


ICCAT: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Analysis of ICCAT reporting obligations

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02579 / 2026

Bureau Veritas Living Resources

Progress Note - Inception report

Deliverable 1 out of 5

Draft version and date: 1.1 – 16 October 2026

Co-funded by the European Union



To the attention of:

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Quality control

Version number	Date	Note / modification(s)
1.1	7 November 2026	Minor amendments of the Executive Summary Updated – revised / updated version to provide in December 2026 after the ICCAT Annual Meeting Full name of the ICCAT Annual Meeting: 25th Special Meeting of the Commission – SMC* (Vilamoura, Portugal, 16–23 Nov. 2026)
1.0	**16 October 2026**	Draft version as inception report

* 'In accordance with the ICCAT Convention, the Commission holds a regular meeting every other year and a special meeting in alternate years.' https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp

Artificial intelligence (AI) Tools Disclaimer: Bureau Veritas Living Resources employed Bureau Veritas' AI tools to support document preparation and analytical workflows. All outputs processed through AI assistance have undergone rigorous quality assurance and expert validation by the consulting team to guarantee alignment with ICCAT standards and technical requirements.

Acknowledgement(s): This work is carried out within the scope of the project Analysis of Reporting Obligations (ARO), and co-funded by the European Union through the EU Grant Agreement No. 101314233.

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents **3**

Executive Summary **5**

Introduction **6**

1 Scope in brief and Overview of the Five Project Phases **7**

2 Agreed methodology **8**

2.1 Agreed scope 9

2.2 Data and information collection and their key analyses 11

2.3 Stakeholder consultation strategy 13

2.3.1 Restricted stakeholder consultation 13

2.3.2 Participation to ICCAT Meetings 14

2.4 Use of Artificial Intelligence 14

2.5 Consultant Organisation and its team of experts 14

2.5.1 Bureau Veritas Living Resources – an international fisheries consultancy with strong experience in the tuna fisheries sector 14

2.5.2 Project Management and Quality Assurance 14

2.5.3 Team Organisation and Allocation of Responsibilities 15

3 Work carried out during the initial phase of the Project – to date **18**

3.1 Confirmation of scope, content and timeline for submission of the first deliverable 18

3.2 Initial mapping activities to date 19

3.3 Confirmation of Progress against the agreed methodology and timetable 23

3.3.1 Indicative Timeline (Gantt Summary) – latest version 23

3.3.2 Work plan 24

4 List of abbreviations **28**

Annexes **29**

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Annexes

Annex 1 – Terms of reference....29
Annex 2 – Executive Summary of the Progress Note – Inception Report [standalone document to facilitate its distribution] 29
Annex 3 – Presentation of the Progress Note – Inception Report....29
Annex 4 – Active ICCAT Instruments and Documentary Sources Included in the Review – preliminary findings....29
Annex 5 – Preliminary summary of ICCAT's Reporting Process....36
Annex 6 – Other relevant sources of information and documents, data collected to date (sorted by topics)....41
Annex 7 – Stakeholder Consultation Strategy and Progress to Date - Supplementary Information....44
Annex 8 – Risk Management and Flexibility....46
Annex 9 – Compliance Statements signed by Bureau Veritas Living Resources in brief....49

List of tables, and figures

Table 1: Main documentary sources supporting the analysis of ICCAT Reporting Obligations 11
Table 2: Initial mapping activities to date....19
Table 3: Work plan by phase, main activities, outputs/deliverables, indicative timing, and governance checkpoints 26
Table 4: List of organisations having attended ICCAT meetings from 2024 and 2026 as 'Observers' 42
Table 5: List of consulted persons/organisations to date – online meetings....44
Table 6: Log of meetings with the ICCAT Secretariat – online meetings to date....44
Table 7: Log of ICCAT meetings to which the ICCAT RO experts participated to date – online attendance to date 45

Figure 1: The five phases of the Consultancy Assignment....8
Figure 2: Work schedule – updated version in the Progress Note – Inception report....25
Figure 3: ICCAT Reporting Process....38

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Executive Summary

1 Why this study is being carried out

The **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)** is responsible for managing tuna and tuna-like species throughout the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas. To support scientific assessments, fisheries management, and compliance monitoring, ICCAT members must submit a large amount of information through various reporting requirements.

Over time, many **ICCAT CPCs (Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities) have expressed concerns that reporting obligations have become increasingly complex and administratively burdensome**, including duplication of information and overlapping reporting requirements. **This administrative burden also falls on the ICCAT Secretariat**. In response, ICCAT commissioned Bureau Veritas Living Resources (BV LR) to undertake an **Analysis of ICCAT Reporting Obligations (ARO)** following a public call for tenders in April 2026. The study, primarily desk-based, began on 24 July 2026 and will run until 23 July 2028 (24 months)

2 What the study will examine

The Study aims to identify ways to simplify and improve ICCAT's reporting framework while ensuring that essential information remains available for fisheries science, compliance monitoring, and decision-making.

It will review all ICCAT reporting obligations, assess how ICCAT bodies use the information provided, and evaluate the performance of the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)—which is still under development but already used to provide some information and data in compliance with these reporting obligations. The analysis will focus on reporting activities undertaken between 2024 and 2026.

The study will also compare ICCAT's reporting obligations with those of two other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) with the aim of identifying any good reporting practices and tools that could enhance ICCAT processes.

3 How the study will be conducted

The work combines a review of ICCAT rules and compulsory reporting requirements with an assessment of its reporting systems and processes. Information will be gathered through document reviews, analysis of reporting data, targeted consultations via questionnaires, and selected interviews when relevant, as well as discussions with CPCs, Observer Organisations, and the ICCAT Secretariat. The study is being carried out by a lead team of four senior experts with complementary expertise (tuna fisheries policy and governance, fisheries information systems, and statistics) in compliance with the Terms of Reference. Among the four experts, a BV LR Senior Fisheries Consultant serves as Team Leader and Contract Manager, supported by permanent BV LR technical staff who provide project coordination and operational continuity.

The draft final report of the study will be presented at the ICCAT Regular Meeting of the (ICCAT) Commission scheduled in the week starting on the 16th of November 2027.

4 Progress achieved to date

As of mid-October 2026, the main scope and methodology of the Study have been agreed with the ICCAT Secretariat. A preliminary inventory of reporting obligations has been completed, access to reporting information and IOMS (reading access) have been obtained. Preparations for stakeholder consultations are underway following transmission of a Letter to ICCAT CPCs and Observer Organisations to introduce the Study (ICCAT Circular 08838/2026 of 13 October 2026).

The project team has met remotely with the Secretariat on six occasions to date and continues to work closely with the Secretariat as the project progresses. The Study, and its Progress to date, will be presented during the ICCAT 25th Special Meeting in Vilamoura, in Portugal, in November 2026, where feedback from participants is encouraged.

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Introduction

This Progress Note – Inception Report (PR – IN) documents the foundational phase of the Consultant Assignment, called 'Analysis of ICCAT Reporting Obligations' (ARO), establishing the framework for subsequent deliverables and work streams. The report is organised to provide stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of project initiation, methodological alignment, and early implementation progress.

The document is structured as follows:

- **Executive Summary** presents a concise overview of key findings and status from the inception phase;
- **Introduction** contextualises the report within the broader project objectives;
- **Section 1** outlines the project scope and introduces the five project phases that will structure the engagement;
- **Section 2** details the agreed methodology, including data collection protocols, stakeholder engagement strategy, and introduces the consultant organization and expert team;
- **Section 3** documents work completed during the initial phase, including scope confirmation, preliminary mapping activities, and progress against agreed timelines;
- **Section 4** provides a comprehensive list of abbreviations used throughout the report; and
- **Section 5** lists all references cited in the document.

This structure is designed to ensure transparency regarding project initiation, methodological rigor, and highlight the early deliverables while establishing a baseline for monitoring progress against agreed commitments.

The main text of the PN-IR is restricted to 20 pages maximum. Therefore, as agreed with the ICCAT Secretariat, the PN-IR consists of Sections 1 to 3 only.

With regards to **Section 4**, ICCAT reporting obligations and ICCAT analysis of reporting obligations are abbreviated as 'ICCAT RO' and 'ICCAT ARO' in this report. If used in relation to ICCAT – RO and ARO only, this abbreviation may be shortened to RO and ARO too – in plural AROs and ROs then.

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1 Scope in brief and Overview of the Five Project Phases

The **overall objective** of the Consultancy Assignment is to contribute to the sustainable exploitation of tuna resources in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas through strengthened reporting and compliance mechanisms. The **specific objectives** are, based on the Terms of reference (ToR):

O1: To improve ICCAT reporting obligations in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and accuracy.

O2: To strengthen, simplify, and streamline ICCAT reporting mechanisms

O3: To enhance ICCAT's ability to monitor reporting obligations and identify non-compliance.

To achieve these objectives, Bureau Veritas Living Resources (BV LR) will carry out the following key activities:

KA1. Comprehensive Review and Mapping of ICCAT Reporting Obligations

Review reporting obligations established under the ICCAT Convention and related recommendations and resolutions, including both scientific and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) requirements. Compile and map existing reporting obligations, including their scope, frequency, format and purpose. Collect and review reports submitted by CPCs over recent years to assess submission rates and the completeness, consistency, timeliness and quality of reported information. Identify redundancies, overlaps, gaps and inefficiencies in existing reporting obligations, including procedural and system-related constraints affecting reporting.

KA2. Assessment of Reporting System Effectiveness and Data Quality

Assess the extent to which reported information is effectively used in scientific advice, compliance processes and decision-making. Evaluate the role and performance of ICCAT online reporting tools, including the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS). Benchmark ICCAT reporting obligations against those of other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) recognised for best practices in reporting systems. Conduct stakeholder consultations with the ICCAT Secretariat, CPC representatives and other relevant actors to identify practical challenges and barriers to reporting.

KA3. Development of Evidence-Based Recommendations and Strategic Guidance

Develop evidence-based recommendations aimed at strengthening, simplifying and streamlining ICCAT reporting obligations, including, where appropriate, proposals for amendments to existing ICCAT measures. Coordinate findings with the ICCAT Working Group on Online Reporting Technologies (WG ORT), taking into account ongoing work related to reporting obligations. Participate in coordination meetings with the ICCAT Secretariat and relevant ICCAT subsidiary bodies to validate findings and incorporate feedback into final recommendations. Present results and recommendations to relevant ICCAT subsidiary bodies and/or the Commission during intersessional and annual meetings. (analysis of ToR).

Duration of the assignment: 24 months from the date of signature of the Contract between ICCAT Secretariat and Bureau Veritas Living Resources – 24 July 2026 to 23 July 2028

The work will be a **desk study**, structured into **five interrelated phases** covering the full duration of the contract from 24 July 2026 to 23 July 2028 – see Figure 1 below:

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- Phase 1 – Scoping and Initial Mapping from 24 July to December 2026 as inception/exploratory phase (up to Month 5 - ToR)
- Phase 2 – Mapping Consolidation and Preliminary Analysis (up to Month 10 - ToR)
- Phase 3 – Technical Assessment and Effectiveness Analysis (up to Month 13 – M13 - ToR)
- Phase 4 – Development of Recommendations and Validation (up to Oct. 2027 – M15)
- Phase 5 – Finalisation and Dissemination (up to Month 24 – 23 July 2028)

The phased approach will ensure a **logical progression from diagnostic work to validated and actionable recommendations**, while allowing for iterative analysis and consultation with relevant ICCAT bodies.

The Stakeholder Consultation and the Benchmarking with other t-RFMOs will be initiated in phase 2 and completed in phase 3.

The ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) is still under development, and its modules are being introduced progressively by the ICCAT Secretariat. The Reporting Obligations covered by modules already in use must now be submitted through IOMS, and email submissions of data and information are no longer accepted for these obligations. Many other reporting obligations, however, are still submitted by email. (https://www.iccat.int/en/IOMS.html).

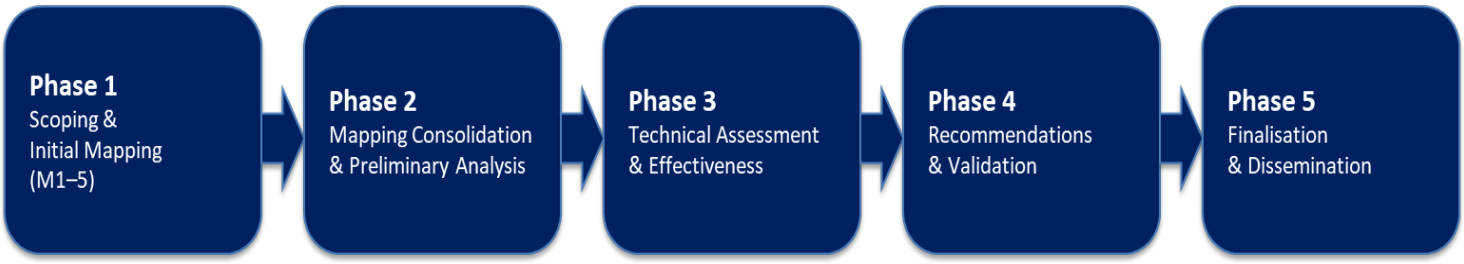


Figure 1: The five phases of the Consultancy Assignment
Source: Consultant's own elaboration

2 Agreed methodology

Bureau Veritas Living Resources will conduct a dual-track analysis examining both the substantive reporting obligations framework and the IOMS platform and develop recommendations to simplify obligations and strengthen the online reporting system.

This analysis will also include a high-level benchmarking of ICCAT reporting obligations and similar online reporting systems against those of other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (t-RFMOs) recognised for their best practices.

The benchmarking will be desk-based and will start with a high-level overview of the tuna RFMOs, based on public documents and existing comparative studies. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) will likely be the focus of the benchmarking exercise as its reporting obligations and online reporting systems have some commonalities with those of ICCAT, and both RFMO's were included in a comparative study of t-RFMO reporting processes undertaken in 2017. A second tuna RFMO will be selected in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat for a more qualitative comparison. The comparison will include how reporting obligations are defined, submitted, checked; and be used, to identify practices that could be

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transferred to ICCAT. Published indicators, such as reporting rates by CPC and requirement, will be used where available; no new assessment of the performance of other t-RFMOs or their members is planned.

To deliver this comprehensive analysis, BV LR has proposed a methodology fully compliant with the Terms of Reference, structured over a 24-month implementation period with a team of four complementary experts. The team will be led by a permanent technical staff member of BV LR serving as Team Leader, supported by three senior specialists with expertise in fisheries management, data analysis, and reporting systems. Section 2.5 'Consultant Organisation and its team of experts' provides a detailed overview of Bureau Veritas Living Resources, the expert team composition, and their assigned responsibilities.

The following documents constitute the primary operational basis for the review and will be analysed systematically:

1. 2026 Compliance Requirements Matrix – an Excel file provided by ICCAT
2. 2026 Statistical Requirements Matrix – an Excel file provided by ICCAT
3. Historical Compliance Requirements Matrices available through IOMS and Historical Statistical Requirements Matrices available through IOMS.
4. IOMS reporting records and associated guidance.
5. Compliance Committee documents available online for ICCAT annual meetings, especially CPC annual reports (COC_301) and the Secretariat´s report to the COC (COC_303), including Annex 7 - Measures in force which do not require an in-depth review by COC.
6. Publicly available related reports, and
7. Non-public information / data accessible to participants of ICCAT meetings only, or produced by the ICCAT Secretariat for internal use. While this will not be the main source of data and information as not public, any non-public information provided by ICCAT will be treated with the appropriate confidentiality (e.g. data aggregation, not citing sensitive data).

Data access: Items 1 – 2, while work documents between the ICCAT Secretariat and the ARO team, are lists of requirements listed on the ICCAT's website here: https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html#, https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.html

2.1 Agreed scope

The Scope has been confirmed as the following:

Reporting obligations to review and analyse

The review will use the Secretariat´s 2026 list of 184 reporting requirements (49 statistical and 135 compliance) as its starting inventory. For each requirement, the review will identify whether it is mandatory or non-mandatory and which CPCs it pertains to (i.e. which CPCs are expected to report).

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Reference Period and Regulatory Horizon

Analytical Scope and Timeframe: The analysis will mostly focus on information and data from the three-year period 2024–2026, capturing the latest reporting cycles and compliance data. This timeframe will enable a comprehensive assessment of current reporting practices and recent trends in ICCAT member compliance in the last three years.

Treatment of forthcoming instruments i.e. ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions scheduled to enter into force in June 2027 will be considered if they represent substantive modifications to existing reporting obligations—that is, material changes that are expected to significantly impact on reporting standards, expand data collection requirements, or improve reporting effectiveness. These will be referenced and contextualised within the broader analysis. Recommendations of a procedural or administrative nature, or those introducing minor technical adjustments, will be noted but will be excluded from the core analytical framework.

Assessment of reporting tools including IOMS (ToR):

The assignment task of assessing reporting tools will focus on the IOMS.

Effectiveness Assessment Framework

The evaluation of RO effectiveness shall encompass, but may not be limited to:

- **Submission Trends:** Analysis of submission rates, timeliness, completeness and compliance across CPCs;
- **Data Quality Metrics:** Assessment of reporting consistency, conformity, and adherence to reporting standards; and
- **Operational Efficiency:** Evaluation of relative administrative burden of current reporting mechanisms, both for CPCs and the Secretariat.

Key stakeholders to consult will be:

- Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs). Parties are listed on ICCAT's website: 56 Contracting Parties and 4 Cooperators - https://www.iccat.int/en/contracting.html .

  CPCs attend ICCAT meetings through delegations: national authorities, research institutes, and fishing industry representatives. CPCs will be consulted through a single focal point for each CPC.

International NGOs having ICCAT Observer Status at ICCAT meetings - see

- Table 4 in Annex 6
- The ICCAT Secretariat and key ICCAT Working Groups.

Broader public consultation does not apply, as this analysis focuses exclusively on ICCAT reporting obligations submitted by CPCs.

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The first deliverable, a **Progress Note – Inception Report**, will be presented at the ICCAT Annual Meeting in November 2026. This supersedes the original requirement for a Progress Note submission at month 5 of the Assignment Start date – see ToR.

2.2 Data and information collection and their key analyses

Scope and timeframe: This analysis will cover the three assessment cycles, i.e. submissions reviewed and discussed during the 2024, 2025 and 2026 ICCAT meetings. Where stakeholder feedback or expert review warrants deeper investigation, earlier years may be examined (depending on the records being readily available).

Data Classification: Non-public reports may be cited where relevant, with sensitive information either excluded or presented in aggregated form. The analysis will use metadata (submission dates, status and validation results) and published datasets; no catch, vessel, observer or personal data will be requested. Results by CPC will be shared with the Secretariat; documents for wider circulation will only show results in aggregated form, unless they are already published in COC documents. The review will assess ICCAT reporting obligations through a comprehensive analysis of the legal, procedural and operational instruments from which such obligations derive. The documentary review will cover four main categories of sources: Binding instruments, Non-binding instruments, Operational reporting frameworks, Institutional and procedural documents.

Table 1: Main documentary sources supporting the analysis of ICCAT Reporting Obligations

Category	Documents to be reviewed	Purpose
Binding instruments	ICCAT Convention and Recommendations currently in force; as well as relevant superseded or inactive Recommendations over the period covered by the study.	Identify legally binding reporting obligations and track their evolution over time
Non-binding instruments	ICCAT Resolutions, reference documents, guidelines and other Commission-adopted instruments	Identify reporting-related provisions, implementation guidance and good practices
Operational reporting frameworks	*2026 Compliance Requirements Matrix*, and *2026 Statistical Requirements Matrix* (see Annex 4)	Establish the current baseline of reporting requirements applicable to CPCs
Institutional and procedural documents	COC reports, Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) reports, Secretariat guidance, reporting templates and IOMS documentation; SC-STAT reports, SCRS data catalogues and scorecards, and ICCAT statistical databases (e.g. Task I - catch and fleet data; Task II - catch-and-effort and size data; Task III and tagging data)	Understand how reporting obligations are implemented, monitored and assessed, and how complete and consistent the reported data are

Source: Consultant's own elaboration

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Particular attention will be given to Recommendations establishing explicit reporting obligations subject to review by the Compliance Committee (COC), notably those identified in the Secretariat's **COC-303 Report**. The review will also examine instruments related to:

Category	Reporting domains
(a) Scientific requirements	• Statistical reporting • Species-specific conservation and management measures • Other scientific reporting mechanisms monitored through ICCAT processes
(b) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) requirements	• Compliance monitoring • Observer programmes • Vessel registries and authorisations • Transhipment controls • Catch documentation schemes • Electronic monitoring systems (EMS)

Source: Consultant's own elaboration

As an operational point of departure, the analysis will use the **2026 Compliance Requirements Matrix** and the **2026 Statistical Requirements Matrix** provided by the Secretariat during the first weeks of the Assignment. Together, these documents constitute the most comprehensive inventory of reporting obligations currently applicable to CPCs.

For each reporting obligation, the analysis will:

1. Identify the originating legal or policy instrument;
2. Assess any subsequent amendments, replacements, or consolidations;
3. Examine associated implementation guidance and reporting procedures;
4. Determine how the requirement has evolved over time; and
5. Record its main attributes (form, deadline, channel, applicability, and the body that uses the information), to map the scope, frequency, format, and purpose of each obligation.
6. A first pass of identification of potential redundant/duplicate ROs will also be done, based on high level criteria such as references to multiple conversation and management measures (CMMs).

To support this assessment, historical reporting requirements (focused on the study period) available through the **Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)** will also be reviewed in order to identify:

- New reporting requirements introduced over time;
- Amendments to existing obligations;
- Consolidation or rationalisation of reporting processes; and
- Reporting requirements that have been removed or become obsolete.

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Reporting performance, data quality and use: Beyond the inventory, the analysis will assess how reporting obligations work in practice for CPCs by reporting year. The level of detail will depend on the obligation. Task I and Task II, which are essential for scientific advice, will be examined in more detail using published datasets, SCRS catalogues and available submission metadata, together with a small number of case studies to be agreed with the Secretariat. The remaining obligations will be assessed using simpler indicators. Five groups of indicators are suggested:

- Completeness and timeliness: whether each applicable obligation was submitted on time, late or not submitted. The main sources will be the annual report responses held in IOMS (declared by CPCs) and the Secretariat's submission records;
- Coherence and quality: overlap in the information requested under different obligations; consistency between related datasets; and, where recorded, the results of form validation (e.g. rejected forms or outdated versions);
- Use: which body or process uses the information submitted under each obligation and for what purposes, based on SCRS and COC documents and confirmed with the Secretariat;
- Coverage: the number of CPCs to which each obligation applies each year, and where relevant, their share of catches or fishing activity. This indicator will be considered together use, data quality and administrative burden.
- Administrative burden: the attributes of each obligation (fields, frequency, format and channel), complemented by the views of CPCs and the Secretariat collected during the consultation.

Together, these indicators will help identify obligations that could be simplified, merged or removed, and those for which data quality should be improved. Public sources will be used first. Requests to the Secretariat will be limited to data that is neither public nor available in IOMS, as well as for guidance on the ICCAT reporting and assessment processes.

All scripts used for statistical analysis will be provided to ICCAT for transparency and so that the results can be reproduced.

2.3 Stakeholder consultation strategy

2.3.1 Restricted stakeholder consultation

The stakeholder consultation will be conducted through questionnaires, supplemented where relevant by videoconference or telephone interviews, following an introductory letter from the ICCAT Secretariat. Consultation templates will be drafted by stakeholder category.

Consultations will officially launch in January 2027, with a set deadline for responses and two reminder notices to non-respondents. Consultations must be completed by early May 2027—the exact date to be confirmed in the final Progress Note—to enable the team to compile and analyse all feedback for the Final Technical Assessment Report (Deliverable 3.4 in the ToR). Preliminary feedback will be shared in the Interim Technical Assessment Report (Deliverable 3.3 of the ToR).

The ARO Team Leader and a designated BV LR permanent staff member will serve as primary contact points for all consultation activities (see Team Organisation in section 2.5.3 for further details).

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2.3.2 *Participation to ICCAT Meetings*

In addition to restricted stakeholder consultation, the ARO team of experts will be invited by the ICCAT Secretariat to participate in ICCAT meetings with the status of 'ICCAT expert', as needed. Participation in the ICCAT annual/special meetings will be essential for presenting the consultancy work and facilitating discussions in November 2026, followed by presentation of the draft final report in November 2027.

2.4 *Use of Artificial Intelligence*

All AI-assisted data processing and analyses will be subject to rigorous quality control by our expert team. Human experts retain full authorship and accountability for ICCAT reporting obligation analyses, with AI serving as a supporting tool only.

BV LR and its collaborators will employ multiple AI platforms tailored to specific analytical needs, including:

- Jules (Bureau Veritas's proprietary secure tool) integrates Mistral and ChatGPT capabilities within a protected data environment;
- Copilot (internet-enabled) for non-sensitive data analyses.

The ARO team of experts are bound by Bureau Veritas's Code of Ethics, which indirectly governs compliance with AI tool usage policies – see details in Annex 6.

2.5 *Consultant Organisation and its team of experts*

2.5.1 *Bureau Veritas Living Resources – an international fisheries consultancy with strong experience in the tuna fisheries sector*

BV LR is a private limited-liability company specialised in fisheries and aquaculture consultancy registered in France. The company was originally incorporated in 1991 and has operated under its current registration in Rennes since July 2020. As a wholly owned subsidiary within the Bureau Veritas Group, Bureau Veritas Living Resources operates as a specialised operational entity focusing on environmental, climate, and natural-resource-related activities, while benefiting from the institutional robustness and governance standards of an international certification and advisory Group. Bureau Veritas' Group Policy ('LEAP 28') is to develop its advisory services including those in the fisheries sector.

BV LR is regularly involved in the tuna fisheries sector having, among others, evaluated EU fisheries agreements and been coordinating tuna fisheries observation programmes using observers and electronic monitoring systems (EMS) in the last thirty years.

2.5.2 *Project Management and Quality Assurance*

BV LR has designated a **single senior project lead** responsible for:

- coordination with the ICCAT Secretariat;
- internal quality control;
- timely delivery of outputs.

The Single senior Project lead (or Contract Manager) and Team Leader will be Vincent Defaux.

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Quality assurance will be ensured through:

- structured internal peer review / writing style review (editing);
- systematic incorporation of feedback from ICCAT bodies.

Bureau Veritas has permanent technical staff with practical knowledge of tuna fisheries management. Vincent Defaux will be supported in particular by Elsa Gautheret for team coordination and management of the contract.

Elsa Gautheret – Deputy Contract Manager and Technical Support

Elsa Gautheret is a fisheries and aquaculture consultant at Bureau Veritas Living Resources with experience in project management, stakeholder coordination and deliverable preparation. Her background includes electronic monitoring programmes in tuna fisheries, fishery data analyses and facilitation of stakeholder consultations. She will support the Team Leader in project organisation, internal coordination, timeline monitoring and deliverable preparation, and ensure operational continuity if the lead expert is unavailable.

Etienne Jarry - Contract Oversight

The Contract will be overseen by Etienne Jarry, Operational Manager of Bureau Veritas Living Resources, with overall responsibility for coordination, quality control and alignment with ICCAT requirements. With 20 years of fisheries project management experience across Europe and Africa, including EU fisheries agreement evaluations with ICCAT CPCs and coordination of ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes, Etienne will ensure effective oversight and strategic alignment of the assignment.

Writing style

The experts will comply, where relevant, with the 'New Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Papers for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series' and apply the 'EU Interinstitutional Style Guide' as agreed with the ICCAT Secretariat[1],.

2.5.3 Team Organisation and Allocation of Responsibilities

The assignment will be implemented by a multidisciplinary team combining expertise in tuna fisheries management, fisheries information systems, fisheries data analysis, and RFMO-level governance. The allocation of tasks and effort ensures clear leadership, efficient use of specialised expertise, and strong continuity throughout the contract period, in line with the workplan and indicative schedule presented above.

Vincent Defaux – Team Leader and Tuna Fisheries Expert

Vincent Defaux (French) will act as Team Leader (=Team Coordinator) and lead tuna fisheries expert, with overall responsibility for the scientific and institutional coherence of the assignment. He will be the primary interlocutor with the ICCAT Secretariat and will ensure that the analysis and outputs remain fully aligned with ICCAT governance processes and requirements.

[1] ICCAT Secretariat has requested that Bureau Veritas Living Resources adhere to ICCAT's standard formatting as follows: Body text: Cambria 10 pt; Heading hierarchy: bold, bold italic, and italic; Indentation: 0.75 cm; Headings: lowercase. This first deliverable meets these requirements.

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Vincent Defaux is a permanent staff of BV LR with more than 20 years of fisheries consultancy experience, including specialized work in the tuna fisheries sector since 2012. He holds a position as Blue Economy and Fisheries Consultant.

His responsibilities will include:

- Overall coordination of the assignment and supervision of technical contributions;
- Strategic review and interpretation of ICCAT Recommendations, Resolutions and Decisions;
- Validation of the analytical framework and key methodological choices;
- Leadership of stakeholder consultations where cross-cutting scientific, compliance and governance aspects are involved;
- Lead drafting, consolidation and final validation of all contractual deliverables (Deliverables 3.1 to 3.5);
- Ensuring consistency across scientific, compliance and administrative dimensions.

His effort is distributed across all phases, with increased involvement at scoping, consultation, validation and finalisation stages.

Olivier Roux – Tuna Fisheries Information Systems (FIS) Expert

Olivier Roux (French) will serve as the lead expert on **fisheries reporting frameworks and information systems**, with particular focus on reporting workflows, system architecture and interoperability, including ICCAT's online reporting tools and IOMS. Olivier has close to 25 years' experience in Tuna FIS. He has worked as staff for both FAO's Fisheries Statistics division and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Directly relevant to this study, he has previously carried out a FAO-funded and led analysis of t-RFMOs fisheries information requirements and processes in 2017 (including ICCAT), and has designed and piloted the development of IOTC's online reporting system (e-MARIS) – see full reference of the document in Annex 6.

His responsibilities will include:

- Technical analysis of reporting formats, submission timelines and data flows;
- Review of systems underpinning ICCAT reporting obligations, including electronic reporting tools;
- Identification of **redundancies**, **inconsistencies,** and **inefficiencies** from an information-system perspective;
- Technical input to the assessment of harmonisation and streamlining options;
- Contribution to benchmarking with other tuna RFMOs;
- Technical support to the formulation and validation of recommendations affecting reporting systems.

His effort will be concentrated in the mapping and technical assessment phases, with targeted contributions during drafting and finalisation.

Raul Vilela – Fisheries Data Collection and Analysis Expert

Raul Vilela (Spanish) will act as lead expert on **fisheries data quality, reporting practices and use of reported information**, supporting the analytical assessment of reporting obligations from a data and user-oriented perspective. Raul brings over 20 years of senior-level expertise in fisheries data management, specialising in data collection systems, quality

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assessment, and RFMO compliance reporting. He has extensive hands-on experience with regional and national fisheries programmes, including work on the FAO's Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) standardisation efforts.

His responsibilities will include:

- Assessment of completeness, timeliness, and coherence of reported data;
- Analysis of the use of reported information by the SCRS, the Compliance Committee and the Commission;
- Identification of gaps, inconsistencies, and fitness-for-purpose issues;
- Contribution to the assessment of administrative burden for CPCs, based on practical data-collection and reporting experience;
- Technical input to Deliverables 3.2 and 3.3 and support during consolidation and validation phases.

His effort is sustained during the mapping and technical assessment phases, with lighter but continuous involvement during drafting and finalisation.

Christopher O'Brien – RFMO Governance and Strategic Expert

Christopher O'Brien (Australian), **former Executive Secretary of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (2017–2023)**, will contribute as senior expert on RFMO governance, decision-making processes and implementation feasibility. His extensive experience in leading an RFMO Secretariat and managing compliance, scientific and administrative functions provides high-level strategic insight directly relevant to the assignment. His responsibilities will include:

- Review of interim and draft analyses from an RFMO executive and decision-maker perspective;
- Advice on feasibility, sequencing and institutional acceptability of proposed recommendations;
- Contribution to the assessment of reporting obligations in relation to Commission and subsidiary-body processes;
- Support to validation stages and selected consultations with ICCAT bodies;
- Strategic input to the finalisation and positioning of recommendations.

His involvement is targeted at key stages where governance realism and implementation considerations are critical, complementing the technical analyses undertaken by the core team.

Elsa Gautheret –Fisheries Consultant and Deputy Contract Manager

Elsa Gautheret will serve as the key in-house permanent technical staff at BV LR, providing technical and backstopping support to the senior expert team. Among other tasks, she will assist the Team Leader in coordinating stakeholder consultation activities – see section 2.5.2 too.

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3 Work carried out during the initial phase of the Project – to date

3.1 Confirmation of scope, content and timeline for submission of the first deliverable

Confirmation of scope

The agreed scope is presented in Section 2.1 above.

First deliverables: outlines and its submission date

This **Progress Note – Inception Report (PN–IR)** constitutes the first contractual deliverable. It is to be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by Friday 16 October 2026, as agreed with ICCAT Secretariat in late July 2026 (reminder from section 2.1).

A strengthened / updated version will be submitted by end of December 2026.

A draft version of the PN–IR outline was provided to the ICCAT Secretariat on 18 September 2026 (approximately four weeks prior to the formal submission deadline) at the Secretariat's request, to enable early feedback and ensure alignment with ICCAT priorities and expectations. The structure presented in this document reflect the structure and content framework agreed with the ICCAT Secretariat and shall serve as the basis for all subsequent Progress Notes throughout the contract period.

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3.2 Initial mapping activities to date

The following table provides a synthetic list of activities carried out to date in compliance with section 2 of the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Table 2: Initial mapping activities to date

1. Review reporting obligations established under the ICCAT Convention and related recommendations and resolutions, including both (a) scientific and (b) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) requirements.	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: • Collection from the ICCAT Secretariat and ICCAT website of ICCAT compliance and statistical requirements and related ICCAT recommendations and other texts (e.g. reporting guidelines, data request circulars, etc.). • A preliminary inventory of the ICCAT instruments and documentary sources to be reviewed, including a distinction between **active** and **inactive** measures, is provided in Annex 4 – Active ICCAT Instruments and Documentary Sources Included in the Review.	Ongoing (0)
2. Compile and map existing reporting obligations, including their scope, frequency, format and purpose.	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: • Inventory of the 184 reporting obligations in force in 2026 (49 statistical and 135 compliance requirements). • First mapping and classification (by domain, topic, deadlines etc) of all inventoried ROs, along with the relevant extracts of the corresponding source text (CMM, Convention, etc.), relevant reporting forms and additional metadata (including private entities), actual deadline dates for 2024, 2025 and 2026, etc • Note: this exercise allowed to identify a few editorial errors for some ROs, e.g. in the references to source CMM, the deadlines, relevant paragraph numbers etc. Those errors were communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat for review and action.	0
3. Collect and review reports submitted by CPCs over recent years, using data available from the ICCAT Secretariat, in order to assess completeness, consistency, timeliness and quality of the reported information.	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: • Scoping confirmation – analysis period agreed (reporting years 2024 – 2026). • A data plan has been prepared, listing the information needed, where it is available and which records to request from the Secretariat. • A first compilation of publicly available information has been initiated, covering mainly SCRS and COC meeting documents (e.g. SCRS report, COC_303 and COC_308 series, PLE_105, etc.) – source: click on 'Meeting year' to reach documents from different ICCAT Annual Meetings - https://www.iccat.int/DocsComm/PageDocs.php. • Reporting fact sheets have been started on each CPC, collating, for the study period (2024-2026), information on their reporting and compliance history.	0

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4. *Assess the extent to which reported information is effectively used in scientific advice, compliance processes and decision-making.*	*Status*
Activities carried out to date: • Approach defined - each obligation will be traced to the body or process that uses it (SCRS, COC or Commission), starting from their documents and confirmed with the Secretariat. An analysis (including through discussion with experts from the relevant bodies and the Secretariat) will then be performed to try and assess usage and usefulness of reported information.	0

5. *Identify redundancies, overlaps, gaps and inefficiencies in existing reporting obligations, including procedural and system-related constraints affecting reporting.*	*Status*
Activities carried out to date: • Consultations of ICCAT Secretariat staff and inception meeting with the European Commission as co-funder of the Consultancy Assignment having stressed, among other issues, the needs to reduce administrative burden and redundancies. • A first pass at identifying potentially redundant ROs has been made based on the RO inventory and source text references (e.g. the same RO is mentioned/defined in more than one source, or listed in both the statistical and compliance matrices). This will be later complemented and fleshed out by an in-depth review of all requirements.	0

6. *Assess the role and performance of ICCAT online reporting tools – focus on the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS).*	*Status*
Activities carried out to date: read-only access provided to the team, first review of IOMS • An early exploration of the IOMS (includes all S and M reporting requirements, plus the registers of authorised vessels, of transhipment authorisations, of chartering agreements and of designated ports) has been completed with the support of the ICCAT Secretariat staff. More sessions will be organised, to better understand how CPCs interact with IOMS, and how the Secretariat teams use IOMS in their review and assessment process. • Other ICCAT online tools, such as the Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation software (eBCD) are not strictly used by CPCs to report information to ICCAT, so they will not be the focus of this work. However, they might be candidates for developing integrations with IOMS reporting (e.g. automatically prefilling some information in IOMS M:BFT03 from data available in eBCD) and might thus be covered in the study. • The study will include a general description of the whole IOMS process, as well as a review of feedback from both CPCs and the Secretariat on how they use the system, the positive and negative aspects, and what improvements could be made to improve usability and usefulness, etc. This will take into account the work of the Working Group on online reporting technologies (WG-ORT) and the existing work plan for the development of IOMS (e.g. see the annual report of the WG-ORT). Note: two online training workshops on using the IOMS on 28 April and 16 June 2026 https://www.iccat.int/en/meetings.html	0

7. *Benchmark ICCAT reporting obligations against those of other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) which are recognised by having the best practices regarding reporting obligations.*	*Status*
Background: There are five Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (t-RFMOs) responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species worldwide: the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). These international bodies independently establish conservation, management, monitoring, and reporting measures for tuna fisheries across the world's oceans.	0

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Activities carried out to date: • A Letter introducing the Study has been drafted by the ARO team for the Stakeholder Consultation (see Activity 8 below). The letter translated into French and Spanish, by the ARO team and edited by the ICCAT Secretariat, will be used to inform t-RFMOs about the project and invite them consult them (using a specific questionnaire template). • Proposed methodology – to date: after an overview of the t-RFMOs, it is proposed that the benchmarking will cover two RFMOs. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) will likely be one candidate for a substantiated comparison (ICCAT and IOTC were already the focus of the 2017 t-RFMO reporting requirement study, and IOTC have a comprehensive online reporting system in place since late 2022). At a minimum, one additional t-RFMO (e.g. WCPFC or IATTC) will be selected in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat for a more qualitative assessment. The benchmarking will compare how reporting obligations are defined, submitted, checked and used, based on public documents and existing comparative studies, to identify practices that could be transferred to ICCAT. It will not assess the performance of other t-RFMOs or of their members.	
8. Carry out consultations, where appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, including the ICCAT Secretariat, CPC representatives and other relevant actors, in order to identify practical challenges and barriers to reporting.	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: • The ICCAT Secretariat sent an Introduction Letter (see Activity 7 above) with a cover letter and the Terms of Reference. The letters were sent electronically to all CPCs, Cooperating Parties, and Organizations with Observer status in ICCAT meetings since 2024. • Stakeholder questionnaire templates by categories of stakeholders (including for t-RFMOs): drafting ongoing; starting by a template to consult CPCs • Consultation register (internal to the team to monitor the consultation situation): drafting underway.	0
9. Work in coordination with the ICCAT Working Group on Online Reporting Technologies (WG-ORT) taking into account ongoing work related to reporting obligations.	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: • Next meetings of the WG–ORT identified: the first is expected to be in February 2027 (to be confirmed at the 2026 ICCAT annual meetings in November 2026); the second meeting is expected to be in February 2028. • The ARO Team will participate remotely to these meetings, and, after consultation with the Secretariat, might hold discussions with the WG – ORT, between sessions, if needed. Other working groups of potential relevance: the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), which review each CPC's performance at the annual Commission meeting – see Annex 5, and the ICCAT Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). The IMM is a contributor to the design and evolution of reporting-related measures and processes, rather than the primary body responsible for monitoring CPC compliance with reporting obligations.	0
10. Develop evidence-based recommendations aimed at strengthening, simplifying and streamlining ICCAT reporting obligations, including, where appropriate, proposals for amendments to existing ICCAT measures.	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: Not applicable. Note: to date, ideas shared between the team of experts as brainstorming exercises are being compiled for later review and formalisation, once the exploratory phase is over.	Next phases

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11. *Participate in coordination meetings with the ICCAT Secretariat and relevant ICCAT subsidiary bodies, including online meetings. Attendance may be virtual, as all ICCAT meetings now offer this possibility.*	*Status*
Activities carried out to date: • **Regular bilateral meetings** held with ICCAT Secretariat – Head of Compliance: During these meetings, ICCAT Secretariat, represented by the Head of the Compliance Unit, and Bureau Veritas Living Resources mutually agreed to provide a Progress Note as an **Inception report – Progress Note by mid-October 2026**. Since the end of July 2026, 6 meetings were held including one on 7 Oct. 2026 to guide the ARO team in the IOMS website. • **ICCAT meetings scheduled by ICCAT Secretariat for CPCs and other invitees:** The ICCAT RO experts were invited to participate to the following ICCAT meetings in September 2026 (see list of ICCAT meetings in 2026 here): o SCRS meeting – SC-STATS - Species Groups and Subcommittee on Statistics (14 – 19 September 2026). Olivier Roux and Vincent Defaux registered and participated remotely to meetings on Thursday and Friday the 17th and 18th of September. o SCRS meeting – Plenary meetings (21 – 25 September 2026): Monday 21 Sept. 2026 - Key feedback noted: RO – national annual report including its relationship with IOMS - discussion at the beginning of the SCRS meetings on 21/09/2026 A log of participation to ICCAT meetings by ICCAT RO experts is annexed to this report – see Annex 7.	O
12. *Incorporate feedback received during the validation phase into the final outputs.*	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: to be conducted to populate the final report *This work will be carried out based on feedback received on the Draft Final Report at the 2027 Regional Management Committee meeting, with implementation continuing through the first semester of 2028.*	Final phase
13. *Provide ICCAT with all relevant data, analyses and materials produced during the execution of the contract.*	***Status***
Activities carried out to date: • Activity to carry out during the ongoing implementation phase of the consultancy assignment. Otherwise, produced materials and analysis to provide at the end of the consultancy assignment. This will include all scripts used for the statistical analysis (see Section 2.2.)	Final phase

Source: Consultant's own elaboration. Legend: Orange = ongoing (O); No shading = not started; Green = completed (C)

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3.3 *Confirmation of Progress against the agreed methodology and timetable*

Deliverables will be produced in accordance with ICCAT's Terms of Reference and aligned with the Commission's meeting calendar. Reminder: the key evolution, compared to the ToR, is that the Phase 1 Initial mapping, includes a Scoping phase with Phase 2 overlapping Phase 1 while the Consultation of stakeholders in Phase 2 will start at the beginning of the year 2027.

The deliverables will be submitted with the aim to provide a draft final report before the 2027 Annual ICCAT Meeting scheduled in the week starting on the 16th of November 2027. Indicative dates provided by the ToR serve as deliverable deadlines.

To the extent possible, BV LR will provide a contractual deliverable before the set deadline. For instance, the final report may be submitted in April 2028 instead of May 2028. The final report must be submitted before the contract ends (23 July 2028).

The next section provides additional information about (a) the work carried out according to the work plan provided by BV LR in their offer and (b) the progress to date compared to the work schedule proposed by BV LR in their offer. The work schedule is updated to take into account the entry into force of the contract signed by the ICCAT Secretariat and BV LR on 24 July 2026.

3.3.1 *Indicative Timeline (Gantt Summary) – latest version*

The timeline is expressed in months from the signature of the contract: 24 July 2026 – 23 July 2028, with Month 1 starting in August 2026. It illustrates the overlap between analytical phases, validation activities and deliverable milestones, in line with ICCAT Secretariat and Working Group practices.

The Phases are designed as follows:

- **Phase 1 – Scoping (Months 1–5):** Supports Deliverable 3.1 (Progress Note – Inception Report – PN-IR). This phase includes the kick-off meeting, Terms of Reference review, reporting obligations initial mapping, analytical framework development, and initial consultations with the ICCAT Secretariat. A summary of the PN-IR will be presented to the Compliance Committee (COC) during the 25th Special Meeting of the Commission (SMC) in November 2026.
- **Phase 2 – Mapping and analysis (Months 5–10):** Feeds Deliverable 3.2 (Interim Analytical Assessment Report). Launching in Month 5, instead of Month 6, will be conditioned by prior approval by ICCAT of the proposed methodology presented in the PN-IR. This phase encompasses comprehensive mapping, reporting practices assessment, administrative burden evaluation for CPCs, and identification of preliminary inefficiencies. D3.2 will provide preliminary findings of the Stakeholder Consultation and the t-RFMO benchmarking.
- **Phase 3 – Technical Assessment (Months 6–13):** Forms the basis of Deliverable 3.3 (Final Technical Assessment Report). Running in parallel with Phase 2, this phase includes system review (including IOMS), effectiveness and benchmarking analysis, fitness-for-purpose and traceability analysis, and targeted stakeholder consultations.
- **Phase 4 – Drafting Recommendations (Months 2–15):** Produces Deliverable 3.4 (Draft Final Report with Recommendations). Drafting recommendations begins from Month 2, enabling the team to nurture ideas to improve ICCAT ROs with the CPCs and ICCAT Working Groups, in particular the WG-ORT, while carrying out the analytical phases. The Draft Final Report will be submitted at Month 15.

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- **Phase 5 – Finalisation and Dissemination (Months 16–24):** Produces Deliverable 3.5 (Final Report). This phase includes formal consultation and validation with ICCAT bodies and CPCs (including the 26th SMC in July 2028), incorporation of comments, finalisation of recommendations, and presentations to ICCAT subsidiary bodies and the Commission. The Final Report will be submitted at Month 24 (23 July 2028), or earlier if feasible.

It is anticipated that certain preparatory work related to tasks in subsequent phases will be initiated at an early stage. This approach will enable the team, in close collaboration with the ICCAT Secretariat, to begin identifying and progressively refining potential recommendations as insights emerge from the analysis. It also facilitates the early structuring of deliverables and the consolidation of the analytical framework.

Regular online meetings with the ICCAT Secretariat are scheduled throughout the entire contract period (minimum monthly frequency, with increased frequency—twice monthly or exceptionally weekly—depending on the need to progress rapidly on important matters and related deliverables). Additionally, annual meetings with ICCAT WG-ORT are scheduled for February of each year (2027 and 2028).

The Work schedule in the form of a Gantt chart is presented on the next page.

3.3.2 Work plan

The work plan is summarised in the Table 3 page 26 based on the Work schedule (Gantt Summary) provided next page - Figure 2.

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Analysis of ICCAT Reporting Obligations (ARO)		Year (20yy)	26					#						#						#						
Contract duration (24 months): 24 July 2026 - 23 Juy 2028 - M1 starting as August 2026		*Month*	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J
Phase	Tasks/Activities	Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	24
Cross-cutting	*Regular online meetings with ICCAT Secretariat*		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	ICCAT WG-ORT - annual meeting (February each year)								x												x					
1 - Scoping		***Months (M) 1 - 5***																								
	Kick-off meeting (and meeting record)		x																							
	Terms of Reference review – scope confirmation																									
	Reporting obligations initial mapping																									
	Analytical framework development																									
	Initiative mapping - continuation																									
	Initial consultation with ICCAT secretariat (scope, data, assumptions)																									
	Progress Note - Inception report (draft) and presentation (Power Point)				D																					
	ICCAT annual meeting - ICCAT - 25th Special Meeting of the Commission (SMC)				SMC 26																					
	D3.1 - PN - IR (15 p. max.) - M. 5 and **(D.) presentation**					F																				
2 - Mapping	***Launching conditioned by PN - IR approval by ICCAT at SMC***	***M. 5 - 10***																								
	Comprehensive mapping																									
	Reporting practices assessment																									
	Assessment of administrative burden for CPCs																									
	Identification of preliminary inefficiencies																									
	Technical exchanges with ICCAT Secretariat on reporting practices and burden																									
	D3.2 - Interim Analytical Assessment Report - M. 10 and **D. presentation**											F														
3 - Technical Assessment		***M. 6 - 13***																								
	System review (incl. IOMS)																									
	Effectiveness and benchmarking analysis - preliminary findings in D3.2																									
	Fitness-for-purpose and traceability analysis																									
	Targeted stakeholder consultations - preliminary findings in D3.2																									
	Consolidation of findings																									
	D3.3 - Final technical assessment report - M. 13 and **D. presentation**														F											
4 - Drafting recommandations		***M. 2 - 15***																								
	Drafting & prioritisation of recommendations																									
	Feasibility and burden screening																									
	Informal validation with Secretariat / Chairs																									
	D3.4 Draft Final report - M. 17 and **D. presentation**																D									
5 - Finalisation and dissemination		***M. 16 - 24***																								
	Formal consultation and validation with ICCAT bodies and CPCs inc. **26th RMC**																	RMC 27								
	Incorporation of comments																									
	Finalisation of recommendations																									
	Presentations to ICCAT subsidiary bodies / Commission																									
	D3.5 Final report - M. 24 and **D. presentation** (earlier target if feasible)																									F

Figure 2: Work schedule – updated version in the Progress Note – Inception report
Source: Bureau Veritas Living Resources' own elaboration. Legend: full coloured cells - active work, shaded cells as secondary activities.

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Table 3: Work plan by phase, main activities, outputs/deliverables, indicative timing, and governance checkpoints

Phase	Main Activities	Outputs / Deliverables	Indicative Timing	Governance Checkpoint
Phase 1	**Inception and Initial phase:** confirm scoping and expected objectives of the Assignment, first collection and analysis of data and reports, stakeholder consultation preparation Review ICCAT Convention; identification & structuring of reporting obligations; analytical framework; initial Secretariat consultation	**D3.1– Progress Note - Inception Report** (20 p. max) + PowerPoint presentation	First version - 16 Oct. 2026 Updated version Month 5 – 24 Dec. 2026 latest **Target: 18 Dec. 2026**	25th ICCAT SMC (M4): Present findings for scope validation, and first reactions from the Participants especially the CPCs
Phase 2	Completion of inventory; assessment of reporting practices; identification of data quality issues; administrative burden analysis Stakeholder consultation – launch based on questionnaires templates	**D3.2– Interim Analytical Assessment Report** + presentation	Month 10 - May 2027 latest (ToR) **Target: April 2027** *(Exact date to be set in D3.1 latest)*	WG-ORT annual meeting (M6, Feb 2027): Technical exchange on reporting requirements and tools
Phase 3	Detailed data completeness/timeliness/coherence analysis; use by SCRS/Compliance/Commission; IOMS review; benchmarking; Targeted stakeholder consultation (end)	**D3.3– Final Technical Assessment Report** + presentation	Month 13 - August 2027 latest (ToR) **Target: end of June / early July 2027** *(Exact date to be set in D3.2 latest)*	Stakeholder feedback incorporated
Phase 4	Synthesis of findings; development & prioritization of recommendations; proposed amendments to ICCAT measures	**D3.4– Draft Final Report** with recommendations + presentation	**Month 15 – Friday 8 Oct 2027 LATEST**	Preliminary validation of the DFR with the ICCAT Secretariat/Chairs

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Phase	Main Activities	Outputs / Deliverables	Indicative Timing	Governance Checkpoint
Phase 5	Formal consultation with ICCAT bodies & CPCs; incorporation of comments; finalization; presentation to subsidiary bodies/Commission	**D3.5– Final Report** with recommendations & executive summary + presentation	Month 24 - July 2028 (ToR)	26th ICCAT SMC (M16, November 2028): Formal consultation & validation before finalization WG-ORT annual meeting (M19, Feb 2028): Technical exchange on recommendations
Cross-Cutting	*Regular (at least monthly) online meetings with ICCAT Secretariat; WG-ORT annual meetings (February each year); PowerPoint presentations; executive summaries (EU co-funding acknowledgement on all deliverables)*	*Applicable to ALL deliverables (D3.1–D3.5)*	*Throughout contract (M1–24)*	*Monthly governance touchpoints*

Source: Bureau Veritas Living Resources' own elaboration

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4 List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ARO	Analysis of Reporting Obligations
BV LR	Bureau Veritas Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure
COC	Compliance Committee (ICCAT)
CPC	Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (European Commission)
e.g.	for example
eBCD	Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation
EMS	Electronic Monitoring System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIRMS	Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System
FIS	Fisheries Information Systems
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
i.e.	that is
IMM	ICCAT Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures
IOMS	ICCAT Integrated Online Management System
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (Fishing)
JIS	Joint International Inspection Scheme
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
PN-IR	Progress Note – Inception Report
PWG	Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures
Rec.	Recommendation
REM	Remote Electronic Monitoring
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RMC	Regular Meeting of the Commission (ICCAT annual meeting)
RO	Reporting Obligation
SCRS	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (ICCAT)
SMC	Special Meeting of the Commission (ICCAT annual meeting)
t-RFMO	Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
Task I	ICCAT statistical reporting on nominal catches (T1NC) and fleet characteristics (T1FC)
Task II	ICCAT statistical reporting on catch and effort (T2CE) and size data (T2SZ, CAS)
ToR	Terms of Reference
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WG-ORT	Working Group on Online Reporting Technologies

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Annexes

Annex 1 – Terms of reference

Attached separately

Annex 2 – Executive Summary of the Progress Note – Inception Report [standalone document to facilitate its distribution]

Annex 3 – Presentation of the Progress Note – Inception Report

[Presentation used at the 2026 ICCAT Annual Meeting - to be provided in the final version of the PN-IR in December 2026]

Annex 4 – Active ICCAT Instruments and Documentary Sources Included in the Review – preliminary findings

This annex identifies, as preliminary findings, the active ICCAT instruments and documentary sources that will form the primary corpus for the review. The selection focuses on measures that establish reporting obligations, reporting procedures, compliance-review mechanisms or scientific reporting requirements reflected in the 2026 Compliance Requirements Matrix (Excel file provided by the ICCAT Secretariat in month 1 of the Assignment), the 2026 Statistical Requirements Matrix (Excel file provided by the ICCAT Secretariat in month 1 of the Assignment) and the Secretariat's compliance review processes.

ICCAT Recommendations are the formal decisions adopted by ICCAT members that create binding obligations, meaning countries, and cooperating entities are expected to implement and comply with them. **ICCAT Resolutions** are also adopted by the Commission but are generally non-binding and are used to provide guidance, express policy intentions, encourage specific actions, or support future work. **Other ICCAT texts** include meeting reports, circulars, compliance matrices, manuals, guidelines, technical advice from the Scientific Committee (SCRS), and Secretariat documents. These documents help explain, implement, monitor, or support ICCAT's work, but they do not themselves create new legal obligations unless they are specifically incorporated into a binding Recommendation.

Some ICCAT texts below amend or repeal previous ICCAT texts (e.g., Recommendations). Full titles of ICCAT texts are available online at: https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp .

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A. Binding ICCAT Recommendations (Rec.) – relevant selection

A.1 Cross-Cutting Compliance and Reporting Framework

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 24-17	Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) and reporting processes
Rec. 22-14	Promotion of compliance with ICCAT measures
Rec. 18-07	Reporting deadlines and submission requirements
Rec. 11-15	Penalties related to reporting failures
Rec. 11-11	Compliance recommendations application and compliance annex development - clarifications
Rec. 05-09	Compliance with statistical reporting obligations

A.2 Vessel Authorisation, Monitoring and Compliance

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-12	ICCAT Record of Authorised Vessels of 20 m length and greater in the ICCAT area
Rec. 23-16	ICCAT List of vessels presumed of IUU fishing activities
Rec. 21-12	Vessels without nationality
Rec. 19-09	Vessel sighting reporting requirements
Rec. 18-10	Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements in ICCAT area

A.3 Observer Programmes and Electronic Monitoring

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 24-14	Health and safety of observers in CPC observer programmes
Rec. 23-18	Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) – minimum standards and programme requirements for its use
Rec. 16-14	Scientific observer programmes – minimum standards
Rec. 19-10	Health and safety of observers in ICCAT programmes

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A.4 Transhipment and Port State Measures

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-11	Port State Measures to prevent IUU fishing
Rec. 24-15	Transhipment – rules, monitoring, and reporting obligations

A.5 Catch Documentation and Traceability

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 24-16	Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation (eBCD) system - application
Rec. 23-21	Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme (BCD)
Rec. 01-21	Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme
Rec. 01-22	Swordfish Statistical Document Programme
Rec. 06-16	Electronic statistical documentation programme

A.6 Species-Specific Conservation and Management Measures Generating Reporting Obligations

Tropical Tunas

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-02	Candidate management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack tuna
Rec. 24-01	Multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-05	Western Atlantic bluefin tuna conservation and management programme
Rec. 25-04	Multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the mediterranean
Rec. 25-01	Pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in waters of the Canary islands

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Albacore Tunas

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 24-08	Rebuilding plan for Mediterranean Albacore
Rec. 23-05	North Atlantic albacore conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol (amending 21-04 below)
Rec. 21-04	North Atlantic albacore conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol
Rec. 22-06	Southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023 - 2026

Swordfish

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-10	Conservation and management of measures including a management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish
Rec. 24-11	Mediterranean swordfish catch limits
Rec. 22-04	South Atlantic swordfish conservation measures
Rec. 16-05	Mediterranean swordfish multi-annual recovery plan (see also Rec. 22-20 as supplementary recommendation – modifying Annex 1 of Rec. 16-05)

Billfishes

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-06	Grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from recommendation 19-05
Rec. 19-05	Rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish
Rec. 16-11	Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish

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Sharks (caught in association with ICCAT fisheries)

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 25-08	South Atlantic shortfin mako shark conservation measures
Rec. 25-07	Basking shark and great white shark caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT – conservation measures (note: including records of their accidental catch and release by observers)
Rec. 23-12	Whale sharks conservation measures
Rec. 23-11	South Atlantic blue shark management measures for its conservation
Rec. 23-10	North Atlantic blue shark management measures for its conservation
Rec. 21-09	North Atlantic shortfin mako conservation measures

Bycatch Species

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Rec. 24-12	Reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries
Rec. 23-13	Bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries – amending recommendation 22-12
Rec. 22-12	Bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
Rec. 11-10	Information collection and harmonisation of data on by-catch and discards in ICCAT fisheries
Rec. 11-09	Reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries
Rec. 07-07	Reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries (applies in the area between 20°S to 25°S)

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B. Active ICCAT Resolutions Relevant to Reporting Obligations

ICCAT Ref.	Subject
Res. 25-14	Streamlining SCRS requests and reporting requirements – Taks force
Res. 23-20	Core principles of labour standards in ICCAT fisheries
Res. 21-22	Electronic monitoring systems (EMS) Working Group
Res. 21-17	Remote electronic monitoring (REM) pilot project
Res. 19-17	Voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in ICCAT fisheries
Res. 16-22	Efficient compliance review process - facilitation
Res. 16-17	Compliance and cooperation improvement – schedule of actions
Res. 15-09	Guidelines to implement Rec. 11-15 on penalties applicable in the case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations
Res. 03-21	Data quality and collection improvements
Res. 01-16	Data reporting deadlines and submission procedures
Res. 99-07	Recreational fisheries statistics
Res. 66-01	Collection and submission of Atlantic tuna fisheries statistics

C. Active ICCAT Reference Documents and Other ICCAT Texts

Compliance

Reference
COC_303 – Report from the Secretariat to the Compliance Committee
Annex 7 (to COC 303) - related measures and guidance
Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions

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Reporting Guidance

Reference
Ref. 23-24 – Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports
Secretariat reporting instructions
Reporting templates and submission guidance
IOMS guidance documents

Scientific Reporting

Reference
SCRS reporting guidance
Species-specific data submission instructions
Task I and Task II reporting guidance
Scientific data reporting templates

Source: Preliminary analysis by the Consultant based on Excel Matrices of ICCAT Compliance and Statistical Requirements provided by the ICCAT Secretariat in July 2026

Note: Tables above include ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions in force since July 2026.

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Annex 5 – Preliminary summary of ICCAT's Reporting Process

Based on the ICCAT reporting requirements listed on ICCAT's website and in # IOMS, the ICCAT Compendium of Active Measures, the ICCAT Basic Texts, and the inventory of requirements compiled by the ARO team.

1. How ICCAT reporting works

1.1 Who reports, to whom, and why

Under Article IX of the ICCAT Convention, Contracting Parties must provide the statistical, biological, and other scientific information the Commission needs, and report on the actions taken to enforce the Convention and relevant conservation and management measures. Recommendations (binding) and Resolutions (non-binding) then set out the specific items to report, with deadlines and formats. The obligations apply to CPCs: Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

CPCs submit information to the ICCAT Secretariat, which checks and compiles the information. The Secretariat passes scientific data to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which uses it for stock assessments, management advice, and other scientific purposes. Compliance information goes to the Compliance Committee (COC) and the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), which review each CPC's performance at the annual Commission meeting.

The Secretariat publishes the consolidated list of requirements on two web pages, one for compliance and one for statistics, as well as on ICCAT's Integrated Online Managements System (IOMS), which is increasingly used for reporting by CPCs. There are currently 184 requirements: 135 compliance (codes starting "M:") and 49 science (codes starting "S:"). Almost all are reported by CPCs; only four involve a private entity reporting directly (carrier vessel masters, observer providers and NGOs: M:GEN07, M:GEN27, M:GEN36, M:GEN40).

Guidelines for reporting the required information are available on the ICCAT website: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/Guidelines_ENG.pdf and https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Stats/statistical-data_ENG.pdf.

1.2 Science reporting: Task 1, Task 2 and Task 3 and others

ICCAT's statistical and biological data are organised in "Tasks". Each CPC reports the previous calendar year's data by 15 July, unless the Secretariat's annual request for statistics (e.g. Circular 00620/2026, Appendix 1) sets an earlier deadline, using the official electronic forms (ST and TG series, version 2026a). Only the latest form version is accepted.

- **Task 1: fleet and total catch.** Fleet characteristics of the active fleet (T1FC, form ST01-T1FC, sub-forms ST01A/ST01B: the vessels that actively fished for ICCAT species) and nominal catches (T1NC, form ST02-T1NC, sub-forms ST02A/ST02B: annual catches in live weight, covering landings, dead and live discards and bluefin tuna transferred alive to farms). Zero catches must be reported explicitly (ST02B).
- **Task 2: catch & effort and sizes.** Catch and effort (T2CE, form ST03-T2CE: monthly, by 5x5 squares for longline and 1x1 for other gears), size samples (T2SZ, form ST04-T2SZ: observed size/weight frequencies), catch-at-size estimates (T2CS, form ST05-CAS: bluefin, albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack and swordfish only, optional unless a species group requires it) and bluefin tuna farming size samples (form ST06-T2FM: sizes and weights measured at caging, fattening or harvest, including stereoscopic camera data). These feed the stock assessment models and other scientific analyses.

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- **Task 3: other fishery data.** Support vessel activity in tropical tuna fisheries (ST07-TropSupVes), FAD deployments (ST08-FadsDep, sub-forms ST08A/ST08B), domestic scientific observer programme data (ST09-NatObProg, sub-forms ST09A–C, including sea turtle and seabird bycatch), port sampling (ST10-PortSamp) and, new in 2026, trapline fishing activity (ST13-Traplines, tentative structure).
- **Tagging.** Tagging survey inventories and conventional and electronic tag releases and recoveries (TG01–TG03).
- **Others:** Complementary data on incidental catches of seabirds and sea turtles (reported through ST09) and bluefin tuna size/weight samples from stereoscopic camera systems (reported through ST06). The request also lists specific historical revisions, e.g. historical FAD set data (ST03) and pending tropical tuna observer data (ST09).

Missing data has consequences. For example, under Rec. 11-15, a CPC that does not report Task 1 data for a species (including zero catches) is prohibited from retaining that species from the following year until the data are received. Under Rec. 05-09, the Secretariat lists data gaps by stock and CPCs must explain them and set out corrective action.

1.3 Compliance reporting

- **Annual Report** (by 15 September, per the Revised Guidelines, Ref. 23-24): Section 1 covers fisheries, research and statistics; Section 2 covers implementation of ICCAT measures. Many individual requirements are "to include in the Annual Report".
- **Compliance reporting tables** (by 15 August, Rec. 11-11 as amended): catches against quotas or catch limits, with the adjustments for under and over catch.
- **Vessel and facility lists:** ICCAT records of authorised vessels (≥20 m, bluefin, tropical, carriers, Mediterranean albacore, and swordfish), traps, farms and designated ports, updated whenever they change.
- **Fishery management reporting:** annual fishing, capacity, farming and inspection plans, and in-season catch reports (bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly) to monitor quota uptake.
- **Trade and catch documentation:** bluefin tuna catch documents through the eBCD system, statistical document programmes for bigeye and swordfish, and validation authorities and seals.
- **MCS and IUU:** VMS messages, transhipment reports, port inspection and denial reports, inspection reports under the Joint International Inspection Scheme, IUU vessel listings and investigation findings. Many of these are event-driven rather than annual.

1.4 Channels and formats

Most submissions use Secretariat templates (CP-series forms for compliance, ST/TG-series for statistics). The forms are either sent to the addresses indicated for each requirement or, since 2023, must be entered directly in IOMS (Annual Report Section 3, Parts 1 and 2; an increasing number of forms) (Rec. 24-17), and further reporting will move into IOMS as new modules and forms become available. Bluefin catch and trade documents are handled in the separate eBCD system.

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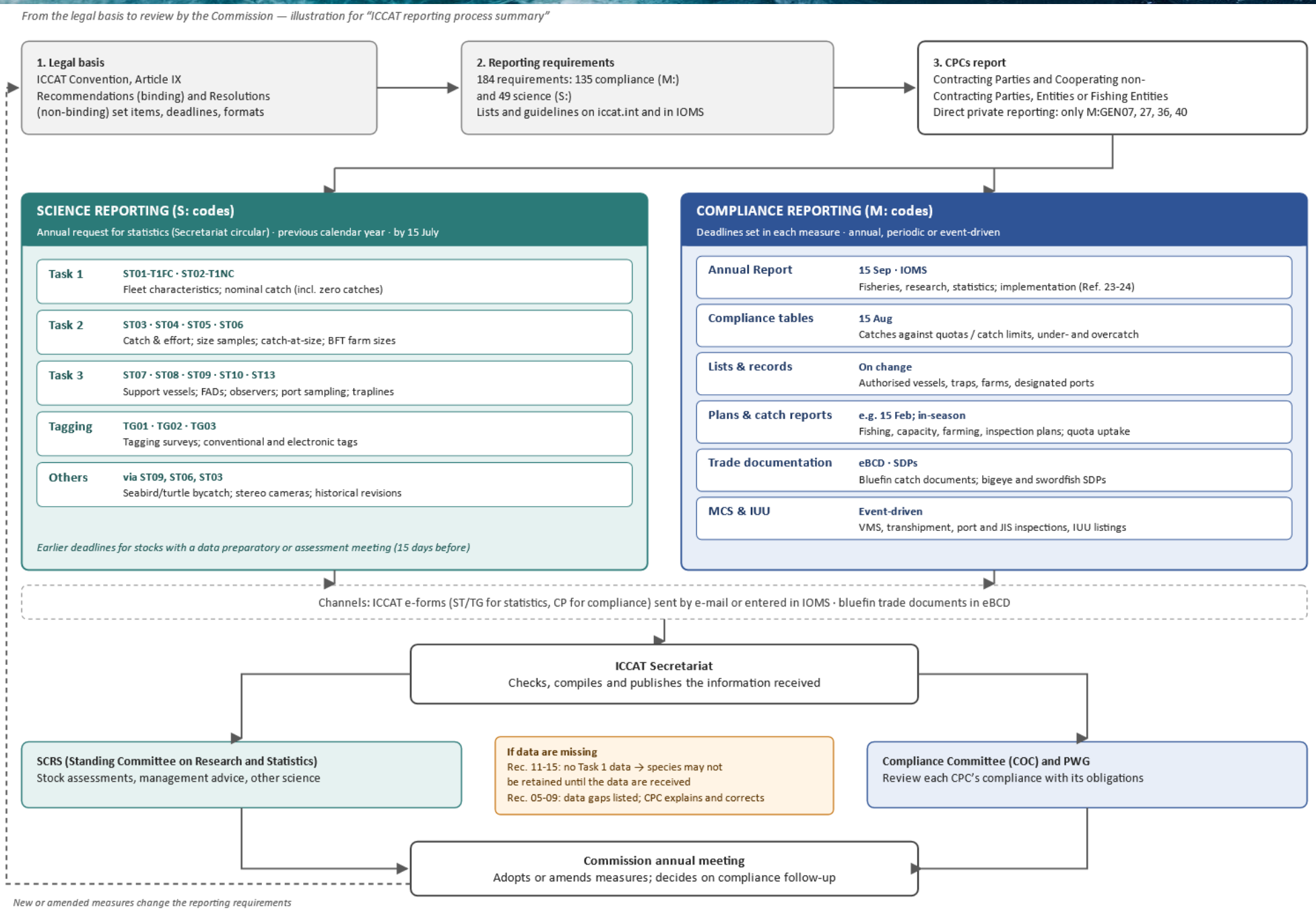


Figure 3: ICCAT Reporting Process
Source: Elaborated by the Consultant

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2. Reporting requirements by type and topic

Requirement codes follow the format X:YYYnn, where X is the requirement type (M = compliance, S = science) and YYY the topic (GEN: General, ALB: Albacore, BFT: Bluefin tuna, TRO: Tropical species, SWO: Swordfish, BIL: Billfish, SHK: Sharks, BYC: Other species/bycatch, SDP: Statistical document programmes, MIX: Mixed). Numbers under each topic give the count of requirements.

Requirement type #	Topic #	Requirement codes
Compliance 135 requirements	General 47	M:GEN01, M:GEN02, M:GEN03, M:GEN04, M:GEN05, M:GEN06a, M:GEN06b, M:GEN07, M:GEN08, M:GEN09, M:GEN10a, M:GEN10b, M:GEN11, M:GEN12, M:GEN13, M:GEN14, M:GEN15, M:GEN16, M:GEN17, M:GEN18, M:GEN19, M:GEN20, M:GEN21, M:GEN23, M:GEN24, M:GEN25, M:GEN26, M:GEN27, M:GEN28, M:GEN29, M:GEN30, M:GEN31, M:GEN32, M:GEN33, M:GEN34, M:GEN35, M:GEN36, M:GEN37, M:GEN38, M:GEN39, M:GEN40, M:GEN41, M:GEN42, M:GEN43, M:GEN44, M:GEN45, M:GEN46
	Albacore 8	M:ALB03, M:ALB04, M:ALB05, M:ALB06, M:ALB07, M:ALB08, M:ALB09, M:ALB10
	Bluefin tuna 35	M:BFT01, M:BFT02, M:BFT03, M:BFT04, M:BFT05, M:BFT07, M:BFT08, M:BFT09, M:BFT10, M:BFT11, M:BFT12, M:BFT13, M:BFT14, M:BFT15, M:BFT16, M:BFT17, M:BFT18, M:BFT19, M:BFT20, M:BFT21, M:BFT22, M:BFT23, M:BFT24, M:BFT25, M:BFT27, M:BFT28, M:BFT29, M:BFT30, M:BFT31, M:BFT32, M:BFT33, M:BFT34, M:BFT35, M:BFT36, M:BFT37
	Tropical species 15	M:TRO01, M:TRO02, M:TRO03, M:TRO06, M:TRO07, M:TRO09, M:TRO10, M:TRO11, M:TRO13, M:TRO14, M:TRO15, M:TRO17, M:TRO18, M:TRO19, M:TRO20
	Swordfish 19	M:SWO01, M:SWO02, M:SWO03, M:SWO04, M:SWO05, M:SWO06, M:SWO07, M:SWO10, M:SWO11, M:SWO12, M:SWO13, M:SWO14, M:SWO15, M:SWO16, M:SWO17, M:SWO18, M:SWO19, M:SWO20, M:SWO21
	Billfish 2	M:BIL01, M:BIL04
	Sharks 3	M:SHK05, M:SHK08, M:SHK09
	Other species / Bycatch 4	M:BYC01, M:BYC02, M:BYC03, M:BYC04
	Statistical document programmes 1	M:SDP01
	Mixed 1	M:MIX01

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Requirement type #	Topic #	Requirement codes
Science 49 requirements	General 13	S:GEN01, S:GEN02, S:GEN03, S:GEN04, S:GEN05, S:GEN06, S:GEN07, S:GEN08, S:GEN09, S:GEN10, S:GEN11, S:GEN12, S:GEN13
	Albacore 5	S:ALB01, S:ALB02, S:ALB03, S:ALB04, S:ALB05
	Bluefin tuna 7	S:BFT02, S:BFT03, S:BFT04, S:BFT05, S:BFT06, S:BFT07, S:BFT09
	Tropical species 7	S:TRO02, S:TRO03, S:TRO04, S:TRO05, S:TRO06, S:TRO07, S:TRO10
	Swordfish 2	S:SWO01, S:SWO02
	Billfish 2	S:BIL03, S:BIL04
	Sharks 8	S:SHK01, S:SHK02, S:SHK03, S:SHK04, S:SHK05, S:SHK06, S:SHK07, S:SHK08
	Other species / Bycatch 5	S:BYC01, S:BYC02, S:BYC03, S:BYC04, S:BYC05

Source: elaboration by the Consultant

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Annex 6 – Other relevant sources of information and documents, data collected to date (sorted by topics)

- ICCAT Convention, its amendment, its Convention Area https://www.iccat.int/en/index.asp# under 'About us'

- ICCAT documents – collected to date (non-exhaustive) https://www.iccat.int/DocsComm/PageDocs.php Central repository webpage for retrieving ICCAT Annual meetings documentation by year, dating back to 2015

- ICCAT Basic texts: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Commission/BasicTexts.pdf

- ICCAT Manual: https://www.iccat.int/en/iccatmanual.html See Section Reporting of Data to the ICCAT Secretariat and Glossary in the Appendices

- ICCAT Resolutions, Recommendations and other Decisions including the Compendium dated from February 2026 on 22 Sept. 2026: https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp

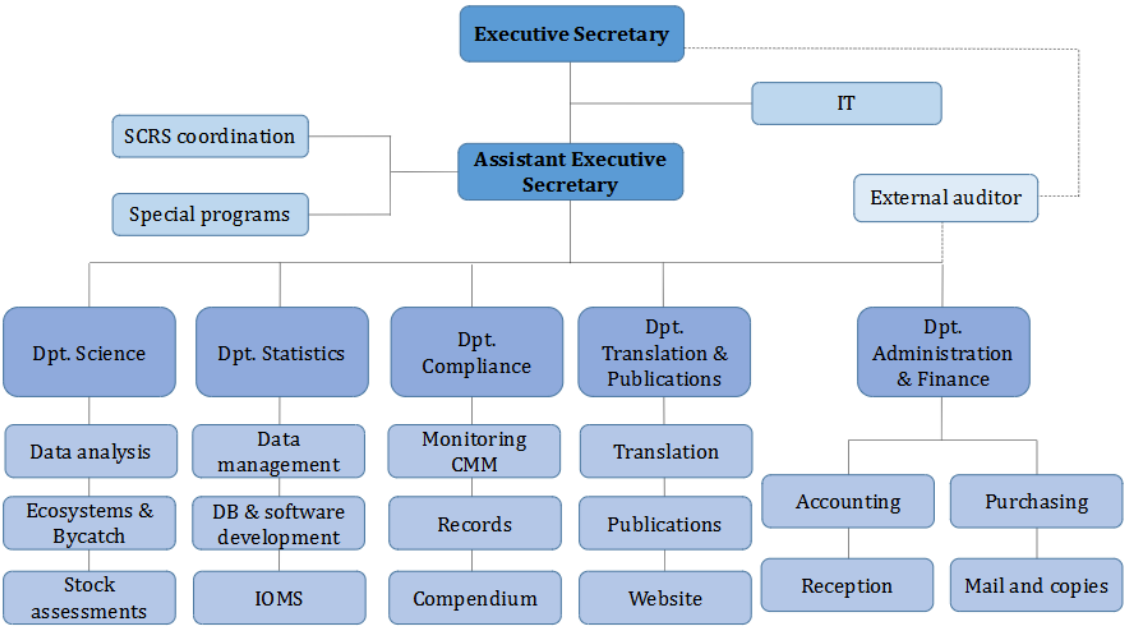
  Note: Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by ICCAT (Res. 12-11). The Resolution explains how CPCs may object to an ICCAT Recommendation under Article VIII of the Convention, the grounds for objection, and the obligations that remain while the objection is maintained. Link: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2012-11-e.pdf

- Submitting data & information required by ICCAT:
  - Guidelines https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/Guidelines_ENG.pdf and
  - Submitting information: https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html
  - Submitting Stat Data: https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.html

- CPC compliance reports: in the recent years (2024 – 2026). [Remark: 2026 Compliance reports to analyse after the 2026 ICCAT annual meeting held in November 2026]

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ICCAT organigramme:



Source: ICCAT Secretariat- https://www.iccat.int/en/secretariat.html accessed on 22 Sept. 2026

Table 4: List of organisations having attended ICCAT meetings from 2024 and 2026 as 'Observers'

1. AAPAC	14. FMAP	27. The Billfish Foundation
2. ABIPESCA	15. GALLIFREY	28. The Ocean Foundation
3. ALPESCAS	16. GLOBAL FISHING WATCH	29. WWF
4. ANATUN	17. IPNLF	30. American Sportfishing Association (ASA)
5. APCCR	18. ISSF	31. Global Tuna Alliance
6. BIRDLIFE INT.	19. MSC	32. MEDISAMAK
7. COMTR	20. Oceana	33. OPRT
8. DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY	21. Pew Charitable Trusts	34. UAPF
9. DSM	22. PRO WILDLIFE	35. AEPPT
10. Ecology Action Centre (EAC)	23. RIPAPE	36. Defenders of Wildlife
11. Europêche	24. SCIAENA	37. Manta Trust
12. FEAP	25. Shark Trust	38. Shark Guardian
13. FIP – FIP Blues	26. SHARKPROJECT	39. TPA

Source: ICCAT Secretariat

Non-public sources of information - examples:

Roux O., 2017. ICCAT FORS project Sub-Component 1.1 – Summary report on the t-RFMOs fisheries information requirements. 56 pages. *Preliminary note: not found online.*

Roux O., 2017. ICCAT FORS project Sub-Component 1.2 – Survey of t-RFMO fisheries data & information reporting and compliance evaluation processes. *Preliminary note: not found online.*

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Bureau Veritas Living Resources:

French Company Directory, access 22 Sept. 2026: company information in French | *L'Annuaire des Entreprises*

The company's accounts are subject to **statutory external audit**, ensuring robust budgetary control, transparency and compliance with public procurement requirements.

Part of Bureau Veritas Group, BV LR must comply with Bureau Veritas Group's Policies and Statements such as the Code of ethics to conduct business.

While the **Bureau Veritas Code of Ethics**, in its current 2023 edition[2], does not specifically address artificial intelligence, its requirements regarding integrity of information, protection of confidential data, compliance with internal policies, and quality of services encompass the responsible use of AI tools. Accordingly, employees must use AI solutions in accordance with Bureau Veritas AI, information-security and confidentiality policies.

[2] https://commodities.bureauveritas.com/who-we-are/shaping-better-world/statements-policies analysis 6 October 2026

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Annex 7 – Stakeholder Consultation Strategy and Progress to Date - Supplementary Information

Stakeholder consultation – Progress to date

Note that the Stakeholder Consultation has not been launched yet. The meetings below are inception meetings only. The ARO team drafted records for most of the meetings below.

Reminder from the main text: the Letters introducing the Study and its Stakeholder Consultation were sent by the ICCAT Secretariat on 13 October 2026. The Consultation by Questionnaires will be launched after the 2026 ICCAT Annual Meeting.

Table 5: List of consulted persons/organisations to date – online meetings

Organisation – Department (Dept.)	Position	Note	NAME First name
ICCAT Secretariat - Compliance Unit	Head	-	PARRILLA Alberto
ICCAT Secretariat - Dept. of Statistics	Former Department Head	Currently acting as Consultant for ICCAT	PALMA Carlos
European Commission (EC) - Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) - MARE B2 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations	Head of Unit, and Head of delegation to ICCAT International Relation Officer – Team Leader Two International Relation Officers	Inception meeting to introduce the study to the EC as co-funding it	BILLIET Stijn - Head of Unit among others

Table 6: Log of meetings with the ICCAT Secretariat – online meetings to date

Meeting name	Attendance date of the meeting(s) – most recent first	Attended by and when (hour (from to in CEST / CET))	Note
ICCAT – BV LR Regular meetings Scope: to provide situation reports and decide next actions Frequency: by week or every two weeks (see Work Plan in *section 3.3.2 of the PN-IR*)	21/07/2026	BV LR Permanent staff: Vincent Defaux (VD) and Etienne Jarry	Contract signature by all Parties on 24/07/2026. Scope: to agree date of first deliverable submission and initiate the work
	07/09/2026 15/09/2026 02/10/2026 06/10/2026	ARO Team	Official Introduction of all the ARO team to the ICCAT Secretariat on 06/10/2026

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Meeting name	Attendance date of the meeting(s) – most recent first	Attended by and when (hour (from to in CEST / CET))	Note
Guiding the Experts' Team into the IOMS by the ICCAT Secretariat (10 staff attending from the Compliance and Statistics Dept. – meeting organised: Head of the Compliance Unit)	07/10/2026	ARO Team: VD, OR, Raul Vilela, Christopher O'Brien, Elsa Gautheret	Presence of 10 ICCAT Secretariat staff

Table 7: Log of ICCAT meetings to which the ICCAT RO experts participated to date – online attendance to date

ICCAT meeting name (period if related to several ones)	Attendance date of the meeting(s)	Attended by and when (hour (from to in CEST / CET))
SCRS – STATS meetings 14 – 19/09/2026[3]	17/09	Olivier Roux – OR
	18/09	Vincent DEFAUX – VD: passive attendance during the SHARKS, and BLUEFIN sessions in particular
SCRS meeting – Plenary Meetings 21 – 25/09/2026	21/09/2026 opening of the session	About 10 am duration 15 minutes (VD) Passive attendance (OR)
	22 – 25/09/2026	Attendance on irregular basis (VD)

NB: no meeting record drafted when participating.

[3] Date as dd (day)/ mm (month) / yyyy (year)

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Annex 8 – Risk Management and Flexibility

Risk management

This section identifies the main risks associated with the contract across its lifecycle (before contract signature, during implementation, and after contract closure), together with the corresponding mitigation measures. Where risks or mitigation actions are not fully within the control of Bureau Veritas Living Resources (BV LR), this is clearly indicated.

During Contract Implementation

Risk	Potential impact	Mitigation measures	Control by BV LR
New reporting obligations under development	Partial or outdated analysis	Establish continuous monitoring protocols and integrate emerging obligations into analysis cycles	**Limited**– BV LR monitors developments and assesses cumulative reporting burden, but cannot directly influence regulatory design
Limited CPC participation in consultations	Biased or incomplete analysis	Deploy multiple data sources; conduct targeted follow-ups and direct interviews with key stakeholders; send two reminder notices to non-respondents	**Limited**– BV LR mitigates through proactive engagement but cannot mandate participation
Limited time for expert review in final phase (2028)	Missing or incomplete recommendations on reporting improvements	Prioritise major CPC feedback; structure draft final report to address principal comments and recommendations received	**Limited**– BV LR will focus on substantive comments; extensive revision cycles will not be feasible in the 2028 timeline
Delayed or incomplete data access	Impact on analysis quality and timelines	Early identification of data needs; alternative analytical approaches	**No control –** data provision depends on third parties
Changes in priorities or scope	Need to adjust resources and outputs	Modular methodology and flexible work planning	**Yes –** BV LR can reallocate resources and adapt methodology
Unavailability of key experts	Risk to continuity	Back-up experts and internal knowledge transfer mechanisms	**Full –** BV LR controls staffing and continuity

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Risk	Potential impact	Mitigation measures	Control by BV LR
Coordination challenges with stakeholders	Delays in validation	Structured communication plan and regular coordination	**Full –** BV LR manages coordination processes
External events (geopolitical, regulatory shocks)	Disruption of activities	Scenario-based planning and adaptive modalities	**No control –** events external / **Partial control** on response
Limited visibility of draft measures	Incomplete forward analysis	Regular exchanges with Secretariat and targeted consultations	**Partial control –** BV LR mitigates through active engagement
Misalignment between findings and evolving discussions	Reduced relevance of outputs	Iterative validation and updates	**Full –** BV LR ensures alignment of deliverables
Complexity and fragmentation of reporting obligations	Reduced clarity of analysis	Structured classification and prioritisation framework	**Full –** BV LR controls analytical structuring and clarity
Interdependence between tasks and deliverables	Cascading delays	Overlapping phases and prioritisation of critical tasks	**Full –** BV LR controls sequencing and internal organisation

After Contract Closure

Risk	Potential impact	Mitigation measures	Control by BV LR
Delays in validation of final deliverables	Postponement of closure	Complete and clearly structured deliverables; responsiveness to clarification requests	**No control –** validation outside BV LR responsibility
Requests for clarifications after closure	Extended involvement	Structured archiving and handover documentation	**Yes –** BV LR ensures knowledge traceability
Loss of institutional knowledge	Reduced usability of outputs	Clear documentation and structured deliverables	**Yes –** BV LR controls documentation quality
Adoption of new ICCAT Recommendations	Reduced relevance of outputs	Integration of new measures during validation phase	**Partial control –** BV LR adapts analysis but cannot control adoption
Increase in cumulative reporting burden	Underestimation of CPC constraints	Final review of cumulative burden	**Yes –** BV LR fully analyses and highlights administrative burden

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Risk	Potential impact	Mitigation measures	Control by BV LR
Inconsistencies between obligations	Reduced efficiency	Identification of overlaps and corrective proposals	**Yes –** BV LR fully controls analytical identification
Late regulatory changes	Last-minute revisions	Built-in flexibility and structured validation	**Partial control –** BV LR integrates changes where feasible
Recommendations not endorsed by ICCAT bodies	Limited impact of assignment	Iterative validation and alignment with ICCAT processes	**Partial control –** BV LR ensures feasibility but cannot influence decisions

Flexibility

BV LR expressly commits to **maintaining full flexibility** to adapt the scope and focus of analyses in response to evolving ICCAT needs during the contract period.

BV LR applies a structured and proactive flexibility approach based on **modular methodologies, scalable resources, and continuous coordination** with the Contracting Authority. This ensures that changes in scope, priorities, or timelines can be integrated efficiently without compromising quality or compliance (see table below).

Flexibility dimension	Practical approach applied
Methodological flexibility	Modular and iterative approach allowing adaptation of activities and analytical depth
Resource scalability	Rapid mobilisation of additional expertise within the Bureau Veritas network
Timeline adaptability	Phased planning enabling adjustment of sequencing and scheduling
Scope management	Structured change management and regular progress review mechanisms
Operational responsiveness	Agile task reallocation with central coordination
Quality and compliance assurance	Adaptation embedded in a robust quality framework

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Annex 9 – Compliance Statements signed by Bureau Veritas Living Resources in brief

At the public tender stage, Bureau Veritas Living Resources has confirmed to ICCAT Secretariat:

- Full acceptance of all Terms of Reference;
- Compliance with confidentiality, conflict of interest, and intellectual property provisions;
- Full insurance coverage for all personnel involved[4].

To do so, BV LR has signed a Compliance Statement in conformance to section 5 items f, g, h of the ToR.

[4] Bureau Veritas has an internal policy ensuring that its external collaborators – subcontractors - hold an active registration status as professional worker and a limited liability insurance in the country of their choice. BV Group monitors evidence that these conditions are met over the entire period of the Contract signed between ICCAT and BV LR.

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