Original: English/French/Spanish

Recommendation 23-16: Proposed 2026 List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities

Introduction

The Proposed List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities will be included in the Excel **PWG_405A_Appendix_1A/2026**, as extracted from the ICCAT IUU databases. It contains two complementary structures: 1) the current database and 2) the historical database, as also shown on the ICCAT web page.

Explanatory Notes to the Proposed 2026 IUU List

Within the framework of implementation of paragraph 11 of Rec. 23-16
Intersessional incorporation of IUU vessel lists of other RFMOs

As provided for in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities* (Rec. 23-16), the nine RFMOs and their IUU vessel lists are as follows:

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR):
  https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/contracting-party-iuu-vessel-list
  https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)
- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC):
  https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/alist
  https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/blist
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

NB: Photographs of some of the IUU vessels listed can be found on the websites of these nine RFMOs.

Summary of cross-referenced 2026 IUU vessel lists and updates/modifications made

Nine RFMOs	*Incorporation in the ICCAT IUU List*	*Removal from the IUU List*	*Changes made to the ICCAT IUU List from other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs (in databases)*	*No change or minor modifications*	*Total actions*
Total	**3**	**3**	**1**	**158**	**11**

The Proposed 2026 ICCAT IUU List of vessels contains **169** active vessels.

Information on the 2026 ICCAT IUU List of Vessels

1) Regarding IUU vessels incorporated by ICCAT through cross-referencing with the IUU lists of other RFMOs (paragraph 11 of Rec. 23-16):

1. The WCPFC communicated on 21 January 2026 its IUU Vessel Lists, as adopted at the last annual WCPFC Commission meeting (WCPFC22). As communicated by ICCAT Circular #00446/2026, this update reflected the modification of the owner and operator details of vessel YU FONG 168 (ICCAT IUU Serial No. 20130002).
2. The IOTC communicated on 20 May 2026 its IUU Vessel Lists, as adopted at the last annual IOTC Commission meeting (S30). As communicated by ICCAT Circular #04466/2026, the IOTC has added one vessel to its IUU Vessels List named KEBA (ICCAT IUU Serial No. 20260001) and removed three vessels flagged to India named AVEMARIYA (ICCAT IUU Serial No. 20220001), EMMANUEL (ICCAT IUU Serial No. 20230007) and MANJUMATHA (ICCAT IUU Serial No. 20240010).
3. One IUU vessel has been added to the ICCAT IUU Vessel List through cross-listing following the adoption of the final GFCM IUU Vessel List. As no objections were received from ICCAT CPCs further to ICCAT Circular No. 05919/2026 of 16 July 2026, the vessel SONIA was cross-listed on the ICCAT IUU Vessel List and assigned ICCAT IUU serial number 20260002.
4. The Egyptian-flagged vessel AL'AMIR MUHAMMAD was added to the Draft ICCAT IUU Vessel List on 29 October 2026, following its cross-listing from the GFCM IUU Vessel List. While this vessel was originally included on the GFCM IUU Vessel List in October 2018, its inclusion in the ICCAT list is now being formally processed to align both lists. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Recommendation 23-16, vessels cross-listed from other RFMOs shall be included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List unless a Contracting Party objects within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary. As this period extends beyond the Annual Meeting, during which the Commission is expected to review and adopt the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, the Commission may wish to consider endorsing the proposed inclusion of this vessel, subject to the absence of any objection within the remaining period.

2) Issues related to the final ICCAT IUU list that were raised during 2026

In accordance to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Rec. 23-16, CPCs must transmit every year to the Executive Secretary, at least 70 days before the annual meeting, information on any vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities within the last three years, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity and vessel identification information.

As of 2 November 2026, the Secretariat had received one communication, submitted by the European Union on 8 September 2026, concerning alleged IUU fishing activities involving four vessels: one Tunisian-flagged vessel, DINA AMIR, and three Türkiye-flagged vessels. This communication was circulated to all CPCs through ICCAT Circular #07575/2026.

On 28 October 2026, Türkiye submitted a detailed report on the findings of its investigation, which was circulated through ICCAT Circular #09771/2026. Following this response, on 4 November 2026, the European Union informed the Secretariat of its decision to withdraw its support for the inclusion of the three Türkiye-flagged vessels in the Draft ICCAT IUU Vessel List. This communication was circulated through ICCAT Circular #09783/2026.

Also on 4 November 2026, Tunisia submitted a response to the European Union's communication, providing a detailed report on the findings of its investigation. This response was circulated to all CPCs through ICCAT Circular #09839/2026 and is reproduced in **Attachment 1**.

Following consideration of the information provided and subsequent discussions within the PWG, it was agreed to support the inclusion of only the Tunisian-flagged vessel DINA AMIR in the ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

Attachment 1

Translation by the ICCAT Secretariat

[ICCAT Entrada # E26-12866 of 4 November 2026]

Supplementary report on the situation of the Tunisian vessel *Dina Amir* following ICCAT inspection No. 7861 of 5 August 2026

I. Background

Following receipt of ICCAT inspection report No. 7861, issued on 5 August 2026 concerning the Tunisian vessel DINA AMIR, the Tunisian authorities submitted an initial response setting out the available information and the steps taken by the relevant authorities.

In order to supplement the information provided, the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture undertook further investigations, in coordination with the relevant regional services and administrative bodies. These investigations focused in particular on the vessel's history, its administrative status, the circumstances surrounding the non-compliances identified during the inspection, and the measures taken by the Tunisian authorities.

This report sets out all these details, provides the necessary clarification on Tunisia's position and the measures taken by the national authorities, and also aims to address the various observations and queries raised by the European Union following its review of the inspection report.

II. History and administrative status of the vessel

The verifications carried out have made it possible to trace the vessel's administrative history. It appears that the vessel, previously operated under the name DINA AMIR I, registered as MO 1333, was found to have committed an infringement in 2025 during an inspection carried out by the GFCM. This vessel was subsequently struck off the register of vessels with a view to building a new vessel under the name DINA AMIR.

The latter currently holds a provisional registration number, MO/S/1494, pending the completion of the administrative formalities for regularization. This registration enables the vessel to be identified by the national authorities and confirms that the administration is processing its application. It is important to note, however, that this does not constitute a fishing licence. In fact, the vessel does not hold any fishing authorisation, not even a provisional one.

Investigations have also revealed continuity in the operational record between DINA AMIR I and DINA AMIR. As such, the infringements identified in 2025 and 2026 form part of this same continuity of operations and must be taken into account when reviewing the vessel's history.

As regards the absence of DINA AMIR from the ICCAT and GFCM registers of authorised vessels, this must be viewed in the context of its current administrative status. Indeed, the removal of the former registration number MO 1333, followed by the allocation of a provisional registration number MO/S/1494 to the vessel built to carry on the same activity, created a transitional administrative status. The change in name and registration number, as part of the regularisation procedure therefore explains the discrepancy between its provisional identification at national level and its entry in the international registers.

However, this situation does not exempt the vessel from complying with the conditions required for its registration in the registers of authorised vessels and for carrying out any fishing activities. The lack of a fishing authorisation, as well as the documentary irregularities observed, were noted by the competent authorities and have been recorded in a report of offence hereto attached.

III. Catches of albacore recorded during the inspection

The inspection report notes a significant proportion of albacore in the catches retained on board the vessel, accounting for approximately 97 per cent of the catches declared at the time of the inspection.

This situation was examined in the light of the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 24-08, in particular those relating to CPCs without a Mediterranean quota for albacore and to the limits applicable to bycatches in the fisheries concerned.

It should be noted that Tunisian regulations do not prohibit the landing of albacore. However, the absence of a quota allocated to Tunisia in the Mediterranean means that the restrictions laid down by ICCAT measures must be complied with, particularly regarding bycatches.

During his hearing, the master stated that he was not fully aware of the restrictions applicable to albacore under ICCAT measures and that he had confused this species with small tunas. This explanation was taken into account when examining the circumstances of the incident, without calling into question the master's obligations regarding compliance with the applicable regulations.

Above all, it is important to emphasize that the Tunisian authorities did not confine themselves to simply taking the master's account. Following the findings, the vessel DINA AMIR and its equipment were confiscated. Furthermore, no administrative services are currently being provided to the vessel or its master.

The official report confirming the confiscation of the vessel and its equipment is attached as an annex to this report.

IV. Absence of a VMS system on board

The inspection also noted the absence of a VMS system installed on board the vessel, contrary to the requirements set out in ICCAT Recommendation 18-10.

The verifications carried out confirmed that the system had indeed not been installed. This situation is due to the fact that the vessel's administrative documentation was still being finalised. It is therefore not simply a matter of reporting date, but rather the absence of the equipment on board.

This non-compliance was noted by the competent authorities and resulted in a report of infringement being issued. The Tunisian authorities consider that the installation of the VMS device is an essential condition for compliance of the vessel with the applicable monitoring and control requirements.

V. Absence of a fishing logbook on board

The absence of a fishing logbook was also noted during the inspection.

In this regard, it should be noted that data relating to catches and landings are collected at national level by certified fisheries enforcement officers. This procedure provides the authorities with the information required to monitor landings. However, it does not replace the master's obligation to keep a fishing logbook on board and to record the operations carried out therein.

This obligation arises, in particular, from the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 03-13 and from the requirements of Tunisia's Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan.

The absence of this document therefore constitutes a separate non-compliance which calls for appropriate regulatory action. The relevant authorities must ensure that this requirement is effectively complied with by the masters of the vessels concerned.

VI. Measures taken by the Tunisian authorities

As soon as it received the information relating to the inspection, the DGPA referred the matter to the relevant departments in order to verify the reported facts and determine what action should be taken.

Further investigations made it possible, in particular, to obtain the master's account, to trace the vessel's administrative history and to confirm several non-compliances relating to its documentation status and the absence of the VMS system.

Following these verifications, the following measures were taken:

- Issue of reports of offences relating to the vessel's administrative and documentation status, as well as the absence of the VMS system;
- The confiscation of the vessel DINA AMIR and its equipment, in accordance with the measures taken by the competent authorities;
- Even before any infringement is established, no administrative services will be provided to the vessel or its master until the official documents have been obtained and the VMS system installed;
- The continued examination of its administrative status, in particular with regard to the formalities for regularization of its status and the regulatory conditions necessary for any fishing activity.

The official report certifying the confiscation of the vessel and its equipment is attached as an annex as proof.

These measures demonstrate that the Tunisian authorities are effectively addressing the matter and are committed to taking the necessary action in response to the non-compliances identified.

VII. Main observations made by the European Union

The observations made by the European Union following its review of the inspection report relate primarily to the following points:

1. Administrative status of the vessel: its absence from the ICCAT and GFCM registers of authorised vessels, the absence of a fishing authorisation on board, and the request for presentation of registration and authorisation documents. The European Union also raised the issue of the link with the case of the DINA AMIR I, which was inspected in 2025.

2. Albacore catches: the significant proportion of this species in the catches and compliance with the limits applicable to CPCs without a Mediterranean quota, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 24-08.

3. VMS system: the absence of VMS equipment on board and the vessel's compliance with the requirements set out in ICCAT Recommendation 18-10.

4. Fishing logbook: the absence of this document on board and the national procedures for reporting catches, with particular regard to ICCAT Recommendation 03-13 and Tunisia's Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan.

The information set out in the various sections of this report provides the requested clarifications and details the verifications and measures undertaken by the Tunisian authorities.

VIII. General assessment, Tunisia's position and request for removal from the IUU list

Tunisia attaches particular importance to compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT and ensures that the activities of vessels flying its flag are monitored.

In the case of the DINA AMIR, further investigations have clarified its history and administrative status, as well as the circumstances surrounding the non-compliances identified during the inspection. They have also clarified the transitional conditions relating to its provisional registration MO/S/1494 and the discrepancy noted with international registers.

The Tunisian authorities have taken this matter seriously and taken the necessary measures to address it, including the issue of reports of infringements, the confiscation of the vessel and its equipment, and the suspension of all administrative services to the vessel and its master. These measures demonstrate Tunisia's commitment to taking concrete action in response to the irregularities identified and to preventing their recurrence.

In light of the clarifications provided, the investigations carried out and the measures taken by the national authorities, Tunisia considers that these factors must be taken into account in the review of this case.

Consequently, Tunisia requests a review of the situation regarding the vessel DINA AMIR and calls for its removal from the ICCAT list of vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in light of the additional information provided and the measures effectively taken by the Tunisian authorities.

Finally, Tunisia reaffirms its commitment to continue addressing this matter in accordance with its national regulations and ICCAT measures, and to strengthen the control and monitoring mechanisms for vessels flying its flag.

IX. Supporting documents attached

- Reports on the administrative and documentary status of the vessel in 2025 and 2026;
- Report on the absence of the VMS system;
- Official report confirming the confiscation of the vessel DINA AMIR and its equipment.