





ICCAT: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Analysis of ICCAT reporting obligations

ICCAT Circular No. 02579/2026 of 13 April 2026

Bureau Veritas Living Resources

Executive Summary of the Progress Note – Inception Report (PN – IR)

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To the attention of:

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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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