exterminate their eggs or products.",
  Article (84): "Without prejudice to any severer penalty stipulated by another law, whoever violates the provisions of Article (28) of this law shall be punished by imprisonment, and a fine of not less than five thousand pounds and not exceeding fifty thousand pounds, or by either of these two penalties. In all cases, the judgment must mandate the confiscation of the seized birds, animals, live organisms, plants, and fossils, as well as the machinery, equipment, tools, and means of transport used in committing the crime."

- Environment Executive Regulation No. 1095 of 2011, annex 4 which imposes a complete ban on catching, trading, or trafficking endangered species.

2. Field Protocol for Handling "Bycatch"

- Fishermen are continuously guided and urged, through awareness campaigns, to release any sharks caught as bycatch alive and immediately back into the sea in a healthy condition to ensure their survival. If a shark gets entangled in the gear and is brought up dead, Fishermen are obliged to bring the dead fish completely to the landing ports and not discard them at sea.

3. Legal and Regulatory Procedures in Landing Ports and Markets

Upon monitoring any cases of shark landings in ports or trading in markets by inspectors from LFRPDA, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Supply, strict steps are taken, including:

- Issuing an official report immediately regarding the incident by the agency's inspectors.

- The case is referred directly to the port police to transfer the file to the Public Prosecution to take the necessary legal decisions, which include imposing heavy financial fines and doubling the penalty in case of a repeated violation.
- The seized items are fully confiscated (whether whole sharks or parts of them) and safely buried in a sanitary landfill under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Environment to prevent their entry into any commercial chains.

4. Data Collection, Scientific Research, and Awareness Programs

Recognizing the urgent need to protect various shark species, Egypt initiated a comprehensive survey on the diversity and distribution of cartilaginous fish along its Mediterranean coast. Despite severe hardships, logistical difficulties, and funding challenges faced by Egyptian researchers, this survey serves as a crucial step toward tightening controls and improving data accuracy.

To support these efforts, LFRPDA regularly organizes awareness campaigns to encourage fishers to safely release live sharks and avoid strict legal penalties. Furthermore, continuous coordination is maintained between the Agency and the Ministry of Environment to review commission recommendations and develop legislative frameworks for each individual shark species.

Building on the findings of this scientific survey, Egypt plans to roll out a suite of robust executive and environmental measures for marine resource management. These include intensifying inspections at landing ports, particularly during the peak breeding season from April to October and activating bycatch protocols to ensure the safe release of endangered species.

Measures concerning targeted species:

Egypt has taken some steps to manage targeted species by issuing executive decrees that are allign with recommendations adopted by ICCAT to monitor, control and mitigate bycatch of these species including:

1. Decree no.291/2023 on Multiannual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish, iming to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the species. It requires all fishing vessels targeting swordfish or catching it as by-catch to obtain prior authorization from the Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA), while prohibiting fishing activities during the closed season from 1 January to 31 March.
2. Decree no. 285/2023 on a Multiannual Conservation and Management Plan for BFT in the Mediterranean that establishes the regulatory framework for Egypt's implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Recovery Plan in the Mediterranean, aiming to ensure the sustainable conservation and management of Bluefin Tuna stocks and compliance with international requirements. It regulates fishing activities through the enforcement of ICCAT-approved quotas, and requires comprehensive registration and authorization of fishing vessels. Furthermore, it strengthens monitoring, control, and surveillance. Overall, the decree seeks to enhance regulatory oversight, transparency, traceability, and enforcement while preventing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Bluefin Tuna stocks in the Mediterranean.
3. Decree no. 284/2023 for Albacore fishing in the Mediterranean requiring fishing vessels to obtain a specific fishing permit issued by the General Administration of Fisheries, indicating the authorized catch quantities by the competent authority. Permits are issued during the period from 1 January to 10 March, while fishing for Albacore Tuna is prohibited from 1 January to 31 March.

2.1.3 Inspection

The costal guard forces in cooperation with the Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) carried out-inspections on all fishing vessels, including tuna vessels to ensure that they have an IMO number and as that its legal frameworks prevent vessel owners from engaging in

unauthorized fishing activities, to apply a comprehensive and effective inspections and oversight. They also reviewed licenses and permits of the crew and the fishing gears used before the vessels were allowed to leave the port. Inspections of all the vessels including tuna vessels were also carried out as soon as they returned to the port to make sure that they returned to the port on the date determined by LFRPDA. The types and sizes of catch were also inspected and checked with logbooks by the port inspectors to assure all relevant LFRPDA resolutions in the frame of the ICCAT recommendations, this includes verifying that each vessel is only authorized to fish if it meets all ICCAT obligations, has valid authorization on board, maintains a clean record of IUU fishing, and undergoes a thorough review of changes of ownership to ensure that all registered large-scale fishing vessels are fully compliant to ICCAT requirements.

2.2 Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures

Administrative Updates and Work Progress Status

Due to the current administrative and organizational restructuring underway at the Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency, an interim disruption to the workflow has inevitably occurred. This is further compounded by the limited staff handling these extensive responsibilities; the team's scope of work is not restricted to the ICCAT file, but extends to managing internal affairs as well as bilateral relations with countries worldwide. Consequently, these circumstances have led to some delays in transmitting and updating certain required data. Please be assured that intensive efforts are being made to stabilize operations and return to standard working rates as soon as possible.

Scaling Up Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and Monitoring Infrastructure

- Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMC) represent the cornerstone of modern marine fisheries management and ensuring their sustainability across all levels. Locally, these systems enable effective control and real-time surveillance of fleet movements, regulate fishing zones and seasonal closures, and enhance fishers' safety through prompt emergency response. Regionally and internationally, this technology serves as an essential tool for combating (IUU) fishing, protecting endangered species and sensitive marine habitats, as well as fostering transparency and compliance with agreements and recommendations of fisheries management organizations.
- In this context, Egypt had made a great effort to align its regulations with the international requirements. However, Egypt still faces a significant challenge in securing the necessary financial support to expand the installation of tracking devices to cover all of the Egyptian fishing fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, alongside establishing a dedicated Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) to ensure fish stock recovery and align national efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Financial Challenges in Monitoring and Data Collection Programmes for International Compliance

Monitoring, control, and data collection programs constitute the cornerstone of sustainable fisheries management and are crucial for ensuring full compliance with the requirements and recommendations of regional and international fisheries management bodies. While Egypt remains fully committed to meeting its regional and international obligations and advancing marine sustainability, the implementation and continuity of these comprehensive monitoring activities face significant financial and logistical challenges due to the high costs required to cover extensive field operations, onboard observer deployment, and sampling. As a corrective action Egypt intends to engage academic researchers to perform periodic field visits at landing sites during the fishing season to collect samples upon fund availability.

Online Reporting Challenges

Regarding our reporting obligations, we have encountered some technical challenges with the Online Reporting System, particularly concerning the entry and alignment of specific datasets such as form ST09. To overcome these obstacles and ensure future data accuracy and completeness, we are currently working in close coordination with the Online Reporting Technical Team to resolve these issues, prevent any data gaps, and ensure full compliance with all reporting requirements.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and support

Section 3: Online reporting

PART 1: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS REPORTING

All research and statistics reports were uploaded to the IOMS platform on 16 September 2026.

PART 2: MANAGEMENT REPORTING

All management reports had been uploaded to the IOMS platform on 16 September 2026.

Appendices:

Table (1) Catch details

VESSEL NAME	ICCAT NUMBER	QUOTA ALLOCATION Tons
Golovik	AT000EGY00020	271.755
Safinat Nooh	AT000EGY00010	271.755
TOTAL		**543.51**

Table (2) Total landing of tuna like species (ICCAT Species)

SPECIES	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Scomberomorusspp	595	999	833	634	840
Little tunny (=Atl.blackskipj) *Euthynnusalletteratus*	1071	959	1065	983	1266
Swordfish	4.0	12	26	75	100
Albacore	316	622	177	164	159
TOTAL landing of tuna like species (ICCAT species)	**1986.000**	**2592**	**2101**	**1856**	**2325**
Total No of fishing units	**2656**	**3193**	**2556**	**3082**	**2554**

(Table 3) production from Mediterranean Sea by spp.

Com. Name / Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Swordfish	100	75	26	12	4	5	4	4	-
Black barred halfbeak		-	-	-	0	0	-	1	-
Octopus	215	100	184	287	282	389	384	289	138
Cartilagenous fish nei	872	740	704	1050	881	1037	1292	1375	1300

Greater amberjack	48	22	23	131	126	11	4	-	-
Anchovy & Small sardine	5077	3668	5319	4718	4962	4491	4570	3448	2657
Blue runner	1761	812	663	797	825	714	655	720	600
Red mullets	610	694	680	608	549	642	1152	989	881
Spinefoot	494	500	526	612	705	692	828	968	742
Purple-spotted bigeye	23	22	42	26	35	48	78	-	-
Little Tunny	1266	983	1065	959	1071	1006	1003	1094	901
Albacore	159	164	177	622	316	278	429	396	77
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	5.325	0	67	327	122	266	181	124	115
Squirrelfish	80	1	2	3	2	2	4	-	-
Shrimp	8010	8423	5138	6270	5462	4666	5610	8068	6432
Deep Sea Red Shrimp	557	580	694	650	605	475	845	979	757
Narrow-Bared Spanish Mackerel	840	634	833	999	595	696	1017	1019	895
Gilthead seabream	527	876	523	457	404	440	337	367	344
Annular Seabream	148	200	131	122	251	311	369	496	555
Common Cuttlefish	1445	1767	1498	1858	1876	1593	2039	1515	1452
Sardinellas nei	10693	10025	8604	7854	6806	6557	8902	8580	9147
Largehead hairtail	2649	2448	2210	2551	2627	2005	2004	1889	1508
Med. horse mackerel	510	365	450	594	484	400	446	504	680
Striped piggy	1441	1976	393	261	60	75	301	292	7
White seabream	812	617	425	395	366	343	405	406	455
Chub Mackerel	1099	862	560	519	604	634	606	650	871
Red Sea mantis shrimp	1842	1097	542	276	376	427	799	490	455
Threadfin Breams	713	726	718	638	672	764	623	864	744
Grey Mullets	1362	1100	1806	1190	1329	1183	1444	1559	1767
Rainbow Wrasse	35	109	153	124	129	74	82	-	-
Common Pandora	136	117	170	239	254	327	372	469	492
Pompano	23	11	11	5	6	10	9	-	-
Grey gurnard	347	304	400	462	629	695	720	596	452
European seabass	498	327	302	145	258	243	296	272	314
Marine molluscs nei	3707	3218	3431	3271	4019	3570	4087	4171	4141
Blue Swimming Crab	6028	5107	3777	4358	3688	3066	3275	3892	2790
Squid	437	425	425	29	19	29	7	-	-

Filefish		-	-	-	0	5	8	-	-
Atlantic mackerel	18	6	98	-	0	0	1	8	-
Jacks	23	21	24	4	0	2	5	-	66
Meagre	1547	1440	1204	899	994	823	929	651	690
Red porgy	728	780	933	491	520	486	615	541	609
European Barrcudas	858	911	688	527	469	615	573	521	583
Brushtooth lizasrdfish	857	835	649	763	590	653	694	682	608
Bogue	1114	987	963	995	1022	1471	1542	1820	2150
Sole, common	838	782	782	784	663	544	653	689	655
Bluefish	376	331	452	325	382	391	445	470	444
Shrimp Scad	9	-	-	-	0	0	-	83	-
European hake	542	540	503	494	455	459	677	270	-
Spotted Seabass	215	211	284	248	339	294	421	312	378
Groupers nei	465	322	359	251	379	390	448	438	413
Others	1023	1181	2026	1135	2784	3723	4540	5955	5699
Total	**63355.325**	**57607**	**51662**	**50384**	**49896**	**48018**	**56730**	**58926**	**53964**

(Table 4) number of motorized vessels according to HP

Horse power	Trawling	purse seine	Long line	Trammel net
< 10	1	0	10	33
10 to 20	1	0	10	29
21 to 30	0	0	4	40
31 to 50	0	1	116	612
51 to 100	56	27	651	150
101 to 150	118	32	6	6
151 to 200	268	44	1	0
201 to 250	213	21	3	0
251 to 300	9	9	0	0
301 to 400	12	32	0	0
401 to 500	60	44	0	0
501 to 600	53	12	0	0
601 to 700	16	5	0	0
701 to 800	15	7	0	0
> 800	13	4	1	0
Total	**835**	**238**	**802**	**752**

(Table 5) Assigned quota and fishing vessels for Egypt

Year / metric tons (t)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
BFT. Assigned Quota	263.340	326.7	326.7	326.7	507.87	507.87	507.325	543.51
No. Authorized vessels	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
BFT. Catch	263.340	122.080	326.7	67.08	0	0	507.674	543.51

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT 2026 GRENADA

The Chairman of the Compliance Committee ICCAT

Prepared By:

Nigel Gibbs
Chief Fisheries Officer
CPC- Grenada

SECTION 1. NATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION AND RESEARCH STATISTICS

1.1 Annual Fisheries Information

The Grenada Fisheries sector remain stable over the last reported year, in 2026 landings of Tuna and Tuna like species showed an increase in Yellowing tuna of 122.7 t compared to 2024. This rise might have been caused by the introduction of fishing effort. A major concern for the fishery is the data for Blue Marlin (BUM) catch effort of 48775 kg (24.38t) in 2025 up from 26509 Kg (13.25t) in 2024. White Marlin (WHM) 6856 kg (3.4t) and Noth Atlantic Sword Fish (100020 kg (5.01t).Review of our data suggests that landings increase may have been due to species identification issues which are still a main concern and presents a major challenge for the fisheries regarding data collection and processing of species I.D. In 2026 landings of BUM collected by July identical Blue Marlin 23,5587.76 kg (23.58 t), White Marlin -782.6(0.78t), and Sword Fish – 1,658.7 kg (1.66 t). The implementation and management of round scale billfish regarding rec (19-05), presented some challenges, however monitoring of landing in the first and second quarters allowed us to remain close to our BUM quota for the period. While an official declaration of the closure of the BUM fishing season was not officially reported, the request to our fishing fleets was made for the ceasing of landing of this species. We continue to monitor landings and have met with fishermen to ask for cooperation with the release and prohibition of landing the species. Fishing data submitted for the last reposting period are task 1 and 2 data and shark sheet data. Still outstanding is turtle and seabird bycatch, which we have challenges due to data gaps with collection of this data. Efforts are being made to rectify this gap.

Size-frequency and biological sampling activities remain a challenge for the fisheries due to lack of capacity in the area due to human resource challenges, however the ministry are taking the necessary action of increasing the relevant staff to ensure that this activity becomes part of our management strategy. Tagging programmes and tagging results are also still limited. This is only done during our bill fish tournament. As we develop our biology program and move to increase this important activity for monitoring, capacity building and equipment support is needed to support and maintain this undertaking.
Trends in tuna and tuna-like fisheries during the reporting year were not fully assessed. The department still needs capacity building in the areas of data analysis and reporting; this gap is being addressed by the onboarding of data analysis and by first quarter of 2027. Additionally, one data clerk has already been onboarded. Changes in fishing practices,

fishing areas, fleet composition, or gear use (longline) remain the same, except for the increase in in circle hook usage, that has been strictly implemented. Fish Aggregating Devies increase to 12 under the UBEC project, fishing fleet composition and gear usage remain unchanged. New developments in the fishery sector are mainly with policy, legislation and management plan update which is currently ongoing. We are finalizing our new fisheries act due to come into effect in the first quarter of 202. This new act will address areas of governance upgrades to align with regional and international agencies. Of particular interest would be focus on illegal unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, Crime Traceability and Compliance issues that are now relevant for the development of the sector. Socio-economic factors affecting fisheries performance or catches are mainly due to fuel increase that has increased cost of production and the deficiency in technical capacity by our fishers, the latter needs intervention regarding increased compliance and development of technical capacity regarding standards and best practices. Additionally, the increased influx of sargassum has reduced fishing trips and has negatively impacted our fishing fleets and coastal zones. The state has used significant financial resources in addressing the problem assisted by the EU, France expertise, GIZ and other international organizations assisting Grenada to overcome the effects on our fisheries.

.

1.2 Research and Statistics

National systems for collecting fisheries statistics have received a major boost in 2025 - 2026. The development training of officers (data clerks) with the Data information system. (CALIPSEO) continues to be rolled out. While the FAO supported project has ended, continuous operation of the system continues. While the system has not yet been fully operational, the newly development data sheets are being already used by some of the exporters. In 2027 there will be more comprehensive training of personnel and usage of the system for reporting. Coverage levels for catch data, effort data are being improved by the introduction of logbooks, marine mammals interaction logs and increase of collection and storage equipment have been implemented to bolster data management. Size-frequency data has been targeted for improvement in 2026-2027. Work is already being done to improve and increase recording of size -frequency data sets to improve stock monitoring as it relates to landings. Species being monitored currently are yellow fin tuna and Dolfin Fish. Tuna-related research projects, Stock delineation studies, Stock assessment work, Migration studies, Environmental and ecosystem research are still areas of difficulty for our state, however through the support of the Caribbean Regional fisheries mechanism and the support provided by ICCAT, projects will be implemented or requested and support form the SCRS solicited to ensure we can execute this activities.

Monitoring of activities in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) High Seas continue to be challenge for the fishery. However, plans are on the way for the installation and training of Vessel Monitoring systems (VMS) equipment on 20 fishing vessels (longliners) as the commencement of ensuring that fleet monitoring and tracking are implemented and enforced within the fishery. This process that started in January 2026 should be completed in early 2027. The registration of our fleets for high seas access is a priority area for Grenada. Target species catches monitoring and reporting has been maintained. Bycatch

retention continues to be very low although data collection remains a challenge. While logbooks can now capture this data due to gear improvement (circle hooks). Discards (alive and dead) are an area that needs more public education and awareness among our fishers. Work must be done on species I.D. protected species knowledge and recording (even null sets) of bycatch and alive and dead discards. This has cultural underpinnings that must be addressed for compliance.

Table 1. Illustrates submitted Data to SCRS

Statistical Reports	Status
Catch statistics	submitted
Effort data	submitted
Size-frequency data	Not submitted
Shark sheet data	Submitted
Billfish check sheet	Submitted
Task I and Task II submissions	submitted
Biological sampling information	Not submitted
Tagging data	none
Observer programme reports	none

Table 2. Illustrates Bill fish DATA for 2026

Species	Weight -Tons (t)
Blue Marlin (BUM)	**23.58**
White Marlin (WHM)	0.78
North Atlantic Sword Fish	1.66

Table 3. Illustrates Bill Fish DATA for 2025

Species	**Weight -Tons (t)**
Blue Marlin (BUM)	24.38
White Marlin (WHM)	3.4
North Atlantic Sword Fish (SWO-N)	5.01

SECTION 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1 Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

National legislation adopted to implement ICCAT measures, including updating the legislation to reflect compliance with ICCAT. This include IUU, reporting, VMS technology assets, Regulatory actions and enforcement measures, such as aligning fines and penalties with the realities of the modern fishing industries. Special attention was given to enforcement clauses and measures for reporting and increased traceability compliance activities. Other initiatives support compliance, including mandatory

possession licenses for fishing gear with a registry of all fishing gear types implemented to monitor all gears used within the sector. In General, the new fisheries act will seek to address areas of alignment with ICCAT, CRFM, WECAFC, IWC, CITES and other RFMOs.

2.2 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

- Challenges implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures.
  There are still several challenges in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures for CPC Grenada. The lack of adequate infrastructure as it relates to equipment for conducting research and monitoring is lacking. Additionally, lack in technical expertise continues to plague the fisheries due to low succession planning that created a major gap in continuity. The ability to conduct internal conservation activities must be improved for increase in efficacy. Enforcement and implementation with our stakeholders continue to show gaps due to low public education and awareness campaigns implemented in past years. Many of our stakeholders lack basic knowledge of conservation legislation and compliance is still sporadic and low. To overcome this deficiency the fisheries division is in the process of updating its legislation and management plans along with a series of public awareness campaigns to share information. Building capacity for new officers is also being undertaken to increase competency among our general staff in several disciplines. Webinars, meetings and workshops have seen increased attendance participation for the last two (2) years.

- Reasons for delayed or incomplete reporting.
  Grenada continues to experience issues with timely submissions and incomplete reporting due to capacity issues, especially at the primary stage of data collection and reporting. Data collection and submission are often inconsistent and late due to collection and traceability issues. With the implementation of the CALIPSEO platform and planned capacity building initiatives we intend to improve this gap going forward. These inefficiencies result in difficulties meeting ICCAT deadlines, coupled with staff shortage. Import data related to fish and Fish product imports, has to be addressed, so that reports can be submitted. DATA sharing from other ministries have to be improve.

- Issues encountered when using ICCAT reporting forms.
  There are still some issues with interpreting and completing ICCAT forms. Since technical staff are predominantly new employees, capacity Building is ongoing and needs to be more frequent in delivery. The division has placed emphasis on requesting capacity building workshops as the modality for training. Continues engagement and participation in training sessions will be done to ensure capacity is attained.

- Corrective actions taken or planned to improve compliance and reporting Observer programme activities and key findings.
  During 2025-2026, officers have participated in IOMS training session and general capacity building in areas of reporting. Additionally, request will be made for additional capacity building along with continued projects to increase reporting and compliance with onboarding software and the relevant training in tracking, recording and reporting data. Capture of data must be improved at the level of the catch effort by our fisher folk. Especially in the area of bycatch and incidental catch reporting. Grenada has moved to implement; a robust logbook and marine mammal interaction book geared at collecting catch effort and bycatch data and producing accurate reports.

  Grenada remains committed to its obligations under ICCAT. We have noted the gaps in compliance withing our state due to capacity and in some cases cultural norms that must be guided by scientific evidence to improve reporting and other obligation. To improve and safeguard this very fragile but major pillar of our economy and food security, the nations must ensure that conservation, compliance and continued capacity building for the sustainable use of our marine resources remain the center of our focus. Ther need to ensure that challenges to compliance and overall governance of the sector remain a national priority.

  Grenada thanks the Chairman of ICCAT and its committees for the continued support and leadership for the sustainable use of Global marine resources to our Nation development.

ANNUAL REPORT OF BARBADOS

SUMMARY

In 2025 a total of 335t of large pelagic species under ICCAT management was landed at Barbados by the island's fishing fleet. The Longliner fleet was again the main contributor (94%) to the island's total catch of highly migratory teleost species (tunas, billfishes and swordfish) and sharks (70%). The 32 Barbadian longline vessels that fished during 2025 ranged in size from 9.7m and 14.9m LOA (mean 12.9m). Through 2025, local fishing sites were affected by large-scale sargassum influxes that significantly reduced the catches of flying fish and dolphinfish, the island's typical keystone species. Once again, landings of highly migratory large pelagic species, particularly tunas (74%) during the reporting period, helped to mitigate the shortfall in fish supply.

The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (SFMDA) Act, 2025, and the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Business) Act, 2025 came into force on May 12, 2025, with subsidiary SFMDA Regulations in the final stages of preparation for being put into force. By the end of 2025, a total of 106 Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) devices were installed across the commercial fleet, with all active longliners being outfitted, along with 13 devices installed on sports and recreational fishing vessels. In addition, six Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) were installed on longline vessels. The national VMS initiative enhances vessel safety and supports MCS programs, while along with EMS, manages bycatch and enhances reporting of fishing activities. Smart Scales were installed at two landing sites to facilitate the collection of key biological information, and through integration with VMS data, information required for the catch traceability certification process. Further development and refinement of the bespoke Barbados Fisheries Information Platform (FIS Ultra) continued through 2025.

Section 1: Information on fisheries, research and statistics

1.1 Annual fisheries information

A total of 335t of large pelagic species under the purview of ICCAT were landed at Barbados in 2025. As usual, in 2025, tunas comprised the major proportion (74%) of the total catch of the highly migratory teleost species (Tunas, billfishes and swordfish), with catches of Yellowfin dominating the tuna group (92%).

The fleet of 32 Barbadian longline vessels that fished during the course of the year ranged in size from 9.7m and 14.9m LOA (mean 12.9m). There are no vessels greater than 24m LOA are in the Barbados fishing fleet. No foreign-owned vessels are registered in the Barbados fishing fleet and all Barbadian fishing vessels are home-based. Purse seine gear is not used by any Barbadian vessel. Longliners continued to be the main contributors (94%) to the islands catch of the highly migratory teleost species (tunas, billfishes and swordfish) as well as shark catches (70%). However, the longline fleet only contributed 19% of the island's total wahoo catch with the majority of catches of this species (81%) being taken on single hook lines by other local vessels using, mainly during flyingfish (*Hirundicthys affinis*) fishing trips.

Episodic mass influxes of Sargassum sp., continued to occur throughout the reporting period resulting in continued declines in the catches of the island's traditional keystone species of flyingfish (mainly *Hirundicthys affinis*) and common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) with the consequent overall reduction in local supplies of fresh fish. The catches of highly migratory pelagic species was again pivotal in mitigating the island's dietary fish supply in 2025.

1.2 Research and statistics

During 2025, length and weight data was collected for 464 tunas in the renewed dockside sampling programme. Barbados continued to participate in the work of a number of WECAFC working Groups with direct or indirect relevance to issues of interest to the ICCAT, including: The CRFM/WECAFC Working Groups.

A team of data collectors now routinely collect additional data on fish catches, fishing trip details, and economic information at all landings sites, including main markets and both previously poorly monitored and unmonitored sites, in addition to continuing to digitize the daily fish landings data gathered from the

major markets. The Kobo Toolbox is used to directly digitize this data. In order to address data shortages and offer data-driven solutions to support decision making, during 2025, Intergen Technology Inc. continued to build a custom Fisheries Information Platform (FIS Ultra), in partnership with the Division. To meet the needs of fisheries management authorities, legislators, researchers, fishermen, and the general public, this platform will have a strong database, APIs for integration, and an easy-to-use dashboard. In 2025, Smart Scales were installed at the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex, the major hub for commercial longliner operations, and the Pile Bay Landing Facility, to faciliate the collection of data including species identication and perform digital biological sampling e.g. taking and recording length and weight measurements. The scales will also be integrated with VMS data to determine catch location, aid in calculating fishing effort, and analyze landings as part of the catch traceability certification process. Training was also provided to market officials and tuna exporters.

Under the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act (2025), all Barbadian fishing vessels will by law have to carry remote tracking devices. By the end of 2025, a total of 106 Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) devices were installed across the commercial fleet, with all active longliners being outfitted. Installation of VMS devices on sport fishing vessels began on 28 August 2025, with 13 devices being installed by the end of 2025.

By the end of 2025, six Electronic monitoring systems (EMS) were installed on longline vessels as part of the regional REBYC-III CLME+ project in order to manage bycatch and reduce discards. It should be noted that the EMS will be used to report on fishing activity in the contexts of collecting accurate trip information as well as fulfilling observer requirements. In this context, after further testing, the EMS will be duly presented to ICCAT for validation of its suitability as an alternative to the emplacement of human observers on Barbados's small vessels as per ICCAT recommendation (16-14).

In 2025, the Barbados Fisheries Division, in collaboration with the REBYC III CLME+ Project and the National Research Council (CNR) of Rome, Italy, carried out a gear-trial pilot study with local longliners and crew to compare catch performance and post-capture condition of fish taken on large circle hooks and J hooks. The results of the trial were promising with the large circle hooks tested having substantially higher catch rates of target species than traditional J hooks in addition to a higher proportion of fish being released alive at haul-back.

The University of the West Indies particularly through The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) headquartered at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados continued its work on Sargassum related research and sharing information including the Sub-regional Sargassum Outlook Bulletins, which provide 3-monthly island-scale forecasts of sargassum influxes to the Eastern Caribbean. Most of this work is available at https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/sargassum/research.aspx

Section 2: Information on conservation and management measures

2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

During the period there was significant legislative reform in the context of fisheries management and development in Barbados, starting with the 12th May, 2025 enactment of the comprehensive Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act (SFMDA), 2025 and the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Businesses) Act (SFMDA (SMB)), 2025. Subsidiary regulations under the SFMDA designed to manage capture fisheries as well as aquaculture and mariculture, in compliance with both local and international best practices and legal instruments, were approved by Cabinet on 17th July 2025 but have not yet been signed into law.

2.2 Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures

The inadequacy in legislation that has hindered effective implementation and adherence to a number of ICCAT conservation and management measures is being addressed through a comprehensive and appropriate regulatory framework that includes the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act (2025), the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Businesses) Act (2025), and subsidiary regulations such as the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Regulations. Together with the development of comprehensive Fisheries Management Plans and continued

enhancements to the data gathering and MSC procedures outlined here, this will result in significantly improved comprehensive management of all Barbados fisheries, including those under the jurisdiction of ICCAT.