COC_301_ADD_1_rev_2/2025
16/11/2025 10:12
Original: English / French / Spanish

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

This addendum contains the updates of the annual reports received after the first publication.
Cet addendum contient les actualisations des rapports annuels reçus après la première publication.
Este addendum incluye las actualizaciones de los informes anuales recibidos después de la primera publicación.

- **Belize** – IOMS Compliance Table
- **Brazil** – Title in the Templates.
- **European Union** – Tables 1 and 2 in the Summary and for EU-Italy, Tables on Med-SWO and Med-ALB in the Section 1
- **Gabon** – IOMS Compliance and Statistics Tables
- **Guyana** – Full annual report 2025 including the summary
- **Nicaragua** – IOMS Compliance and Statistics Tables

ANNUAL REPORT OF BELIZE
RAPPORT ANNUEL DE BELIZE
INFORME ANUAL DE BELICE

Section 3: Online reporting

PART 2: MANAGEMENT REPORTING

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
GENERAL	M:GEN01	Annual Reports	Yes	2025-09-15	The Annual Scientific Report has been submitted on 15th September 2025.	
	M:GEN02	Report on implementation of reporting obligations for all ICCAT fisheries, including shark species	Yes	2025-09-15	The Annual Scientific Report has been submitted on 15th September 2025.	
	M:GEN03	ICCAT Compliance Reporting Table	Yes	2025-07-25	This report was submitted on 25th July, 2025.	
	M:GEN04	Vessel Chartering - summary report	Yes	2025-03-06	Belize is not engaged in any chartering arrangements. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN05	Vessel Chartering - arrangements and termination	Yes	2025-03-06	Belize is not engaged in any chartering arrangements. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN06a	Transhipment reports - at sea	Yes	2025-03-06	The only Belize flagged carrier vessel was not authorized and did not carry out any at-sea transshipment during 2024. Submitted on 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN06b	Transhipment reports in - port	Yes	2025-09-15	The Transshipment report has been submitted on 15th September 2025	
	M:GEN07	Transhipment declarations (at sea)	Yes	2025-03-06	The only Belize flagged carrier vessel was not authorized and did not carry out any at-sea transshipment during 2024. Submitted on 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN08	Carrier vessels authorised to receive transhipments of	Yes	2025-03-06	This data is reported annually to the Secretariat and at the	

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		tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, either at-sea or in-port			time of change. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN09	LSPLVs which are authorised to tranship to carrier vessels in the Atlantic Ocean (and subsequent modifications)	Yes	2025-03-06	No Belize flagged vessel has been authorized to transship at sea in the Convention area. Belize did not engage in the ROP in 2024 and as such, did not submit a vessel listing. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN10a	Points of contact for port entry notifications	Yes	2025-03-06	Although Belize has several ports, they are not designated fishing ports, nor are they equipped to receive foreign fishing fishing vessels. Submitted March 6 2025	
	M:GEN10b	Contact points for receiving copies of Port Inspection reports	Yes	2025-03-06	The point of contact for receiving port inspection reports is Mrs. Valerie Lanza. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN11	List of designated ports into which foreign fishing vessels may request entry	Yes	2025-03-06	Although Belize has several ports, they are not designated fishing ports, nor are they equipped to receive foreign fishing fishing vessels. Submitted March 6 2025	
	M:GEN12	Advance notification period required for entry into port of foreign fishing vessels	Yes	2025-03-06	Although Belize has several ports, they are not designated fishing ports, nor are they equipped to receive foreign fishing fishing vessels. Submitted March 6 2025	
	M:GEN13	Report of Denial of Entry or Denial of Use of port	Yes	2025-03-06	Following the explanation given in GEN11 and GEN12, we have not granted entry or denied usage of our ports to foreign fishing vessels. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN14	Copies of port inspection reports containing findings of potential non-compliance or	Yes	2025-03-06	Following the explanation given in GEN11 and GEN12, we have not granted entry or denied usage of our	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
		apparent infringement (and others where practicable)			ports to foreign fishing vessels. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN15	Action taken following port inspection if apparent infringement is found	Yes	2025-03-06	Following the explanation given in GEN11 and GEN12, we have not granted entry or denied usage of our ports to foreign fishing vessels. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN16	Notification of results of investigation of apparent infringements following port inspection	Yes	2025-03-06	Following the explanation given in GEN11 and GEN12, we have not granted entry or denied usage of our ports to foreign fishing vessels. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN17	Information of bilateral or multilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation	Yes	2025-03-06	Belize has not entered into any such agreements or arrangements. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN42	Annual reporting on Port inspection activity	Yes	2025-09-12	Belize did not conduct any at port inspections during 2024. Our Inspection program is still under review for implementation.	
	M:GEN18	Access agreements and changes	Yes	2025-03-06	Belize has not entered into any such agreements or arrangements. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN19	Summary of activities carried out pursuant to access agreements, including all catches	Yes	2025-03-06	Belize has not entered into any such agreements or arrangements. Submitted 6 March 2025.	
	M:GEN20	List of vessels of 20 metres LOA or greater	Yes	2025-03-26	Belize had submitted updated authorizations at time of change for all 2024 vessels in accordance with Rec. 21-14. Submitted March 26, 2025.	
	M:GEN21	Report on Review of Internal Actions	Yes	2025-09-15	The Internal Action report (national report)	2025-11-11

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
					has been re-submitted on 11th November 2025.	
	M:GEN23	Techniques used to manage sport and recreational fisheries	Yes	2025-04-03	Sport and recreational fishing are vital components of Belize's thriving tourism industry. These fisheries involve regulated species like tunas, blue marlin, and white marlin/round scale spearfish. The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) oversees the management of sports and recreational fisheries in Belize. Specific regulations are in place, including catch and release requirements for certain billfish species, as outlined in our Billfish checksheet. Presently, there is no formal data collection program dedicated to these fisheries. However, the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU), responsible for overseeing Belize's fisheries beyond national jurisdiction and serving as the focal point for ICCAT matters, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the CZMAI on June 14, 2021. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for monitoring fish caught through recreational and sport fishing activities in Belize and the consolidation and sharing of data. Through the JCAP-2 project, Belize was able to collect vital information. CZMAI is currently undergoing a legislative review that aims to incorporate provisions for the	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
					collection of data on sport and recreational fisheries. As the focal point for ICCAT, the BHSFU will continue to collaborate with CZMAI for the collection of data where available. Submitted April 3, 2025.	
	M:GEN24	Vessels involved in IUU Fishing / Flag CPC (and non-CPC) investigation repor t(s) on alleged IUU activities	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize has no data to report on any presumed IUU activities of vessels 12 meters and more. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN25	Comments on IUU allegations	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize has received no information on presumed IUU fishing of vessels 12 meters and more. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN34	Request for removal of vessel from final IUU vessel list	Yes	2025-05-13	Belize has no vessel/s appearing on the ICCAT IUU list. Submitted 13 May 2025.	
	M:GEN41	Report on actions taken against nationals involved in IUU activities	Yes	2025-06-04	Belize has not investigated any allegations or reports concerning the engagement of any natural or legal persons subject to its jurisdiction who have engaged in the activities described in para. 1 of Rec. 21-13. Submitted 4 June 2025	
	M:GEN26	Trade measures; submission of import and landing data	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize does not land or import tuna or tuna-like species at our ports. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN27	Data on non-compliance	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize has nothing to report on suspected non-compliance with ICCAT measures. Submitted on 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN28	Findings of investigations in relation to allegations of non-compliance	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize has nothing to report on suspected non-compliance with ICCAT measures. Submitted on 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN29	Vessels sightings	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize has no information to report on vessel sightings. Submitted 7 April 2025.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:GEN30	Actions taken with regard to reports of vessel sightings	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize has no information to report on vessel sightings and actions taken. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN31	National authority responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate and/or National authority responsible for the bluefin tuna trap and farming activities	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize is not engaged in the Bluefin tuna fishery and as such, does not participate in the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel program for fisheries managed by ICCAT. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN32	Designated point(s) of contact (POC) within that authority with responsibility for program implementation	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize is not engaged in the Bluefin tuna fishery and as such, does not participate in the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel program for fisheries managed by ICCAT. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN33	Reporting on any activities carried out under the pilot program for exchange of inspection personnel	Yes	2025-04-07	Belize is not engaged in the Bluefin tuna fishery and as such, does not participate in the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel program for fisheries managed by ICCAT. Submitted 7 April 2025.	
	M:GEN35	Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for observer recovery	Yes	2025-05-13	Belize has no vessels on which an ICCAT observer can or has been placed. Submitted 13 May 2025.	
	M:GEN36	Reports on observer incidents triggering provisions of the EAP, including any corrective action taken	Yes	2025-05-13	Belize has no vessels on which an ICCAT observer can or has been placed. Submitted 13 May 2025.	
	M:GEN37	Report of lost fishing gear retrieved	Yes	2025-06-04	Belize has received no reports from our vessels on the retrieval of lost fishing gear. Submitted 4 June 2025	
	M:GEN38	Report of lost fishing gear not retrieved	Yes	2025-06-04	Belize has received no reports from our vessels of lost and/or irretrievable fishing gear. Submitted 4 June 2025.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:GEN39	Points of contact to facilitate cooperation on vessel sighting (optional)	Yes	2025-06-04	The point of contact for the exchange of information pursuant to Rec. 19-09 is Valarie Lanza - Director of High Seas Fisheries, Belize High Seas Fishing Unit. Email address is valarie.lanza@bhsfu.gov.bz. Submitted 4 June 2025.	
	M:GEN40	Supply Declarations	Yes	2025-06-04	Belize has no carrier vessels providing at-sea supplies without a regional observer on board. Submitted 4 June 2025.	
	M:GEN43	Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Domestic Programmes description	Yes	2025-06-05	Belize did not have an EMS program implemented on its long line and purse seine fleet during 2024. However, Belize is in process of initiating its pilot program on EMS on its fishing fleet for a three phased schedule over the next three years. The first phase of this program will commence during 2025. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:GEN44	Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Domestic Programmes implementation report	Yes	2025-06-05	Belize did not have an EMS program implemented on its long line and purse seine fleet during 2024. However, Belize is in process of initiating its pilot program on EMS on its fishing fleet for a three phased schedule over the next three years. The first phase of this program will commence during 2025. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:GEN45	Report on Implementation of Res. 23-20, including Emergency Action Plans (EAP)	Yes	2025-06-10	The Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit is still currently involved in discussions with our Ship Registry to address this resolution. Submitted 10 June 2025	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:GEN46	Reports on observer incidents involving serious injury, death, or in the event of an observer that is missing or presumed fallen overboard, including any corrective action taken by the flag CPC	Yes	2025-09-12	Belize does not have any data to report regarding this measure.	
BLUEFIN TUNA	M:BFT01	Bluefin tuna farming facilities	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT02	Bluefin tuna farming reports	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT03	Carry over of caged fish declaration	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT04	Bluefin tuna caging report	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT05	Bluefin tuna traps	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT07	Fishing, inspection and capacity plans	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT08	Farming capacity plan	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT09	Modifications to fishing plans	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT10	Information on regulations and other related documents adopted for implementation of Rec. 22-08	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT11	Bluefin tuna catches in the preceding quota allocation period	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT12	Bluefin tuna catching vessels	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT13	Bluefin tuna other vessels	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT14	Joint Fishing Operations	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT15	VMS messages	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT16	Joint Inspection Scheme plans	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT17	List of inspection vessels	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT18	List of inspectors [and agencies]	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT19	Copies of inspection reports from JIS	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:BFT20	Bluefin tuna transhipment ports	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT21	Bluefin tuna landing ports	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT22	Bluefin tuna bi-weekly catch reports (including traps)	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT23	Bluefin tuna monthly catch reports	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT24	Dates when entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT25	Report on steps taken to encourage tag and release of all fish less than 30 kg/115 cm	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT27	BCD Annual Report	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT28	Validation seals and signatures for BCDs	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT29	BCD Contact points	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT30	BCD legislation	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT31	BCD tagging summary, sample tag	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT32	Vessels not included as BFT fishing vessels but known or presumed to have fished E-BFT	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT33	Data needed for registration in eBCD system	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT34	Random controls	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:BFT35	National authority and points of contact responsible for the processing vessel participating in the REM pilot project	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
TROPICAL SPECIES	M:TRO01	List of BET/YFT/SKJ vessels and subsequent changes	Yes	2025-06-05	All vessels in this category are reported to the Secretariat and at the time of change. Submitted 5 June 2025.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:TRO02	List of authorized vessels which fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in previous year	Yes	2025-07-14	This report was submitted on July 14th 2025 via email.	
	M:TRO03	Reports on investigation of IUU activity by BET/YFT/SKJ vessels	Yes	2025-06-05	None of our Belize flagged vessels have engaged in IUU activities nor have we been informed of any such activities by member states in 2024. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO06	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs	Yes	2025-06-05	Belize is not an importing country of frozen bigeye tuna. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO07	Validation seals and signatures for SDPs	Yes	2025-06-05	This information was submitted to the Secretariat in 2019. There have been no further changes to this information. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO09	Quarterly catches of Tropical tuna	Yes	2025-06-05	This data was submitted every quarter in 2024 according to the requirements on this Rec. 22-01 and 24-01. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO10	Steps taken to minimalise ecological impacts of FADs (include in FAD management plan - see also requirement S:TRO02)	Yes	2025-02-11	This report was submitted on 11th February 2025	
	M:TRO11	Tropical Tuna Fishing/Capacity Plans / Declarations	Yes	2025-02-11	This report was submitted on 11th February 2025. Revised report submitted on 4 June 2025.	2025-06-04
	M:TRO13	Monthly catches of tropical tuna (BET; SKJ; YFT)	Yes	2025-06-05	Monthly Tropical Tuna data cannot be submitted by Belize at this time due to the nature of our data reporting requirements and operations of our vessels. We do, however, submit this data in the monthly format but on a quarterly basis together with our quarterly reports. Any data	

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					submitted monthly will not be complete and accurate, as we do not collect real-time data from our vessels. Data is submitted via monthly logbook submissions normally after each voyage. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO14	Weekly catches of bigeye tuna	Yes	2025-06-05	Belize cannot guarantee the weekly submission of catches after the threshold of our BET catch limit is exhausted due to the nature of the submission of catch data from our vessels as indicated above. Nonetheless, we will ensure that proper and exhaustive monitoring and enforcement are carried out to safeguard the overharvest of our TAC. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO15	Dates when entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has been utilized	Yes	2025-06-05	Belize did not utilize all of its BET quota allocation in 2024. Submitted 5 June 2025.	
	M:TRO17	Maximum on board bycatch limit for tropical tunas	Yes	2025-06-10	Belize has established an on board by-catch limit for all species inclusive of tropical tunas. The By-catch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish tropical tunas is 10m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall allocation for Belize. Submitted 10 June 2025.	
	M:TRO18	Measure taken to ensure compliance with M:TRO17	Yes	2025-06-10	Belize had adopted in 2021 a Quota Management Policy to ensure that allocations of all quotas for tropical tunas are evenly and effectively distributed among our vessels and that bycatch limits are included as part of the quota allocation process. Catch reporting and	

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					monitoring policies have been instituted to ensure that vessels fish within their quota allocation and authorization. Submitted 10 June 2025.	
	M:TRO19	Total amount of tropical tuna harvested as bycatch that year	Yes	2025-09-15	The Annual Report has been submitted on 15th September 2025.	
	M:TRO20	Maximum per trip bycatch limit allowed per stock for the coming fishing year	Yes	2025-09-15	The Annual Report has been submitted on 15th September 2025.	
SWORDFISH	M:SWO01	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs	Yes	2025-03-25	Belize does not import swordfish. Submitted 24 March 2025.	2025-06-10
	M:SWO02	Validation seals and signatures for SDPs	Yes	2025-06-10	Updated information was submitted to the Secretariat in 2019. There have been no further changes since that time. Submitted 10 June 2025.	
	M:SWO03	List of vessels targetting MED-SWO	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:SWO04	List of sport/recreational vessels authorized to catch Med-SWO	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:SWO05	List of special fishing permits for harpoons or longline for highly-migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean for the previous year	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:SWO06	Report on implementation of Med-SWO closure	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:SWO07	Development or fishing/management plan for North swordfish	Yes	2025-06-10	Belize submitted its plan in 2020. Since then there has been no further changes. Submitted 10 June 2025.	
	M:SWO10	List of authorised ports for MED-SWO	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:SWO11	Quarterly reports of MED-SWO catches	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:SWO12	Summary of implementation of tagging programme	Yes		Belize is not envolved in this fishery.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:SWO13	List of inspection vessels	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize does not participate in the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection.	
	M:SWO14	List of inspectors [and agencies]	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize does not participate in the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection.	
	M:SWO15	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for N. SWO	Yes	2025-09-09	This data is submitted to the Secretariat and at the time of changes to authorization.	
	M:SWO16	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for S. SWO	Yes	2025-09-09	This data is submitted to the Secretariat and at the time of changes to authorization.	
	M:SWO17	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of N. SWO	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of Northern Swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10mt. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any S. Swordfish taken as bycatch.	
	M:SWO18	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of S. SWO	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of Northern Swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10mt. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any S. Swordfish taken as bycatch.	
	M:SWO19	Copies of inspection reports from JIS	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize does not participate in the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:SWO20	Fishing plan for Mediterranean swordfish	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
ALBACORE	M:ALB03	List of Vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:ALB04	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for North Atlantic albacore	Yes	2025-09-09	This data is submitted to the Secretariat and at the time of changes to authorization.	
	M:ALB05	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for South Atlantic albacore	Yes	2025-09-09	This data is submitted to the Secretariat and at the time of changes to authorization.	
	M:ALB06	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of N. ALB	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of Northern Albacore. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10mt. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported N. Albacore taken as bycatch.	
	M:ALB07	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of S. ALB	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of Northern Albacore. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10mt. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any S. Albacore as bycatch.	
	M:ALB08	List of sport/recreational vessels authorized to catch Med-ALB	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
	M:ALB09	Monthly catches of Mediterranean albacore	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	

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	M:ALB10	Quarterly catches of Mediterranean albacore	Yes	2025-02-10	Belize does not engage in this fishery.	
BILLFISHES	M:BIL01	Report on the implementation of 19-05 and 16-11	Yes	2025-09-15	The Billfish check sheet has been submitted on 15th September 2025.	
	M:BIL04	Claim to exemption to release live BUM/WHM/SPF and measures taken to limit application of this exemption to such fisheries	No	2025-09-09	Belize is a developing coastal state.	
SHARKS	M:SHK05	Details of implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures	Yes	2025-09-09	The Shark Implementation Check sheet was submitted on the requested format. 9/9/2025	
	M:SHK08	Monthly landings of North Atlantic and South Atlantic shortfin mako	Yes	2025-09-09	In 2020, Belize issued a legally binding circular prohibiting the harvesting, retention, transshipping, landing whole or in part North Atlantic Shortfin Mako shark. In 2023, Belize also issued a legally binding circular prohibiting the harvesting, retention, transshipping, landing whole or in part South Atlantic Shortfin Mako shark. No reports have been made on retention, transshipping, landing whole or in part of these species in 2023.	
	M:SHK09	Report on interactions with whale sharks during purse seine operations.	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has implemented this measure through a legally binding fishing vessel circular. This is enforced through our human observer program and verified through catch and landing reports. There were no reports of interactions with whale sharks during 2024.	
OTHER SPECIES / BY CATCH	M:BYC01	Report on implementation of Rec. 22-12, Paras 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8 and	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has implemented the FAO guidelines for Sea Turtles in 2008. In 2016, Belize revised its	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
		relevant actions taken to implement the FAO guidelines			guidelines to include visual aids on turtle identification and handling and detangling equipment and procedures. It is now mandatory for our vessels to have on board this data and all relevant equipment. The implementation of our observer program has aided in identifying the use of these measures by our vessels.	
	M:BYC02	Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures and NPOA for seabirds	Yes	2025-09-09	The seabird mitigation measures report was submitted on2/4/2024 on the CP44 form.	
	M:BYC03	Report on steps taken to mitigate bycatch & reduce discards and any relevant research in this field	Yes	2025-09-09	In 2013, Belize issued a legally binding circular regarding measures to mitigate bycatch and discards. This circular was updated in 2017 and has continued to be updated in accordance with new measures adopted or recommended by ICCAT. This data is normally submitted in our Annual Scientific Report. Belize also took steps in revising its catch and by-catch/discards reporting templates in 2024 to gather more detailed information on by-catch and discards and interaction with vulnerable species such as rays, sea turtles and seabirds.	
	M:BYC04	Report on the implementation of Res. 23-15	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize issued an updated legally binding circular on 7 December 2023 which informed Belize flagged fishing vessels operating in the high seas shall prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, landing, storing, or offering for sale any part or whole	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
					carcass of those species of the order Cetacea and commonly referred to as Cetaceans or marine mammals which includes whale, dolphins and porpoises, inter alia. The circular also provides guidance to operators in the proper handling and release of these species if caught in the net of their purse seine vessels.	
MISCELLANEOUS	M:SDP01	Description of pilot electronic statistical document systems	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has not implemented any pilot electronic statistical document systems.	
	M:MIX01	Information and clarification regarding objections to ICCAT Recs	Yes	2025-09-09	Belize has not lodged any objection to a adopted recommendation in accordance with convention procedures.	

ANNUAL REPORT
BRAZIL/2025

Rodrigo Sant'Ana; Alex Souza Lira; Bruno Mourato; Paulo Travassos

Summary

In 2024, the Brazilian fleet fishing for tunas and tuna-like fish consisted of 331 fishing boats, including about 244 artisanal and small-scale. The Brazilian catch of tunas and tuna-like fish, including marlins, sharks and other species (e.g. wahoo, dolphinfish, etc.) was 55,145 (live weight), lower than catches recorded in 2023, when 69,058 t were landed. Most of the catches were done by handline fishery (21,841 t; 39.61%) in associated schools, targeting tropical tunas, mainly YFT (13,254 t). The baitboat fishery accounted for the second largest catch in 2024, representing 29.27% (16,142 t) of the total tuna and tuna like-fish caught this year, with SKJ responding for 95.5% of the fish landed, in weight (15,423 t). Longline catches reached 11,701 t, representing 21.2% of the total, being made mainly of YFT (2,968 t), SKJ (1,618 t), BSH (2,327 t), SWO (1,954 t), BET (1,859 t). About 73% of all Brazilian catches of tunas and tuna-like fish came from artisanal and small-scale boats (10 to 20 m LOA), based predominantly in the southeast and northeast region and targeting YFT, BET, SKJ, DOL, plus a variety of small tuna species, with various fishing gears, including mainly handline, trolling and other surface gears. Brazil continued its national research and monitoring programs in ports and on-board vessels to strengthen compliance, while also supporting the activities of the Scientific Subcommittee of the Permanent Committee for the Management of Tuna Fisheries and associated research projects, aimed at providing management support.

Part I (Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics)

Section 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Tuna fleet and ports

In 2024, the Brazilian tuna longline fleet consisted of 55 boats based in the southern and northern ports. The length (LOA) of these fishing boats ranged from 13 m to 28 m, with about 69% having more than 20 m. The baitboat fleet consisted of 18 vessels, confirming the decreasing trend observed in previous years, when 44 (2015), 35 (2016), 31 (2018 and 2019), 32 (2021), 26 (2022) and 19(2023) boats operated in this fishery. All these boats have more than 20 m LOA, with only one having less than that length. The purse seine fleet is composed by three boats like previous years, with SKJ being the target species along the southern coast. Another fishery, composed of about 48 boats using mostly a surface longline (and others fishing gears, as trolling and handline), operated in the central coast of Brazil targeting dolphin fish and small tunas. Besides these fleets, the fishery called "associated school" where the hull of the boat attracts tuna schools that are then caught using hand line as a fishing gear, it was comprised up to 189 boats of which 93.6% are artisanal and small-scale fishing (lower 20 m LOA).

B. Total catch and species composition

The total landings of tunas and tuna-like fish in Brazil in 2024, including billfish, sharks and other species (e.g. wahoo, dolphinfish, etc.) was 55,145 t (live weight) (**Table 1**), showing a decrease of 20% from 2023, when 69,058 t were landed, however, on average over recent years for Brazil. The main species caught were SKJ (23,695 t; 42.9%) and YFT (17,729 t; 32.1%), followed by BET (3,648 t; 6.6%), BLF (2,608 t; 4.7%), BSH (2,586 t; 4.6%) and SWO (2,377 t; 4.3%). Together, these species accounted for 95.4% of the total catch in 2024. Most of the catches were carried out by handline fishery (21,841; 39.6%), in associated schools, targeting tropical tunas, mainly YFT (13,254 t; 60.6%) (**Table 1**). The baitboat fishery accounted for the second largest catch in 2024, representing 29.2% (16,142 t) of the total tuna and tuna like-fish caught this

year, with SKJ responding to 95.5% of the fish landed, in weight (15,423 t) (**Table1**). Regarding longline catches, the total amount landed was 11,700 t, representing 21.2% of the total, mainly composed of YFT (2,968 t), SKJ (1,618 t), BSH (2,327 t), SWO (1,954 t), BET (1,859 t) (**Table 1**). To increase the control of catches, Brazil closed its BET fisheries in the final months of 2023, reopening them on January 1, 2024. As a result, schools of BET that had been monitored for years by the Brazilian fleet were lost, leading to a reduction in the species caught in 2024 compared to previous years.

Section 2: Research and statistics

Through the support provided the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Brazil continued its national research and monitoring programs in ports and on-board vessels to strengthen compliance. Although the results of these programs will only be available in 2025, they have already allowed Brazil to slightly improve its data contributions for 2024. Some of these results were partially presented during working group meetings on certain species.
Brazilian scientists have been continuing to work in collaboration with scientists from other CPCs to improve ICCAT stock assessments, including research on several topics, such as the development of joint abundance indices, and stock assessment models. Additional topics have also been included, such as stock structure, spawning areas, genetics and the influence of environmental factors on distribution and catch rates of main species under ICCAT purview, including the collection of biological samples (e.g. ALB, SWO, SKJ, WAH, etc.). In this case, Brazil is coordinating two projects funded by ICCAT, one on the reproduction and tagging of southern albacore and the other on general aspects of the small tuna group. These research results have been regularly presented at the inter-sessional working group meetings and regular meetings of SCRS. In addition, Brazilian scientists are involved directly in the research and statistic activities for different species groups, highlighting the stock assessment to SMA, BET and WHA, as well as the MSE for SKJ and ALB. This reinforcing Brazil's crucial role in the scientific context for the commission.

Part II (Information on conservation and management measures)

Section 3: Implementation of other ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

Over the last few years, Brazil has improved its fisheries management structure, resulting in several measures to regulate and control the effort and exports, and prohibit catch some species. ICCAT conservation and management measures implemented in Brazil in a legally binding manner in 2024 and so far in 2025, are listed below:

1. **Interministerial Rule MPA/MMA Nº 30, 17of April of 2025**, establishing for the year 2025 the quota, and monitoring/control procedures of the species Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by the different Brazilian fleets.
2. **Interministerial Rule MPA/MMA Nº 24, 29 of January of 2025**, establishing for the year 2025 the catch limit of the species Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), big eye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), Swordfish (*xiphias gladius*) and Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the Brazilian fishing vessels.
3. **Interministerial Rule MPA/MMA Nº 12, 02 of August of 2024**, establishing for the year 2024 the quota, and monitoring/control procedures of the species big eye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by the different Brazilian fleets.
4. **Interministerial Rule MPA/MMA Nº 10, 26 of March of 2024**, establishing for the year 2024 the catch limit of the species Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), big eye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), Swordfish (*xiphias gladius*) and Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the Brazilian fishing vessels.

As a monitoring and control measure, Brazil made publicly available a dashboard showing the species' catch limits in 2024 (Access the dashboard here). In 2025, this initiative was continued and expanded to also include the Blue Shark (Access the dashboards here – BSH and BET).

Section 4: Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures

Brazil has undertaken substantial efforts to collect and report data, to the extent possible, in order to comply with ICCAT's requirements. The main challenge remains the monitoring and control of small-scale fisheries, which represent a significant share of the country's tuna and tuna-like catches. With the implementation of the PMPA Programme mentioned above, Brazil has advanced in enhancing the monitoring of this fishing activity.

TEMPLATES

Table 1. Total catch (t) (live weight) by species and fishing gear, for Brazilian tuna fisheries in 2024.

Species Cod ICCAT	Species names	BB	HL	LL	LL-surf	PS	Total Geral
ALB	*Thunnus alalunga*	5	94	245	280	0	**624**
BET	*Thunnus obesus*	0	1619	1859	170	0	**3648**
BLF	*Thunnus atlanticus*	301	1212	278	578	239	**2608**
BSH	*Prionace glauca*	0	7	2327	252	0	**2586**
BTH	*Alopias superciliosus*	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
BUM	*Makaira nigricans*	0	0	3	0	0	**3**
DOL	*Coryphaena hippurus*	46	29	113	717	0	**905**
FRI	*Auxis thazard*	40	14	31	24	26	**135**
KGM	*Scomberomorus cavalla*	0	2	94	12	0	**109**
LTA	*Euthynnus alletteratus*	0	16	0	0	418	**434**
RRU	*Elagatis bipinnulata*	0	12	0	0	0	**12**
SAI	*Istiophorus albicans*	0	0	5	3	0	**8**
SKJ	*Katsuwonus pelamis*	15423	5574	1618	1009	70	**23695**
SMA	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	0	0	31	0	0	**31**
SWO	*Xiphias gladius*	0	8	1954	415	0	**2377**
TRI	*Balistidae*	0	0.18	0	0	0	**0.18**
WAH	*Acanthocybium solandri*	0	0	171	68	0	**239**
WHM	*Kajikia albida*	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
YFT	*Thunnus albacares*	327	13254	2968	1135	45	**17729**
Total		**16142**	**21841**	**11701**	**4664**	**797**	**55145**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

European Union

Annual Report to ICCAT (version 2)

Part I: Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics

Fishing season 2024

Abbreviations

BFT	Bluefin tuna
E-BFT	Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
JFO	Joint Fishing operations
RFMO	Regional fisheries management organisations
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
EU	European Union
PS	Purse seiners
BB	Bail boat
BUM	Blue Marlin
BHS	Blue Shark
WHM	White Marlin
SWO	Swordfish
ALB	Albacore
YFT	Yellowfin Tuna
BET	Bigeye Tuna
SKJ	Skipjack Tuna
SMA	Shortfin Mako
T	Metric Ton
LLD	Long Life D
PS	Purse Seiners
LL	Longline
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
DCF	Data Collection Framework

SECTION 1: ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE EU FLEET AND EU FISHING ACTIVITIES[1]

The EU fleet is composed of around 6,259 commercial fishing vessels. In 2024, the total EU catches reported for the main species regulated by ICCAT in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, where the EU fleet operates, amounted 164,488 tonnes, which represent a decrease of 6.1 % compared to 2023 (175,182 tons).

The main species and stocks regulated by ICCAT that are targeted by the EU vessels are: Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus,* BFT), Atlantic (N-SWO & S-SWO) and Mediterranean (Med-SWO) swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tropical tunas (skipjack, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, SKJ; yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, YFT; and bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*, BET), Atlantic (N-ALB, S-ALB) & Mediterranean (MED-ALB) albacore *(Thunnus alalunga)*. Several species are caught as by-catch, such as, blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*, BUM), small tuna species such as, bonito (*Sarda sarda*), bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*), frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*) and commercial sharks, in particular blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). The report does not include figures related to other minor (in terms of volume) species.

The EU fishing patterns remained relatively consistent compared to previous years. BSH (22 %), YFT (19 %), SKJ (13 %), ALB (13 %), BFT (13 %), SWO (10 %) and BET (5 %), continued to be the most important resources exploited by the EU fishing fleet, in ICCAT, in terms of volume.

The EU fleet uses a wide range of fishing gears including purse seine, longline, pole-and-line, handline, mid-water trawl, troll, bait-boat, trap, harpoon, and sport and recreational fishing gears.

More information about EU fleets is detailed in the respective EU Member States' reports (annexes).

Table 1: EU catches of main species by fleet segment in metric tons in 2024

Fleet		***Catches in tons***													
Nb of vessels		***BFT***	***SWO***	***ALB***	***YFT***	***BET***	***SKJ***	***SAI***	***BUM***	***WHM***	***Small tunas***	***BSH***	***SMA***	***POR***	***Total***
Purse seine	233	13188.496	2.104	23.932	27693.062	4039.168	17285.492	4.555	4.29	0	4592.314	0.445	0.163	0	**66834.021**
Long line*	2037	2540.511	16405.169	2020.236	244.728	569.974	47.885	183.297	69.592	9.646	253.702	35629.332	0.013	0	**57974.085**
Mid water trawl	108	434.916	354.864	7428.792	0	133.099	0.886	0	0	0.023	15.908	7.235	0.071	0.22	**8376.014**
Traps	24	3055.892	202.059	0.037	0	0	61.594	0	0	0.168	401.921	0.599	0	0	**3722.27**
Hand line	818	1402.715	20.127	34.842	471.325	496.633	259.336	0.57	30.189	0	42.146	2.294	0	0	**2760.177**
Trolling	406	4.905	0.876	4484.194	103.433	108.325	16.699	4.273	34.52	0	53.648	0.088	0	0	**4810.961**
Bait boat	240	259.458	0.089	8115.181	1690.859	3176.361	4158.653	0	0	0	7.534	0	0	0	**17408.135**
Harpoons	15	3.029	14.837	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52.505	0	0	0	**70.371**
Sport Fishing	597	75.781	0	0.968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**76.749**
Other	1781	61.066	123.824	16.364	874.108	445.259	307.510	7.185	218.208	0	355.877	38.742	0.613	4.397	**2453.152**
Total	**6259**	**21026.768**	**17123.949**	**22124.546**	**31077.515**	**89688.819**	**22138.055**	**199.88**	**356.799**	**9.837**	**57755.555**	**35678.735**	**0.86**	**4.617**	**164485.934**

[1] The data used for the elaboration of this report are provisional and might be subject to revisions.

Table 2: The EU catches (in metric tons) for main species by EU Member States in 2024

	BFT	SWO	ALB	YFT	BET	SKJ	SAI	BUM	WHM	SMALL	BSH	SMA	POR	Total
Cyprus	184	62.509	300.989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**548**
Spain	6,616	10928.822	12585.725	13665.79	5258.316	15562.814	166.772	21.941	8.764	2311.935	26736.046	0	0	**93,863**
France	6,634	345.632	3574.156	15987.462	1172.546	3927.041	16.658	289.795	0.025	889.528	48.362	0.245	4.617	**32,890**
Greece	396.516	500.951	255.534	0	0	0	0	0	0	1065.069	0	0	0	**2,218**
Croatia	969.448	40.493	0.19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1,010**
Ireland	16.79	61.33	4002.62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4,081**
Italy	5141.527	3081.062	1296.186	0	0	0	0	0	0	807.039	0	0	0	**10,326**
Malta	428.126	381.39	11.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	130.438	1.306	0	0	**952**
Portugal	639.765	1721.76	98.006	1424.574	2537.957	2648.2	16.45	45.063	1.048	571.546	8893.021	0.615	0	**18,598**
Total	**21026.698**	**17123.949**	**22124.546**	**31077.826**	**8968.819**	**22138.055**	**199.88**	**356.799**	**9.837**	**5775.555**	**35678.735**	**0.86**	**4.617**	**164,488**

SECTION 2: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In 2024, two scientific EU-funded progammes took place under the ICCAT framework. Those are detailed below.

1. EMFAF-2023-VC-ICCAT2-IBA-01 — Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for the Bluefin Tuna Phase 14

Continuing in 2024, the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT-GBYP) provides support to the work of the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics SCRS (SCRS) and aims at strengthening the scientific basis on bluefin tuna for decision-making in ICCAT.

This action will enhance and support the work of the SCRS, in accordance with the 2024 and possibly 2025 work plans of its subsidiary bodies, as well as relevant ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions.

The specific objectives are to:

- continue basic data collection,
- improve understanding of key biological and ecological processes,
- aim to conclude the work on assessment models and provision of scientific advice on stock status.
- maintain coordination between GBYP activities and the monitoring of research activities on BFT carried out by other institutions, both at national and international level,
- continue to implement within the ICCAT Secretariat information systems on biological and electronic tagging data.

2. EMFAF-2023-VC-ICCAT2-IBA-02 — Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making in the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT2)

The EU also contributed with a second grant to support the SCRS to develop its 2024 and 2025 annual work plans, aiming at strengthening the scientific basis on tuna and tuna-like species for decision-making in ICCAT. The activities to be funded includes: i) technical workshops (which in some cases might be restricted to selected experts); ii) a wide range of studies, including different aspects of the tuna and tunalike species biology, ecology, genetics, movement and habitat use, population dynamics and fisheries; iii) further development of the ICCAT MSE processes; and, iv) participation of experts and/or independent external reviewers on the stock assessment processes. The project was developed for a 24-month period (from January 2024 to December 2025) and includes:

- Albacore: electronic tagging, tagging awareness campaigns, Northern albacore MSE development.
- Sharks: vessel-based electronic tagging (8 species), genetic studies (porbeagle), reproductive biology (shortfin mako), expert support for mako stock assessment, ageing workshop.
- Small tunas: workshops on data-limited assessment methods (2024) and ageing calibration (2025).
- Swordfish: finalisation of North Atlantic MSE, satellite tagging in NW/NE/SW Atlantic, strategic workshop (2024).
- Tropical tunas: development of multi-stock and Western skipjack MSEs, independent external review.

Individual EU Member State studies are also relevant for this part and further detail on those has been included in the Member States' reports. This includes research activities at national level on issues related to ICCAT fisheries and voluntary contributions to the scientific work of international

organisations, participation and contributions to SCRS Working Groups in 2022 and scientific observer programme.

Table 3: Number of trips, samples and trips with observers and details on samples per species

Gear Type	Nb of Trips in 2024	Nb of trips sampled	Nb of trips with observers	Number of Length Samples and total number of individuals sampled per species (N samples/N ind)												
					BFT	SWO	ALB	YFT	BET	SKJ	SAI	BUM	WHM	BSH	SMA	Others*
				No individuals	3893	3	1	291	175	140	63	146	0	4	2	917
Purse seine	4165	213	126	*No samples*	19269	6	2	62815	6607	48293	204	195	0	7	2	24729
				No individuals	1666	1729	239	6	143	20	0	0	0	50	0	189
Long line	30880	1836	486	*No samples*	3354	39523	1506	20	1255	149	11	0	4	5034	0	1718
				No individuals	22	50	122	0	8	2	0	0	0	10	4	51
Mid water trawl	830	56	22	*No samples*	222	132	4540	0	58	38	0	0	0	15	5	188
				No individuals	86	13	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	97
Traps	3964	174	70	*No samples*	5941	16	0	0	0	474	0	0	0	0	0	3503
				No individuals	473	6	4	20	35	8	0	0	0	3	0	10
Hand line	22551	962	61	*No samples*	1375	6	45	80	75	254	0	0	0	6	0	54
				No individuals	0	0	404	1	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Trolling	5521	342	3	*No samples*	0	0	47777	1	1862	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
				No individuals	1035	0	266	313	359	199	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bait boat	9571	2083	128	*No samples*	11920	0	21282	8296	12081	8279	0	0	0	0	0	3
				No individuals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harpoons	0	0	0	*No samples*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				No individuals	355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sport Fishing	789	25	25	*No samples*	355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				No individuals	0	7	0	36	1	2	0	2	0	33	0	397
Unclassified	54950	775	183	*No samples*	0	7	0	142	1	4	0	3	0	47	0	6478
				No individuals	**7530**	**1808**	**1036**	**667**	**993**	**380**	**63**	**148**	**0**	**100**	**6**	**1665**
Total	**133221**	**6466**	**1104**	*No samples*	**42436**	**39690**	**75152**	**71354**	**21939**	**57491**	**215**	**198**	**4**	**5109**	**7**	**36679**

**mainly FRI, LTA, ALV, BLF, BON, GAR, HMM, MOX, NAU, POA, POR, YTL, PLS, ALM, CFW, CNT, DKK, DOL, FAL, GBA, LGH, LKV, MRW, OCS, OIL, RMM, RMO, RMT, RRU, RUB, SPL, SPN, SPZ, TAL, TRG, TTH, TTL, TUG, USE, WAH, BLT, KGM, BOP, BSF, LEC, SAU, TRI and others*

ANNEXES

EU-CROATIA

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Croatia fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

The Croatian fleet mainly targets Bluefin tuna (hereinafter: BFT) and swordfish (hereinafter: MED SWO). Other ICCAT species such as Mediterranean albacore (hereinafter: MED ALB) are taken as bycatch. Croatian fishing pattern in what concerns ICCAT fisheries continues to demonstrate the dominant importance of BFT over the remaining stocks, where share of BFT amounted to 95.97% of the total catch of ICCAT species in 2024 (BFT, MED SWO and MED ALB) while MED SWO participated with 4.01% and MED ALB with only 0.02%, consistently proving its by-catch nature.

Authorisation process applies to the entire fleet actively fishing in ICCAT fisheries. In addition to the license, commercial vessels targeting ICCAT species are authorised prior to beginning of the respective fishing season and duly reported to EC/ICCAT register.

Croatian commercial fleet targeting BFT was composed of total of 26 authorised vessels in 2024 for targeted BFT fishery, 14 of which were purse seiners while 12 were hand line vessels, using also LLD in some cases. At the same time, fleet targeting MED SWO was comprised of 20 authorised vessels using pelagic longlines (hereinafter: LLD) and 14 authorised vessels using hand lines while 5 of these were authorised for both gear groups.

Commercial fleet targeting ICCAT species in 2024 operated entirely in the Adriatic Sea with additional restriction upon LLD MED SWO fleet limiting its operation only to waters under national sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Total quota allocated in 2024 to Croatia for BFT was 1.101,24 tons (after adjustment: 1.066,24 tons), 13.74 tons for MED SWO (after adjustment: 48.74 tons) and 6.98 tons for MED ALB.

National quota for BFT in 2024 was allocated to active fisheries as follows[1] (all modifications of the fishing plan are hereby included):

- PS gear group: 825 tons
- HL gear group: 120 tons
- By-catch: 58.47 tons
- Sport fishery: 5 tons
- Recreational fishery: 12.5 tons
- Scientific fishery: 2 tons

Quota allocated as sectorial (43.27 tons) was not activated during 2024.

National quota for MED SWO in 2024 was allocated as follows:

- commercial LL fleet (46t)
- commercial HL fleet (1.5t)
- by-catch (1.24t)

Catches

Bluefin tuna

Commercial fleet targeting BFT

Open season for PS fleet in 2024 was from 26 May to 15 July (for BFT caught in Adriatic intended for farming) while open season for HL fleet was from 15 February to 31 December. Total Croatian catch of BFT in 2024 in commercial fisheries was 959,31 (including by-catch). Out of this amount, 85,4% was caught using purse seines for BFT and intended for further farming. Total of 98.24 tons was caught

in targeted BFT fishery by coastal LL/HL fleet. Out of the total amount allocated to PS fleet for farming purposes, 91.1% was exhausted. As the entire allocated quantity was not utilised, upon the finalisation of the PS fishing campaign, total of 35 tons was transferred to Greece.

By-catch

Quota allocated for by-catch in 2024 was 58.47t, i.e. 5.3% of the national quota out of which 36.44 tons has been exhausted. By-catch was permitted to be landed in fishing with purse seine net "srdelara" (purse seine for small pelagics) up to 10% of total catch weight at landing. By-catch of 20% of total number of specimens on landing was permitted for LLD fleet authorized for targeting MED SWO. A total of 17.29 tons was caught as by-catch in fishery targeting Med SWO by authorised LLD fleet, while in small pelagics fishery (PSFS) 19.14 tons. The entire fleet allowed to land BFT as by-catch is covered by VMS.

Non-commercial fleet targeting BFT

Open season for sport fishery in 2024 was from 1 May to 1 November while open season for recreational fishery was from 1 June to 1 November. BFT quota is allocated to recreational and sport fishing (separately for each segment). In 2024 Croatia allocated 5 tons to sports fishery and 12.5 tons was allocated to recreational fishery. Additional quantity of 2 tons was allocated for scientific purposes. All by catches of dead BFT, retained on board or discarded are deducted from the quota.

A vessel can participate in recreational BFT fishing only if it is authorised and allocated an individual quota, following a public tender procedure. Vessels authorised to participate in recreational BFT fishery are tracked by VMS and are obliged to record and report their catch in real time. Ministry keeps registry of recreational BFT fishing vessels for each fishing season. BFT sport competitions organised by the national Sport Association for Sport Fishing at Sea must be authorised by the Ministry of Agriculture (issues a Resolution per competition) and each must be allocated a quota. The Resolution also contains the list of participating vessels. The sampling of tuna at competitions (size, weight, etc.) is conducted by Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries. Fishery inspection directly supervises each competition. There is a limit of landing set to a single fish per vessel per day in sport and recreational fisheries.

Total catch of BFT in 2024 in non-commercial fisheries was 10.14 tons. Out of this amount, 3.69 tons was caught in sports fishery and 398 kg for scientific research, while in recreational fishing was caught 6.05 tons.

Mediterranean swordfish

Croatia was allocated an amount of 13.74 tons of MED SWO and additional quantity of 35 tons was transferred from Greece. The total quota of MED SWO on disposal to Croatia for 2024 was 48.74 tons whereof 83% was exhausted. Closed season for MED SWO in 2024 was from 1 January to 31 March. It is forbidden to catch, retain on board, tranship or land MED SWO in sport and recreational fishery.

Commercial fleet targeting MED SWO

The entire quota was internally allocated to commercial fishery. While 46 tons was allocated to LLD segment, 1.5 tons was allocated to HL segment and 1.24 tons to by-catch. Total catch of MED SWO by LLD segment in 2024 was 37.79 tons (93.3% of the total quantity caught), while 1.22 tons was caught by HL segment (3% of the total quantity caught). Quota allocated to by-catch of MED SWO in 2023 was 1.24 tons, i.e. 2.5% of the quota on disposal to Croatia was entirely utilised.

By-catch

By-catch was permitted to be landed in fishing with purse seine net "srdelara" (purse seine for small pelagics) and bottom set longlines, up to 20% of total catch weight at landing and max 1 specimen. For fishing trips with duration of more than 24 hours in continuation using bottom set longlines, it was permitted to catch max 2 specimen as by-catch, provided that the total catch of MED SWO does not exceed 20% of total catch weight at landing. All by catches of dead MED SWO, retained on board or discarded are deducted from the quota.

Mediterranean albacore

Croatia was allocated an amount of 6.98 tons. Total quantity caught in 2024 was 190 kg. Closed season for MED ALB in 2024 was from 1 to 31 March and from 1 October to 30 November. Croatia does not operate MED ALB fishery as a targeted fishery. This species only appears sporadically in by-catches. It is forbidden to catch, retain on board, tranship or land MED ALB in sport and recreational fishery and if caught, specimens must be released.

B. Fishing Effort

Bluefin tuna

PS BFT fleet

PS vessels operated in a single JFO which included 14 vessels in total. This represents further decrease in number of vessels in comparison to previous season. This is mainly a result of efforts to decrease the cost of the fishing season which is a response to decrease of tuna price at destination markets. The last day within the 2024 PS BFT fishing season with registered catch was 12 July. JFO 024-012 not exhausting their quota and thus the PS BFT campaign was opened till 15 July.

Total possible number of days of fishing season (according to legal framework) was 51. Out of this number, 45 days in 2024 PS BFT campaign were days with fishing effort and out of that, only 22 days with registered catch (48.89% of "successful days"). Total of 6 days were with no recorded activity at all, mainly due to bad weather conditions. PS fleet accomplished 568 fishing days in total. Namely, as juvenile tune (>8kg) which is targeted for further farming in Adriatic farms does not aggregate in large schoals, activity of Croatian PS fleet must be intensive throughout the entire season, which results with a lot of fishing days as well as with large number of fishing operations. There were total of 105 individual catches in 2024 BFT PS campaign with average of 7.5 catches per active vessel, and the average size of the catches remained generally small (7.8t). In conclusion, the number of individual catches in 2024 (105) was at the same level as the number of catches in 2023. These data continue to prove that the stock of juvenile tuna in Adriatic Sea is diffused.

HL BFT fleet

12 vessels were authorised for BFT targeted fishing with HL/LL. As the fishing season was opened from 15 February until the end of the calendar year, the total number of days of fishing season (according to legal framework) was 320. The last catch within the season was made on 30 December 2024. The entire HL fleet accomplished total of 975 fishing days with HL, while 625 fishing days were with registered BFT catch. Additionally, MED SWO LLD fleet authorised for targeting swordfish, reported by-catches of BFT in total of 141 fishing days.

Sport BFT fishing

In 2024 there were 9 authorised competitions. Total of 7 competitions were 3 days in duration each, while 1 was 2 days in duration and 1 was 1 day in duration. Total number of vessels authorised to participate in these competitions was 176.

Mediterranean swordfish

LLD/HL MES SWO fleet

Total of 20 vessels were authorised for MED SWO targeted fishing with LLD, but only 17 vessels were actively fishing during the fishing season. As the fishing season was opened from 1 April until the end of the calendar year, the total number of days of fishing season (according to legal framework) was 275. The last catch within the season was made on 30 December 2024. The entire HL fleet accomplished total of 1006 fishing days with LLD.

MED SWO HL fleet numbered 14 authorised vessels whose total number of fishing days with registered MED SWO catch was 25. Total of 5 vessels were authorised for using LLD and HL which means that the total number of commercial vessels targeting MED SWO was 29.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

Table 1: EU-Croatia fleet by segment

Nb of Vessels*	
Purse seine	14
Long line*	20
Mid water trawl	-
Traps	-
Hand line	12 BFT+14 MED SWO = 22 individual vessels
Trolling	-
Bait boat	-
Harpoons	-
Sport Fishing	176
Other	-
Unclassified	-
Total	**56 (commercial) 176 (non-commercial)**

*Authorised for targeted fishing of ICCAT species (BFT and MED SWO).

Table 2: Catches (in metric tons) for main ICCAT species by Croatia in 2024

	BFT	SWO	ALB	YFT	BET	SKJ	BUM	WHM	SMALL	BSH	SMA	POR	Total
Croatia	969.5	40.5	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**1 010,2**

Figure 1. Time series (2014-2024) of EU-Croatia catches (t) of Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna (in tons) in the ICCAT Convention Area

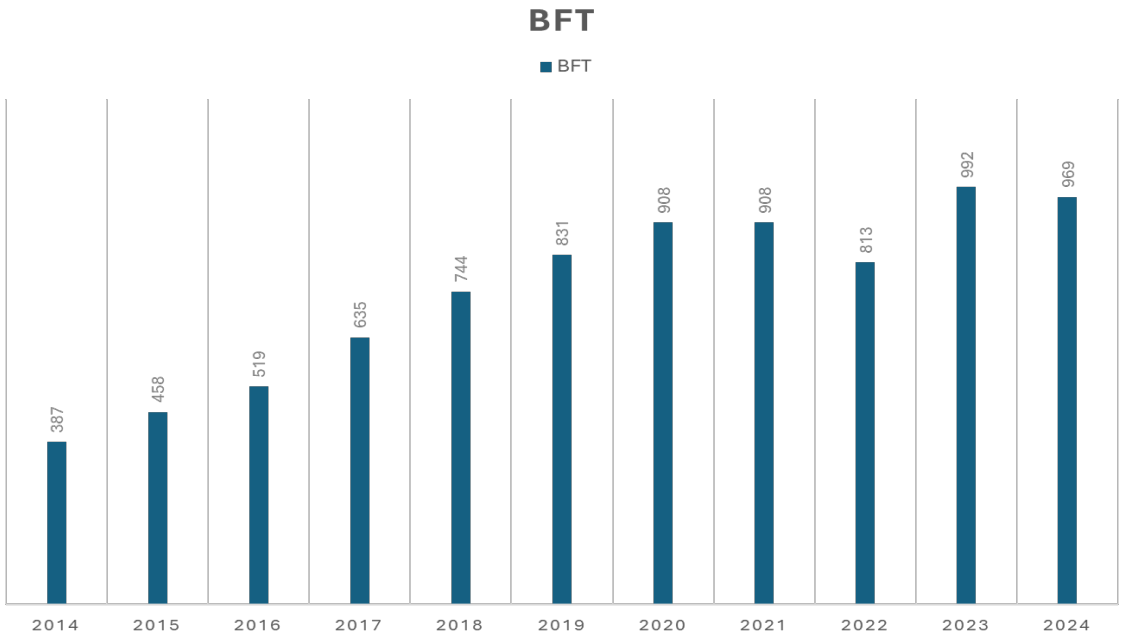
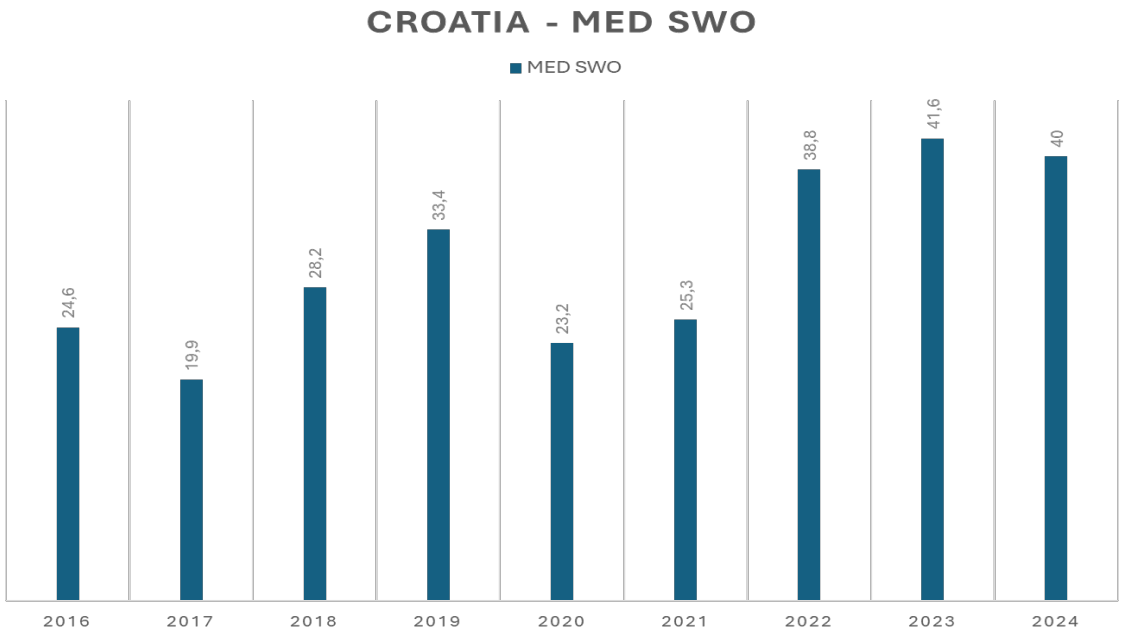


Figure 2. Time series (2016-2023) of EU-Croatia catches (t) of Mediterranean swordfish (in tons) in the ICCAT Convention Area.



As for the data collection, Croatia fully applies the EU *acquis* regulating this issue. Entire fleet targeting ICCAT species as well as fleet allowed to land ICCAT species caught as by-catch are covered by obligatory electronic reporting.

Apart from obligatory electronic reporting of catch and landing, all fleet segments targeting ICCAT species are equipped also with VMS system.

B. Research activities

National data collection programme

National sampling program of BFT harvested from aquaculture facilities has been carried out (PUT) as well as the sampling programme within the Data Collection Framework (DCF).

In addition to Croatian domestic observer programme involving control observers deployed on-board BFT towing vessels in PS fishery, Croatia has a scientific monitoring programme for BFT/SWO LL/HL vessels developed under the national data collection programme (DCF). In 2024, scientific observers covered 20% of fishing effort of BFT HL fleet and 20% MED SWO fleet by collecting data on catch and bycatch by on-board sampling, landing sampling and questionnaires.

Scientific observers are authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and are required to act in accordance with the Ordinance on the conditions and method of work of authorized observers in fisheries (OG 52/2023and 35/25).

Metiers covered by the observer programs in Croatia include PS and HL fleets targeting BFT as well as LLD fleet targeting MED SWO.

Purse seine fishing of BFT takes place during the PS fishing season (from 26 of May to 15 of July for BFT caught in the Adriatic Sea for further farming) or until the utilisation of fishing quota. It is covered by national control observers (NCO) on every tugboat, regional observers (RO) on every catching vessel and national scientific observers (NSO) that additionally cover around 5% of fishing operations. Role of these observers is to detect irregularities that may occur during fishing or transfer of live BFT to the designated farms (RO, NCO), identify all the bycatch that ends up in nets either by direct observation or by watching the videos of fish transfer (RO, NCO, NSO) and finally to recognize and sample any mortality that might happen during these operations (NCO, NSO). Mortalities are the only means of gathering samples since the BFT caught in purse seine is transferred alive to farms and for those samples, length and weight measures are taken along with biological samples for determining the age and the sex of the fish.

Longline targeting MED SWO include all the fishing vessels that catch MED SWO with drifting longlines. Fishing usually starts around April to May and lasts until October or until quota is exhausted. Sampling targets vessels authorised for this activity. Majority of the fishing activity occurs around island of Vis and near Šibenik and Dubrovnik, making vessels in those areas primary targets for sampling. As these vessels are allocated relatively small quotas and fishing lasts for several days resulting in low number of fishing trips for some vessels, it can be difficult to organize sampling, particularly during July and August. This especially refers to fishing area of Komiža in Vis where majority of MED SWO fishermen land their catches. Dedicated number of scientific observers cover this metier and they keep contact with fishermen in order to organise field sampling. While the observers try to perform as many onboard samplings as possible, most of samplings are done at the point of landing. Longline fishing vessels targeting MED SWO are under 15m of length (with only one exception). Their fishing trips often last for several days and they do not meet boarding conditions for additional crew, i.e. the observers. Sampling on landing is done immediately upon arrival of the vessel to the landing port, measures of the fish caught are taken along with the biological samples to determine the age and, if possible, to determine the sex. Since the caught fish is immediately gutted at sea to preserve its quality, it is difficult to obtain gonad samples. Through communication with fishermen or purchase of the whole fish or stomachs, observers organise that those samples are collected as well. BFT is caught as by-catch in this fishery, and all by-catch data is gathered at landing or through inquiry.

Handline fishing targeting BFT shows similar challenges with respect to sampling by observers. Usually, fishing starts at the beginning of March and lasts until the end of November or until quota is exhausted. There is a brief pause at the end of May and throughout June when the BFT spawns and the purse seine season takes place. Same as with MED SWO longline, sampling targets all the active fishing vessels but with the fishing vessels under 15m of length and multi-day fishing, majority of the sampling takes place at landing. Dedicated scientific observers cover the sampling, measure the catch and take biological samples to determine age and sex if possible. Caught tuna is gutted when caught and same procedure as in previous metier is done to try to obtain stomach samples. Any additional information on catches or bycatch is acquired immediately on landing or through inquiry.

Information on research activities

Apart from the observer program on national level, national scientific research activities targeting BFT were implemented during the course of 2024. Namely, these include research activities on monitoring of spawning of tuna in farm cages and sampling of tuna for gathering morphometric data and information on diet.

Participation in SCRS Working Groups and contribution to those Working Groups

Croatian scientists participated the following SCRS ICCAT meetings in 2024:

1. Workshop of the swordfish year programme (SWOYP) (Igor Talijančić, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split)
2. Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Josip Maleš, Igor Talijančić, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split)
3. Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) (Igor Talijančić, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split)
4. Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (Leon Grubišić, Josip Maleš, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split)
5. SCRS Workshop (Leon Grubišić, Igor Talijančić, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split)
6. Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin Tuna Species Group (Leon Grubišić, Igor Talijančić, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split)

In 2024 Croatian scientists contributed to SCRS with a presentation in "Morphometric Comparison of Juvenile Tuna Species in the Adriatic Sea" during the Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin Tuna Species Group.

EU-CYPRUS

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Cyprus fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

Cyprus fleet targets 3 main ICCAT species, those been Eastern Bluefin tuna, Mediterranean Swordfish and Mediterranean Albacore. Small tunas and sharks are not targeted by the Cypriot fleet but sometimes by-catches may occur in negligible quantities.

Catches

The large pelagic fleet in 2024 was consisted by 36 polyvalent vessels (over 12 meters) that engaged in ICCAT fisheries using surface long lines and one small purse seiner (<24m) authorised to fish only Eastern Bluefin Tuna.

The total catches for the 3 main species (BFT-E, SWO-M, ALB-M) reported by Cyprus and regulated by ICCAT in the Mediterranean amounted to around 550 tonnes.

The total catches for 2024 marked a decrease of roughly 100 tonnes compared to 2023. Catches of BFT dropped by few tons with a carryover of 4 tons, catches of SWO increased by 7 tonnes due to the engagement of new vessels in this fishery and ALB presented a significant decrease of around 55 tonnes (and 130tons overall bellow EU-CYP ALB-M quota) which is attributed to a temporary cessation of fishing vessels plan and an increase in depredation events. Detailed information is given in Table 1 of ANNEX 1: TABLES AND FIGURES

As regards By-catch, Cyprus National Legislation has been protecting sea turtles by banning capturing or harming sea turtles in any way (since 1978) and by setting closed fishing areas, especially sensitive nesting areas (since 1990). In addition, the National Legislation has been harmonized with the provisions of the Habitat Directive where sea turtles are a priority species, as well as the Biodiversity Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

Accidental catches by the pelagic longline fleet are recorded by observers through on-board sampling of the catches, which is part of the National Data Collection Program of Cyprus under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF).

During the 2024 on-board observer programme there were records of one sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas)* which was released alive. There were also records of 13 *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*; one individual was released alive. There were no bycatch records of seabirds or cetaceans on surface longlines. Relevant information on bycatches is also available in the submitted ICCAT ST09 form.

B. Fishing effort

Below is summarised the fishing effort in total number of trips for each of the fleets engaged in the large pelagic fisheries including aspects such as: No.of trips, Days at sea, No. of hooks, Fishing sets, etc…

Bluefin Tuna

Bluefin Tuna catches in 2024 were around 184 tonnes which calculates to 3.7 % of the total catches. Out of that roughly 90 tonnes were caught by the LL fleet and the remaining tonnes by the purse seiner.

Swordfish

Mediterranean Swordfish catches in 2024 were around 62 tonnes, which calculates to 11.4 % of the total catches. Swordfish catches in 2024 presented an increase compared to 2023.

Albacore

Mediterranean Albacore is the main species targeted by Cyprus long line fleet. In 2024, 300 tonnes were landed by the LL fleet which amounts to around 55% of the total of the large pelagic fleet landings. Another 0.9 tonne of Med ALB are caught by recreational fisheries (declared on a specialised Mobile App). Med ALB catches presented a significant decrease of roughly 15% compared to 2023.

Small Tunas

Small tunas are not targeted by the Cypriot fleet but sometimes by-catches may occur in small quantities.

Sharks

Sharks are not targeted by the Cypriot fleet but sometimes by-catches may occur in negligible quantities. Although shark catches by Cyprus fishing vessels are negligible, sharks are considered priority species under Data Collection and are recorded whenever observed during on-board and onshore biological sampling.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

Table 1 : EU CYPRUS Catches by fleet segment

Fleet		Catches in Kg													
Nb of Vessels		BFT	SWO	ALB	YFT	BET	SKJ	SAI	BUM	WHM	Small tunas	BSH	SMA	POR	Total
Purse seine	1	94519													94519
Long line	36	89795	62509	300021											452325
Mid water trawl															
Traps															
Hand line															
Trolling															
Bait boat															
Harpoons															
Sport Fishing				968											968
Unclassified															
Total	37	184314	62509	300994											547812

Table 2 : EU CYPRUS Effort by fleet segment

	LLD	PS
No of trips	475	2
No of Vessels	36	1
Days at Sea	1074	7
No of hooks	2815353	n/a
Fishing sets positive/null SWO	358 / 25	n/a
Fishing sets positive/null ALB	500 / 4	n/a
Fishing sets positive/null BFT	98 / 4	n/a

Table 2 summarises the fishing effort in total number of trips for each of the fleets engaged in the large pelagic fisheries including aspects such as: No. of trips, Days at sea, No. of hooks, Fishing sets etc.

B. Research activities

Catch and effort data are obtained from the Electronic Reporting System (ERS), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), BCDs and sales. Discard data are obtained from ERS records and are also estimated from on-board observer records. Recreational catches (only ALB) are monitored through a specialised Mobile App. These sources cover the total effort and catch of the Cypriot fleet in local and distant waters (you can see details on effort and fishing area table 1 below). The main problem of this configuration is the large number of sources that need to be interconnected manually to produce the requested reports. A computerized CMS system (Central Management System) procured in Cyprus is expected to solve this issue and provide real-time tracking and reporting.

Participation and contributions to SCRS Working Groups in 2024

Participation

- ICCAT INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP (APRIL 15-19 2024)
- INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP -INCLUDING MSE (6-9 May 2024)
- ICCAT MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY MEETING AND STOCK ASSESSMENT (13-18 May 2024)
- ICCAT INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH (27-31 May 2024)
- ICCAT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS (3-6 June 2024)
- ICCAT SCRS SPECIES GROUP (16-20 September, 2024)
- STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS) (23-28 September 2024)
- ICCAT WORKSHOP TO CONTINUE THE EVALUATION OF ICCAT FISHERIES IMPACT ON MARINE TURTLES IN THE MED (30 September – 4 October 2025)

Contributions

- SCRS DOCUMENT 2024/082 STANDARDIZATION OF ALBACORE EU-CYP

Scientific Observers Programmes

The Cyprus Work Plan on Data Collection, prepared in accordance with EU Data Collection Framework, includes a sampling plan covering the Cyprus fishing fleet targeting large pelagic with surface longlines; the sampling plan includes scientific observer sampling both at landing sites and on-board. The 2024 onboard sampling data have been submitted using the relevant ICCAT ST09 form.

All information for TASK I, TASK II and TASK III were gathered and sent on time. The Data Collection Framework: Catch and effort data are obtained from the Electronic Reporting System (ERS), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), BCDs and sales. Discard data are obtained from ERS records and are also estimated from on-board observer records. Recreational catches (only ALB) are measured/monitored through an electronic/paper logbook scheme. These sources cover the total effort and catch of the Cypriot fleet in local and distant waters. The main problem of this system is the large number of sources that need to be combined to create the requested reports.

Scientific Observers Programmes: The Cyprus Work Plan on Data Collection, prepared in accordance with EU Data Collection Framework, includes a sampling plan covering the Cyprus fishing fleet targeting large pelagic with surface longlines; the sampling plan includes scientific observer sampling both at landing sites and on-board. The 2024 onboard sampling data have been submitted using the relevant ICCAT ST09 form.

Information on By-catches: Accidental catches by the pelagic longline fleet are recorded by observers through on-board sampling of the catches, which is part of the National Data Collection Program of Cyprus under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF). During the 2024 on-board observer programme was a record of 1 *Chelonia mydas* which was released alive. There were also 13 records of *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*. There were no bycatch records of seabirds or cetaceans on surface longlines. Relevant information on bycatches is also available in the submitted ICCAT ST09 form.

The scientific observer programme encompasses both at-sea and on-shore sampling. Onboard data collection activities primarily focus on obtaining length samples, bycatch and discards for all major species captured with surface longlines, including PETS species. Additionally, at-sea sampling activities extend to the collection of biological variables (weight, sex, maturity) from swordfish, albacore, and bluefin tuna when they are gutted onboard.

Onshore sampling aims to collect length samples from landings for all ICCAT species captured using surface longlines. This sampling activity also involves the collection of weight data from swordfish, albacore, and bluefin tuna, along with recording the pertinent presentation of the individual specimens.
An exception to this program applies to purse seine fisheries for large pelagic species in the Central Mediterranean, which falls under the purview of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme.

Comprehensive documentation regarding the sampling activity is accessible through the dedicated DFMR web page:
(http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/All/6DC46542CDE2BC644225833000214B58/$file/Sampling%20LLD-protocol_v2.pdf) as well as the EU DCF portal dedicated to National Work Plans (https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/wps-and-ars/work-plans_en).

EU-France

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-France fleet and fishing activities

France has a highly diverse fishing sector, with a wide array of active vessels and fleets, each with specific characteristics, involved annually in the harvesting of several sensitive and emblematic ICCAT stocks. These include Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, Northern Atlantic Albacore, Mediterranean and Northern Atlantic Swordfish, as well as Tropical tunas (Skipjack, Yellowfin, and Bigeye) in West African waters and the Gulf of Guinea. The French fleet operates across a broad spectrum of fishing methods, including purse seining, longlining, pole-and-line, handlining, trawling, netting, and sport or recreational fishing gears.

This diversity presents a concrete challenge in accurately reporting on all aspects of French fisheries activities, particularly through Task I and Task II data, as well as supplementary information on by-catches, interactions with associated species, fleet composition, and more. Despite the complexity involved in fulfilling its reporting obligations, France places strong emphasis on ensuring timely and comprehensive submissions. Efforts are made to maintain regular updates on ICCAT reporting requirements, with clear identification of the data to be submitted, deadlines, required formats, and designated contact persons responsible for compiling and transmitting information to ICCAT.

Fishing fleet and targeted species

In 2024, the French nominal catches declared under Task II for the main ICCAT-regulated species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea amounted to 34 212 tonnes. Table I presents the total nominal catches, including landings, as well as live and dead discards.

In 2024, major tuna species accounted for the majority of these catches, representing 93.4% of the total. This was primarily due to catches of **Eastern Skipjack (11.4%), Eastern Yellowfin Tuna (44.4%), Eastern Bluefin Tuna (19.4%), Northern Albacore (10.4%), and Bigeye Tuna (3.4%)**.

Teleosts represented 3.14% of the annual catch, while small tunas accounted for 2.6%. Catches of sharks and rays made up 0.55% of the total.

Table I - French nominal catches for ICCAT species in 2024.

Species group	Species	Stock	Sub-total (Kg)
1-Tuna (major sp.)	*Istiophorus albicans - SAI*	AT-NE	3 583
		AT-SE	971
		SAI-W	12 103
	Kajikia albida - WHM	WHM-A	25
	Katsuwonus pelamis - SKJ	SKJ-E	3 901 760
		SKJ-W	25 281
	Makaira nigricans - BUM	AT-NE	366
		AT-SE	3 811
		AT-SW	113
		BUM-A	285 505

	Tetrapturus pfluegeri - SPF	SPF-E	22
	Thunnus alalunga - ALB	ALB-M	2 770
		ALB-N	3 552 127
		ALB-S	19 258
	Thunnus albacares - YFT	YFT-E	15 191 171
		YFT-W	796 292
	Thunnus obesus - BET	BET-A	1 172 546
	Thunnus thynnus - BFT	BFT-E	6 634 075
	Xiphias gladius - SWO	SWO-M	80 895
		SWO-N	264 735
2-Tuna (small t.)	*Acanthocybium solandri - WAH*	AT-NE	968
		AT-NW	30 983
		AT-SE	17 188
	Auxis rochei - BLT	AT-NE	0
		AT-SE	1 201
	Auxis thazard - FRI	AT-NE	35 693
		AT-SE	189 502
		AT-SW	1 581
		MD	25
	Euthynnus alletteratus - LTA	AT-NE	81 250
		AT-SE	319 443
		AT-SW	527
		MD	12 570
	Sarda sarda - BON	AT-NE	55 800
		AT-NW	959
		MD	52 229
	Thunnus atlanticus - BLF	AT-NW	89 605

		MD	3
3-Tuna (other sp.)	*Istiophoridae - BIL*	AT-NW	3 327
		MD	792
	Makaira indica - BLM	AT-NE	32
	Ruvettus pretiosus - OIL	AT-NW	8
	Tetrapturus angustirostris - SSP	MD	324
	Tetrapturus audax - MLS	AT-NE	2 587
		MD	2 505
	Thunnini - TUN	AT-NE	30
		AT-NW	106 439
		MD	1268
	Thunnus spp - TUS	AT-NE	188
4-Sharks (major sp.)	*Isurus oxyrinchus - SMA*	AT-NE	220
		AT-SE	15
		MD	10
	Lamna nasus - POR	AT-NE	4 617
	Prionace glauca - BSH	AT-NE	47 452
		MD	911
5-Sharks (other sp.)	*Alopias vulpinus - ALV*	AT-NE	54 530
		MD	1 490
	Carcharhinidae - RSK	AT-NE	218
		MD	38
	Carcharhinus falciformis - FAL	AT-NE	2 768
		AT-SE	31 570
		AT-SW	74
	Carcharhinus longimanus - OCS	AT-SE	280
	Cetorhinus maximus - BSK	AT-NE	300

	Dasyatidae - STT	AT-NE	3 423
		AT-NW	493
		AT-SW	2
		MD	521
	Mobula mobular - RMM	AT-SE	216
	Mobula tarapacana - RMT	AT-NE	45
		AT-SE	197
	Pteroplatytrygon violacea - PLS	AT-NE	4
		AT-SE	40
	Rhincodon typus - RHN	AT-SE	11 483
	Selachimorpha (Pleurotremata) - SKH	AT-NE	10 626
		AT-NW	10 000
		AT-SW	2
		MD	28
	Sphyrna lewini - SPL	AT-NE	71
		AT-SE	464
	Sphyrna zygaena - SPZ	AT-NE	306
		AT-SE	2 632
6-Teleosts	*Aluterus monoceros - ALM*	AT-SE	552
	Aphanopus carbo - BSF	AT-NE	170 528
	Balistes carolinensis - TRG	AT-NE	6
		AT-SE	123
	Balistidae - TRI	AT-NE	14 502
		MD	75
	Belone belone - GAR	AT-NE	5 249
		MD	3 562
	Brama brama - POA	AT-NE	2 042

		MD	445
	Canthidermis maculata - CNT	AT-NE	399
		AT-SE	48 715
		AT-SW	12
	Caranx crysos - RUB	AT-NE	3 330
		AT-SE	40 513
	Caranx hippos - CVJ	AT-NW	4 675
		AT-SW	450
	Coryphaena equiselis - CFW	AT-SE	5
	Coryphaena hippurus - DOL	AT-NE	1 975
		AT-NW	471 772
		AT-SE	10 411
		MD	1 485
	Elagatis bipinnulata - RRU	AT-NE	3 389
		AT-NW	10 006
		AT-SE	76 271
		AT-SW	182
	Exocoetidae - FLY	AT-NE	1
		AT-NW	8 209
		AT-SE	1
	Lepidopus caudatus - SFS	AT-NE	490
		MD	62
	Lichia amia - LEE	AT-NE	29
		MD	6 530
	Masturus lanceolatus - MRW	AT-SE	10
	Mola mola - MOX	AT-NE	565
		AT-SE	1 325

		MD	122
	Seriola dumerili - AMB	AT-NE	300
		MD	49 305
	Seriola lalandi - YTC	AT-NE	1
	Seriola rivoliana - YTL	AT-NE	53
		AT-SE	591
	Sphyraena barracuda - GBA	AT-NW	7
		AT-SE	3 941
		MD	22
	Sphyraenidae - BAZ	AT-NE	1 535
		AT-NW	6 180
		MD	41 091
	Trachurus mediterraneus - HMM	AT-NE	79 037
		MD	2620
Total (Kg)			**34 212 183**

Bluefin tuna

In 2024, French vessels reported 6 574 tonnes of Bluefin Tuna catches (including bycatch). Of this total, 90% (i.e. 5 932 tonnes) were caught in the Mediterranean Sea.

In the Mediterranean, Bluefin Tuna have been primarily caught by purse seine vessels since the 1970s. Until 2008, catch levels were partially influenced by environmental factors affecting the availability of tuna to the fishing gear. Between mid-May and mid-June, most purse seine catches consist of fish measuring 180–250 cm and weighing 140–250 kg. The development of trade with Japan in the mid-1990s, followed by the expansion of fattening operations, led to a shift toward targeting larger individuals.

The Mediterranean artisanal fishery, for its part, reported 686 tonnes of Bluefin Tuna catches in 2024. This fishery primarily uses longlines (562 tonnes in 2024), and to a lesser extent, pole-and-line gear (114 tonnes).

In the North-East Atlantic, 641 tonnes of Bluefin Tuna were caught in 2024. While Northern Albacore remains the main target species for French tuna vessels operating in the Atlantic, Bluefin Tuna can represent a significant bycatch and is increasingly becoming a target species, particularly for bait-boats in the Bay of Biscay. In recent years, Bluefin Tuna has also become a targeted species for some pelagic otter trawlers operating in the Atlantic.

France issued the following number of professional fishing licenses for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea in 2024 (see Table II).

Table II - Bluefin tuna licenses allocated and used by the French industry in 2024.

2024	Threshold	Licences issued
Trawlers – Atlantic coast	56	44
Bait boats – Atlantic coast	8	5
Handline – Atlantic coast	47	40
Longliners – Atlantic coast	23	17
Other artisanals – Exclusive trolling bait-boats – Mediterranean sea	149	75
Other artisanals – Non exclusive trolling bait-boats – Mediterranean sea		14
Other artisanals – Artisanal longliners – Mediterranean sea		55
Other artisanals – Offshore longline vessels – Mediterranean sea		5
Purse seiners – Mediterranean Sea	22	21
	305	***276***

In 2024, a total of 17302 recreational fishing licenses were issued in France for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. 1557 specimens were caught, representing a total of 59,722 kg, across both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, which corresponds to 0.902% of total French Bluefin Tuna catches. Of this amount, 54,3% of recreational catches (i.e. 32 438 tonnes) were made in the Mediterranean Sea.
France has implemented several measures to comply with ICCAT and EU regulations regarding sport and recreational Bluefin Tuna fisheries. These include:

- the allocation of 1% of the national quota specifically for recreational fisheries,
- the requirement of mandatory authorizations and landing declarations, and
- the systematic tagging of all recreationally caught specimens.

Swordfish

Swordfish are occasionally caught in the North-East Atlantic by a small-scale fishing fleet targeting albacore. 3 longliners superior to 12 meters in length overall, 50 trawlers, and 4 gillnet vessels reported bycatch of Northern Atlantic swordfish in 2024. French bycatches of Northern Atlantic swordfish amounted to 265 tonnes for the year 2024.

In the Mediterranean Sea (mainland and Corsica), the artisanal longline fleet fishing for Bluefin tuna also targets swordfish for part of the year. In 2024, France issued 107 fishing licenses for Mediterranean swordfish, including longliners and trawlers. French catches of Mediterranean swordfish amount to 81 tonnes for the year 2024. France does not allow anglers to catch and land Mediterranean swordfish. Only catch-and-release is allowed in recreational fishing.

French vessels do not actively fish for Southern Atlantic swordfish, and report only incidental catches.

Albacore

In 2024, France issued 111 fishing licenses for Northern Atlantic Albacore, covering both longliners and trawlers.

Northern Atlantic Albacore represented 10.4% of the total French catches in 2024, corresponding to 3 552 tonnes (see Table I). These catches were predominantly made by paired mid-water pelagic trawlers.

French vessels do not actively target Southern Atlantic Albacore, and only incidental or residual catches are reported. In 2024, less than 3 tonnes were recorded. Although France is not directly involved in this fishery, 7 purse seiners and 1 bait-boat were authorized to catch this species in 2024.

Mediterranean Albacore are caught very infrequently and only incidentally by French longliners. In 2024, 19 tonnes were caught, mainly by artisanal longliners and pole-and-line vessels. France issued 7 fishing licenses for Mediterranean Albacore in 2024.

Tropical Tunas

In 2024, France issued 33 fishing licenses for Tropical tunas, including 10 licences for purse seiners superior to 60 meters in length overall,1 longliner inferior to 20 meters in length overall, 22 longliners or other artisanal vessels superior to 20 meters in length overall.

B. Fishing effort

11 vessels of the French tropical tuna fleet targeting tropical tunas operated in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean, with:

- 1 bait-boat (BB);

- 10 purse seiners (PS);

Please note that 3 of the 10 purse seiners were sold during the year 2024.

Table III - List of both fishing and supply vessels of the French tropical fleet authorized to target tropical tunas and operating in the Atlantic Ocean in 2024

Gear	Vessel name	Registration
BB	CORONA DEL MAR	FRA000724048
PS	CAP BOJADOR	FRA000752550
PS	GEVRED	FRA000932206
PS	GUEOTEC	FRA000752558
PS	STERENN	FRA000911313
PS	CAP SAINT VINCENT	FRA000911289
PS	CAP SAINTE MARIE	FRA000854429
PS	VIA AVENIR	FRA000752564
PS	VIA MISTRAL	FRA000790948
PS	VIA ALIZE	FRA000933961
PS	GUERIDEN	FRA000752577

This fishing fleet (1 bait-boat and 10 purse seiners) consisted of one vessel with a carrying capacity (CC) under 600 tonnes, five vessels with a CC between 800 and 1 200 tonnes, and five vessels with a CC exceeding 1 200 tonnes. total capacity in 2024, weighted by the months of activity for each vessel, amounted to 4 816 tonnes (see Table IV).

Table IV - Carrying capacity (CC = total gross tonnage weighted by months of fishing activity) of fishing vessels (purse seiners and bait-boat) of the French tropical fleet operating in the Atlantic Ocean from 2019 to 2024

Year	50-400	401-600	601-800	801-1200	1201-2000	Nb vessels	CC
2019	1	0	2	6	2	11	10 082
2020	1	0	1	6	2	10	9 548
2021	1	0	1	7	2	11	9 848
2022	1	0	1	7	2	11	10 137
2023	*1*	*0*	*1*	*6*	*2*	*10*	*8 857*
2024	1	0	1	4	2	8	4 816

The number of fishing trips for the French purse seiners was 92 (including trips which have begun in 2023 but finished in 2024 and also trip started in 2024 and finished in 2025). The number of days at sea reached 1506. These days at sea represent a total nominal effort expressed in terms of fishing days and searching days of 1153 and 952, respectively (Figure I).

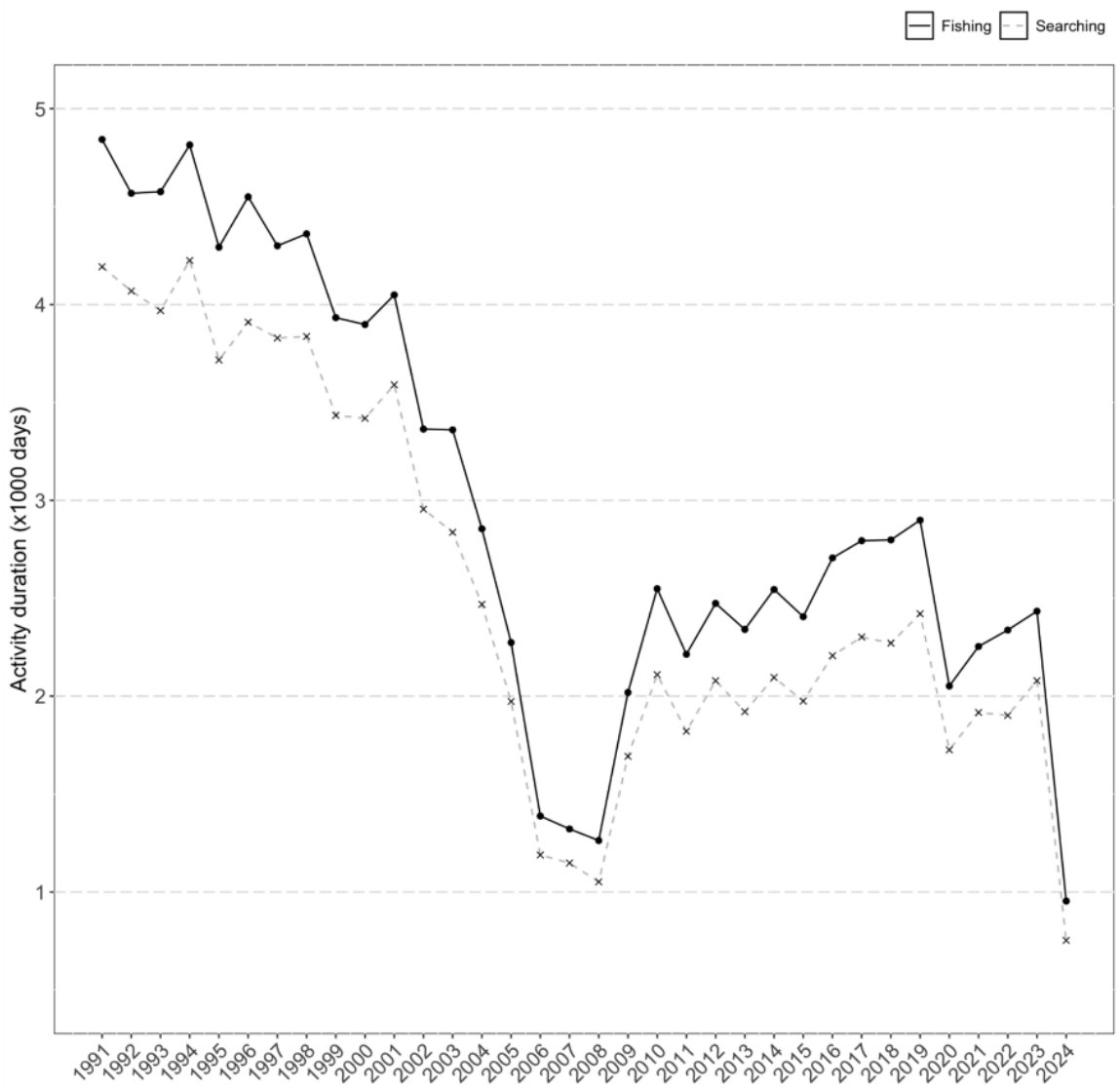


Figure I - Temporal series of the annual fishing days and associated searching days for the French purse seine tuna fleet in the Atlantic Ocean.

During these fishing days, a total of 951 fishing sets were realized, with 764 positive sets (i.e. with marketable target tunas in the net) and 187 null sets representing a percentage of positive and null sets of 80.34% and 19.66%, respectively. If we consider the fishing mode, namely fishing operations on floating objects equipped or not with a sounder and GPS buoys (FOBs) versus free school, the number of purse seine fishing sets (PSFS) was 296 PSFS on FOBs (mainly FADs) and 655 PSFS on free school (FSC) representing 32 % of total sets on FOBs (Figure II).

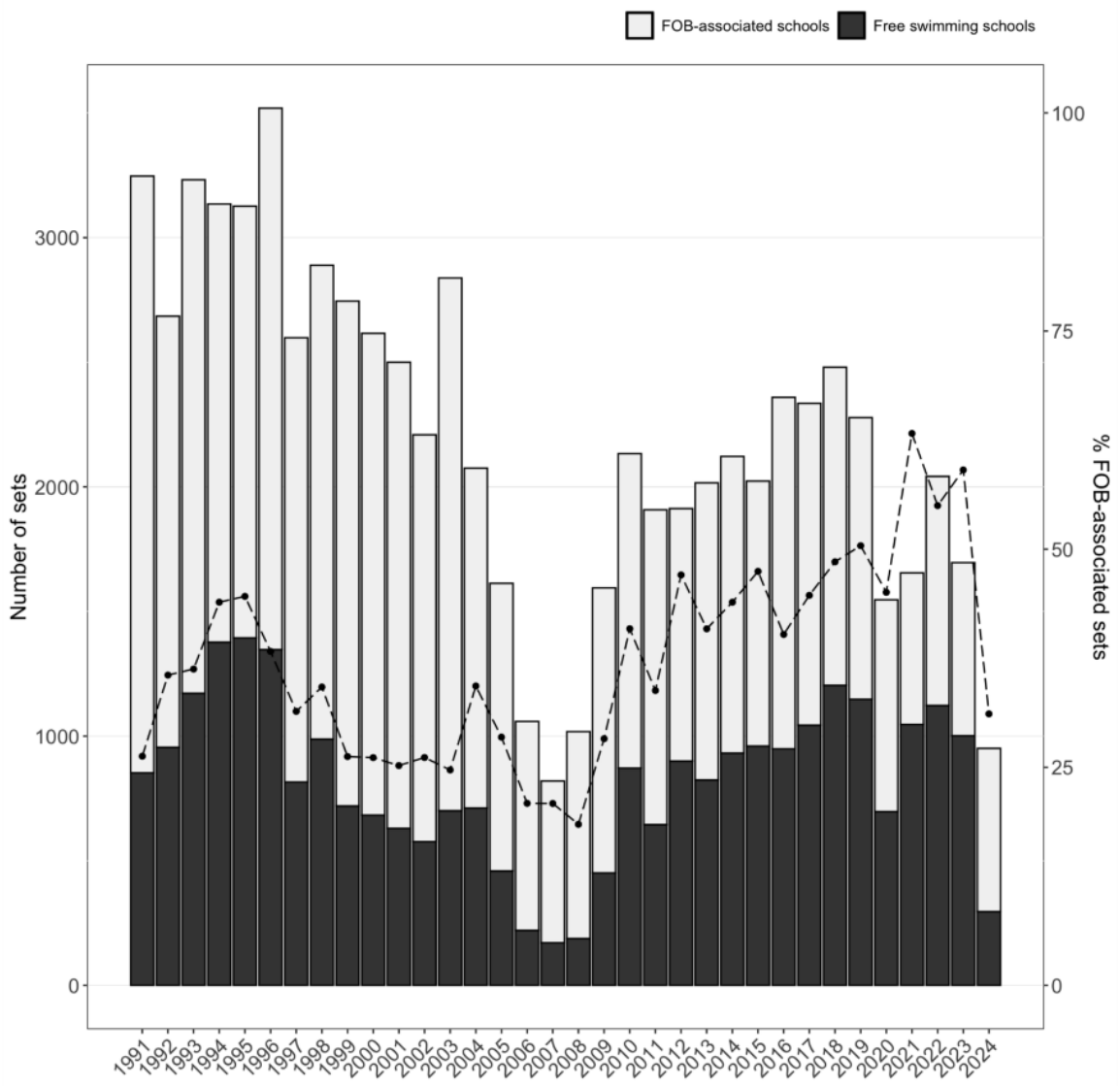


Figure II - Temporal series of the total number of fishing sets (positive and null) per year (bars) with the overlap of the percentage of fishing sets operated on floating objects (black line with black dots).

The French bait boat active in the Eastern part of the Central Atlantic Ocean realized 9 fishing trips (15 in 2023), representing a total of 199 fishing days (241 fishing days in 2023). This fishing vessel landed 289 tons on both major and minor tunas.

Catches and landings

The estimated total landings of tropical tunas (excluding temperate tuna, i.e. albacore tuna), in 2024 reached with 366t for the bait boat fishery and 32 648t for the purse seine fishery (Table V).

Table V - Landings of major and minor tropical tuna species caught by the French tropical tuna fleets (BB and PS) operating in the Atlantic Ocean in 2024

Species	YFT	SKJ	BET	ALB	OTH	Total
BB	184	46	58	0	0	289
PS	15 035	3 841	974	19	497	20 367
Total	15 219	3 887	1 032	19	497	20 456

The estimates of landings presented in this section for the French tropical tuna purse seine fleet are based on the T3 process and depend on the length sampling at landing ports. The sampling protocol for length collection of tuna target species is implemented to optimize the accuracy of estimates of tuna catches per species for the two-fishing mode (free school and FAD).

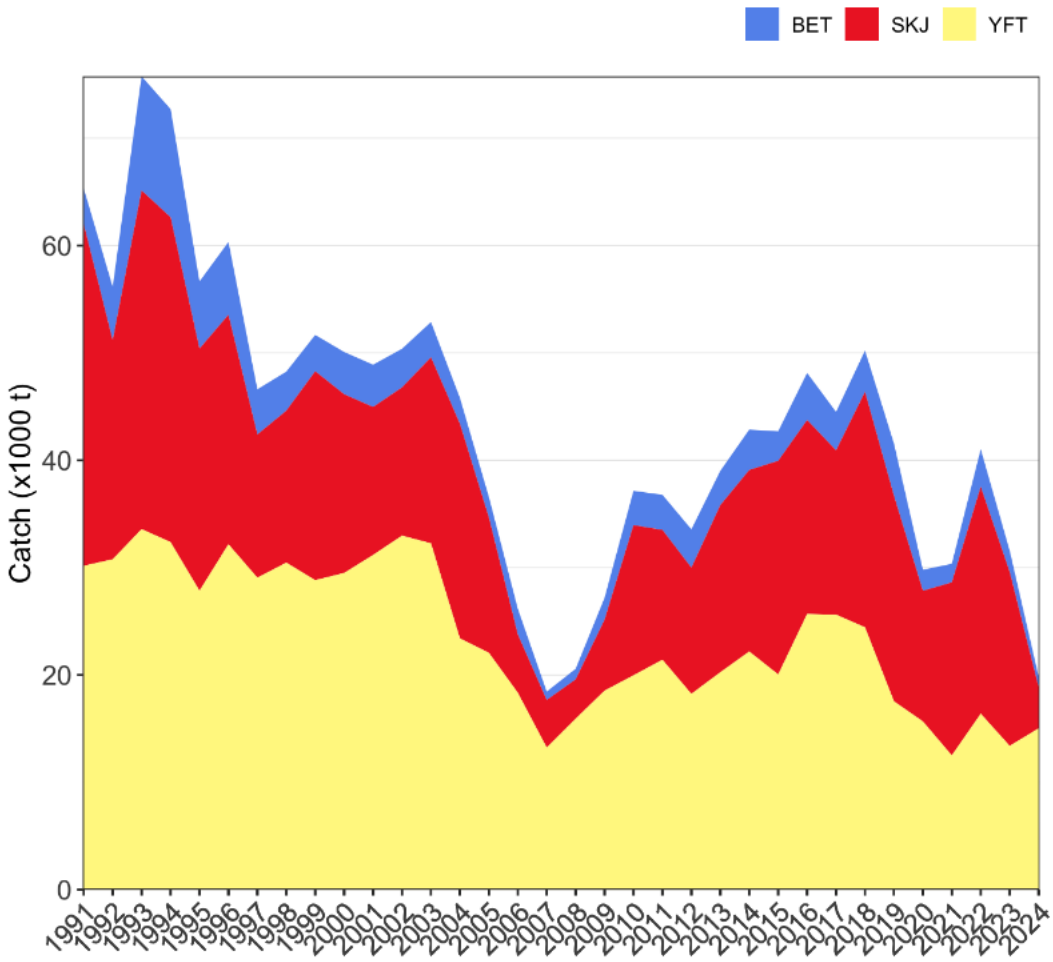


Figure III - Total fishery production. Landings by species of the French purse seine fishing fleet during 1991-2024

The fishing activity of the purse seine fishery corresponds to two fishing mode: the free school activity and the fishing on floating objects (FOBs) either natural or principally man-made and called fish aggregating devices (FAD).

The deployment of Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) has been declared in logbooks of the purse seiners and supply vessel since 2014. In 2017, the supply vessel with a French flag left the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean. The total number of FAD deployment increased around 2 500 in 2017, corresponding to an average of 250 per vessel. In 2024, the total number of deployments estimated was 719, corresponding to an average of 180 per vessel.

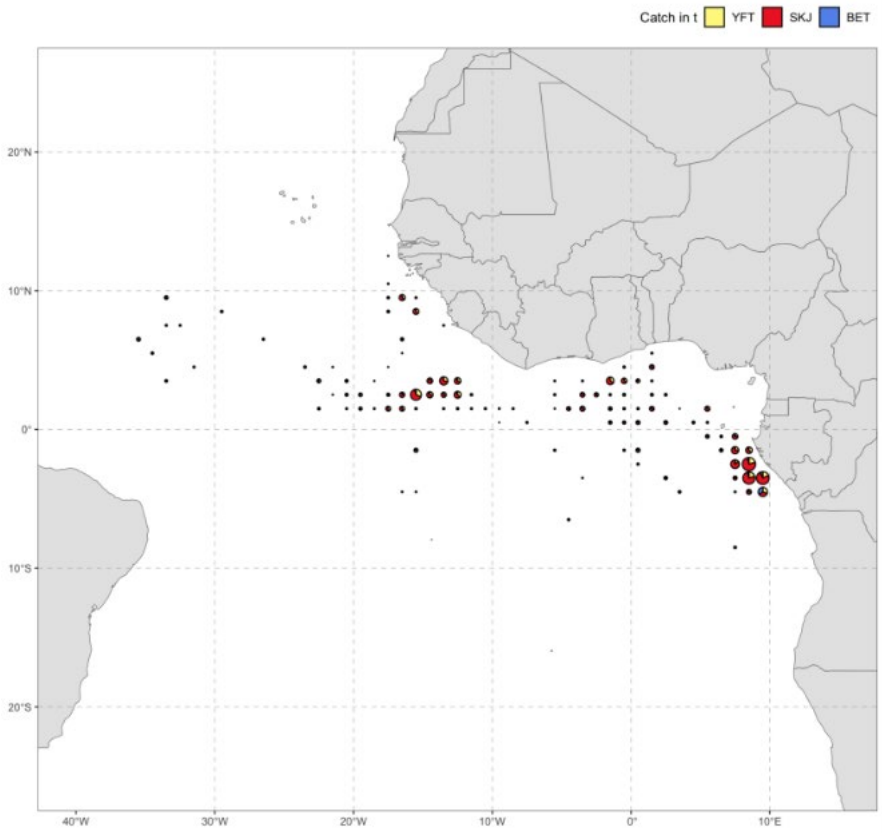
The volume of targeted species landings (20 367 total catches) per fishing mode in 2024 reach 14 691 tons (72.1% of the total landings of the French purse seine fishery) and 5 676 tons (27.9% of the total landings of the French purse seine fishery) for the free school and the FAD fishing modes, respectively. The catch composition in landings differs dramatically between fishing modes (Table VI). Catch

composition on FSC is usually dominated by yellowfin tuna whereas it is dominated by skipjack tuna on FOB.

Table VI - Volume of landings and species contribution for the French purse seine tropical tuna fishery in 2024 respectively to the fishing mode, free school (FSC) and floating objects (FOB)

Mod	YFT	SKJ	BET	ALB	OTH	TOTAL
FSC	13 505	423	666	18	80	14 691
FOB	1 530	3 419	309	1	417	5 676
% FSC	91.9	2.9	4.5	0.1	0.5	100%
% FOB	27.0	60.2	5.4	0.0	7.4	100%

Finally, the geographical distributions of catches par species and per fishing mode are displayed on the Figure IV below.



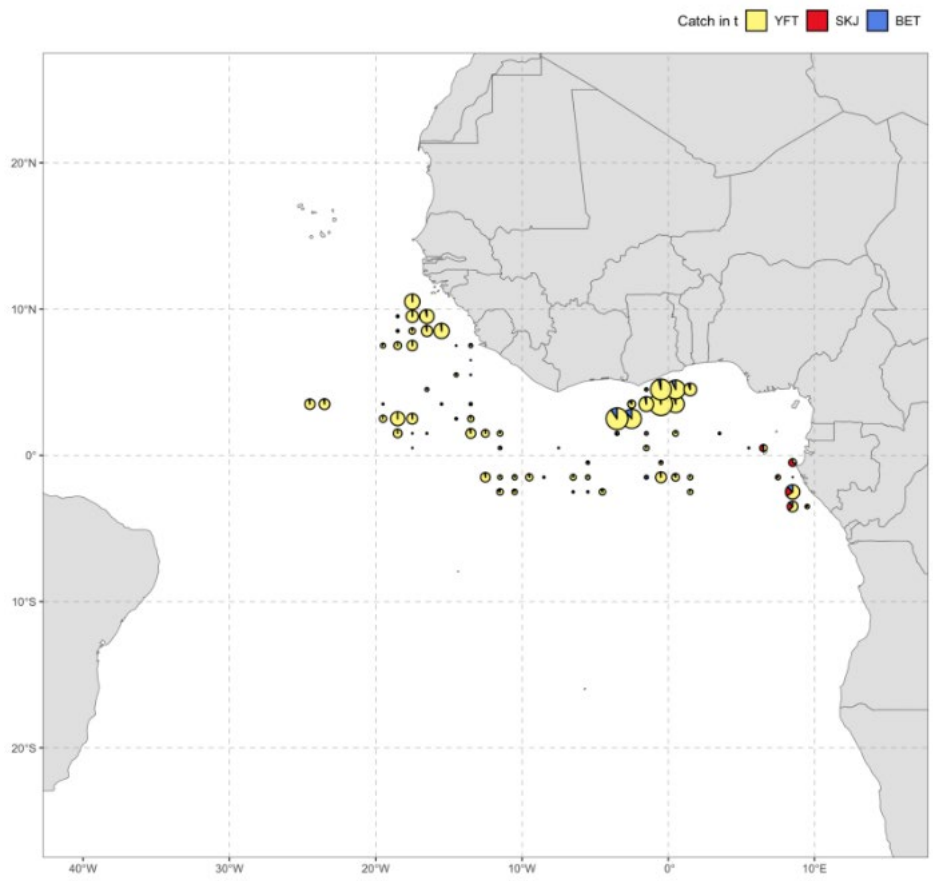


Figure IV Geographical distribution of specific catches (species/1° square) per fishing mode (top = FAD, bottom = free swimming school) for the French purse seine fleet in 2024.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. FISHERY STATISTICS

French fleet register: vessel characteristic (length overall, kilowatt, gross tonnage, age of the vessel), geographical indicator, total number of vessels

- Logbooks, with a coverage of 100% transmitted by the fishing industry aiming to discriminate fishing activity and fishing research for schools.

- Sales note data (total weight and value of landings by species) transmitted by the industry.

- Geo-localization data (including VMS data) used to organize the sampling stratification and the correction of data entry of logbook data in the dedicated database.

The definition of the reference fleet population follows the definition set by Paragraph 5 a) of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/909 of 18 February 2019 establishing the list of mandatory research surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multi-annual union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2022-2024[1], in order to have a comprehensive view of the fishing activity applied during the year.

The French Research Institute for Development (IRD in French) is responsible of the whole collection of activity variables for the French tropical purse seine fishery: effort, landings, and observer data. In

the Atlantic Ocean, IRD has a representative of technical staff based in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), backed by a support team in Sète (France), responsible for the overall coordination of activities plus the consolidation and processing of the data. A service provider on field administratively manages the local team in charge of data collection. The coordination of activities between the various landing ports (e.g. Abidjan, Dakar, Tema) is handled by IRD technician based in Abidjan. Conventional assessments (e.g. catches by species) are carried out in accordance with the standards laid down by ICCAT applying a processing suite called "T3", specifically adapted to the sampling procedures and described below

Purse seine fishery: The target population corresponds to the fishing trips of all the French purse seiners landing in the main harbours, for the South Eastern part of the Atlantic Ocean. For landed catches, the sampling unit considered is the brine freezing well (or tank) in which the tunas are stored frozen after having been caught. A typical well contains about 60-70 tonnes of catches and French purse seiners have from 14 to 18 wells, storing a maximum of about 1 250 tons. The whole vessel (i.e. all wells combined) have not been used as sampling unit as the data required by IOTC need to be geo-referenced on a grid of squares of 1°. A typical purse seine fishing trip lasts 6-10 weeks spanning about 20-30 squares of 1° during a trip.

Bait boat fishery: For this métier, the target population is all the fishing trips of the entire French bait boats landing in Dakar (Senegal) only. All landings are monitored. The frame population is a sample of unloading days for the species composition.

Sampling protocol to implement the "T3" process to estimate catches of the main tuna species: In the case of tropical tuna fisheries, it is imperative to estimate the species composition of landings insofar as these are weighted according to commercial categories based more on length size than on species, which is a major source of bias. The catch for each species are estimated by cross-correlation of information from fishing logbooks, VMS data and information about landings provided by the producer organization, as well as from the sampling of species composition at the landing site. Sampling is carried out in port, and then pooled for estimates of the length and species compositions of landings based on pre-defined spatial and temporal strata according to the type of association (fishing mode) and the weight category of the individuals. This involves a minimum number of samples for each stratum, and a predetermined population of individuals for each sample which differs according to the fishing mode. Adherence to these procedures results in an important number of sampled and measured individuals, this arises from the fact that in order to achieve a reasonable level of precision for the estimation of the species composition necessary to examine a large number of individuals for each sample (500 for log sets, 200 for free school sets). When the number of samples is considered insufficient, a substitution procedure follows ocean-based schemes that vary between size and species composition.

Length data for major tuna species were collected on shore and at sea and biological data were collected at the tuna cannery and in the laboratory for species or fish categories not processed at the cannery.

The figure below presents the size frequency distributions for the three species collected in 2024 either for both FOB-associated and FSC fishing sets are quite similar with the average frequency distributions observed for the period 2019-2024 (Figure V).

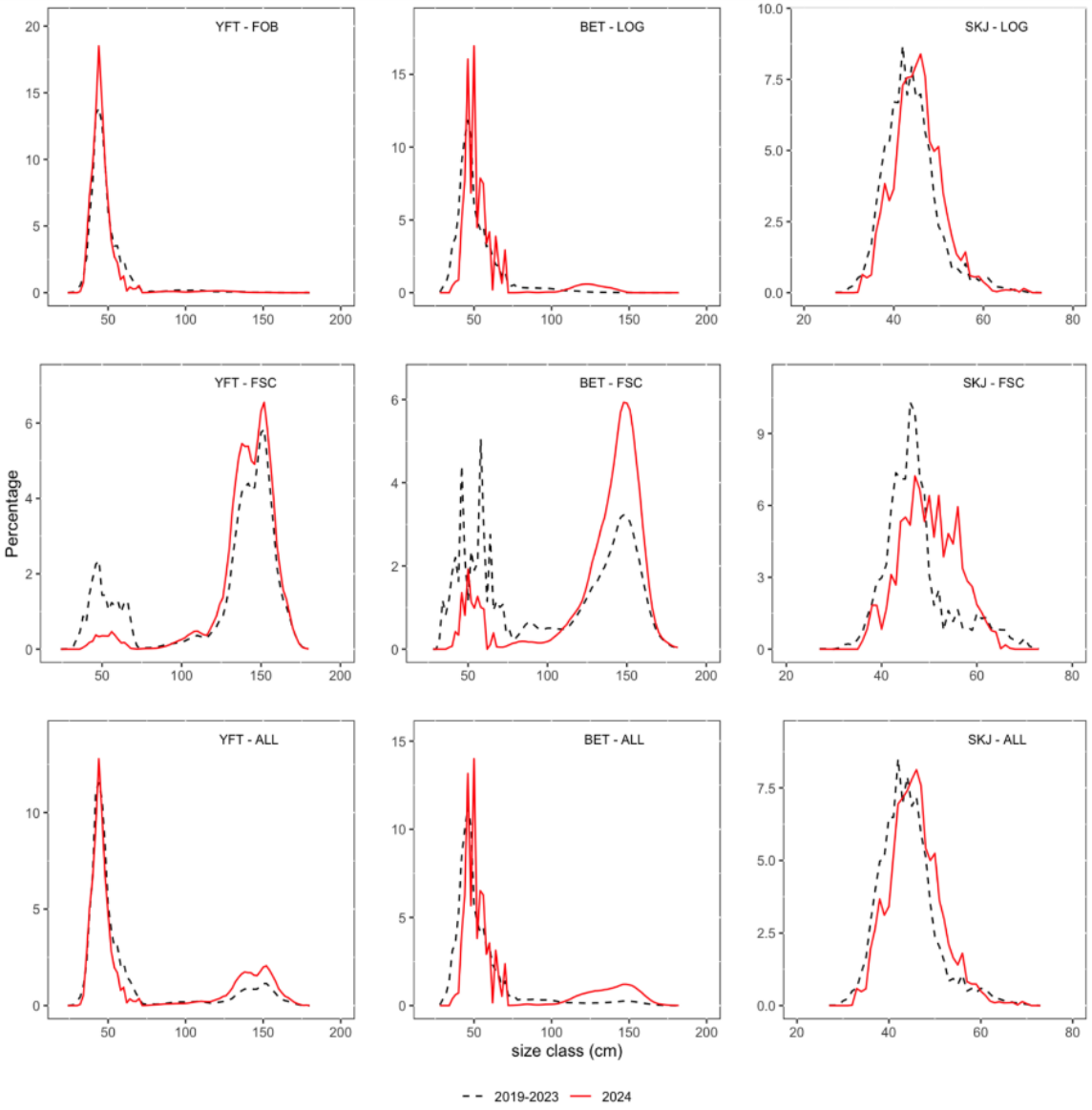


Figure V. Size distribution of major tuna catches (in percentage of the total number of fishes) for the French purse seine fleet in 2024 (blue solid line) and for an average year representing the period 2019-2023 (red dotted line).

Observers data collection

Observers on board are equipped with the species identification cards developed by ICCAT or others tuna regional fisheries management organizations (tRFMOs). They have instruction in their sampling protocol to produce an exhaustive list of species caught per fishing operation at the better specific resolution possible. All are equipped with a digital camera for rare specimens for identification purposes at the end of the trip. All pictures have a code to reaffix the individual to its fishing operation. During the training course observer is trained on sampling methods allowing to estimate the total amount of by-catch and discards at the level of the fishing operation. Methods are explained in the observer manual given during the training course.

The sampling design set up for PS follows the recommendations developed in the regional observer scheme of ICCAT. This sampling design is documented in the observer manual updated every year at the UE level.

Data quality is taken into account. After each observer trip a debriefing of the cruise is organized between the observer and two scientists involved in the coordination of the observer program. This debriefing will permit to attribute a score to the quality of data collected.

Observer data are stored in the Observe database shared between France and Spain for the PS fishery. The development of the software achieved by IRD is discussed every year during the Observer meeting organized between Spain, France and some partner institutes from coastal countries. Currently the quality of data stored in the Observe database is controlled for the position of fishing operation deployed (and for the deployment of FADs for the PS fishery) by cross-checking latitude and longitude data in the database with VMS data. The development of a tool aiming to enlarge the number of variables controlled is ongoing.

The part of the human observer program on purse seiner funded by EU in the frame of the data collection framework (DCF) reached a coverage of 34% of the fishing sets. If we consider the observations implemented in the frame of the ICCAT moratoria, and the scientific observer program supported by the industry (OCUP project supported by ORTHONGEL) the total coverage of scientific observer programs reached 100% of the fishing sets (Table VII).

Table VII - Observer coverage of the fishing activity for the French purse seine fleet for the three ongoing observer programs: EU DCF, ICCAT Moratoria and ORTHONGEL OCUP

	Obs DCF	Obs Moratoria	Obs ORTHONGEL	Total Obs
Days at sea in 2024	471	342	597	1 410
% coverage days at sea	34	24	42	100
Fishing sets in 2024	347	138	466	951
% coverage fishing sets	36	15	49	100

Data collection by the purse seine observer program (EU program and ICCAT moratoria and OCUP ORTHONGEL): Scientific observers monitor discards of both target species (tunas) as priority and second bycatch. Observations consist in counting, species composition, length measurements (and weighting when possible). The observer handles all the discards, and when not possible, a fraction of it that is raised at the level of the fishing set. In such case, discarded fish are randomly sampled to be counted and measured. When possible, the condition (dead or alive) of discarded fish is monitored.

Bycatch monitored by onboard observers were composed of billfishes, various bony fishes, as well as endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species such as sharks, rays, turtles and cetaceans in 2024 (Table VIII). The total amount of bycatch caught was estimated to 268 t of which 195 t were retained onboard and 73 t discarded at sea, the latter representing 27% of the bycatch (in t).

The most abundant bycatch species in total weight in 2024 (apart from whales that are always released before the brailing operations) were *Elagatis bipinnulata* (RRU) with 80 tonnes, Canthidermis maculata (CNT) with 49 tonnes caught, Carcharhinus falciformis (FAL) with 34 tonnes, Caranx crysos (RUB) with 44 tonnes, Makaira nigricans (BUM) with 4 tonnes, Acanthocybium solandri (WAH) with 18 tonnes, Coryphaena hippurus (DOL) with 11 tonnes, and Sphyraena barracuda (GBA) with 4 tonnes (Table VIII).

Billfishes and other bony fishes are generally retained onboard to be sold on local markets and to some extent for crew consumption, but it largely varies among species. For example, only 33% of BUM were discarded, 19% of CNT, 0% of GBA, 7% of RRU, 9% of RUB, and 0% of WAH (Table VIII).

Sharks, rays, turtles, and cetaceans are always discarded following ICCAT Recommendations, which was the case in 2024 with very rare exceptions (0% of Pteroplatytrygon violacea retained; Table VIII).

Efforts are made by the fishermen so the sharks, rays, turtles and cetaceans are handled following good practices and released alive when possible.

Table VIII - Bycatch (in t) of bycatch species caught by the French purse seine fishing fleet in the Atlantic Ocean in 2024. T: total catch (L+D), L: retained catch, DD: discarded dead, DL: discarded alive, D: discarded (DD+DL).

Species group	FAO code	Scientific name	Tl (t)	L (t)	DD (t)	DL (t)	D (t)	D (%)
Billfishes	BUM	*Makaira nigricans*	4.289	2.857	1.432	0.000	1.432	33
Billfishes	SAI	*Istiophorus albicans*	4.552	4.521	0.031	0.000	0.031	1
Other bony fishes	ALM	*Aluterus monoceros*	0.550	0.522	0.025	0.003	0.028	5
Other bony fishes	CFW	*Coryphaena equiselis*	0.004	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000	0
Other bony fishes	CNT	*Canthidermis maculata*	49.123	39.953	1.235	7.935	9.170	19
Other bony fishes	DOL	*Coryphaena hippurus*	10.814	10.658	0.037	0.119	0.156	1
Other bony fishes	FLY	*Exocoetidae*	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.001	100
Other bony fishes	GBA	*Sphyraena barracuda*	3.940	3.940	0.000	0.000	0.000	0
Other bony fishes	MOX	*Mola mola*	1.324	0.000	0.000	1.324	1.324	100
Other bony fishes	MRW	*Masturus lanceolatus*	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.009	100
Other bony fishes	POA	*Brama brama*	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0
Other bony fishes	RRU	*Elagatis bipinnulata*	79.838	73.886	4.110	1.842	5.952	7
Other bony fishes	RUB	*Caranx crysos*	43.840	40.061	0.839	2.940	3.779	9
Other bony fishes	TRG	*Balistes capriscus*	0.126	0.123	0.001	0.002	0.003	2
Other bony fishes	WAH	*Acanthocybium solandri*	18.154	18.073	0.081	0.000	0.081	0

Other bony fishes	YTL	*Seriola rivoliana*	0.641	0.613	0.014	0.014	0.028	4
Rays	PLS	*Pteroplatytrygon violacea*	0.042	0.000	0.005	0.037	0.042	100
Rays	RMM	*Mobula mobular*	0.216	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.216	100
Rays	RMT	*Mobula tarapacana*	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	100
Sharks	FAL	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	34.407	0.085	6.635	27.687	34.322	100
Sharks	OCS	*Carcharhinus longimanus*	0.279	0.000	0.046	0.233	0.279	100
Sharks	SMA	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	0.162	0.000	0.015	0.147	0.162	100
Sharks	SPL	*Sphyrna lewini*	0.533	0.000	0.089	0.444	0.533	100
Sharks	SPZ	*Sphyrna zygaena*	2.936	0.000	0.085	2.851	2.936	100
Whale shark	RHN	*Rhincodon typus*	11.482	0.000	0.000	11.482	11.482	100

Rays and sharks

In 2024, the total capture of shark and ray species amounts to 185 tonnes (Table IX), which corresponds to 0.55% of the total catch from which 71 tonnes were discarded (38%). Sharks represents 97% of the catches whereas rays represent 3%.

Table IX – Landings and discard of rays and sharks in kg

TAXA_GROUP	SpeciesCd	ScieName	CoNameEN	IUCN_STATUS	landings	discards
RAY	PLS	Pteroplatytrygon violacea	Pelagic stingray	Least Concern	0	44
RAY	RMM	Mobula mobular	Devil fish	Endangered	0	217
RAY	RMT	Mobula tarapacana	Chilean devil ray	Endangered	0	242
RAY	STT	Dasyatidae	Stingrays, butterfly rays nei		4082	357
SHARK	ALV	Alopias vulpinus	Thresher	Vulnerable	54066	1955
SHARK	BSH	Prionace glauca	Blue shark	Near Threatened	45631	2732
SHARK	BSK	Cetorhinus maximus	Basking shark	Endangered	0	300
SHARK	FAL	Carcharhinus falciformis	Silky shark	Vulnerable	86	34326
SHARK	OCS	Carcharhinus longimanus	Oceanic whitetip shark	Critically Endangered	0	280

SHARK	POR	Lamna nasus	Porbeagle	Vulnerable	0	4617
SHARK	RHN	Rhincodon typus	Whale shark	Endangered	0	11483
SHARK	RSK	Carcharhinidae	Requiem sharks nei		257	0
SHARK	SKH	Selachii	Various sharks nei		9341	11315
SHARK	SMA	Isurus oxyrinchus	Shortfin mako	Endangered	23	224
SHARK	SPL	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead	Critically Endangered	0	535
SHARK	SPZ	Sphyrna zygaena	Smooth hammerhead	Vulnerable	0	2938

The majority of shark and ray capture refers to species that are assessed as vulnerable (53%) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Among vulnerable species, main catched species are Silky sharks with 34 tonnes, that were systematically discarded with an estimated 80% survival rate and Treshers, 56 tonnes, which were almost all landed.

Blue sharks, assessed as near threathened corresponds 26 % of all shark captures with around 48 tonnes that were predominantly landed.

Endangered and critically endangered species yield roughly to 7% of the total catches of sharks and rays (13 tonnes). Almost none of the endangered and critically endangered shark and ray species were landed.

Fishing in the French Antilles

The French Antilles—Guadeloupe and Martinique—are characterized by a wide diversity of fisheries targeting large pelagic species, as well as demersal and benthic species (including fish, crustaceans, gastropods, and echinoderms), and small pelagic species.

Approximately a decade ago, fishing activities were prohibited in several coastal areas due to pollution caused by the use of a pesticide (chlordecone) in banana plantations. The affected areas include the east coast and Fort-de-France Bay in Martinique, and the southwest coast of Guadeloupe. As a result of these restrictions, part of the fishing fleet has been redeployed toward offshore pelagic fisheries.

In 2024, the number of fishers was estimated at 970 in Martinique and 940 in Guadeloupe. In these outermost regions, the small-scale commercial fishing fleet reached full capacity during the second half of the 2000s, followed by a gradual decline.

That year, 842 vessels were registered as commercial fishing boats in Martinique and 574 in Guadeloupe (excluding Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin). Of these, 604 vessels were active in Martinique and 452 in Guadeloupe.

Most boats range between 5 to 9 meters in total length. In Martinique, vessels between 7–8 meters represent 56% of the fleet, while in Guadeloupe, vessels between 8–9 meters account for 33%. The average vessel length is similar across both territories: 7.3 m in Martinique and 7.9 m in Guadeloupe. However, the average engine power is notably higher in Guadeloupe (191 kW) than in Martinique (108 kW).

The average vessel age is 26 years in Martinique and 20 years in Guadeloupe (source: Ifremer - SIH, 2024).

Large pelagic fishing has traditionally been practiced using trolling lines near driftwood, and more recently, with anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) from small open boats equipped with outboard motors. The main species targeted are Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Atlantic Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), and Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). In 2024, these three species accounted for 93% of pelagic landings in Guadeloupe and 78% in Martinique.

Large pelagic species are primarily targeted:

- using surface-set hand-lines, deployed on free-swimming schools or around drifting objects;
- with one-hook hand-lines or vertical drifting lines, operated around anchored FADs.

Vessels alternate their activity between open-sea areas and insular shelves. In both territories, two-thirds of fishing trips occur on the shelf, and one-third target offshore species. FADs are mostly deployed within 24 nautical miles from the coast, whereas trolling vessels operate mainly beyond this range.

FAD-based fishing developed in the 1990s, and has significantly influenced the seasonality and spatial pattern of offshore fishing activity. Fishing around FADs is now practiced year-round, with part of the fleet continuing offshore operations between June and December.

A continuous catch assessment survey, implemented since 2008 by the Fisheries Information System (SIH) of Ifremer, provides robust estimates of catches and fishing effort across all fisheries in this region. SIH is a permanent, operational, and multidisciplinary national network dedicated to observing marine resources and their associated uses.

Data from this survey are aggregated with landing statistics from other French fisheries in the North Atlantic, for reporting purposes to ICCAT.

Table X - Summary of professional catches (in tons) in Guadeloupe and Martinique (2024)

Taxa Code	Taxa	Catches Guadeloupe	Catches Martinique
BUM	Blue marlin	78.1	206.0
SAI	Atlantic sailfish	6.6	5.5
SKJ	Skipjack tuna	0	6.6
SWO	Swordfish	4.2	0
YFT	Yellowfin tuna	375.8	361.9
BLF	Blackfin tuna	2.8	86.8
TUN	Tunas nei	44.0	62.4
SKH	Various sharks nei	3.2	32.9
DOL	Common dolphinfish	328.9	142.8

The data on historical catch statistics of Atlantic blue marlin (Makaira nigricans) has recently been revised to provide best estimations in the ICCAT database. A document was send to the ICCAT secretariat in February 2024 for the Blue Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting.

B. Research activities

French research on tunas, tuna-like and related species is provided by:

- The **Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea** (Ifremer), for the fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean (North temperate zone and tropical zone) for the French Antilles (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana) and the Mediterranean Sea;
- The **Research Institute for Development** (IRD), for the fisheries of the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

Ifremer research on Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea

Several research activities are carried out by Ifremer on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. They deal with two main activities. The first activity is the annual based aerial survey in the Gulf of Lion, that allows deriving abundance index. The second activity, not independent from the first one, is focused on observing migrations of Bluefin tuna in relation to its physiology. A third initiative is a series of projects focusing on the bycatch of the longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea.

- The annual aerial survey

This activity has been initiated in 2000 and provides an annual key fisheries-independent abundance index for young Bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. This is the only index of this kind and it is therefore very valuable to ICCAT for management purpose. The index has been used for the 2017 assessment of the eastern stock. Current work focus on improving the observation through the development of a system for image acquisition and analysis, and integrating the impacts of environmental effects on the vertical and horizontal movements of tuna and on the abundance index. A paper was published in 2020 that describes such an effect of the environment on the availability of tunas in the Gulf of Lions. The survey could also be used for marine mammals. As the index generated using data from this aerial survey is use in the assessments and in the HCR, updates are provided every year along with a paper in some years.

- PROMPT project

The PROMPT project has been funded by France Filière Pêche to pursue work on BFT migrations through tagging and experimental work. The tagging planned in the project aims at pursuing the work initiated by the POPSTAR and FishNchip projects and understand the effects of the physical environment on migrations. The experimental work will serve to estimate energetic requirement of BFT along its migrations. Within this project, a modeling work has been undertaken to integrate environmental indices within the french aerial abundance index.

A close working relationship has been set up between Ifremer, French purse seiners, scientists from a Maltese company (AquaBioTech Ltd, which has also been heavily involved in Bluefin Tuna research) and a Maltese fattening farm. This has created a unique and fruitful set-up to develop research and experiments on Bluefin Tuna. Ifremer has been successfully tagging fish from this fattening farm since 2017.

The project aims also at tagging Bluefin tuna caught by the main segments of the french fishery, particularly the purse seiners, that has been representing more than 50% of the Eastern BFT catch in the past 10 years, and for whuch hardly any tagging has been done. A successful tagging operation was carried out from a purse-seiner in June 2018 and 2019, showing contrasting migration patterns to those obtained from fish tagged in the Northwest Mediterranean. This project is meant to be a key contribution to applied research and ICCAT, as it will help to document and understand migrations and how they are affected by the environment (e.g. for the MSE).

The tagging work showed that the fish larger than 200cm displayed Atlantic/Mediterranean transitions, whereas smaller fish did not. An extended analysis by the same author was done exploiting the GBYP etagging database for the CKMR workshop. The analysis confirmed the findings and further

showed that the change in behaviour seemed to appear after 175cm. In 2023, 66 tunas of different sizes were tagged to investigate this spattern more specifically.

Along with the descriptive tagging approach, a mechanistic approach of migrations has been adopted by studying fish physiology. Experiments have been developed in Malta and in Spain. In Malta, 27 tunas were tagged in a cage, implanted with a heart rate sensor and an acoustic transmitter over a year. In 2023, this experiment yielded data to describe the group behavior and the evolution of some of its physiological components, in relation with sea temperature. The tagging technique for heart rate tags has been published. The data is currently under analysis. The presentation of the program can be found in the following link (https://vimeo.com/803406307).

- MARATHON

  The project MARATHON was submitted in 2024 and funded by EMFAF and France Filière Pêche. This project is an electronic tagging campaign for bluefin tuna following previous projects. It aims at deploying electronic tags that can inform on long-term migratory dynamics of BFT.

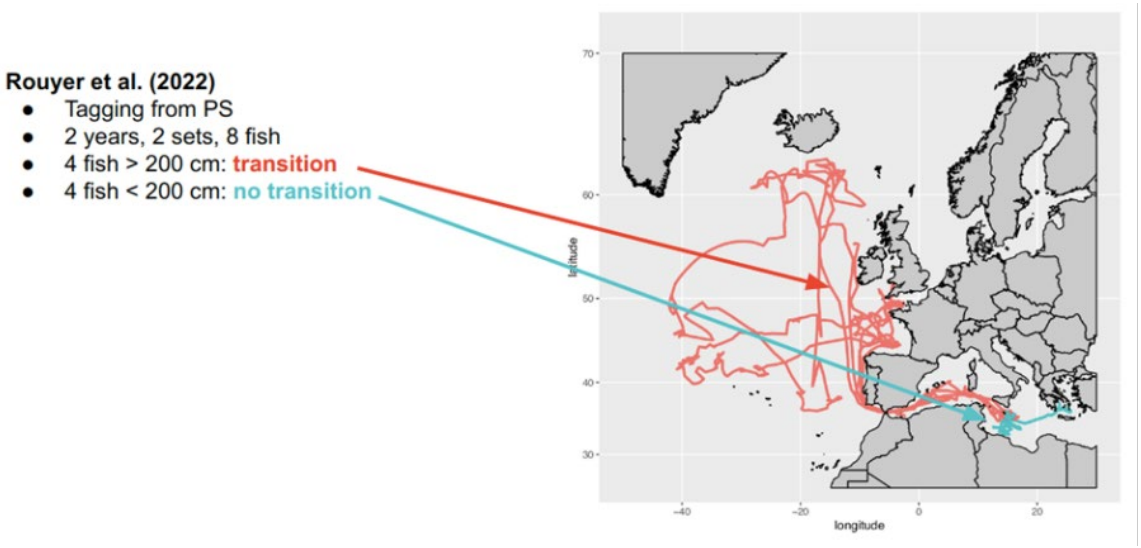


Figure VI – Migration trajectory of tagged tunas

Regarding the aerial surveys carried out over the Gulf of Lions, Ifremer is involved in two projects (SEMMACAPE and OWFSOMM), whose goal is to improve the performance of such surveys through automatic video image recognition using Artificial Intelligence approaches. Several research activities also aim at understanding the relationship between the environmental conditions and the abundance of bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Lions (paper published in 2020), which should be included into the index through work performed during the PROMPT project.

- Bycatch of the bluefin tuna longline fishery in the Gulf of Lions (RAYVIVAL, POBLEU, SMARTSNAP, PROTECTMED, LIFE EMM)

Following previous initiatives (SELPAL and REPAST), several projects have been developed around the bycatch of the longline bluefin tuna fishery in the Gulf of Lion. The RAYVIVAL project (France Filière Pêche, MSC) aims at estimating the survival rate of stingrays, which are a main bycatch of this fishery, through the deployment of survival tags. The POBLEU (EMFF) project aims at increasing the coverage of at-sea observers on this fishery. The SMARTSNAP project (EMFF) aims at developing an electronic device to automatically detect and release bycatch species caught by longliners. In 2023, following this dynamics, the SMARTSNAP2 project has been funded and will continue that work. In addition, in the projects PROTECTMED and LIFE EMM, tagging operations will be undertaken to estimate post-release survival from the french BFT LL fishery in the Mediterranean on a large

spectrum of species, including blue shark and ocean sunfish. A first tag deployed on this species remained attached for a year, showing both that Ocean sunfish can survive the catch and providing original long-term data on the ecology of this species for the first time in the Mediterranean (accepted).

Ifremer research on Mediterranean swordfish

The Gen&Rec project (Distribution and behaviour of swordfish spawners and juveniles in the vicinity of Corsica), funded by the European Union (EMFF) and by the fishing sector (France Filère Pêche - FFP), has been carried out between March 2019 and August 2023.

The first objective of the study was to increase scientific knowledge on reproductive dynamics of Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) around Corsica, including the determination of the potential spawning and nursery grounds along with the movements of spawners and juveniles over a period of several months. 558 swordfish (72–216 cm; lower jaw to fork length, LJFL) caught from June to September in 2019 and 2020 off Corsica's western and eastern coasts were sampled. We assessed swordfish reproductive activity using macroscopic gonad characteristics, trends of gonadal indexes for both sexes, and histological investigation of oocyte developmental stages. Size at first maturity (L50) was estimated at 139.2 ± 2.7 (95% CI) cm LJFL for females using histological techniques and 117 ± 1.7 cm (LJFL) for males using macroscopic criteria, corresponding to 3–4 and 2–3 year old-fish, respectively. Spawning occurred mainly from June to July, with a peak in July, characterized by a high gonadal index and histological and macroscopic ev idence of reproductive activity. X. gladius spawning period is of relatively short duration, closely linked to SST, during which the females lay successive batches of eggs at a non-evaluated frequency. Batch fecundity (BF) and relative fecundity (RF) were estimated from five gravid females (135–209 cm LJFL) with unovulated, hydrated oocytes. BF was exponentially related to fish length with a mean BF of 1.94 ± 1.33 (mean ± SD) million hy drated oocytes in females. RF ranged from 22.29 to 37.24 (29.05 ± 5.97; mean ± SD) hydrated oocytes per gram of body weight. Our results improve knowledge regarding the sexual maturity, reproductive period, and spawning areas of swordfish in Corsican waters. These data are essential for the spatiotemporal management of Mediterranean swordfish stocks. We also provide an overview of the available information related to the reproductive biology and dynamics of Mediterranean swordfish and demonstrate the ubiquitous presence of swordfish spawning grounds throughout the Mediterranean Sea (Millot at al., 2023)[2].

Secondly, the large-scale vertical movements of juveniles and spawners has been be investigated using pop-up satellite archival tags (PSAT). The activity has resumed in May 2022.

A total of 8 swordfish were tagged with pop-up satellite tags in eastern coast of Corsica. Tagging took place onboard artisanal fishing vessels based in Corsica. The tag deployment conduct by scientists of the project was opportunistic when swordfish were captured during the regular fishing operations. Swordfish were maintained alongside the vessel for tagging. Of the deployed tags, two tags failed at transmitting data. Three tags had premature releases (popping up before the expected date) with less than 30 days. Three individuals suffered post-release mortality (PRM) respectively after 5, 64 and 67 days. The last one is still recording and should pop of early August 2023. Tracks of these two juvenile swordfish were reconstructed using data recorded. These preliminary results showed the two swordfish tagged almost at the same place, moved in opposite directions. Swordfish 182731 remained in the Tyrrhenian Sea, followed the coast of Corsica and Sardinia, and seems to have stayed on the front line of the cyclonic structure present to the south-east of Sardinia, while swordfish 182742 went up along Cape Corsica to reach the Ligurian Sea and follow the Ligurian-Provençal current towards the Gulf of Lions.

Table XI – Tagging information from Gen&Rec project

TagId	Tagging date	Latitude	Longitude	Estimated weight (Kg)	Tracking days	Tag duration	comments
182742	10/09/2019	42,821	9,821	9	**64**		dead on the 13/11/2019
182744	14/09/2019	42,815	9,542	7			Malfunction, never transmitted
182740	14/09/2019	42,825	9,656	7	**3**		Premature release, although the track has few days does not look like it died
182745	16/09/2019	42,808	9,641	25	**8**		Premature release, although the track has few days does not look like it died
182731	18/09/2019	42,656	9,788	7	**67**		dead on the 24/11/2019
182738	18/09/2019	42,7	9,641	8	**7**		Premature release, although the track has few days does not look like it died
182735	15/11/2022	41,939	9,45	12	5		dead on the 20/11/2019
182737	13/02/2023	41,984	9,639	15	?		still recording

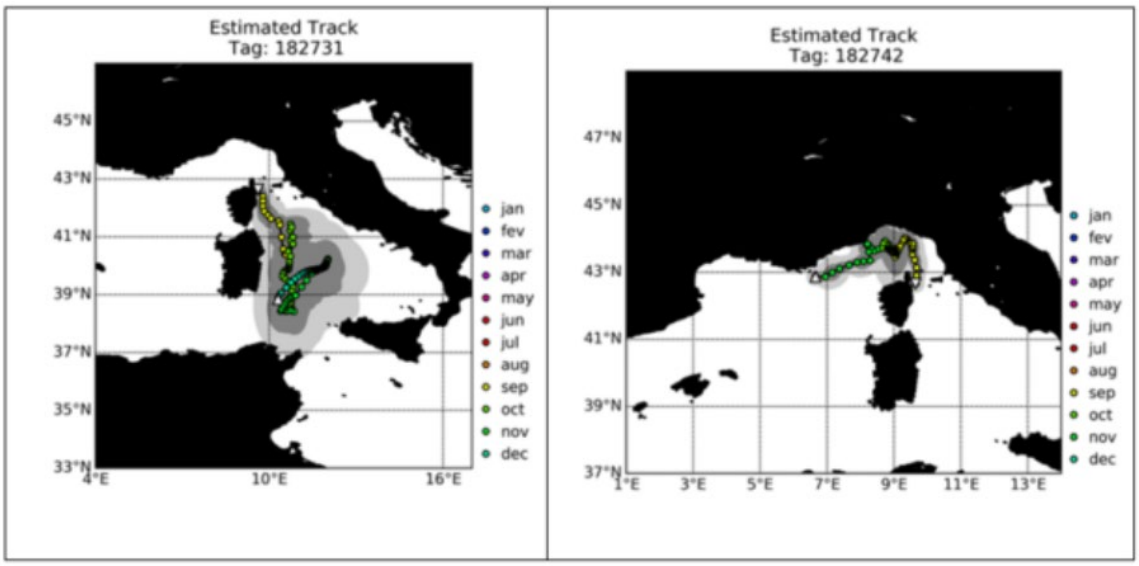


Figure VII - Satellite-derived location tracks for 2 pop-up tagged swordfish in the western Mediterranean Sea.Tagging location is indicated by a triangle point down.

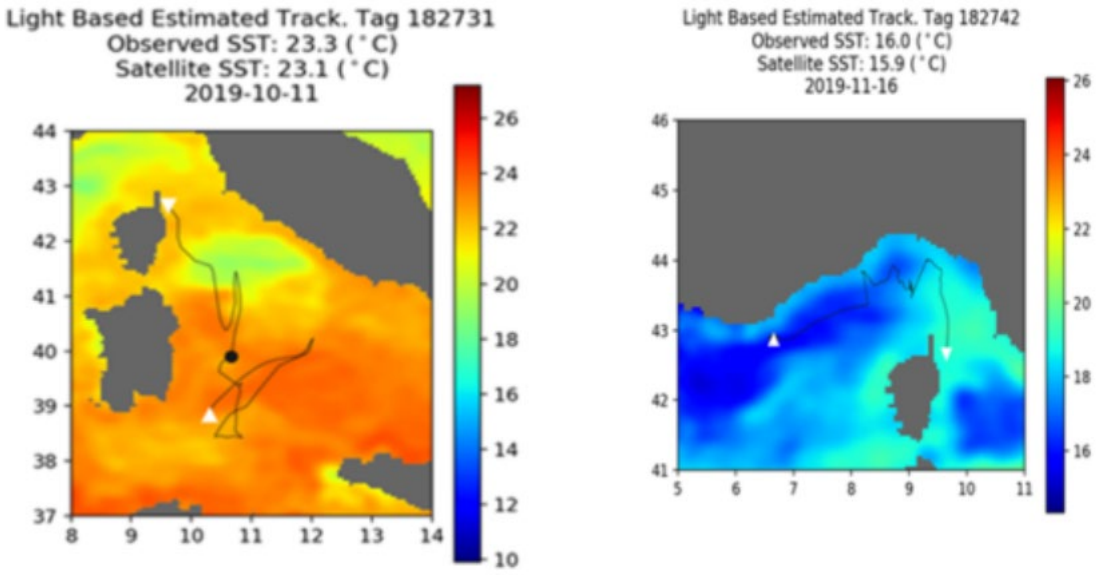


Figure VIII - Estimated tracks of swordfish 182731 and 182742 overlapped with SST maps. The triangle pointing downwards indicates the starting position, the second pointing downwards indicates the end of the recordings.

IRD Research on tropical tunas and associated pelagic species

IRD is conducting research related to different topics on tropical tuna and associated large pelagic species. In collaboration with their partners, IRD was allowed funds for two research projects in 2023.

- Improving tropical TuNa biological knowledge for eNd-usErS :

iTunnes aims to **develop the best scientific advice on tropical tuna biology** (yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tunas) **to reduce single species and ecosystem models uncertainties, for fostering the implementation of effective management measures for tropical tunas at tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (t-RFMOs). iTunnes** will build a coordinated European sampling network upon existing national sampling structures and develop an efficient sampling scheme to collect biological samples that are non-targeted by the national Data Collection Framework programs. Our strategy consists of (i) developing and applying consistent and standardized methodologies for preparing and analysing region-wide biological samples, (ii) maximizing the research opportunities from previous and current international collaborations to have access to a stock of previously collected samples to ensure the project´s objectives are met within the agreed timeline, (iii) building research capacity developing countries (e.g., Ivory Coast), and (iv) engaging and participating in ongoing fishery and ecosystems assessment processes in t-RFMOs to ensure that the new biological knowledge produced in **iTunnes**are used by the End-Users. To achieve this, **iTunnes** has built an international consortium of research institutions with longstanding experience in biological sampling, processing and modelling in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans and internationally recognised experts in the fields of four key biological axes (age/growth, reproduction, trophic ecology and population structure). **iTunnes'** ultimately goal is to produce high-quality biological data and parameters, along with products that can be applied by End-Users to ensure that tropical tunas can continue supporting fisheries and livelihoods while maintaining marine ecosystem health.

    - Partners: AZTI (coordinator), IRD, IEO-CSIC, EUROPÊCHE, DRP-Açores , DRM-Madeira, CRO and ISSF
    - Duration : 2024 – 2026
    - Funding : EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

- REDUCE (Reducing bycatch of threatened megafauna in the East Central Atlantic):

It's a project, funded by the EU Horizon Europe program for the period 2024-2027 with a total budget of approximately 9 million € and including 13 partners from five different countries (Spain, France, Portugal, Senegal, United Kingdom), aims to promote more sustainable fisheries management and reduce the bycatch of some of the most threatened marine wildlife as a result of European distant-water fisheries active in the Eastern Central Atlantic. Though bycatch and other indirect environmental impacts (e.g., abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear - ALDFG) of distant-water fisheries have historically been given relatively less attention than target catch, these impacts threaten a number of emblematic and/or threatened marine megafauna and are increasingly central to discussions and management actions for these fisheries. Integrating researchers with expertise in a variety of fishing fleets/gears (purse seine, longline, pole-and-line, trawling) and taxonomic groups (e.g., tunas, sharks, turtles, sea birds), the REDUCE project will focus on developing and testing new technologies and management strategies for better assessing, monitoring and reducing the bycatch of birds, turtles, cetaceans, sharks and rays by European distant-water fishing fleets.

The REDUCE project is co-led by Professor Jacob González-Solís and Lecturer Manel Gazo of the University of Barcelona. French Institute for Research in Development (IRD) participation in the project is led by Senior Researcher David M. Kaplan of the Marine Biodiversity, Exploitation & Conservation (MARBEC) laboratory based in southern France.

Sharks and rays in the Mediterranean Sea

Five projects on the bycatch of Bluefin tuna Longliners fishery in the Gulf of Lion are starting in 2022. Their aim is to increase knowledge of sharks - especially Blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) - and rays – especially stingray (*Pteroplatytrygon violacea*)- catches.

- The POBLEU project

The POBLEU project is a project funded by EMFF, whose aim is to increase the observer coverage for Bluefin tuna Longliners fishery in the Gulf of Lion. The data collected will be included into the Ifremer database and should be made available for further datacalls.

- The RAYVIVAL project

The RAYVIVAL project, funded by France Filière Pêche, aims at developing a tagging approach to the survival of the pelagic stingrays that form the bulk of the bycatch of the Bluefin tuna longliner fishery in the Gulf of Lion.

- The SMARTSNAP1 and SMARTSNAP2 projects

The SMARTSNAP1 and SMARTSNAP2 projects, funded by EMFF, aims at developing an electronic device deployed on longlines, which will be able to detect which species has been caught. If that proves fruitful, then bycatch could be released automatically as soon as they are detected, hence reducing drastically the bycatch. A case study will be on the longliner fishery from the Gulf of Lion and another one on the tropical longliners from La Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

- The PROTECTMED project

Funded by EMFF, this project aims at investigating several aspects related to bycatch of the french BFT LL fishery operating in the Northwest Mediterranean. It will look into increasing knowledge on the interaction between species and the fishing gear, improve selectivity and test bycatch mitigation approaches. Tagging activities are planned to estimate post-release survival for different species.

- The Life EMM project

This Life project specifically targets sensitive species in the Mediterranean. It will propose several activities, some of them directly in relation to blue shark, which is a bycatch of the french BFT LL

fishery in the NW Mediterranean. The first one will be estimating the post release survival, other activities are still being defined.

- The Blue shark ecology research programmes

In the frame of several projects aiming at better understanding the habitat preferences and movement of the species. A recent document has been produced hereafter the summary: The blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), a highly migratory and wide-ranging shark, has been classified as Critically Endangered in the Mediterranean Sea by the International Union for Conservation of Nature since 2016 due to overfishing. Surprisingly, basic information on its biology and ecology, essential for its conservation, remains unknown, and its regional stock has not been assessed. A multi-year large-scale telemetry tagging program was implemented to fill these gaps. A total of 39 blue sharks were equipped with satellite tags in three areas of the Western Mediterranean, and their movements and home ranges were examined by sex and size class. Their distributions and habitat preferences across seasons were identified using satellite-based environmental data. Tagged sharks were capable of long-range movement between distant regions, but they did not move neither towards the Eastern Mediterranean basins nor the North Atlantic. We identified the Gulf of Lions as the mating, parturition and nursery grounds. We demonstrated that sharks can use the general geostrophic current system for large movements. the results support the current stock boundary in the Mediterranean based on international conventional tagging programs and genetic studies, but the absence of connectivity between the two Mediterranean basins and the North Atlantic basin suggests that they have distinct stocks. Our findings provide critical input for developing effective conservation and management plans for this cosmopolitan species. For the first time in the Mediterranean, this study provides insights into the movement patterns of blue sharks and their habitat preferences (Poisson et al. 2024a).

- The stingray ecology research programmes

In the frame of SELPAL and RePast projects aiming at better understanding the habitat preferences and movement of the pelagic stingray (Pteroplatytrygon violacea) which is the only species of stingray (Dasyatidae) that utilizes both pelagic and demersal habitats. It is the main bycatch species in pelagic longline fisheries targeting bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Gulf of Lions. In the Mediterranean Sea, their stock structure, behavioural ecology and movements are unknown. For the first time in the Mediterranean, 17 individuals (39–60 cm disc width) were tagged with pop-up satellite archival transmitting tags using a novel method of tag attachment to investigate horizontal and vertical movements. The tags were attached for between two and 60 days. Between the months of July and October, pelagic stingray occupied a temperature range of 12.5–26.6 °C, and a depth range extending from the surface to 480 m. Monthly trends in catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) of pelagic stingray peaked in August and decreased by late autumn. Pelagic stingray may aggregate on the continental shelf during summer and move southwards in early autumn, and this movement pattern is considered in relation to the reproductive cycle and overwintering. At-vessel mortality was low, but varying evidence of delayed deaths after release was noted. It is assumed that pelagic stingrays may suffer mortality if they are discarded with trailing gear, by cutting the branch line which is not always close to the hook. Post-release mortality rates are assumed to be variable and vessel dependent, as they are typically discarded without any particular care, and often with trailing fishing gear (Poisson et al. 2024 b).

- The MOUVBLUE project

A new project funded by OFB (Office Français de la Biodiversity), The MOUVBLUE project lead by Ifremer in collaboration with CRIOBE has started in 2022. This project is designed to improve the knowledge of the ecology and distribution of the blue shark. It therefore aims to study the functionality of the western Mediterranean, in particular the waters within the perimeter of the Gulf of Lions Natural Marine Park. It will consist of 3 axes:

- axis 1: Assess the horizontal movements and habitat use by tagging juveniles with conventional, pregnant females and adult males with archival satellite transmitting tags;
- axis 2: study of behavior on a fine scale by video camera and acoustic tagging;
- axis 3: genomic analysis to deepen the knowledge of the genetic structure of the population and the genetic structure of the population and the relationships of filiations.

Sea turtles

- The HABITOM programme

The HABITOM programme financed by the MNHN and lead by Ifremer has been designed to collect data to improve the understanding of spatial ecology, and to identify habitats (feeding, wintering, migration) of the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the area under consideration, using the telemetric tool. The analysis of satellite telemetric monitoring data of marine turtles will lead to the identification and mapping of habitats and areas of interaction with anthropogenic activities. This 3 year project has been launched in 2021.

- The TELEPATH project

the TELEPATH project is a new project financed by OFB (Office Français de la Biodiversité). It aims at identifying the habitats used by loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the French Mediterranean and the areas at high risk of interaction with human activities using the telemetric tracking tool. The trajectories of loggerhead turtles equipped satellite tags within the framework of the project will be analyzed to identify and characterize i) the habitats of importance in the French Mediterranean ii) the areas at high risk of interaction with shipping activities (collisions). The results will then be used to formulate recommendations and contribute to iii) the evolution of the monitoring program (candidate collection device "telemetric monitoring of marine turtles" of SP3), as well as to the development of iv) the methods of evaluation BEE DCSMM D1 marine turtles for D1C4 and D1C5, and v) the calculation of the environmental objective indicator D01-MT-OE03-ind2 and the indicators of the DHFF.

Research activities in the outermost regions (ORs)

A six-month study was conducted to improve knowledge on dolphinfish (Coryphaena hippurus) in the French Lesser Antilles, with the following main objectives:

- To carry out a literature review and synthesis of existing publications related to biological parameters, fishing gears, landings, use of catches, and in particular, data relevant to the study area;
- To describe the fishing techniques and practices associated with dolphinfish fisheries in the region;
- To contribute to the collection of biological data, including length, sex, maturity stage, and calcified structures;
- To perform statistical analyses of collected data in order to develop abundance indices based on LPUEs and other available indicators;
- To contribute to the development of a length-based assessment model (LBI);
- To identify potential regional management approaches and prospects for sustainable exploitation.

This study contributes to the improvement of scientific knowledge and supports future efforts in regional management of the dolphinfish fishery.

ICCAT species are also addressed within the scope of the French Overseas Working Group (GTOM), which recently published an 800-page report presenting its main findings on fisheries socio-ecosystems in the French Outermost Regions (ORs).

This work falls within the field of sustainability science and relies on multidisciplinary collaboration involving ecologists, biologists, economists, and sociologists. It also incorporates projects and meetings with stakeholders.

Fisheries research in the French ORs has accelerated significantly in recent years, despite long-standing challenges such as limited data availability, more recent implementation of systematic data collection (e.g. through Ifremer's Fisheries Information System – SIH), and historically lower levels of scientific investment compared to mainland France.

Since 2022, these knowledge gaps have led to significant investment by Ifremer in human and financial resources, supported by scientific partners such as the OFB-PNMM in Mayotte, the University of Guyana, and the University of Western Brittany. The objective has been to implement short- and medium-term actions to address the identified deficiencies.

This report brings together and consolidates the accumulated knowledge and provides an overview of the progress achieved since 2022. It includes, for the first time, validated stock assessment results for 38 coastal stocks, a detailed description of the economic and social context of the fleets operating in each OR, and an analysis of their interactions with other users of fishery resources, including industrial, recreational, subsistence, and illegal fisheries.

In addition, the report examines seafood value chains, fisheries governance and regulation, as well as the ecological impacts of fishing and other drivers of population and biodiversity decline, with their implications for future management.

EU-GREECE

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Greece fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

The Greek fishing fleet targeting ICCAT-stocks is characterized by vessels with quite a variety in length, and landing sites dispersed in many different locations, depending on the seasonal and local abundance of the target species. The Greek fishing vessels exploit mainly the Aegean Sea (GSA22), the Eastern Ionian Sea (GSA20) and the Sea of Crete (GSA23), but may occasionally extend their activities to the international waters of the East Mediterranean Sea.

The E-BFT, the Med-SWO and the Med-ALB (large pelagic species) are the main target species, which are caught by means of drifting longlines and handlines. Small tuna-like species, mainly little tunny (LTA), frigate tuna (FRI) and bonito (BON), are mostly caught by purse-seiners.
The monitoring & control system is very demanding, due to the big number of landing sites, dispersed all along the extended Greek coastline, (for ref. year 2024, 102 designated ports for E-BFT and 260 designated ports for swordfish and various other species, according to the obligation of art. 22 of the EU Reg. 1967/2006).

In order to be allowed to engage in ICCAT large pelagic species fishing activities, the Greek fishing vessels must hold both, a valid operational fishing licence, and a specific fishing authorisation -for large pelagic species, issued for a given period/year. A separate (third) fishing authorization is also needed in case that the fishing vessel is intended to operate in international waters.

All the Greek fishing vessels that operate in the large pelagics fishery, holding a specific fishing authorization for BFT, SWO and ALB, are obligatorily equipped with ERS and VMS, independently of their LOA, and submit the data of fishing logbooks and landing declarations electronically.
According to the national legislation, no fishing licenses or authorizations are being issued for recreational fishing and/or sport fishing of large pelagic species.

For 2024, a total of 297 fishing vessels have been authorized to operate in ICCAT-stocks targeting fisheries, out of which, 278 vessels by means of drifting surface longlines and handlines, and 19 purse-seiners. More specifically, in 2024, 104 fishing vessels have been authorized to fish for E-BFT, 278 fishing vessels have been authorized to fish for Med-SWO and 271 fishing vessels have been authorized to fish for Med-ALB, by drifting surface longlines and handlines. All of them operate only in the Mediterranean Sea, namely in the east part of the Mediterranean.

Concerning E-BFT, in 2024, 104 Greek fishing vessels have been authorized to fish for E-BFT.
The BFT quota initially allocated to Greece for 2024 was 349,61 tons, which was later in the year adjusted to 392,49 tons, after a swap of 35 tons, made between Croatia and Greece, and a carry-over from 2023 of 7,88 tons.
The BFT fishery in Greece for 2024 has been conducted in three periods:

- From 15 February to 19 April 2024
- From 15 October to 7 November 2024
- From 9 December to 31 December 2024

Almost 87% of the adjusted Greek BFT quota was distributed to 63 fishing vessels with LOA ≥12 m, and the rest 13% was distributed to 41 small coastal fishing vessels with LOA<12 m, all fishing with drifting longlines and handlines, whereas 2 tons were kept for bycatch.

Concerning SWO, in 2024, 278 Greek fishing vessels have been authorized to fish for Med-SWO.
The SWO quota initially allocated to Greece for 2024 was 1036,02 tons, which was later in the year adjusted to 986,02 tons, after a swap of 35 tons, made between Croatia and Greece, and a swap of 15 tons, made between Cyprus and Greece.
The SWO fishery in Greece for 2024 has been conducted from 1st of April to 31st of December 2014.
Out of the 986,02 tons of the adjusted Greek SWO quota, 976,02 tons have been distributed to the 278 authorized fishing vessels, whereas 10 tons were kept for bycatch.

Concerning ALB, in 2024, 290 Greek fishing vessels (including PS) have been authorized to fish for Med-ALB. The ALB quota initially allocated to Greece for 2024 was 399,12 tons, which was later in the year adjusted to 395,62 tons, after a swap of 3,5 tons, made between Malta and Greece.
The ALB fishery in Greece for 2024 has been conducted in three periods:

- From 1 January to 28 February 2024
- From 1 April to 30 September 2024
- From 1 December to 31 December 2024

Catches

The total nominal catches of Greece in 2024, as declared in Task 2 for the main species regulated by ICCAT in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, have reached **2.218,07 tons**, out of which 17,9% represent the E-BFT catches, 22,6% represent the Med-SWO catches, 11,5% represent the Med-ALB catches and the remaining 48% represent the small-tunas caught by purse-seiners.

Concerning E-BFT, the BFT catches declared through ERS for 2024, after cross-checks and corrections, has reached 395,90 tons. This quantity has been caught by 88 of the 104 authorized vessels, while 16 authorized vessels did not declare any catches. There are also catches declared by 17 not authorized vessels, with LOA<10m, which have reached 0,62 tons and are considered as by-catch.
That is, the total BFT catches of the Greek fishing fleet for 2024 amounted to **396,52 tons**.
Therefore, for 2024 there is an overfishing of the Greek BFT adjusted quota which amounts to 4,07 tons.
The percentage of the undersized fish (30kg & <115cm) has reached 0,37% of the total catches, as per the number of fishes caught, or 0,19% of the total catches, as per the weight of the fishes caught.
The percentage of BFT catches to the total catches of the Greek fishing fleet in 2024 was 1,11%.

Concerning SWO, the total catches for 2024, has reached **500,95 tons**, quite increased in comparison to the last 2 years (2023 & 2022). Out of this quantity, 500,66 tons have been caught by 174 of the 278 authorized vessels (37,4% of the vessels), that is, 104 authorized vessels did not declare any catches. There are also catches declared by 25 not authorized vessels, with LOA<10m, which amount to 0,29 tons and are considered as by-catch.
The percentage of the undersized fish (<10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5 kg DW) has reached 3,27% of the total catches, as per the weight of the fishes caught.
The percentage of SWO catches to the total catches of the Greek fishing fleet in 2024 was 0,88%.

Concerning ALB, the total catches for 2024, has reached **255,53 tons**, quite increased in comparison to the last 4 years (2020 - 2023). The basic characteristic of the ALB fishery in Greece remains the very small number of fishing vessels declaring catches (24% for 2024). Out of the 290 authorized vessels, only 70 vessels have declared ALB catches (255,22 tons), whereas 220 authorized vessels did not declare any catches. There are also catches declared by 7 not authorized vessels, which amount to 0,31 tons and are considered as by-catch.
The percentage of ALB catches to the total catches of the Greek fishing fleet in 2024 was 0,56%.

Finally, concerning the small-tunas, their total catches, coming from the purse-seiners, have reached the amount of **1.065,07 tons**, slightly less than the previous year (1.077 tons).
Incidental catches of protected species associated with large-pelagic (ICCAT) fisheries have not been recorded.

B. Fishing effort

The total number of Greek fishing vessels that have been authorized to operate in ICCAT-stocks targeting fisheries, for 2024, has reached 297 vessels, out of which, 278 vessels fishing by means of drifting surface longlines and handlines, and 19 purse-seiners. They all operate only in the Mediterranean Sea, namely in the east part of the Mediterranean.
Due to the characteristics of the Greek extended coastline and the big number of landing sites, dispersed in many different locations, the fishing trips of the Greek vessels, usually, do not last more than 1 to 3 days.
In 2024 the number of fishing trips recorded by the above vessels, targeting ICCAT stocks, has reached the amount of about 4830 trips, while the successive fishing days were estimated to be up to 6191 in total.

The successive fishing days for the E-BFT fishery in 2024 have reached up to 1982, while the estimated ones for the albacore and swordfish fisheries are 536 and 3363, correspondingly. The effort of the purse seiners targeting small tunas was 310 days.
Concerning the carrying capacity of the Greek fishing vessels that have been authorized to operate in ICCAT-stocks targeting fisheries in 2024, the said information is not available in our system and cannot be computed from other available vessel characteristics, such as size and gross tonnage.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

*Table 1: **EU-GREECE** catches by fleet segment in 2024*

Nb of Vessels	
Purse seine	19
Long line*	278
Mid water trawl	0
Traps	0
Hand line	0
Trolling	0
Bait boat	0
Harpoons	0
Sport Fishing	n.a.
Other	0
Unclassified	n.a.
Total	**297**

*Table 2: The EU catches (in metric tons) for main species by **EU-GREECE** in 2024*

	BFT	**SWO**	**ALB**	**YFT**	**BET**	**SKJ**	**BUM**	**WHM**	**SMALL**	**BSH**	**SMA**	**Total**
Cyprus												
Spain												
France												
Greece	396,5	501	255,5	0	0	0	0	0	1065	0	0	**2218,07**
Croatia												
Ireland												
Italy												
Malta												
Portugal												
Total												

B. Research activities

Fisheries and biological data for large pelagic species in Greece are collected in accordance to the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF). Biological analysis includes reproduction and growth studies. Fisheries data in 2024 have been collected, in compliance with the current legislative provisions, by means of the eBCD and ERS systems and have covered all the large pelagic species fisheries.

Apart from detailed fisheries data (i.e. catch composition by vessel on a daily basis), information on the size composition of E-BFT and Med-SWO catches has been obtained from relevant measurements, taken both from landings and on-board commercial vessels.

Scientific observations on-board vessels targeting large pelagic species are foreseen in the frame of the EU DCF. Throughout the programme, scientific observers monitored fishing operations of surface drifting longliners, with special emphasis given to those targeting Med-SWO. In 2024, the on-board scientific observers monitored 94 fishing trips (257 fishing days/operations in total), recording the captures of both, target and by-catch species. Very few incidental catches of sea turtles and protected shark species have been recorded.

Research activities included analysis of biological data for updating swordfish stock parameters. Specifically, biological samples (fin spines) were collected for subsequent analysis, aiming to define age-length keys and update the growth parameters of the species. Regarding scientific work in international organizations, scientists from the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), have been involved in various research activities (sample collection, workshops, etc), accomplished in the framework of the ICCAT Swordfish Year Programme. Besides, they have participated in various ICCAT regular working groups (species groups and intersessional meetings) and have contributed to SCRS documents and report preparation. Additionally, a Greek scientist (Dr. G. TSERPES) is coordinating the Mediterranean Swordfish Group.

The Greek research on tunas, tuna-like and related species is provided by the Hellenic Centre of Marine Research (HCMR).

List of relevant research activities and projects:

- ICCAT Domestic Observer Program for the Greek Large Pelagic Fisheries (special emphasis on the swordfish fisheries is given).
- ICCAT Swordfish Year Programme.

EU-IRELAND

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Ireland fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

The Irish fishery for tunas and tuna like fishes is restricted to a commercial fishery for northern albacore tuna, north of latitude 5ºN and a dedicated catch, conventional tag and release (CHART fishery) programme for the purposes of collecting data on ABFT in Irish coastal waters.

Albacore tuna

In 2024, the Irish albacore fleet targeted its quota through two distinct fisheries: Group A, comprising 26 vessels authorised to use pair trawling (and optionally trolling and surface long-lining), and Group B, consisting of 8 vessels restricted to trolling and surface long-lining only, with no pair trawling permitted; each vessel was assigned to only one group for the duration of the fishery. Previously (pre-2024) the Irish albacore tuna fishery was targeted exclusively using mid-water pair trawls. A total catch of 4002.62 t was taken from a total quota of 3967.52 t for a total of 109 trips (1109 days at sea). In 2024, Irish boats stayed offshore of France and Spain, in the Bay of Biscay, for the full season and landed almost of their catch in those countries. Size data was also collected from 1 port sample in France and for 1 port sample on a return trip landed into Ireland. A total of 61.33 t of broadbill swordfish and 16.79 t of Bluefin tuna were reported as bycatch in the Irish northern albacore fishery. Broadbill swordfish bycatch in the albacore fishery represents 1.53 % of the total catch of this fishery. Bluefin tuna bycatch in the albacore fishery represents 0.41% of the total catch of this fishery in 2024.

Bluefin tuna

n.b. Ireland has no commercial allocated quota for bluefin tuna.

In 2018, ICCAT permitted countries in the North-East Atlantic without a Bluefin quota to authorise a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate a country-specific quota. In 2019, Ireland initiated a conventional tagging programme to implement, co-ordinate and oversee "catch, tag and release" of ABFT by authorised angling charter skippers. In 2024, following an application process, 22 experienced charter skippers were authorised under a State issued Section 14 authorisation to operate a catch, tag and release bluefin charter fishery. from the North West, West and South.

Since 2016, a Bluefin satellite tuna tagging program is ongoing in collaboration with ICCAT and Stanford University, USA (details below) in the north-western waters of Ireland.

Catches

Northern Albacore Catches.

A total of 4080.75 tonnes of Albacore, bluefin tuna and Broadbill Swordfish were caught and landed by the Irish fleet in 2024. The catch periods include Q1 (February and March), Q3 (July, August and September) into Q4 (October and November). This breakdown of this total catch is as follows:

All 4002.62 tonnes of albacore were caught in the European EEZ, from sampling area AL31, from ALB-N stock management unit (**Table 2**).

All 61.33 tonnes of broadbill swordfish were caught in the European EEZ, from sampling region BIL94B, SWO-N stock management unit.

All 16.79 tonnes of bluefin tuna were caught in the European EEZ, from sampling area BF54, BFT-E stock management unit.

A total of 34 vessels were licensed for the Irish Albacore fishery in 2024. 26 vessels were authorised for mid-water pair trawling with optional longlining and a further 8 vessels were authorised exclusively for longlining (**Table 1**).

Further information on the catch & effort can be found in Annex I.

M:BYC01: In 2024, Ireland's Albacore fleet targeted Northern Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) tuna using both mid-water pair trawls and longlines. This is the first time the Irish Albacore fleet is targeting Northern Albacore through Trolling and Surface Long-lining, however no catches were reported for the long lining vessels in 2024. There have been no reports of interactions with sea turtles during the 2024 season.

M:BYC03: Ireland collects and reports data on by-catch and discards through the existing observer programs (joint venture between Marine Institute and Fisheries Improvement Programme) as well and logbook programs. Ireland's bycatch from the albacore pair trawling fishery; *Thunnus thynnus* (Bluefin tuna) and *Xiphias gladius* (Swordfish) was reported in this year's annual data reports (ST02 and ST03) to ICCAT. No other species have been reported as bycatch in this fishery in 2024.

Mitigation measures for the Irish pair trawling fleet targeting albacore include exclusively fishing at night, a practice shown to significantly reduce interactions with cetaceans, marine mammals, and seabirds. Since this fishery does not target bait balls, which only form during daylight hours, the bycatch of cetaceans, sea turtles, and seabirds was reported as zero for both 2023 and 2024. The fleet has unanimously adopted night fishing as their primary bycatch avoidance measure since 2012, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to minimizing bycatch.

M:BYC04: Irish albacore fleets are exclusively pair trawling and longlining for Northern Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). The Irish fleet does not purse seine for Northern Albacore. This does not apply to the Irish Northern Albacore pair trawling fleet. There has been no report of cetacean encirclement by the fleet in 2024.

Bluefin tuna CHART programme Catches.

22 vessels were licenced as sports fishing day charters for the bluefin tuna CHART fishery for sampling area BF54 (Table 1). A total of 25 vessels can receive the licence to take part in the catch, tag and release fishery. Information on the effort and catches are detailed in Annex III.

316 bluefin tuna were caught in the programme in 2024 by 22 vessels over 234 trips. 294 bluefin tuna were measured and tagged with ICCAT serial numbered floy tags to be released in area BF54, part of the BFT-E stock management unit.

B. Fishing effort

NORTHERN ALBACORE

34 vessels were licensed for 2024, 23 vessels took part in the Northern Albacore fishery. A total of 109 trips were undertaken which equated to 1109 days at sea for this fleet targeting Northern Albacore in area AL31.

BLUEFIN TUNA

22 sport fishing vessels were licensed in 2024 for the bluefin tuna CHART programme operated by Ireland in sampling area BF54. A total of 234 trips were undertaken by the fleet in 2024. As these are day vessels, the 234 trips represent 234 days of fishing effort.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. FISHERY STATISTICS

Table 1: EU catches by fleet segment

Nb of Vessels	
Purse seine	n/a
Long line*	n/a
Mid water trawl	26
Traps	n/a
Hand line	n/a
Trolling	8
Bait boat	n/a
Harpoons	n/a
Sport Fishing	22
Other	n/a
Unclassified	
Total	**56**

Table 2: The EU catches (in metric tons) for main species by EU Member States in 2024

	BFT	SWO	ALB	YFT	BET	SKJ	BUM	WHM	SMALL	BSH	SMA	Total
Cyprus												
Spain												
France												
Greece												
Croatia												
Ireland	16.79	61.33	4002.62									**4080.74**
Italy												
Malta												

Portugal												
Total												

Figure 3. Time series (2012-2022) of EU catches (t) of Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna (in tons) in the ICCAT Convention Area the period.

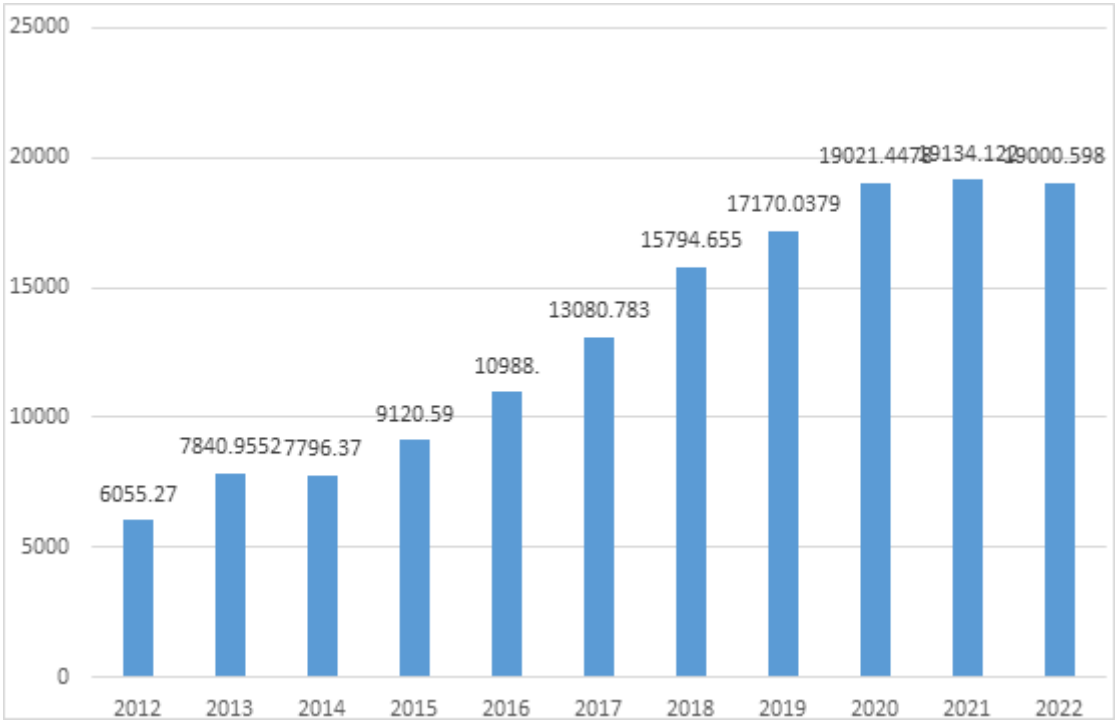
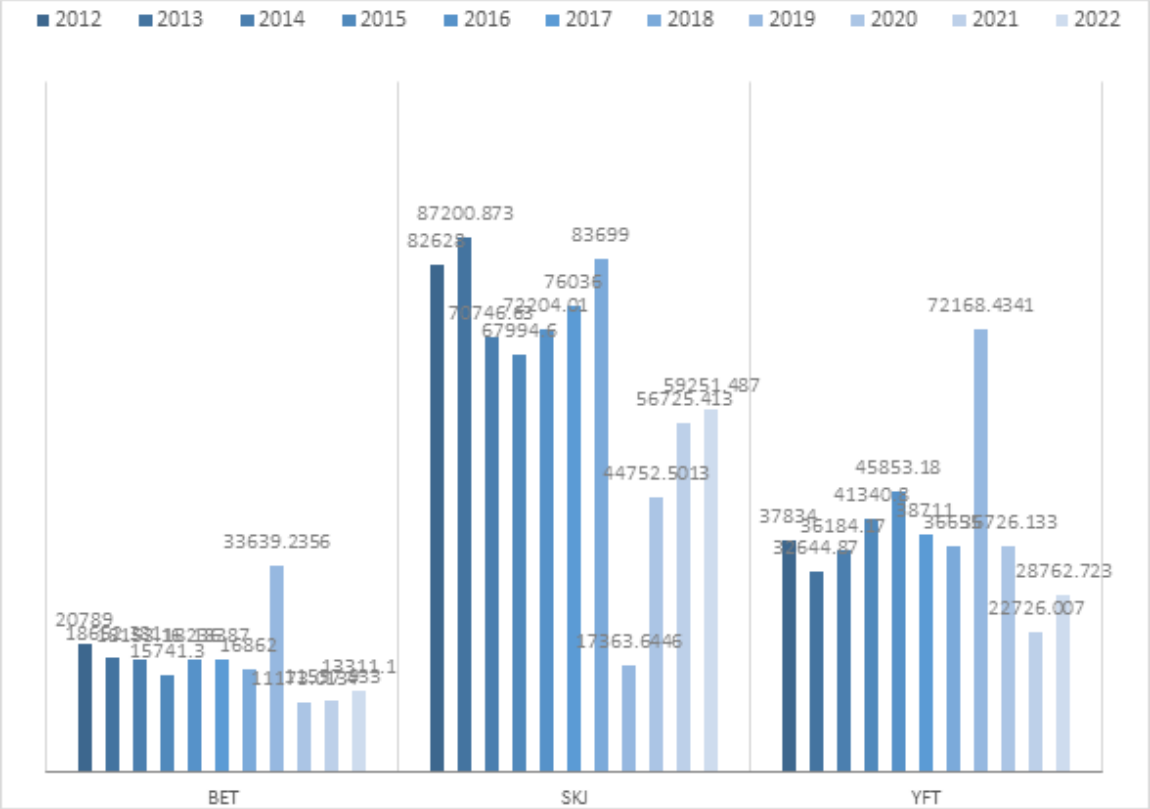


Figure 6. Time series (2012-2022) of EU Catches (t) of tropical tunas in the ICCAT Convention Area in ICCAT.



B. Research activities

Ireland's research on tunas, tuna-like and related species is provided by:

- Bluefin tuna CHART scientific fishery, an interagency programme lead by both the Marine Institute and Inland Fisheries Ireland with support from Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

- Bluefin tuna Telemetry programme lead by the Marine Institute

Bluefin tuna CHART (Catch, Tag and Release) fishery (interagency programme)

In 2024, following an application process, 22 experienced charter skippers were authorised under a State issued Section 14 authorisation to operate a catch, tag and release bluefin charter fishery. 18 skippers returned from previous Tuna CHART years; four new skippers were approved for the programme along the north-west and south coast, respectively. Anglers were permitted to participate in the fishery as paying customers onboard vessels of authorised skippers. Authorised skippers were based in ports along the Northwest, West and South coasts.

A mandatory training course was developed by state agencies for participating skippers and took place online in mid-June 2024 via video. New skippers were required to pass a short test on each module to pass the course and a live interactive on-line session with contributions from all collaborative partners in the programme was held subsequently to answer any queries which individual skippers may have had. The training course encompassed an introduction to ICCAT and bluefin tagging research, bluefin welfare, required angling gear and best practice, bluefin handling and tagging techniques, legislation, and data collection. This course was expanded in 2021 to include information on the regulations regarding angling near cetaceans.

Section 14 authorisations were limited to the open season only (1st July - 12th November 2024). A total of 234 bluefin targeted fishing trips were undertaken in 2024 and 294 Atlantic bluefin tuna were tagged during the open season. An additional 10 tuna were hooked but lost before being brought

alongside, and a further twelve were lost after being brought alongside and measured but were not tagged.. No other species were caught as bycatch.
For the first time since 2020, no recaptures were reported of Atlantic bluefin tuna tagged and released under Tuna CHART. This marks a notable change from 2023, when two recaptures were recorded: one from Donegal Bay and one from the Kerry Coast. All fish tagged during the 2024 season remain at liberty, and any potential recaptures will be documented in future reporting cycles should they arise.

Poor and unpredictable weather conditions were again a key factor influencing fishing effort across much of the 2024 season. Particularly in the South, adverse weather in October—coinciding with Storm Ashley—led to multiple cancellations of scheduled tuna angling trips as reported by skippers. In the Northwest, fishing effort was high overall, but storm events, including Storm Lilian in August, led to noticeable interruptions in activity, particularly during what is typically a peak fishing period.

As in previous years, skippers were supplied with standardised tagging kits including measuring boards, lip hooks and ICCAT-provided double-barbed tags. These tags have been used since 2020 and are considered more robust than the spaghetti tags trialled in the initial 2019 season. All vessels participating in the programme were required to carry a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) onboard for the duration of the open season. This system, provided by CLS, transmitted vessel positions in real time to both IFI and SFPA, who monitored vessel activity throughout the season.

Data collection and reporting followed the established protocol. Skippers digitally submitted records of each angling trip using the Survey123 platform, either via ruggedised tablets or their own mobile devices. This was complemented by mandatory paper records collected at season's end. The reporting format aligns with ICCAT's conventional tagging data standards, allowing for straightforward collation and validation by IFI and MI. Data were quality-assured through routine feedback to skippers during the season and cross-referenced against paper records post-season.

Observer activity increased in 2024, with IFI staff completing seven onboard observer days—up from four in 2023. These were primarily focused on newer skippers or those without previous observer coverage. Observers verified tagging procedures and fish handling practices in the field, ensuring compliance with programme protocols and contributing to the high standard of data collected throughout the season.

Bluefin tuna telemetry research programme (Marine Institute)

Overview of progress on the collaborative Bluefin tuna research project in Ireland 2024.

Since October 2016, the Marine Institute in collaboration with ICCAT, Stanford University and Irish universities have been involved in a satellite/accelerometer tagging programme off County Donegal's coast, initially, but extending the tagging programme to the South coast in 2020. This programme aims at better understanding the spatial structure of the ABFT stock to provide direct inputs to ICCAT assessments to improve management.

In 2024, the Marine Institute submitted an Expression of Interest to participate in GBYP Phase 14 e-tagging programme, for Area B of the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP). This EoI was positively evaluated by the GBYP Steering Committee. The Marine Institute was awarded 4 satellite tags and 8 acoustic tags under the MoU. An additional 5 satellite tags and 2 acoustic tags were provided by the Marine Institute. Satellite tagging of Atlantic bluefin tuna was successfully carried out in Donegal Bay (North-West Ireland) over two separate days, the 3rd and 8th of October 2024. Eight individuals were tagged and released with ICCAT-GBYP owned Wildlife Computers pop-off satellite archival tags (PSATs), Innovasea V16 acoustic tags, and ICCAT numbered floy tags. One ICCAT V16 acoustic tag was not deployed due to limited fish availability later in the season.

In addition, between the 16th of September and the 4th of November 2024, the Marine Institute tagged a further 5 Atlantic bluefin tuna in Donegal Bay (N.W. Ireland) using Wildlife Computers or Microwave Telemetry PSATs, with three of these individuals also receiving Innovasea V16 acoustic tags. All five individuals were also tagged with ICCAT-issued and registered floy tags.

All tagging was carried out under a project licence from the Irish Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) with licensed and trained personnel (HPRA project AE19121/P007). A Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) was obtained from ICCAT who also supplied ICCAT coded floy tags for identification

of fish if recaptured at a later stage. The Irish Sea Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA) were notified of the programme and the identities of the participating vessels, skippers, and scientific personnel. A derogation for scientific research fishing for a specified area and period was obtained. An Invitation to Tender for the supply of a commercial vessel to tag bluefin tuna off the Irish coast was issued in spring 2024.

ICCAT's Electronic Tagging Record Table (TG03-EleTReRc_Ireland_BFT_2024) containing all the electronic tagging information for the 2024 tagging campaign will be submitted to DG MARE and ICCAT.

Since 2016, 154 fish have been tagged with electronic satellite tags, 10 with accelerometer tags, and 9 with acoustic tags. More fish are expected to be tagged in subsequent years under similar MoUs with ICCAT. Migration data from these tags will allow assessment of potential spatial stock delineation and segregation.

EU-ITALY

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Italy fleet and fishing activities

The Italian fishing fleet, involved in ICCAT fisheries, is characterized by a large number of active vessels operating in 7 GSAs (9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 19) within the basin of the Mediterranean Sea. The fleet is mainly targeting n° 3 stocks within the ICCAT framework such as: Mediterranean Bluefin tuna (A-BFT), Mediterranean Swordfish (Med-SWO) and Mediterranean Albacore (Med-ALB). Some small tunas catches (i.a. LTA) can occur during the fishing season.
The Italian fleet uses a large variety of métiers: purse seine, longline, traps, harpoons, trawls, nets, and sport or recreational fishing gears.
The articulated and complex fleet system, combined with a wide fishing area, represents a tangible challenge for meeting monitoring and control reporting obligations. Nevertheless, Italy fulfills these obligations in full compliance with Task 1 and Task 2 requirements in data submissions.
In 2024, the Italian fleet authorized to operate in ICCAT fisheries, consisted of:

- as regards A-BFT as follow: 21 purse seiners, 40 long liners, 156 small scale coastal vessels, 15 feluche (HAR) and 2 traps;
- as regards Med-SWO as follow: 697 authorized fishing vessels manly operating with drifting longline (targeting swordfish, bluefin tuna and mediterranean albacore).
- as regards Med-ALB as follow: 431 authorized fishing vessels manly operating with longline targeting mediterranean albacore. Some catches have been reported from purse seiners and other minor fishing gears.

In line with the previous years, the available quota has been allocated by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.
Implementing bluefin tuna sport fishing in Italy involves adhering to specific regulations and seasonal guidelines. The MASAF by means a ministerial decree assigns a fishing quota (22,665 Kg in 2024). The sport fishing season for bluefin tuna in Italy opens on 16 June and usually ends on 14 October, but if the quota ends early the sport fishing is possible do it only practices of catch and release until the end of year (31 December 2024). Sport fishing for bluefin tuna requires a specific license. These permits are issued by the relevant authority.
As regards BFT Farms, no Italian facility has been operative during 2024.

Bluefin tuna

During the BFT fishing season 2024, in accordance with the quota allocation, the most relevant quantity of Bluefin tuna was caught by purse seiners. Official catches of bluefin tuna, gathered by the Italian Administration, are reported in the following table:

BFT: CATCHES PER GEAR (TONS)		
YEAR: 2024		
GEAR	TONS	%
PS	3.674,362	71,50
LL	1.106,318	21,50
TRAP	318,358	6,20
SPOR	25,828	0,50
UNCL	16,661	0,30
TOTAL	**5.141,527**	**100,00**

Swordfish and other tuna like species

Considering also other fishing activities carried out by different sectors, the total catch of Swordfish (SWO) was 3.081,062 tons and Albacore (ALB) was almost 1.296,186 tons.:

Med-SWO: CATCHES PER GEAR (TONS)		
YEAR: 2024		
GEAR	TONS	%
LL	3066.225	99.5
HARP	14.837	0.5
TOTAL	**3.081.062**	**100,00**

The Med-ALB quota allocated to Italy, according to the EU Reg. 515/2022, was 1.171,29 tons. An additional quota was transferred from Cyprus.

Med-ALB: CATCHES PER GEAR (TONS)		
YEAR: 2024		
GEAR	TONS	%
LL	1.291,011	99,60
PS	3,649	0,28
OTH	1,526	0,12
TOTAL	**1.296,186**	**100,00**

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

The National Fisheries Data Collection Program provides for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data necessary for fisheries management purposes, in compliance with EU Regulation.
The current EU legal framework for data collection and management, allows the Italian scientists to collect and thereafter to communicate all the requested data (i.e. landing data, length structure of the large pelagic populations, age, sex and maturity) to the competent office of the Italian Administration.
On the basis of the above framework, Italy settled up a National Program within the EMFAF program 2021/2027 - Specific Objectives 1.4 – *Data Collection Actvities* for the collection of biological and economic data also related to large pelagic species. The Italian Annual National Program includes also researches that have been financed during previous years by the European Commission.
Main parameters collected under the "umbrella" of the aforementioned Program are: fishing effort, all biological data for the target species, the impact of by-catch for species of national interest of competence ICCAT (bluefin tuna, swordfish, albacore and bonito).
The dataset has been submitted for Task 1 and Task2 as requested by ICCAT.
Furthermore, during 2024, National Observer Program was carried out in line with the current EU and ICCAT provisions, setting not only its specific scope but also scientific objectives. This program has been implemented by Oceanis srl (Ercolano/Italy) within the framework of the DCF in terms of technical-administrative coordination and allocation of funds.
The company has been involved as part of the Working Group led by CNR-IRBIM, and also in supporting the National Wide Scientific Research Program on the most relevant Pelagic Species (BFT-SWO-ALB) by collecting scientific information (biological samples and biometric data).
Data has been duly reported and submitted in the form ST09-Observer Program.
Italy coordinates its national plan with that of the other Member States within the following Regional Coordination Groups: RCG MED & BS (coordination group for the Mediterranean and Black Sea), RCG LP (coordination group for large pelagics), RCG LDF (coordination group for fisheries in areas other than the Mediterranean).

Meeting and research activities:

- RCG-LP Meeting – Regional Coordination Group on Large Pelagic species" Olhao, Portugal 24-26 June 2024

- “RCG-LDF Meeting – Regional Coordination Group –on Long Distance Fisheries” Cadiz, Spain 02-05 July 2024

EU-LITHUANIA

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Lithuania fleet and fishing activities

The Lithuanian fleet engaged in the fisheries of ICCAT species only by catch. In the CECAF area the target species are small pelagic or various species in the Baltic Sea.

In 2024 Lithuania had a total of 46 vessels operated under ICCAT-regulated fisheries activities, consisted of:

- 2 pelagic freezer trawlers operated mainly off the coast of Mauritania, and
- 44 small-scale vessels (under 12 meters in length) operated in the coastal area of the Baltic Sea

Pelagic freezer trawlers used pelagic trawl gear, mainly targeting small pelagic species, with occasional tuna-like by-catch.

Small-scale fishing vessels in the Baltic Sea operated with passive gears: gillnets and traps, primarily targeting European smelt, freshwater bream, turbot, gobies and herring. The catch of garfish was by-catch and negligible in this fleet segment in 2024.

The catch composition of the Pelagic freezer trawlers was dominated by small pelagic species (Atlantic mackerel, horse mackerel), with minor by-catch of tuna-like species observed in the Mauritanian fishing grounds.

The small-scale fisheries are composed mostly of a variety of freshwater species, European smelt and gobies. The catches from small-scale fisheries account for less than one percent of all Lithuanian fleet catches in ICCAT areas.

Fishing fleet and targeted species

2 pelagic freezer trawlers fishing activities were conducted mainly off the coast of Mauritania within the ICCAT convention area, under applicable ICCAT rules, mainly targeting small pelagic species (Atlantic mackerel, horse mackerel). Fishing mainly carried out in FAO areas 34.3.1.1 and 34.1.3.2, vessels used pelagic trawl gear.

The main ports of landing were Nouadhibou and Nouakchott.

In CECAF areas, discards were neither observed by the observer nor reported in the logbooks. No sampling was conducted.

44 small-scale fishing vessels operated throughout the year targeting local pelagic and fresh water species resources, within national quotas where applicable and subject to ICCAT by-catch monitoring requirements.

Catches

Nominal catches are reported to ICCAT through the statistical correspondent in accordance with Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species statistics requirements. Preliminary results indicate compliance with established quota limits, with by-catch amounts in Mauritanian waters, as indicated in table ST02-T1NC:

- Auxis rochei (BLT): 1,068,980 kg
- Sarda sarda (BON): 1,652,260 kg

By-catch rates are generally low in both segments of the fleet. Measures including selective gear configurations, escape panels, and sorting grids are applied to reduce unwanted by-catch and release non-target species alive whenever possible.

Garfish (GAR), which is relevant to ICCAT concerns, was caught by-catch in the coastal area of the Baltic Sea. The catches of garfish are 10 503 kg. No discard reports were registered, and no sampling was conducted, as the species is not included in the Lithuanian data collection work plan.

Catch and effort data are collected in line with EU data collection regulations and submitted annually to the ICCAT Secretariat. Size-frequency data collection for BLT, BON, and GAR is neither required by EU regulations nor undertaken by Lithuania, given the low catch volumes and high sampling costs.

B. Fishing effort

The two pelagic trawlers reported the following fishing effort:
- *IEVA SIMONAITYTĖ*: 194 fishing days
- *SIMONAS DAUKANTAS*: 215 fishing days

The number of hauls and total landings will be finalized upon data validation.

A total of 19 fishing trips were performed by the two pelagic trawlers.

In total, the small-scale fishing vessels conducted 4,231 fishing days in 2024. These vessels carried out a total of 1,999 fishing trips during the year.

No major changes were observed in the overall fishing patterns of the Lithuanian ICCAT fleet compared to previous years.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

Lithuania implements data collection under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) to monitor tuna and tuna-like species, ensuring adequate coverage of catch, effort, and size data. Data sources include logbooks, landing declarations and port inspections.

To monitor the catches of large-scale vessel fisheries, a system is implemented where all catch data are cross-checked. Several data sources, such as electronic logbooks, sales notes, and copies of fishing logbooks, are completed in accordance with provisions set out in the explanations of Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreements. The coastal state, which issued the vessels with fishing licenses, appoints scientific observers on EU vessels. However, Lithuania has not obtained any observer reports from these coastal States.

There is regional coordination between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Poland for the collection of representative biological data from small pelagic fisheries (Sardina pilchardus, Sardinella aurita, Sardinella maderensis, Scomber colias and Trachurus spp.) by freezer trawlers operating in the CECAF area. This coordination is based on a signed multilateral agreement. According to the agreement, sampling shall be conducted and reported by Poland. However, no sampling was performed in 2024 due to the lack of space for observers on board the vessels, as procedures applied by Mauritania affected the availability of onboard accommodations.

The small-scale vessels complete national fishing logbooks, where detailed information on fishing effort and declared catches is recorded. For small-scale fisheries in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea, sampling was conducted only for species not related to tuna or tuna-like species. The sampled species list was established based on Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167.

No significant issues in data collection systems were reported for 2024, and the gradual implementation of electronic reporting continues to improve data quality and timeliness.

B. Research activities

Lithuania does not run independent tuna research programs but contributes data to ICCAT stock assessments through EU-coordinated programs.

There was no national observer program specific to tuna fisheries in 2024, but port inspections and observers deployed under Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreements contributed to the verification of data on retained and discarded catches.

All required data were submitted to ICCAT in accordance with Commission requirements and are available for review by the SCRS.

EU-MALTA

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Malta fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fleet Segment

In 2024, the overall Maltese Bluefin Tuna allocated quota, including 4.63 T unutilised quota carried over from 2023 amounted to 438.06 T. This amount was allocated to the fishing fleet segments.

Catches of ICCAT Species by the Maltese Fishing Fleet

EU Malta targets three main ICCAT species, these being:

- Eastern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)
- Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)
- Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)

Till present, the EU Maltese fleet that are operating in the ICCAT Convention Area also catch other groups of ICCAT tuna like species managed by ICCAT in particular:

- Atlantic Bonito (*Sarda sarda*)
- Bullet Tuna (*Auxis rochei*)
- Little Tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*)
- Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

Malta uses longline fishing techniques to exploit Mediterranean swordfish stocks. Maltese swordfish catches in 2023 increased by approximately 6.03% compared to 2023. To better understand whether this decline is related to changes in the total biomass of the Mediterranean swordfish population, further analysis using standardised Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) values is necessary.

The Maltese fleet exploits the Mediterranean Albacore stock to a lesser extent using longlines compared to other EU member states. Maltese catches of Mediterranean albacore increased only by 44.56% in 2024 when compared to 2023.

Small Tunas
EU Malta catches of the most significant species of small tunas amounted to 130.44 tonnes in 2023. These species are Dolphinfish (DOL), Atlantic Bonito (BON), Bullet Tuna (BLT) and Little Tunny (LTA). These small tuna species are exploited by artisanal fleets.

Sharks
The most relevant EU Malta catches of sharks in the ICCAT Convention Area correspond to Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) by-catches from SWO and BFT longliners operating in the Mediterranean.
Compared to the EU Malta's catches for this species in 2023, the figures represent a decrease of 64.17% for Blue Shark.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fleet Segment – Catches

The 2024 bluefin tuna nominal catch values submitted to ICCAT for Bluefin Tuna are being summarised within Table 1 below:

Table 1. EU Malta Catch (T) distributions for Bluefin Tuna in the ICCAT Convention area in 2024.

Catch data	Quantities Caught (Tons)	Catch Type

Catch Area	*Gear*	*Landings (Dead - Round Weight)*	*Caged BFT (Alive - Estimated Round Weight)*	*Target / bycatch*
Mediterranean	LL-surf	133.201		Target
Mediterranean	LL-surf	17.541		Bycatch
Mediterranean	PS		273.928	Target
Mediterranean	RR	3.454		Target

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fleet Segment – Fishing Effort

The monthly catch and effort information from vessels targeting directly bluefin tuna by surface longlines, are being presented within Table 2 below. Bycatches from these bluefin tuna fishing operations are also being included.

Table 2. EU Malta Catch (T) and effort distributions for fishing operations directly targeting Bluefin Tuna through surface longlines in 2024.

Effort Data					**Quantities Caught – Round Weight (Tons)**						
Gear	**Month**	**Days at Sea**	**No. of Hooks**	**No. of Fishing trips**	**BFT**	**ALB**	**SWO**	**BSH**	**DOL**	**LTA**	**MSP**
LLBFT	5	286.2	229,940	269	82.830	0.045	9.823	0.156	1.069		0.204
	6	190.1	151,837	178	47.933	0.089	10.221	0.072	0.803	0.076	0.066
	7	15.8	8,400	8	1.518						
	9	2	1,400	2	0.289						
Total		494.1	391,577	457	132.572	0.134	20.044	0.228	1.872	0.076	0.270

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

Table 3. EU Malta Catches (T) for the major species in the ICCAT Convention area in 2024

	BFT	**SWO**	**ALB-MED**
EU Malta	428.126	381.39	44.56

The composition of these 2024 catches compared to the previous year are also being presented in Table 4 below. As highlighted in this table, no significant changes were reported between years 2023 and 2024 in blue fin tuna catches made by EU-Malta and catches followed the slight increase in the allocated 2024 BFT TAC.

Table 4. EU Malta Catches (T) for the major species in the ICCAT Convention area in 2023-2024

Species	2023	2024	% Difference
ALB-MED	30.45	44.56	+ 46.32
BFT	427.564	428.126	+ 0.13
SWO	359.69	381.39	+ 6.03

*% = Difference (2024-2023)/2023 x 100

Table 4.1 EU Malta Catches (t) for small tunas in the ICCAT Convention area in 2023-2024

Species	2023	2024	% Change
BLT	2.198	2.226	+1.27
BON	0.113	0.301	+166.37
DOL	274.67	126.12	-54.07
LTA	5.01	1.79	-64.27
BSH	1.00	1.31	+31.00

B. Research activities

Bluefin Tuna Data Collection Systems

a) Introduction

Malta, as a Member State of the European Union (EU) and a Contracting Party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), implements a robust statistical data collection and reporting system for Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) fisheries. These systems are aligned with the requirements set out in ICCAT Recommendations and with EU regulations.

b) Data Collection Systems

Malta employs a comprehensive fisheries monitoring framework coordinated by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), covering catch, effort, and biological data (size/weight). The data collection systems cover fishing operations within Malta's Fisheries Management Zone as well as those on the high seas under Maltese flag authorization, with a particular focus on long line vessels targeting Bluefin Tuna and to the two authorised Maltese purse seine vessels.

c) Catch and Effort Data

Data on Bluefin Tuna catches and effort are retrieved from Logbooks, Logbook Electronic Reporting as well as landing inspections. Fisheries monitoring and collection of data on Bluefin Tuna catches also include deployment of Regional observers on board large vessels (purse seiners) as well as National Observer coverage on a minimum of 20% of authorized BFT long line vessels (over 15m LOA). The Fisheries Control Unit of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) has a complement of staff that covers a 24/7 roster. This ensures that inspectors are available to monitor, collect data and always control all catches during the BFT fishing season through inspections at sea and at ports, and cross-verification of catch with e-BCD entries.

d) Size and Biological Data

Sampling Programmes: Under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF), Malta also implements scientific sampling of Bluefin Tuna, in addition to standard length and weight data collected by fisheries inspectors during landing inspections.

Farming Operations: Data on size and weight of fish transferred into farms are also recorded during caging operations, where video monitoring is conducted as required by ICCAT and EU regulations, and growth rates are tracked for harvest estimations.

e) Conclusion

Malta maintains a high standard of statistical data collection for Bluefin Tuna fisheries, meeting and often exceeding ICCAT and EU regulatory requirements. The system ensures near-complete coverage of catch, effort, and size data in both Malta's Fisheries and Management Zone and the high seas. Continued investment in electronic tools, observer programs, and scientific sampling further enhances the integrity and transparency of the Bluefin Tuna fishery management system.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fleet Segment – Size Sampling of the Catches

Bluefin Tuna Landings from the Maltese longline fleet were sampled for size to provide a clear snapshot of catch at size composition. Summary of these samples are being provided through Table 5 below.

Table 5. EU Malta monthly size sampling for Bluefin Tuna landings from surface longlines in 2024. Size class category type is in Curved Fork Length.

Month	Gear	Size Class Category	Total Sampled	Month	Gear	Size Class Category	Total Sampled
5	LL	100-104.99 cm	2	6	LL	110-114.99 cm	1
		105-109.99 cm	2			115-119.99 cm	4
		110-114.99 cm	1			120-124.99 cm	19
		115-119.99 cm	6			125-129.99 cm	12
		120-124.99 cm	14			130-134.99 cm	9
		125-129.99 cm	17			135-139.99 cm	11
		130-134.99 cm	23			140-144.99 cm	15
		135-139.99 cm	9			145-149.99 cm	12
		140-144.99 cm	9			150-154.99 cm	22
		145-149.99 cm	16			155-159.99 cm	14
		150-154.99 cm	22			160-164.99 cm	23
		155-159.99 cm	17			165-169.99 cm	9
		160-164.99 cm	25			170-174.99 cm	10
		165-169.99 cm	12			175-179.99 cm	8
		170-174.99 cm	18			180-184.99 cm	9
		175-179.99 cm	19			185-189.99 cm	9
		180-184.99 cm	19			190-194.99 cm	21
		185-189.99 cm	10			195-199.99 cm	14
		190-194.99 cm	22			200-204.99 cm	32
		195-199.99 cm	17			205-209.99 cm	14

		200-204.99 cm	30			210-214.99 cm	23
		205-209.99 cm	12			215-219.99 cm	10
		210-214.99 cm	29			220-224.99 cm	22
		215-219.99 cm	12			225-229.99 cm	8
		220-224.99 cm	28			230-234.99 cm	8
		225-229.99 cm	14			235-239.99 cm	10
		230-234.99 cm	37			240-244.99 cm	6
		235-239.99 cm	17			245-249.99 cm	3
		240-244.99 cm	29			250-254.99 cm	8
		245-249.99 cm	8			255-259.99 cm	1
		250-254.99 cm	14			260-264.99 cm	8
		255-259.99 cm	9			265-269.99 cm	3
		260-264.99 cm	10			270-274.99 cm	2
		265-269.99 cm	5			290-294.99 cm	2
		270-274.99 cm	7	**Grand Total Sampled**			**382**
		275-279.99 cm	3	**Total Catch Number**			**407**
		280-284.99 cm	3				
		290-294.99 cm	2				
		300-304.99 cm	1				
Grand Total Sampled			**550**				
Total Catch Number			**574**				

Month	Gear	Size Class Category	Total Sampled	Month	Gear	Size Class Category	Total Sampled
7	LL	100-104.99 cm	2	8	LL	115-119.99 cm	2
		110-114.99 cm	1			120-124.99 cm	2
		115-119.99 cm	7			130-134.99 cm	1
		120-124.99 cm	16			180-184.99 cm	1
		125-129.99 cm	11			190-194.99 cm	1

		130-134.99 cm	18	**Grand Total Sampled**	**7**
		135-139.99 cm	15	**Total Catch Number**	**7**
		140-144.99 cm	10		
		145-149.99 cm	8		
		150-154.99 cm	10		
		155-159.99 cm	4		
		160-164.99 cm	3		
		165-169.99 cm	5		
		170-174.99 cm	7		
		175-179.99 cm	2		
		180-184.99 cm	2		
		185-189.99 cm	4		
		190-194.99 cm	3		
		195-199.99 cm	1		
		200-204.99 cm	7		
		205-209.99 cm	2		
		210-214.99 cm	3		
		215-219.99 cm	5		
		220-224.99 cm	1		
		225-229.99 cm	1		
		235-239.99 cm	3		
		240-244.99 cm	1		
		250-254.99 cm	1		
		255-259.99 cm	1		
		260-264.99 cm	5		
		270-274.99 cm	1		
		275-279.99 cm	1		
		280-284.99 cm	1		
		285-289.99 cm	1		

Grand Total Sampled	**163**
Total Catch Number	**165**

Month	Gear	Size Class Category	Total Sampled
9	LL	145-149.99 cm	1
		210-214.99 cm	1
Grand Total Sampled			**2**
Total Catch Number			**2**

Size frequency distribution plots for the catches sampled for size during the peak catching season (May – July) are also being presented graphically in Figures 1 to 3 below.

Figure 1. EU Malta size frequency distribution from size samples taken from Bluefin Tuna surface longline landings from in May 2024. Size class category type is in Curved Fork Length.

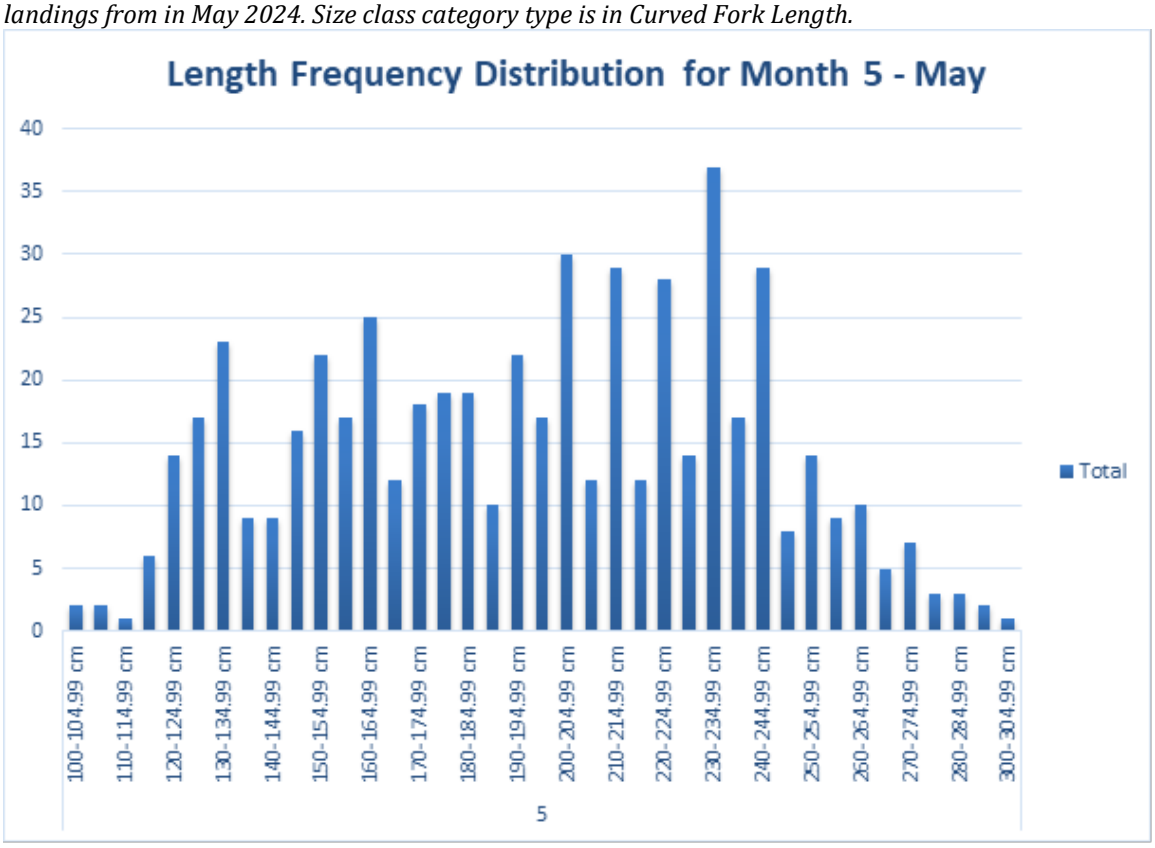


Figure 2. EU Malta size frequency distribution from size samples taken from Bluefin Tuna surface longline landings from in June 2024. Size class category type is in Curved Fork Length.

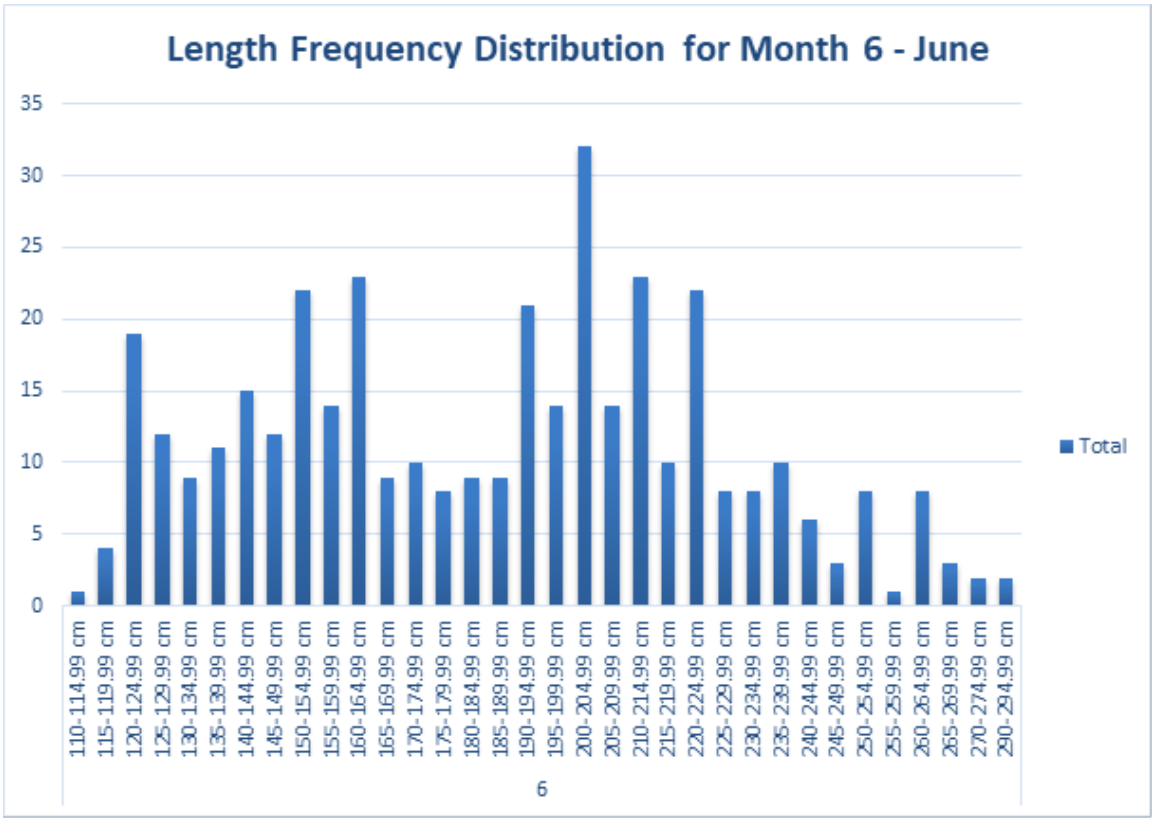
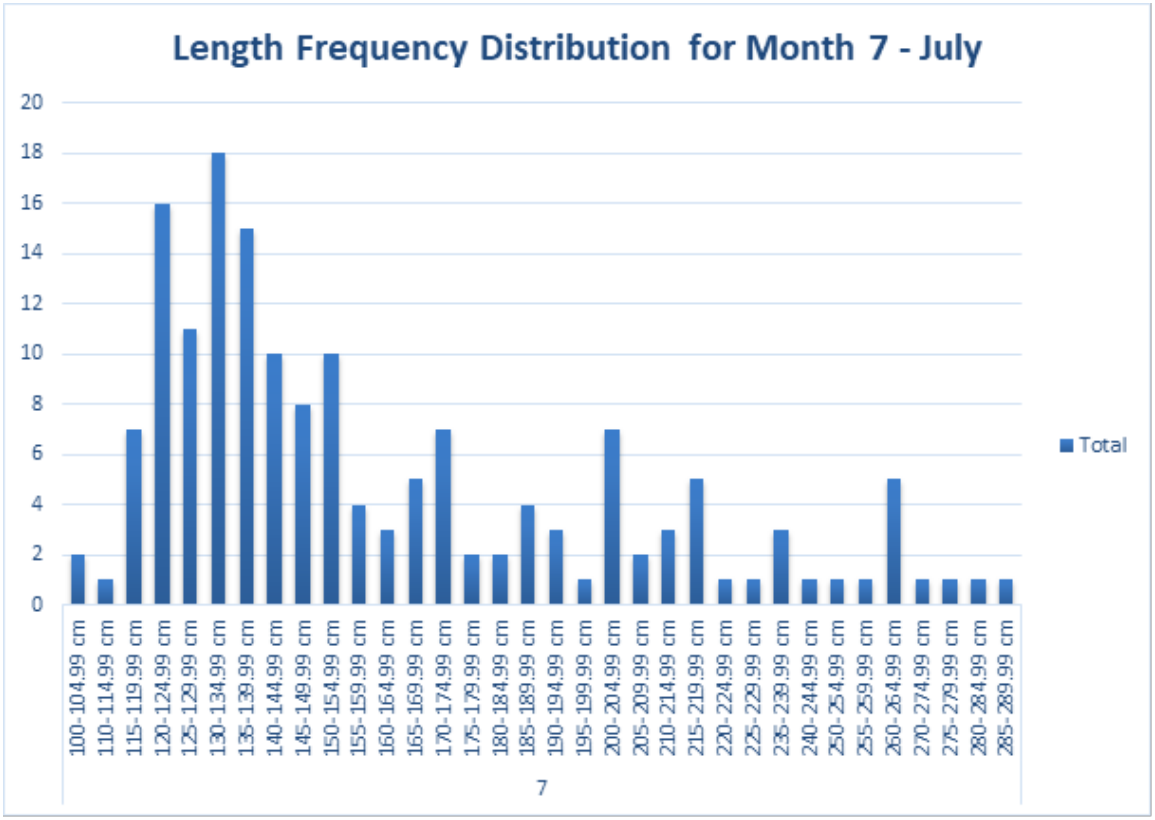


Figure 3. EU Malta size frequency distribution from size samples taken from Bluefin Tuna surface longline landings from in July 2024. Size class category type is in Curved Fork Length.



EU-NETHERLANDS

The fishing vessels of the Netherlands are actively fishing in the ICCAT Convention area. They do not target the species that are regulated by ICCAT but there is bycatch which mostly contains small tunas and teleost's. These species are mainly caught by the trawlers in Mauritania and Western Sahara (See Appendix 1.1.). The fishing gears used by the Dutch fleet are mid-water trawls and trawls. Yearly the Netherlands is submitting the relevant information available by reporting the Task I and II data and other ICCAT reports.

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Netherlands fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

The main fleet (MFL) is segmented in two parts: MFL1 AND MFL2. MFL1 vessels target species with individual catch quota and MFL2 vessels target species with no individual catch quota (e.g. North Sea shrimps). Aquaculture (AQU) vessels harvest mussels and oysters. On 1 January 2024, there were 466 fishing vessels registered in MFL 1, 192 in MFL 2 and 111 in AQU.

List of carriers in 2024:

ICCAT nr.	Name
ATEU0NLD00018	COOL EXPRESO

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

The Netherlands has no statistical data collection system implemented to monitor the tuna fisheries since we do not actively fish on tuna species. In the Task I and II reports the data about the bycatch of species regulated by ICCAT are given. The statistical monitoring of trade in bigeye tuna, Swordfish and bluefin tuna is done by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (NVWA).

REPORTING SUMMARY SCIENTIFIC REQUIREMENTS

	GENERAL	**RESPONSE**
S1	Annual Report	4 September 2025
S2	Fleet Characteristics	5 June 2025
S3	Estimation of nominal catch Task I, including discards as appropriate	5 June 2025
S4	Catch & Effort (Task II)	5 June 2025
S5	Size samples (Task II)	Not applicable, this information was sent on 5 June 2025
S6	Catch estimated by size	Not applicable, this information was sent on 5 June 2025
S7	Tagging declarations (conventional and electronic)	No information available
S8	Information on tagging surveys	Not applicable, we don't do tagging surveys on ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S9	Information collected under conventional tagging programmes	Not applicable, see S8
S10	Information collected under electronic tagging programmes	Not applicable, see S8

S11	Information on implementation of Rec. 16-14	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S12	Information and data on pelagic Sargassum	Not applicable, NLD vessels are not active in this area
S13	Specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year	Not applicable, the NLD has no vessels with these fishing gears
BLUEFIN TUNA		
S15	Size sampling from farms	Not applicable. NLD does not operate any BFT farms
S17	The results of programme using stereoscopical cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision at time of caging (covering 100% of all cagings)	Not applicable, see S15
S18	Information on and data collected under the national BFT observer programmes	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S21	Details of cooperative research programs on W-BFT to be undertaken	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S22	Updates to abundance indices and other fishery indicators	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S23	Information resulting from GBYP related research including new information resulting from enhanced biological sampling activities	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S53	Report on the scientific activities conducted by vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
TROPICALS		
S24	Information from logbooks on BET/YFT/SKJ vessels, including discards	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S25	Management plans for the use of fish aggregating devices (including steps to minimise impact)	Not applicable, NLD doesn't use FAD's.
S44	The number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, etc.	Not applicable, see S25
S45	For each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State and associated to PS/BB	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S46	Information collected by observers, including coverage levels	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S47	Data and information collected from port sampling programme	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT

S48	Historical data mining on the use and number of FADs deployed	Not applicable, see S 25
S49	Scientific data collected in the EEZ of another CPC	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
SHARK		
S32	Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S50	Results of research on shortfin mako	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S51	Information on blue shark	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
OTHER BYC		
S37	Provision of existing identification guides for sharks, seabirds and turtles and marine mammals caught in the Convention area	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S38	Information on interactions of its fleet with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries by gear type	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S39	CPCs shall record data on seabird incidental catch by species through scientific observers in accordance with the Recommendation 10-10 and report these data annually	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S41	Notification of measures taken on the collection of bycatch and discard data in artisanal fisheries through alternative means	Not applicable, the NLD vessels do not have artisanal fisheries that target ICCAT species regulated by ICCAT
S42	CPCs shall report on steps taken to mitigate bycatch and reduce discards, and on any relevant research	The Netherlands are active in reducing by catch of elasmobranch in the North Sea under the European landing obligation.

Bycatches of ICCAT species in Mauritanian and Western Sahara waters (2024):

Code	**Latin name**	**Name**	**Species**
BON	Sarda sarda	Atlantic bonito	2-Tuna (small t.)
FRI	Auxis thazard	Frigate tuna	2-Tuna (small t.)
LEE	Lichia amia	Leerfish	6-Teleosts
POA	Brama brama	Atlantic pomfret	6-Teleosts

SKJ	Katsuwonus pelamis	Skipjack tuna	6-Teleosts
TUN	Thunnini	Tunas nei	3-Tuna (other sp.)
GAR	Belone belone	Garfish	6-Teleosts
MOX	Mola mola	Ocean sunfish	6-Teleosts

EU-PORTUGAL

Portugal is one of the Member States (MS) that targets species managed by ICCAT, namely eastern bluefin tuna, swordfish, bigeye tuna, skipjack, yellowfin tuna, albacore, marlins and blue shark. These resources are mainly caught by surface longliners from the mainland and by pole and line vessels from the Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira. Unlike most of the other MS, the Portuguese fleet is not active in the Mediterranean.

Since 2019 is in place a directed fishery for E-BFT by bait boats from the outermost regions. In 2024 this sectorial quota involved 76 pole and line vessels. This fishery was implemented by application of subparagraph b) of paragraph 15 of the ICCAT Recommendation 22-08.

Longliners from the mainland and pole and line vessels from the Autonomous Regions target different species, hence there is no competition between these segments. On the one side, surface longliners are focused on swordfish and blue shark, taking also advantage, although opportunistic, of other species, such as the billfishes (blue marlin and white marlin) and bluefin tuna, caught as by-catch. On the other side, pole and line vessels from Azores and Madeira catch mainly tropical tuna and the bulk of their catches is bigeye and skipjack. They also catch some northern temperate tuna such as bluefin tuna.

Another northern temperate tuna, northern albacore, is also targeted by pole and line vessels. Due to the intermittency of the occurrence of the stock of bigeye in the national EEZ, albacore has been an important species to maintain the economic viability of the fishery, assuming also an important role from a more social perspective. The number of vessels operating in the fishery is stable and substantial changes are not foreseen.

SECTION 1: Annual fisheries information

A. Description of the EU-Portugal fleet and fishing activities

Fishing fleet and targeted species

In this section, we make a description of PT fishing fleet and fishing activities. Separately, we provide a more detailed description of our artisanal fleet in the Autonomous Regions, given the socio-economic importance of this activity for the Azores and Madeira.
We also present the catches of the target species, as well as the fishing effort for each type of fishing gear made by the national fleet, for the year 2024.

- ***PT fishing fleet***

The national fishing fleet consist of the fleets of the mainland and the outermost regions of Madeira and the Azores, with the respective fisheries developing according to the areas of operation and the gear allocated.

On 31 December 2024, the Portuguese fishing fleet consisted of 6811 vessels, with a total gross tonnage of 84045 GT and a total propulsion power of 341994 kW, distributed across the mainland (MFL), the Autonomous Region of the Azores (RAA) and the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM). The fleets of the outermost regions represent 15.9 per cent of the total number of national vessels (685 registered in the RAA and 399 in RAM) and 19.3 per cent of the propulsion power (50880 kW in the RAA and 15199 kW in RAM).

During 2024, 3614 vessels were licensed, of which 499 are from the RAA fleet and 95 from RAM.

The national fleet is characterised by a prevalence of small fishing vessels, in which around 90% of the registered units have an overall length of less than 12 metres and a low gross tonnage, which together represents only around 13.5% of the national total. The average age of the registered fleet is around 3.5 years and, in terms of the active fleet, around 27.4 years.

In Mainland, Portugal only has fishing activity towards swordfish and only by surface longliners, although many other stocks are targeted by longliners as a bycatch of the SWO fishery.

- ***Autonomous Regions fishing fleet***

The fishing fleet from the Autonomous Region of the Azores (RAA) and the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM), represent 15.9 per cent of the total number of national vessels. During 2024, 499 vessels were licensed from the RAA fleet and 95 from RAM.

These licensed fleet is characterised by a prevalence of small fishing vessels, in which around 85% of the registered units have an overall length of less than 12 metres, and constituted of coastal vessels, using selective gear that does not deplete fish stocks, contributing to sustainable and responsible fishing.

These artisanal fishing in the Azores and Madeira is part of the regional identity and provides thousands of jobs. It is inseparable from the social, economic and cultural realities of our islands. The pole-and-line fishery in the Azores and Madeira is carried out by small boats and is the only way of exploiting the tuna species that occur in the archipelago. The target of this fishery is tropical tuna, in particular bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), while also catching a temperate tuna, the bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).

It should be noted that, in the case of tuna, the bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) catch is particularly important, being in most years the most representative species in this group of fish in terms of landings and economic value. Particularly important is the fact that bigeye tuna catches in the region are mostly based on adult specimens, with landings of specimens weighing more than 10kg (sizes T1 and T2).

- ***Catches of targeted species***

Below we give a general information on ICCAT stocks targeted, information on quota, catches and national legislation when applicable. For a better understanding, we present the catches stock by stock, but at the end we present a global table with the catches of all the stocks (Table 1, page 21).

Swordfish (SWO)

Portugal has national legislation, Ordinance n.º 237/2022 of 14 September, which defines the management model for surface longline swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, establishing the criteria and conditions for licensing fishing vessels and the way in which the swordfish quota is distributed in relation to the North and South Atlantic stocks, and Ordinance n.º 898/2004 of 22 July, which establishes the distribution of the quota among the vessels that land this species, registered in the Ports of the Mainland, the Autonomous Region of Madeira (Madeira) and the Autonomous Region of the Azores (Azores).

- **North Swordfish (N-SWO)**

The Portuguese share of SWO quota is 15.04% of the EU quota. The number of vessels targeting the North stock is 41, with a quota allocated per vessel, as distributed in Ordinance 237/2022.

The swordfish quota available to mainland Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean North of 5ºN is allocated to vessels licensed to fish for swordfish in accordance with the allocation key set out in Annex of the Ordinance 237/2022.

Vessels registered in mainland ports that are not listed in the annex to the aforementioned Ordinance, but have a licence to operate with a surface longline in the Atlantic Ocean north of 5ºN, may only catch swordfish as a by-catch, with the maximum quantity of this species allowed on board being equal to 5% of the weight of the catch kept on board, or one specimen if its weight exceeds that value.

Accordingly with Ordinance 898/2004, the swordfish quota allocated annually to Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean, north of 5ºN, is distributed among all national vessels, depending on the port of registration, with the following distribution key:

- Vessels registered in mainland ports: 66.1%;
- Vessels registered in ports in the Autonomous Region of the Azores: 31%;
- Vessels registered in ports in the Autonomous Region of Madeira: 2.9%.

The largest percentage of the swordfish quota goes to longliners on the mainland and is allocated by vessel.
The quota allocated to the Azores and Madeira is not allocated by vessel.

Any slightly decreased of this stock poses serious concerns for the Portuguese longline fleet, as it remains clear that the current quota level is not sufficient for the needs of this segment, although during the year swaps are made with other Member States, through which Portugal received swordfish in exchange of other stocks, in accordance with Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

To balance the swordfish quota, which is insufficient for our longline fleet, we need to fish other species with economic interest to the PT industry, to make this fishery economically and socially viable.

Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) is currently supporting PT's surface longline segment, and we anticipate that its importance as a fishing resource will leverage in the coming years. It is also worth to mention that PT fully utilises its N-SWO quota and is therefore more exposed to possible fluctuations in TACs.

In terms of fishing effort, we foresee no relevant changes to the current situation. Portuguese Administration will continue to swap fishing possibilities with other MS, namely with Spain, in order to obtain additional fishing opportunities for this very important stock for our fishing fleet.

N-SWO				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
1004.270	1388.068	1417.624	-29.556	102.13

- **South Swordfish (S-SWO)**

The Portuguese share of S-SWO quota is 6.18% of the EU quota. The number of vessels targeting the South stock is 6, with a quota allocated per vessel, as distributed in Ordinance 237/2022.

The swordfish quota available to mainland Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5ºN is also allocated to vessels licensed to fish for swordfish in accordance with the allocation key set out in Annex of the Ordinance 237/2022.

Accordingly with Ordinance 237/2022, the Portuguese swordfish quota for the Atlantic Ocean South of 5ºN shall be allocated, 81.2 % to vessels licensed to fish for swordfish, distributed in accordance with the distribution key set out in Annex of the Ordinance and 18.8% for use in by-catches.

Longliners who may catch swordfish in the South Atlantic Ocean, as a by-catch, and as established in national legislation (Ordinance 237/2022) must have a surface longline licence in the Atlantic Ocean north of 5°N and be registered in continental ports. Once these conditions have been met, they can catch swordfish in the South Atlantic as a by-catch, with the maximum quantity authorised on board being equal to 5% of the weight of the catch retained on board, or one specimen if its weight exceeds that value.

S-SWO				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
298.120	327.940	308.588	19.352	94.10

Tropical Tunas (TRO)

Tropical tuna legislation in Portugal is essentially based on European Union (EU) law and the national legislation that transposes and adapts it. The main objective is to ensure the conservation and

sustainable exploitation of these fish, with a focus on species such as yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna and bigeye tuna.

- **Bigeye Tuna (BET)**

Portugal has an allocation key of 21,04% of the EU quota. This quota is caught mainly by pole-and-line vessels and the artisanal fleet of the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira. This fleet is very large. In 2024, we had 589 vessels targeting tropical tuna. Of this total, 553 were baitboats and 36 were longliners using pole-and-line gear.

This is a crucial stock for this segment of the fleet and the possible decrease in the bigeye TAC or its minimal increase raises concern and apprehension given the negative socio-economic impacts in both regions, which are highly dependent on this stock and have no plausible alternatives to this species.

Therefore, as Portugal has already requested in recent years, we believe that positive discrimination should be proposed for this segment of fishing, in order to promote sustainable fishing methods, as is the case here, and to protect small-scale artisanal fishing.

Portugal has national legislation, Ordinance n.º 263/2020, of 10 November, which establishes the distribution key for the quota for the Atlantic bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) stock among the fleet registered on the mainland and the fleet registered in the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira, which distributed among all national vessels, according to their port of registration, the PT bigeye quota, with the following distribution key:

- For vessels registered in mainland ports, 15 % of the total quota;
- For vessels registered in ports in the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira, 85 % of the total quota.

We also have regional legislation. Ordinance n.º 20/2024 of 26 April, in its current wording, defines restrictions on fishing for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Autonomous Region of the Azores. Ordinance n.º 230/2023, of 4 April, determines the minimum size and restrictions on fishing for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

Until no changes on the quota for this stock, the Portuguese administration will continue to promote swaps with other MS to obtain additional fishing possibilities for this stock whenever necessary, bearing in mind the small quota we have, which does not safeguard the occurrence of this stock in Portuguese waters.

One of our concerns is the massive use of FADs in the Gulf of Guinea, which may prevent the juveniles of following their regular course.

Another of our current concerns is the low utilisation of the EU bigeye quota, although every year Portugal closes its quota between May and September, either exceeding its quota or miraculously getting close to 100%.

BET				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
2823.840	2545.152	2538.036	7.116	99.72 *

* Fishing stop 19/09/2024

Albacore (ALB)

Portugal has national legislation on albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) aimed at the sustainable management of albacore tuna populations and the protection of other marine species.
Ordinance n.º 108/2021 of 30 September, of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, regulates catch and landing limits for Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*).

Ordinance nº. 263/2020 of 10 November, establishes the distribution key for the quota of northern albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) between the continental fleet and the fleet of the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira.

- **North Albacore (N-ALB)**

Portugal has an allocation key of 6,80% of the EU quota. The vessels that catch this stock are the same of the vessels targeting tropical tunas.

Due to the necessity of obtaining BET and N-SWO for the Portuguese fleet, the N-ALB has become an important currency in the swapping process. However, the appearance of this stock is not regular in the waters of the Azores and Madeira, and there are years, such as 2023 and 2024, that the stock hardly appeared in these waters, so these catches do not mean a possible regular increase in our tuna catches and are therefore not a reliable option.

N-ALB				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
2452.650	2798.590	92.529	2706.061	3.31

- **South Albacore (S-ALB)**

Portugal holds 34,50% of the EU quota. This southern component is utilized by the surface longliners operating in the southern hemisphere. The number of vessels fishing in this area is not comparable to the northern hemisphere. This stock, as mentioned above, is not regular in the waters of the Azores and Madeira and there are years, such as 2023 and 2024, when it hardly appears in these waters, so catches are very low.

S-ALB				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
608.930	735.710	5.476	730.234	0.74

East Bluefin Tuna (E-BFT)

Portugal has an allocation key of 2,97% of the EU quota. The bulk of this quota was allocated to the traps. Portugal only has directed fishery, by artisanal/baitboats, in the outermost regions of Azores and Madeira, 38 vessels each, within the terms and conditions stated in the E-BFT PT fishing and capacity plans. All other fishing segments are allowed to catch this species as by-catch within the limits established for accidental catches.

The legislation for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) fishing in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is complex and is based on European regulations, such as Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, which establishes a multi-annual management plan. This plan includes technical measures such as closed seasons, minimum catch sizes and restrictions on certain areas, so in Portugal, every year, according with Ordinance n.º 219/2023, of 19 July, which defines the regime for the exercise of line fishing, establishes in its article 5 the possibility of defining other constraints, for the management of tuna and similar resources or for the control of the activity, which have been adopted within the framework of the ICCAT, or which are part of the fishing plans, are approved by Order of the Director General of Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM) publishes orders with additional management measures, such as Order N.º 9/DG/2024.

The aforementioned Order distributes the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Portugal, which is divided among the various segments of activity, such as mainland traps, artisanal vessels with a port of reference in the Autonomous Regions of Madeira and the Azores authorised to carry out directed

fishing, other vessels that may fish as a by-catch, with a port of reference on the mainland and in the Autonomous Regions, and recreational and sports fishing. It also defines the rules on by-catches applicable to the fleet with a port of registry on the mainland, as well as the maximum number of vessels to be authorised for recreational and sports fishing on the mainland.

This fishery for PT is foreseen in Recommendation 22-08, subparagraph b) of paragraph 15, and is limited to bait boats under a sectorial quota. Vessels from Azores and Madeira will observe the minimum size established by subparagraph a) of paragraph 34 by derogation from paragraph 33 of Recommendation 22-08. Hence all bait boats authorized under the sectorial quota shall observe a minimum size of 8kg or 75cm fork length. All other situations, namely the by-catch originated by the longliners, shall observe a minimum size of 30kg or 115cm fork length, in accordance with the EU Law – Regulation 2016/1627.

E-BFT				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
637.880	643.030	639.763	3.267	99.49

Regarding recreational and sports fisheries, we have National Regulation (Decree-Law 101/2013, of 25th July, and Ordinance 14/2014, of 23rd January) which define that these BFT catches are only admitted by vessels duly registered for this purpose. An annual permit is required, and the operator is obliged to provide mandatory information on the number, weight and length. All BFT caught alive shall be promptly released or, if maintained on board and landed, shall be presented whole and eviscerated. It is prohibited to sell fish originated from recreational and sportive fisheries. Once exhausted the national sub-quota it is no longer possible to catch BFT. Due to the small quantity of quota made available for this fishery, the administration has granted for 2024 twelve annual authorisations.

Marlins (BIL)

Portugal has national legislation on billfish, for recreational fishing and sport fishing, Ordinance n.º 14/2014 of 23 January (as amended), which regulates such fishing, defining limits for the capture of marlin, including the retention and landing of specimens.

More detailed information regarding BIL fisheries has been transmitted under the forwarded PT BIL Check sheet.

- **Blue Marlin (BUM)**

Portugal holds 11,50% of the EU's quota of Blue marlin. BUM are not targeted and catches result from by-catch. Due to the continued decrease level of fishing possibilities available to national longliners, these opportunistic catches are an important add-on that contributes to bring the longline fishery social and economically viable.

BUM				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
46.210	46.210	45.303	0.907	98.04 *

* Fishing stop 19/09/2024

- **White Marlin (WHM)**

Portugal holds 39,00% of the EU's quota of white marlin. WHM are not targeted and catches result from by-catch.

WHM

Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
19.500	19.500	1.204	18.296	6.17

Blue Shark (BSH)

Blue shark is targeted by longliners as a bycatch of the SWO fishery. Therefore, we can consider this stock as strategic to the PT longline fleet.

More detailed information regarding shark fisheries has been transmitted under the forwarded PT Shark Check sheet.

- **North Blue Shark (N-BSH)**

Blue shark is targeted by longliners as a bycatch of the SWO fishery. Therefore, we can consider this stock as strategic to the PT longline fleet.

N-BSH				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
4024.820	4024.820	4059.070	-34.250	100.85

- **South Blue Shark (S-BSH) North**

Blue shark is targeted by longliners as a bycatch of the SWO fishery. Therefore, we can consider this stock as strategic to the PT longline fleet.

B-BSH				
Initial quota (t)	Adapted quota (t)	Catches (t)	Balance (t)	Quota uptake (%)
4906.730	4906.730	4833.952	72.778	98.52

Shortfin Mako Shark (SMA)

The shortfin mako shark is not a target species, although incidental catches tend to occur, but since 2022 and 2023, the Portuguese administration has banned the capture of this north and south shark, respectively. These fisheries will only be reopened when there are indications that the stocks have recovered and always after ICCAT decision.

More detailed information regarding shark fisheries has been transmitted under the forwarded PT Shark Check sheet.

- **North Shortfin Mako Shark (N-SMA)**

Following the 2021 ICCAT annual meeting, a recovery programme was agreed for the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark due to overfishing of this stock. As a result, all fishing fleets operating in the North Atlantic were prohibited from retaining on board, transhipping and landing, all or part, shortfin mako shark, even if caught together with other ICCAT species. Portuguese administration, considering the state of the stock, prohibited the capture of shortfin mako shark, starting in 2022 and for the following years.

- **South Shortfin Mako Shark (S-SMA)**

Regarding the Southern stock, and as agreed at the 2022 ICCAT annual meeting, a fisheries management plan has also been implemented to try to counteract overfishing of this stock. For this reason, all fishing fleets operating in the South Atlantic are also prohibited from retaining on board, transhipping and landing, all or part, shortfin mako shark from the Southern stock, even if caught together with other ICCAT species. Portuguese administration informed the sector at the end of 2022 that it would take the same measure for this stock as for the northern stock, starting in 2023 and for the following years.

B. Fishing effort

The table below shows the number of vessels and fishing days for each type of fishing gear in our different regions, Azores, Madeira and Mainland Portugal, for the year 2024.

Region/Vessel Type	Azores		Madeira		Mainland		Total Portugal	
	Number of Vessels *	Fishing Days	Number of Vessels *	Fishing Days	Number of Vessels *	Fishing Days	Number of Vessels *	Fishing Days
Bait boat	63	1 450	10	313			73	1 763
Traps					4	66	4	66
Hand line	51	1 445	7	459			58	1 904
Long line	31	1 293	17	200	47	4 064	95	5 557
Purse seine	1	1	2	43	74	505	77	549
Mid water trawl					50	1 784	50	1 784
Sport					5	5	5	5
Other	122	1 191	29	384	758	8 358	909	9 933
Total	268	5 380	65	1 399	938	14 782	1 271	21 561

* The number of vessels is based on the vessel's main gear, so each vessel is only counted once, so there are no repeats.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

Table 1 - EU-Portugal - number of vessels by fleet segment in 2024.

Nb of Vessels	
Purse seine	81
Long line	115
Mid water trawl	48
Traps	4
Hand line	92
Trolling	0
Bait boat	75
Harpoons	0
Sport Fishing	5

Other	1040

Note: The Total number of vessels is 1271, less than the sum of the different fleet segment because some vessels can use more than one gear.

Table 2 - EU-Portugal catches (in metric tons) of main species by fleet segment in 2024.

PT Fleet	*Catches in tonnes*													
	BFT	*SWO*	*ALB*	*YFT*	*BET*	*SKJ*	*SAI*	*BUM*	*WHM*	*Small Tunas*	*BSH*	*SMA*	*POR*	*Total*
Purse seine	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	0	326	0	0	0	340
Long line*	59	1553	8	60	267	41	16	45	1	6	8868	0	0	10924
Mid water trawl	0	34	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	51
Traps	436	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	490
Hand line	139	11	11	439	494	257	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1352
Trolling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bait boat	4	0	64	647	1332	2052	0	0	0	1	0		0	4100
Harpoons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sport Fishing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other	0	122	14	275	445	288	0	0	0	171	23	1	0	1340
Total	640	1722	98	1425	2538	2648	16	45	1	572	8893	1	0	18598

Figure 1 - Bigeye catches in the last 5 years (2020-2024) by the artisanal fleet of Azores and Madeira.

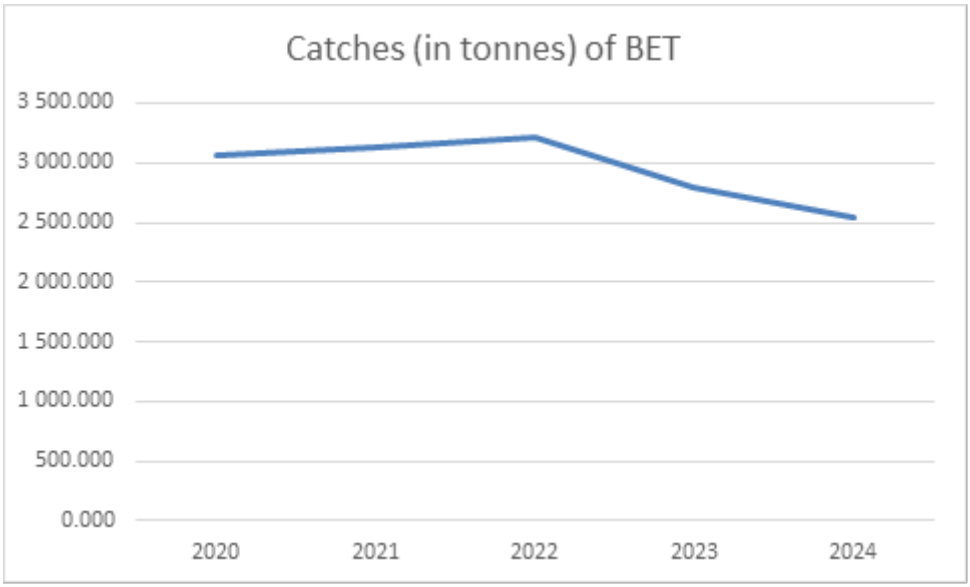


Figure 2 – Quota uptake of bigeye in the last 5 years (2020-2024) by the artisanal fleet of Azores and Madeira.

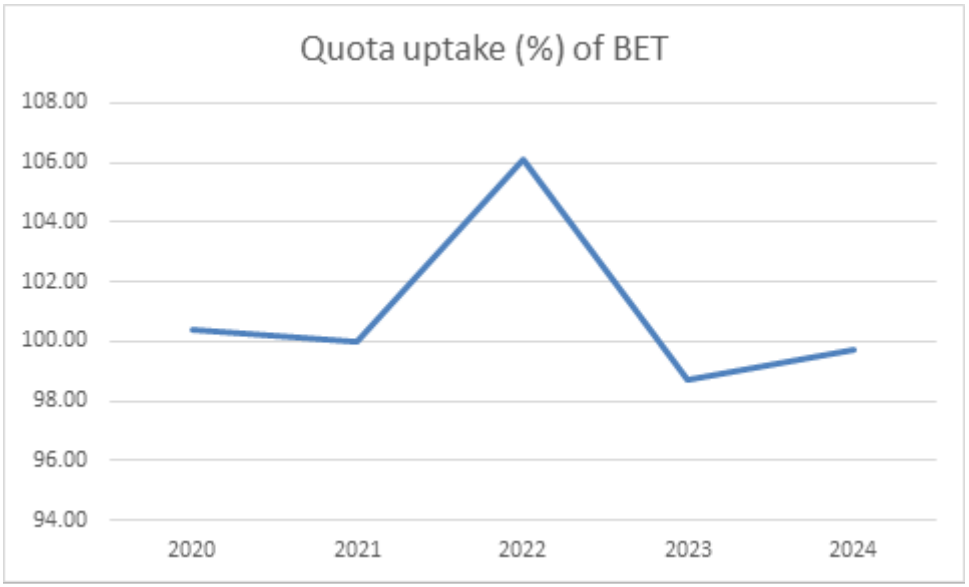


Figure 3 - Bigeye catches in 2024 by the Azores and Madeira artisanal fleet and bycatch by the mainland fleet.

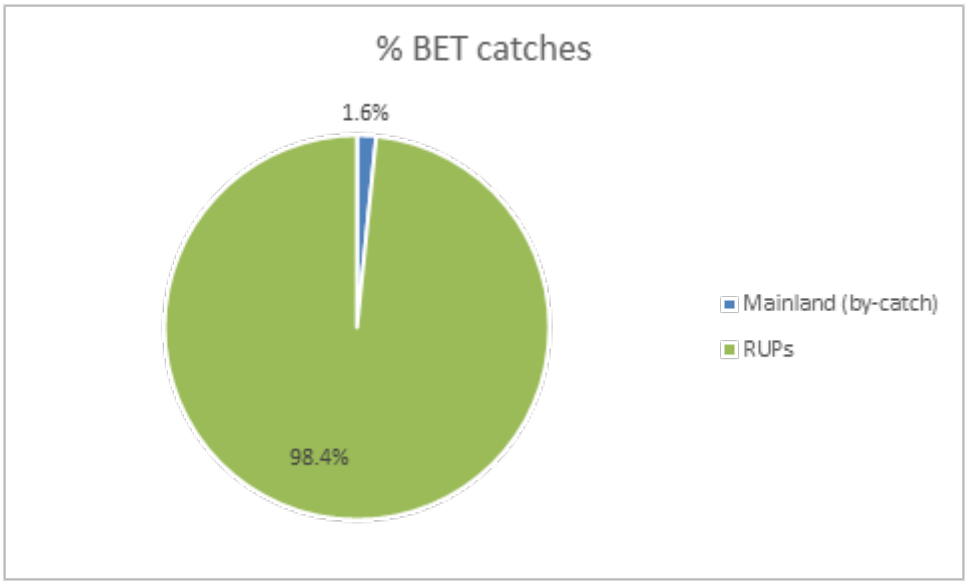


Figure 4 – Bluefin tuna catches, in tonnes, over the last 5 years (2020-2024)

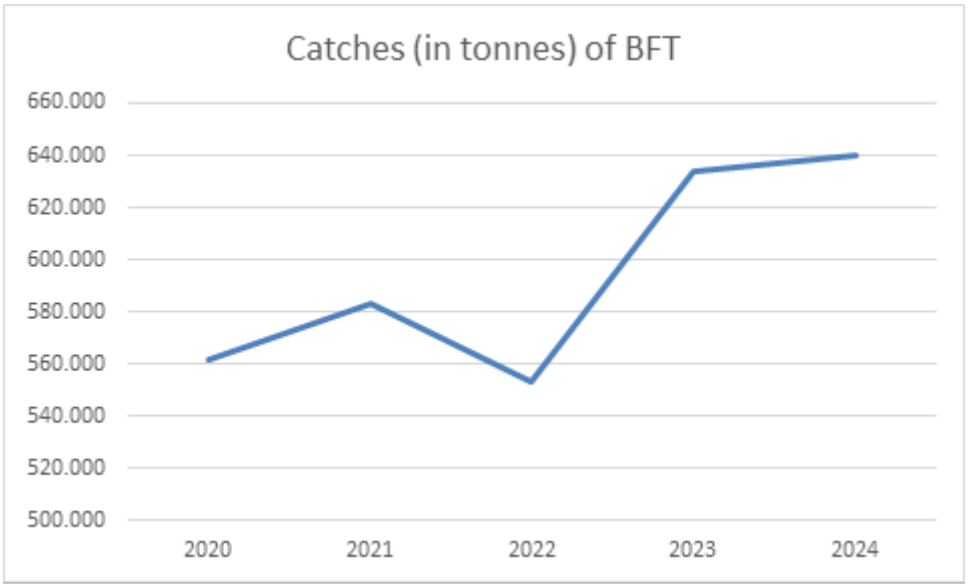


Figure 5 - Quota uptake of Bluefin tuna over the last 5 years (2020-2024) by all PT fishing segments.

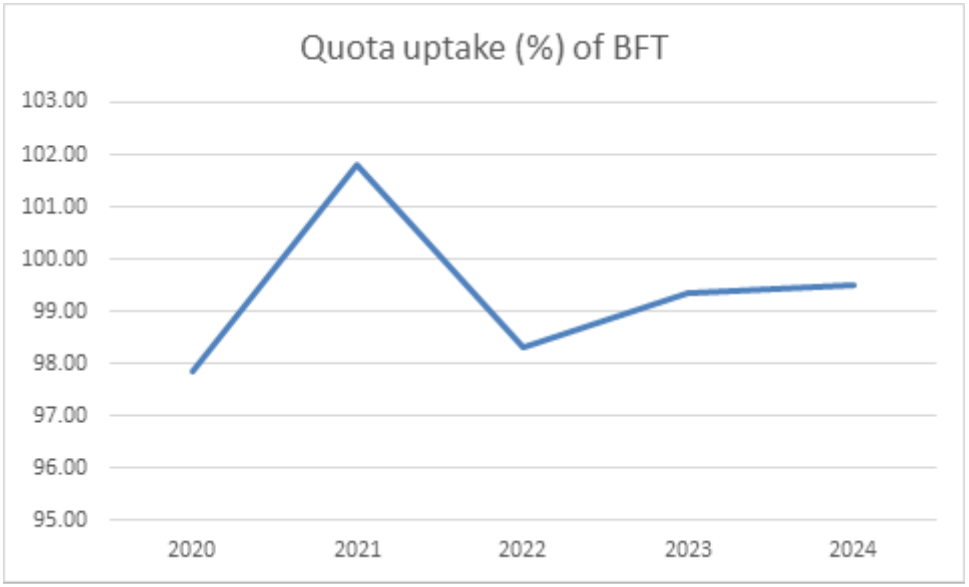


Figure 6 – Quota uptake for the main ICCAT stocks for the Portuguese fleet in 2024.

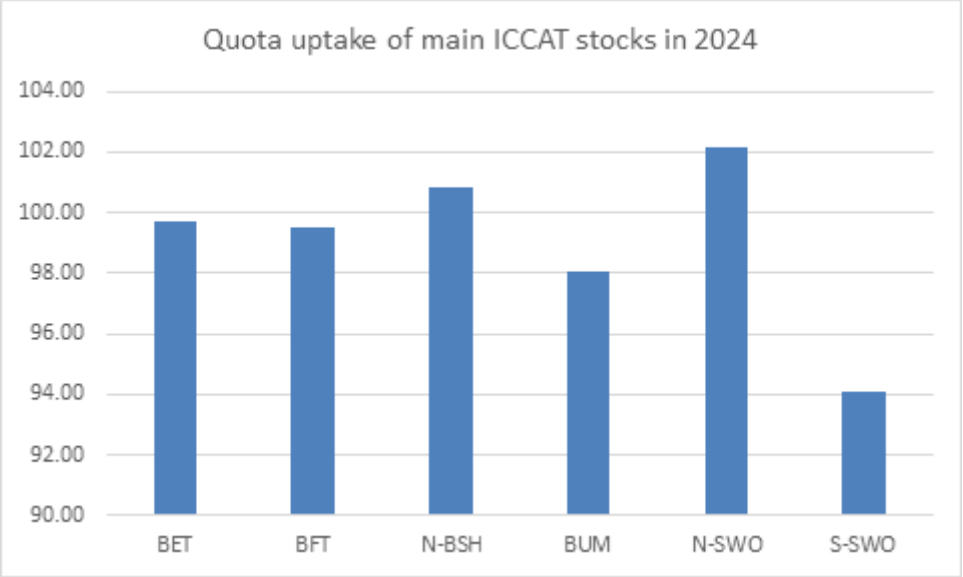
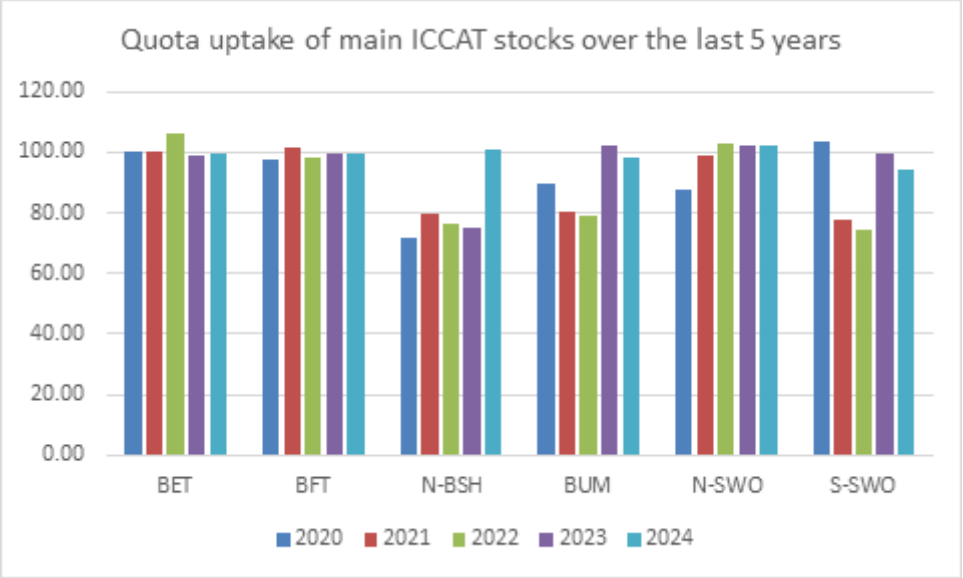


Figure 7 – Quota uptake for the main ICCAT stocks for the Portuguese fleet over the last 5 years (2020-2024).



B. Research activities

Description of the statistical data collection systems implemented by PT

The Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I. P. (IPMA, IP) implements the EU.Portugal pelagic longline scientific observer program for vessels based on Portugal. IPMA is a Public Institution, part of the indirect administration of the Portuguese State and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and Sea and Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

IPMA has ample experience with scientific observer programs and has implemented the pelagic longline in ICCAT since 2010. The program is part of the Portuguese Administration (DGRM) Biological Data Collection Program (PNAB), established within the framework of the EU Data Collection Framework (EU-DCF).

The scientific observers that carry out those duties are either permanent employees (technicians) of the IPMA staff or are hired through a private company. All have ample knowledge and years of experience identifying ICCAT species and fishing gear configurations and are specifically trained by IPMA staff to observe and record accurately the information to be collected under the Data Collection

Program. They are also trained and experienced to carry out additional duties, such as collection of scientific samples and deploying conventional and electronic tags.

Until now the program has been designed to achieve at least 5% minimum coverage, even though due to several logistic and administrative reasons, that value was not possible to achieve in most years. The percentage of effort to be covered is calculated from the previous year total effort and is measured in number of fishing sets. While onboard, the scientific observers record and collect data on 100% of the operations during each trip and on 100% of the catches on each set.

Bearing in mind the minimum observer coverage of 5% for pelagic longlines, and the increase for 10% for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02) surface longline vessels, the Portuguese observer program is under re-evaluation to determine feasibility to meet the current requirements of ICCAT provisions. There may be the need for introducing EMS (Electronic Monitoring Systems) in the future to achieve part of this required percentage, but the implementation of such systems has not yet been done to date.

The vessel/trip selection of the effort to be covered yearly is based on a mix of random stratified sampling and opportunistic sampling. There is an initial selection of the vessels to be covered based on a random sampling from the universe of vessels that were active operating pelagic longlines in the previous year. This random sampling is stratified by BIL-stocks, with the selections aiming to achieve a minimum of 5% in both the North and South Atlantic areas. However, given that at the national level the implementation of the program is voluntary for the vessels, not all vessels of the fleet collaborate and are willing to take observers onboard when selected. IPMA has communicated to the Portuguese administration this limitation on numerous occasions. There is a need to solve this issue by making the program mandatory for the vessels. Additionally, an eventual implementation of EM Systems on the fleet would also solve that issue.

In 2024 it was possible to conduct at-sea scientific observations on 9 fishing trips, covering both the North and South Atlantic. The coverage achieved was 3.4% for the overall Atlantic wide fleet (including both North and South Atlantic), measured in number of sets of the total fleet effort. All data is duly transmitted to ICCAT using the ST-09 forms.

The data fields that are observed, collected and recorded in the IPMA Observer Program comply, and in some cases exceed, what is currently requested under paragraph 7 of ICCAT Rec. 16-14. Specifically, IPMA scientific observers currently record and collect information on:

- For each fishing trip: Details of the observer, vessel and license, boarding port and date, date of departure to sea, port and date of disembarking, notes from the catch landing;

- For each fishing set: Trip unique ID, fishing set unique ID, date of the set, time and coordinates while deploying (initial and final), time and coordinates while hauling (initial and final), upper and lower depth of the hooks, total number of hooks used, hook type and size, number of floats, leader material, bait used, length of the set, moon state, cloud coverage, wind speed and direction, water temperature, sighting of cetaceans, birds or turtles, use of tori lines, use of line weights, any additional notes;

- For each captured specimen: Fishing set unique ID, specimen unique ID, species ID, hooking mode, condition at hauling, size (FL, LJFL, TL or CCL, depending on the species), condition if discarded, sex, maturity stage (currently recorded for SWO and sharks), claspers size (elasmobranchs), notes if depredated, color of light-stick/lantern if used, specific bait used, specific leader material, specific hook type and size, samples collected (e.g., otoliths, vertebrae, spines, tissue for genetics, others), if photo was taken, any additional notes.

All captured specimens (from all taxa and species) are fully recorded in the program. This includes target species, bycatch, discards, and all interactions with vulnerable fauna such as marine-turtles, seabirds and marine-mammals. We also note that many biological samples that have been collected over the years have been used in multiple ICCAT/SCRS projects and for providing scientific advice, including the latest growth equations used for shortfin mako, genetic samples for ongoing swordfish, marlins and sharks stock delimitation projects, data and samples for the small tunas' projects, etc. We also regularly deploy satellite tags on sharks, swordfish and marlins from the pelagic longliners, also as part of various ICCAT/SCRS projects, as well as conduct biology and tagging studies on bluefin tuna.

Regarding Sharks, IPMA is currently responsible for the age, growth and tagging studies and participates in other works such as genetics. All collected samples continue to be processed and analysed for the ongoing work. Additionally, IPMA also contributes regularly with data and analysis for ongoing analysis prioritized by the Shark Species Group.

IPMA continues to participate in the Small Tunas SMTYP and is responsible for the age and growth component. Additionally, under this program also collects gonads and genetic tissues for the remaining project tasks. Age and growth samples are processed in the IPMA laboratory, while the remaining reproductive and genetic samples and data have been provided to the respective tasks' coordinators.

IPMA continues to participate in the SWO biological programme (SWOYP), and is responsible for the age and growth component, using both spines and otoliths, as well as for the satellite tagging. Besides the ageing, IPMA also collects and provides samples of genetic tissues for the population genetics component and reproductive organs for the reproduction task of the project. Additionally, IPMA scientists are involved in the technical work that was developed for the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE.

Within the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research (EPBR), IPMA coordinates the ageing component and provides samples for genetics. Within the ageing task, IPMA has been collecting and processing spines and otoliths samples of marlins, mainly from the tropical and equatorial eastern Atlantic. All data have been sent to the billfishes Working Group coordinator to contribute to the ongoing studies.

Summarized information on tuna-related research activities and results of particular interest to ICCAT, such as research related to stock delineation, stock assessment, migration and environmental factors

EU-Portugal continued to collect throughout 2024 fisheries and biological data, that are used by IPMA I.P. Specifically, EU-Portugal continued to conduct research activities regarding pelagic longline fisheries and the tuna trap fishery. These ongoing data and sample collection efforts allowed EU-Portugal to continue the development of studies on habitat use and distributional patterns, CPUE indexes, age, growth and population genetics for highly migratory species. In addition, IPMA scientists have in recent years become increasingly involved on technical aspects of Management Strategy Evaluation.
Summarized details on work developed during 2024 are specified below:

- IPMA I.P. scientists continued to work on the standardization of catch rates (CPUEs). The main species focused in terms of CPUE standardization work in 2024 were the updates for the BFT and SWO CPUEs to contribute to the MSE processes.

- Within the ICCAT Sharks Programme (SRDCP), IPMA I.P. scientists continued to lead various projects, specifically on age and growth and tagging and habitat use. Additionally, IPMA scientists are involved in the projects of genetics and post-release mortality. Several updates on this were presented to the Sharks Species groups in 2024.

- Within the ICCAT GBYP Programme, IPMA, I.P. scientists continue to be involved in biological sampling of bluefin tuna, with samples that are collected and shared with international SCRS colleagues, namely biological tissues for genetics.

- IPMA, I.P., scientists are involved in the ICCAT swordfish Project (SWOYP) to collect and analysis biological samples of swordfish. Within this Project, IPMA scientists are the coordinators of the tasks on ageing and tagging. Additionally, IPMA also regularly collects samples for other tasks, namely for genetics and reproduction. The analysis work for the ageing continued throughout in 2024 and updates on both tagging and ageing were presented to the SWO Species group in 2024.

- IPMA, I.P., scientists are members of the consortium that is developing the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research (EPBR). Withing this project, IPMA scientists are coordinators of the ageing task.

- IPMA, I.P. scientists are part of the ICCAT project/consortium on small tunas' biology. IPMA is participating in the age and growth task and provides additional samples for the reproduction and population genetics tasks.

One IPMA scientist has been the convenor of the SCRS Subgroups on Electronic Monitoring Systems (Subgroup EMS) and Technical Fishing Gear Changes (Subgroup Tech. Gear Changes) since 2019.

One IPMA scientist has been the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Statistics (SC-STATS) since 2021.

During 2024, IPMA scientists (EU-Portugal) participated in the following ICCAT/SCRS meetings and workshops:

- Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (Olhão, Portugal, 27-29 February)
- Blue Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting (hybrid/Miami, USA, 11-15 March 2024)
- SCRS Workshop (hybrid, Madrid, Spain, 18-20 March 2024)
- Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin Tuna Species Group (hybrid/ Sliema, Malta, 15-18 April 2024)
- Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE) (hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 6–9 May 2024)
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Coordination of Tagging Information (online, 5 July 2024)
- SCRS Species Groups Meetings (hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 16-21 September)
- SCRS Plenary meeting (hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 23-27 September)
- Collaborative Workshop to evaluate the incidental capture of Sea Turtles in the ICCAT fleets in the Mediterranean Sea (Murcia, Spain, 30 Sep-4 Oct)

During 2024, IPMA scientists participated and presented to the SCRS a total of 22 working documents and presentations, either as main authors or as co-authors. The following list shows the full SCRS references to those documents:

- Coelho, R., Rosa, D., 2024. ICCAT Swordfish Tagging: overview of the tagging activities in the SWOYP. ICCAT Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Coordination of Tagging Information. Online, 5 July. SCRS/2024/P/091.

- Coelho, R., Domingo, A., Forselledo, R., 2024. ICCAT Sharks Tagging: overview of the tagging activities in the SRDCP. ICCAT Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Coordination of Tagging Information. Online, 5 July. SCRS/2024/P/090.

- Coelho, R., Rosa, D. 2024. ICCAT Billfish Tagging: overview of the tagging activities in the EPBR. ICCAT Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Coordination of Tagging Information. Online, 5 July. SCRS/2024/P/089.

- Coelho, R., 2024. Report of the sub-group on electronic monitoring systems (EMS). Intersessional meeting of the subcommittee on ecosystems and bycatch (SC-ECO). Hybrid / Madrid, Spain, 27-31 May. SCRS-P-2024-067

- Coelho, R., 2024. Report of the sub-group on technical gear changes. Intersessional meeting of the subcommittee on ecosystems and bycatch (SC-ECO). Hybrid / Madrid, Spain, 27-31 May. SCRS-P-2024-067.

- Coelho, R., Barbosa, C., 2024. Report of the 2024 swordfish tagging campaign in the northeastern Atlantic, within the swordfish year programme (SWOYP). ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Swordfish), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/123.

- Coelho, R., Barbosa, C., 2024. Report of the 2024 shark tagging campaign carried out within the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP). ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Sharks), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/105.

- Coelho, R., Barbosa, C., Melo, M.A., Rosa, D., 2024. Update on the 2024 billfish tagging campaign in southern Portugal (NE Atlantic), within the Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research (EPBR). ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Billfishes), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/159.

- Duprey, N., Abid, N., Bensbai, J., Coelho, R., Gillespie, K., Hanke, A., Ijima, H., Ikkiss, A., Lauretta, M., Kai, M., Su N., 2024. Updates to the indices used in the Northern Swordfish management strategy evaluation. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Swordfish), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/179

- Ellis. J.R., Carlson. J., Coelho, R., Cronin, M., Domingo, A., Forsellado, R., Mas, F., Moreno, G., Reeves, S., Restrepo, V., Taylor, N. 2024. Mobulid rays in the ICCAT conventional area: a review of current knowledge. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Sharks), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/098.

- Gillespie, K.., Hanke, A.R., Stewart, N., Coelho, R., Rosa, D., Carnevali, O., Gioacchini, G., Macias, 2024.Final report for Phase 6 of the ICCAT short-term contract for continuation of the swordfish growth, reproduction and genetics studies: biological samples collection and analysis. in the northwestern Atlantic. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Swordfish), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/178.

- Gillespie, K., Coelho, R., 2024. Report of the 2024 ICCAT swordfish tagging campaign in the northwestern Atlantic. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Swordfish), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/177.

- Hordyk, A., Brown, C., Coelho, R., Duprey, N., Gillespie, K., Hanke, A., Miller, S., Rueda, L., Rosa, D., Schirripa, M. 2024. Results of the north Atlantic swordfish management strategy evaluation. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Swordfish), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/137.

- Lino, P.G., Abid, N., Malouli, M.I., Bensbai, J., Coelho, R., 2024. Brief overview of the 2024 update of the MOR-PRT joint Tuna Trap CPUE Index. ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Species Group. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Bluefin tuna), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/ P/2024/126.

- Marquez, R., Santos, C., Semba,Y., Rosa, D, Jagger, C., Forselledo, R., Mas, F., Domingo, A., Sant'Ana, R., Coelho, R., Gustavo, L., 2024 Preliminary results on the age and growth of the shortfin mako shark (Isurus oxyrinchus) in the South Atlantic Ocean. ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Sharks), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/2024/164.

- Muñoz-Lechuga R., da Silva G., Hajjej G., Macias D., Sow F.N, Diaha N'G.C., Baibbat S., Massa-Gallucci A., Angueko D., Lino P.G, 2024. Update of the ageing analysis for Atlantic bonito (Sarda sarda) of the small tuna biology studies. SCRS/2024/171.

- Muñoz-Lechuga R., da Silva G., Hajjej G., Macias D., Sow F.N, Diaha N'G.C., Angueko D., Sant'Ana R., Massa-Gallucci A., Lino P.G., 2024. Update of the ageing analysis for little tunny (Euthynnus alletteratus) of the small tuna biology studies. SCRS/2024/172.

- Rosa, D., Goes, S., Barbosa, C., Coelho, R., 2024. Satellite tagging of blue and white marlin in southern Portugal. Atlantic blue marlin data preparatory meeting, Hybrid/Miami, USA, 11-15 March. SCRS/P/2024/006.

- Rosa, D., Gillespie, K., Garibaldi, F., Orbesen, E., Cardoso, L.G., Snodgrass, D., Santos, C.C., Macias, D., Urbina, J.O., Forselledo, R., Miller, P., Domingo, A., Santos, M.N., Brown, C., Hanke, A., Coelho, R., 2024. Update on the satellite tagging of swordfish under the Swordfish Year program. ICCAT Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP). Hybrid / Olhão, Portugal, 27-29 February 2024. ICCAT Presentation. SCRS/P/2024/004.

- Rosa, D., Schirripa, M., Gillespie, K., Macias, D., Forselledo, R., Mourato, B., Mikihiko, K., Arocha, F., Su, N-J., Kerwath, S., Bahou, L., Pappalardo, L., Diaz, G., Lino, P.G., Salmeron, F., Urbina, J.O., Cardoso, L.G., Sant'Ana, R., Travassos, P., Santos, M.N., Domingo, A., Báez, J.C., Hanke, A., Brown, C., Coelho, R., 2024. Swordfish size distribution in the Atlantic. ICCAT Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP). Hybrid / Olhão, Portugal, 27-29 February 2024. ICCAT Presentation. SCRS/P/2024/003.

- Rosa, D., Busawon, D., Quelle, P., Krusic-Golub, K., Andrews, A., Garibaldi, F., Mariani, A., Di Natale, A., Schirripa. M., Bezerra, N.A., Su, N-J., Cardoso, L.G., Arocha, F., Lombardo, S., Campello, T., Santos, M.N., Travassos, P., Brown. C., Hanke, A., Gillespie, K., Coelho, R., 2024. Update on the age and growth component of the Swordfish Year Program. ICCAT Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP). Hybrid / Olhão, Portugal, 27-29 February 2024. ICCAT Presentation. SCRS/P/2024/002.

- Santos, C.C., Domingo, A., Junge, C., Mas, F., Bowlby, H., Carlson, J., Cardoso, L.G., Passerotti, M., Forselledo, R., Joyce, W., Coelho, R., 2024. Filling knowledge gaps: age and growth studies on priority shark species within the SRDCP). ICCAT SCRS Species Groups meetings (Sharks), 16-21 September 2024, Madrid, Spain. SCRS/P/2024/105.

Brief description and summarised results of observer programmes

The Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I. P. (IPMA, IP) implements the EU.Portugal pelagic longline scientific observer program for vessels based on Portugal. IPMA is a Public Institution, part of the indirect administration of the Portuguese State and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and Sea and Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

IPMA has ample experience with scientific observer programs and has implemented the pelagic longline in ICCAT since 2010. The program is part of the Portuguese Administration (DGRM) Biological Data Collection Program (PNAB), established within the framework of the EU Data Collection Framework (EU-DCF).

The scientific observers that carry out those duties are either permanent employees (technicians) of the IPMA staff or are hired through a private company. All have ample knowledge and years of experience identifying ICCAT species and fishing gear configurations and are specifically trained by IPMA staff to observe and record accurately the information to be collected under the Data Collection Program. They are also trained and experienced to carry out additional duties, such as collection of scientific samples and deploying conventional and electronic tags.

Until now the program has been designed to achieve at least 5% minimum coverage, even though due to several logistic and administrative reasons, that value was not possible to achieve in most years. The percentage of effort to be covered is calculated from the previous year total effort and is measured in number of fishing sets. While onboard, the scientific observers record and collect data on 100% of the operations during each trip and on 100% of the catches on each set.

Bearing in mind the minimum observer coverage of 5% for pelagic longlines, and the increase for 10% for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02) surface longline vessels, the Portuguese observer program is under reevaluation to determine feasibility to meet the current requirements of ICCAT provisions. There may be the need for introducing EMS (Electronic Monitoring Systems) in the future to achieve part of this required percentage, but the implementation of such systems has not yet been done to date.

The vessel/trip selection of the effort to be covered yearly is based on a mix of random stratified sampling and opportunistic sampling. There is an initial selection of the vessels to be covered based on a random sampling from the universe of vessels that were active operating pelagic longlines in the previous year. This random sampling is stratified by BIL-stocks, with the selections aiming to achieve a minimum of 5% in both the North and South Atlantic areas. However, given that at the national level the implementation of the program is voluntary for the vessels, not all vessels of the fleet collaborate and are willing to take observers onboard when selected. IPMA has communicated to the Portuguese administration this limitation on numerous occasions. There is a need to solve this issue by making the program mandatory for the vessels. Additionally, an eventual implementation of EM Systems on the fleet would also solve that issue.

In 2024 it was possible to conduct at-sea scientific observations on 9 fishing trips, covering both the North and South Atlantic. The coverage achieved was 3.4% for the overall Atlantic wide fleet (including both North and South Atlantic), measured in number of sets of the total fleet effort. All data is duly transmitted to ICCAT using the ST-09 forms.

The data fields that are observed, collected and recorded in the IPMA Observer Program comply, and in some cases exceed, what is currently requested under paragraph 7 of ICCAT Rec. 16-14. Specifically, IPMA scientific observers currently record and collect information on:

- For each fishing trip: Details of the observer, vessel and license, boarding port and date, date of departure to sea, port and date of disembarking, notes from the catch landing;

- For each fishing set: Trip unique ID, fishing set unique ID, date of the set, time and coordinates while deploying (initial and final), time and coordinates while hauling (initial and final), upper and lower depth of the hooks, total number of hooks used, hook type and size, number of floats, leader material, bait used, length of the set, moon state, cloud coverage, wind speed and direction, water temperature, sighting of cetaceans, birds or turtles, use of tori lines, use of line weights, any additional notes;

- For each captured specimen: Fishing set unique ID, specimen unique ID, species ID, hooking mode, condition at hauling, size (FL, LJFL, TL or CCL, depending on the species), condition if discarded, sex, maturity stage (currently recorded for SWO and sharks), claspers size (elasmobranchs), notes if depredated, color of light-stick/lantern if used, specific bait used, specific leader material, specific hook type and size, samples collected (e.g., otoliths, vertebrae, spines, tissue for genetics, others), if photo was taken, any additional notes.

All captured specimens (from all taxa and species) are fully recorded in the program. This includes target species, bycatch, discards, and all interactions with vulnerable fauna such as marine-turtles, seabirds and marine-mammals. We also note that many biological samples that have been collected over the years have been used in multiple ICCAT/SCRS projects and for providing scientific advice, including the latest growth equations used for shortfin mako, genetic samples for ongoing swordfish, marlins and sharks stock delimitation projects, data and samples for the small tunas' projects, etc. We also regularly deploy satellite tags on sharks, swordfish and marlins from the pelagic longliners, also as part of various ICCT/SCRS projects, as well as conduct biology and tagging studies on bluefin tuna.

List of the information submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Commission requirements

During 2024, various documents/presentations were produced by Portuguese scientists and submitted at various SCRS meetings for SCRS review. Those comply and address various of the requests that are part of the workplans ongoing at various SCRS Species Groups and are summarized in the list of SCRS documents from 2024.

In addition, the following files and information were submitted with biological information to comply with specific requests:

- **S:GEN08:** Conventional Tagging declaration (releases/recoveries)- File: TG02-CnvTReRc_PRT_mainland_2023.xlsx

- **S:GEN09:** Electronic Tagging declaration (releases): form attached – File: TG03-EleTReRc_PRT_mainland_2023.xlsx

- **S:GEN10:** Task 3 Domestic observer program data: File: ST09-DomObPrg_Eu-PRT-LL-mainland_2023.xlsx

- **S:SHK-03:** Information on blue shark: SCRS document with updated CPUES from EU.PRT LL presented to the BSH data-prep meeting (SCRS/2023/045)

- **S:SHK-04:** Amount of North Atlantic SMA dead discards and live releases (using accepted statistical methodology used to calculate discards/releases): Form: ST02-T1NC_SMA-Discards-Estimates_PRT-LL-Mainland_2023.xlsx

- **S:BYC02:** Information on interactions of its fleet with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries by gear type: File: ST09-DomObPrg_Eu-PRT-LL-mainland_2023.xlsx

- **S:BYC03:** CPCs shall record data on seabird incidental catch by species through scientific observers in accordance with the Recommendation 10-10 and report these data annually: File: ST09-DomObPrg_Eu-PRT-LL-mainland_2023.xlsx (Note: Zero interactions with seabirds from the observer program in 2023)

- **Size data:** File ST04_EU-PRT-BFT2023-23P-NF#.xlxs and file EU-PRT_Mainland_2023_size_data.csv

EU-SPAIN

SECTION 1: ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE EU-SPAIN FLEET AND FISHING ACTIVITIES

Fishing fleet and targeted species

The number of Spanish vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean has been constantly decreasing in the last decade, especially in the case of purse seiners and bait boats. As a result, the effort is decreasing and there are significant changes in the amount of catches.

Landings of the main tuna and tuna-like species by the EU-Spain fleets fishing in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea in 2024 were preliminary estimated by the Fisheries National Authority (General Secretariat of Fisheries) at 98481.459 t (115296.543 t in 2023) (table 1). In addition, 575.224 t of all the other oceanic pelagic species were caught in association with these fisheries in 2024. A sharp decline in skipjack catch is observed.

Table 1. Preliminary landings (t live weight) of the main tuna and tuna-like species by the EU-Spain fleet in 2024 in the ICCAT Convention Area, by species or group of species. ALB: albacore; BET: bigeye tuna; BFT: Atlantic bluefin tuna; BSH: Blue shark; SKJ: skipjack tuna; SMT: small tuna species; SWO: swordfish; YFT: yellowfin tuna.

Species/group	Tons live weight 2023	Tons live weight 2024
ALB	17456.426	12592.721
BET	5892.359	5415.772
BFT	6706.680	7071.866
BSH	29288.803	30077.71
SKJ	30978.763	15562.867
SMT	3515.137	2792.616
SWO	10386.673	11656.01
YFT	11071.702	13311.897
Total	115296.543	98481.459

Tropical tuna

Purse seine fishery

The EU-Spain tropical tuna purse seine fishery is the most important, in terms of total catches, in the ICCAT Convention Area. It targets yellowfin and skipjack tuna, although other species, like bigeye and other small tuna species, are also captured during the fishing operations, mainly associated to log schools. The tropical tuna retained catches (SKJ, YFT and BET) in Atlantic Ocean in 2024 by EU-Purse Seiner fleet reached 29114.812 t, with a total of 30276.469 t (total catch in 2023 47942.824 t), decrease of 27.32 % compared to the retained catches tropical tuna in 2023. The number of sets decrease too, from 1974 in 2023 to 1440 in 2024 (932 sets associated with FAD, 508 sets to free school). The fishing days in 2024 was 1540, 18.9 % less than 2023.

Senegal baitboat fishery

This fleet has its main base port in Dakar and fishes tropical tuna swimming in free schools and, in the latest years, also in association with fish aggregating devices. Its target species are yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna. The tropical tuna catches (SKJ, YFT and BET) in Atlantic Ocean in 2024 by Senegal BB fleet reached 1028.15 t of retained catches.

Canary Islands baitboat fishery

This fishery takes place in archipelagic waters and in the neighboring areas of the Canary Islands, composed by artisanal bait boat vessels. There are two fleet segments, one with a gross register tonnage < 50 t, which fishes mainly on free schools, and another one with GRT > 50 t which mainly fishes using their own vessels as aggregating devices. Not considering temperate tunas catches (1089.83 tons of ALB and BFT), the total catch of this fishery arises 3392.34 t, including the three main tropical tunas, some small tunas (FRI, BON and WAH) and some billfishes.

Temperate tuna

Atlantic bluefin tuna

Atlantic bluefin tuna retained catches in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea in 2024 by the EU-Spain fleets totaled 6615.146 t, including discards whose amount totals 9.67 t. In the Atlantic Ocean, catches take place in the tuna traps located in the Strait of Gibraltar and, to a lesser extent, by bait boat fisheries in the Canary Islands, and Strait of Gibraltar. In the Mediterranean Sea, most of the catches take place by purse seine, traps and followed by artisanal handline and longline. The main fishing grounds are the area around the Balearic Islands and the Alboran Sea.

Albacore tuna

Albacore tuna retained catch in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea in 2024 a total of 12592.721 t (17456.426 t in 2023). In the northeastern Atlantic, the surface fishery consists of *c.* 400 artisanal baiboat and trolling vessels with base ports in the Cantabrian Sea and the coast of Galicia. This species is also caught occasionally in the surface longline fisheries targeting swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean. In the area around the Canary Islands albacore tuna is caught in the baitboat fishery, and in the Mediterranean Sea it can be caught mainly by longline targeting albacore, and with lesser extent by hand line, purse seiners, trolling, longline targeting swordfish, and other minor gears.

Swordfish

Swordfish retained catches in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea totaled 11656.01 t in 2024 (10386.673 t in 2023. The annual landings in the Atlantic Ocean by surface longline was 9253.861 t (9048.731 t in 2023); 4593.011 t from north Atlantic stock, and 4660.85 t from south Atlantic stock (4956.727 t and 4092.004 t from the north and south Atlantic stocks, respectively in 2023). Total catch in the Mediterranean Sea was estimated at 1476.296 t (1337.942 t in 2023). In the Mediterranean Sea, swordfish is also mainly caught by drifting longline (targeting albacore, swordfish or bluefin tuna), with minor catches by other gears (traps and purse seiners).

Small tuna species

Small tuna species including BLT Bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*), BON Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*), FRI Frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*), LTA Little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*) and WAH Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) have a significant socio-economic impact in the Mediterranean Sea and in surface and trap fisheries of southern Spain (1071.175 t of retained catches). The purse seine fleet fishing in the eastern tropical Atlantic accounts more or less the same amount of retained catches (1154.147 t). Total small tuna catches by EU-Spain in 2024 was estimated at 2792.616 t (3515.137 t in 2024).

Sharks

Nominal pelagic shark catches (retained catch, dead discards and live releases) in 2024 was 28481.932 t (31244.512 t in 2023), i.e. a 8.84% less than 2023, with blue shark accounting for 93.88% of the total. Catches by species/group are provided in table 2.

Table 2. Nominal catches (t live weight) of the main pelagic sharks (as considered by ICCAT in its analytical assessments) and other sharks by the EU-Spain fleet in 2024 in the ICCAT Convention area, by species or group. BSH= blue shark, SMA= shortfin mako shark, SHK (OTH)= other pelagic shark specie and POR= porbeagle.

Species/Group	Tons live weight
BSH	26739.308
SMA	1572.798
SHK (OTH)	159.669
POR	10.157
Total	28481.932

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

A. Fishery statistics

This section provides a detailed description of the statistical data collection systems implemented by the EU-Spain. In the case of EU-Spain, fisheries data are supported by three fundamental pillars:

1. INFOBASE, managed by the Secretaría General de Pesca (SGP), which compiles data obtained from electronic fishing logbooks;

2. The Information and Sampling Network (RIM), operated by the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), which conducts sampling of tuna landings at the main ports used by the Spanish tuna fleet, including major international ports such as Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Dakar (Senegal);

3. The on-board observer programme, which consists of two complementary initiatives: one coordinated by the SGP, focusing on the distant-water surface longline fleet, and another coordinated by the IEO, covering the entire Spanish tuna fleet, including both tropical purse seiners and longliners operating within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as well as in the high seas.

Data from these three systems are integrated and cross-validated through a structured process. In a first step, fishing métiers are identified and classified based on information from the RIM. Subsequently, catch composition is refined using data from both the observer programmes and the RIM. This approach also enables the estimation of catch size distributions.

In general terms, the statistical data coverage across fisheries is approximately 10% of the total fishing trips, both within the EEZ and in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that operational challenges may affect the representativeness and accuracy of some system components. To address this, ongoing improvements have been implemented to enhance data quality, including technological advancements such as the Electronic Monitoring System.

Additionally, catch fate is systematically tracked, with a distinction made between target and bycatch species, as well as between retained and discarded catches, whether the individuals are dead or alive.

Main changes in Spanish Tuna fisheries since last year

In 2024, a significant change occurred in the EU-Spain baitboat fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species within the ICCAT Convention Area. Notably, since 2020, the Spanish fleet operating and landing in Dakar experienced a substantial reduction in the number of active vessels, decreasing from seven to three, with limited fishing activity. This decline was primarily due to the inability to procure live bait, which is essential for the operation of baitboat fisheries. The fleet of pole and line tuna vessels, through an agreement with Senegalese "cayucos", obtained live bait caught in Hann Bay in Dakar. Since

March 2018, fishing in the area has been prohibited due to new order from the Senegalese Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy. In addition, since the summer of 2020 there has been a change in the management of Hann Bay, as the area is declared a Marine Protected Area. The difficulties in obtaining live bait since then are the main reason for the decrease in the number of Spanish pole and line vessels in the area and the drastic drop in the total catches of this fleet. This change is permanent.

In recent years, the number of EU-Spain tropical purse seiner freezer vessels has been notably reduced, decreasing from ten vessels in 2020 to nine vessels authorized in 2024, as established by the Resolution of 3 April 2024 of the Secretaría General de Pesca, which sets out the allocation of Thunnus obesus (bigeye tuna) quotas and the publication of the specific census of vessels authorized to fish for bigeye tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, in accordance with Order APA/372/2020 of 24 April, which regulates the bigeye tuna fishery in the Atlantic Ocean and establishes the corresponding vessel census. This resolution was published in the Official State Gazette (BOE) No. 86, on 8 April 2024, pages 39344 to 39362.

Although nine vessels with Spanish flag are officially authorized to operate in this fishery under the above-mentioned legal framework, in practice only six vessels have been actively engaged in fishing operations during the 2024 season.

A new gear configuration device known as "Loops" has recently emerged within the Spanish surface longline fleet, significantly altering traditional fishing practices. This innovation has led to the development of a modified gear arrangement referred to as "Traplines." The adoption of this system has rapidly expanded across the fleet, being implemented in both the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and distant-water fisheries. Preliminary data regarding the use and performance of these new devices have been recently documented, offering initial insights into their operational impact and potential implications for fishing efficiency and selectivity (Macías et al., 2025 SCRS/2025/098).

B. Research activities

Among the works submitted to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of ICCAT that contribute to methodological improvements and enhanced provision of fisheries statistical data are included:

1. BÁEZ J.C., SALMERÓN F., CEBALLOS ROA E., LOURDES RAMOS M., & ABAUNZA P. (2024). Estimas del devenir de los ejemplares de marrajo dientuso (Isurus oxyrinchus) capturados de forma accesoria por la flota palangrera Española en el Océano Atlántico. SCRS/2023/130. *Collective Volume Scientific Paper, ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas),* 80(4): 822-828
2. ROJO V., DÉNIZ S., ABASCAL F. J., N'GOM F., YALA D., CASAÑAS I., RAMOS M.L., BÁEZ J.C., AND PASCUAL-ALAYÓN P.J. (2024). Estadísticas de las pesquerías atuneras españolas en el Océano Atlántico tropical (1990-2022) SCRS/2024/051. *Collective Volume Scientific Paper, ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas)*, 81(2): 1-25
3. PASCUAL-ALAYÓN P.J., LEREBOURG C., DUPARC A., FLOCH L., DEPETRIS M., DENIZ S., ROJO V., RAMOS M.L., ABASCAL F., BÁEZ J.C, CASAÑAS I., & RAMOS V. (2024). Fishery indicators of the purse seine tropical tuna fisheries: toward a blueprint for uniformization of fisheries descriptors. SCRS/2024/174. *Collective Volume Scientific Paper, ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas)*, 81(2): 1-11
4. BÁEZ J.C., DE LA ROSA J., SALMERÓN F., & RAMOS M.L. (2024). Nuevas estimas del devenir de los ejemplares de marrajo dientuso (Isurus oxyrinchus) capturados de forma accesoria por la flota palangrera española en el Océano Atlántico SCRS/2024/146. Collective Volume Scientific Paper, ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas), 81(9): 1-7
5. MACÍAS D., MORENO DE LA ROSA J., GARCÍA-BARCELONA, S., ALEGRÍA, A., RUEDA L. & J.C. BÁEZ (2025). Spatiotemporal distribution and bycatch associated with surface longlines using traplines in the western Mediterranean. Subcomité de Ecosistenas y Bycatch ICCAT, Madrid 12-16 de mayo. SCRS/2025/098.

ICCAT meeting with Spanish participation:

2024-31	24ª Reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión
2024-30	Tercera reunión intersesiones de la Subcomisión 1

2024-29	Reunión intersesiones de la Subcomisión 4, MSE para el pez espada del Atlántico norte
2024-28	Segunda Reunión del Grupo conjunto de expertos en cambio climático
2024-27	Reunión del Comité Permanente de Investigación y Estadísticas (SCRS)
2024-26	Reuniones de los Grupos de especies del SCRS
2024-25	Reunión de evaluación del stock de rabil
2024-24	Reunión del Grupo de trabajo ad hoc sobre coordinación de marcado
2024-23	Reunión del Grupo conjunto de expertos en cambio climático
2024-21	Reunión de evaluación del stock de aguja azul
2024-20	Grupo de trabajo sobre medidas de seguimiento integradas (IMM)
2024-19	Segunda reunión del GTP sobre un sistema de documentación de capturas
2024-18	Reunión del Grupo de trabajo sobre sistemas de seguimiento electrónico (EMS)
2024-16	Reunión del Grupo de trabajo sobre métodos de evaluación de stocks (WGSAM)
2024-15	Reunión intersesiones del Subcomité de ecosistemas y capturas fortuitas
2024-14	Segunda reunión intersesiones de la Subcomisión 1
2024-13	Reunión de preparación de datos y de evaluación del atún blanco del Mediterráneo
2024-12	Reunión intersesiones del Grupo de especies de pez espada (incluye la MSE)
2024-11	Reunión intersesiones del Grupo de especies de atún rojo
2024-09	Reunión de preparación de datos de rabil
2024-08	Taller del SCRS
2024-07	Reunión de preparación de datos de aguja azul
2024-06	Reunión intersesiones de la Subcomisión 2
2024-05	Primera reunión del GTP sobre sistemas de documentación de capturas
2024-04	Taller del programa anual de pez espada

EU-SWEDEN

SECTION 1: ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE EU-SWEDEN FLEET AND FISHING ACTIVITIES

Fishing fleet and targeted species

Sweden does not engage in targeted fishing for bluefin tuna, but can account for incidental bycatch of BFT, which is deducted from the EU's collective bycatch quota. In 2024 catches were registered with an aggregated weight of 0,640 tonnes. Regarding other species managed by ICCAT and included in the annual reporting cycle (SWO, TRO, ALB), Sweden has neither a quota nor recorded bycatch of these species.

Sweden has no targeted fisheries for ICCAT species. In 2024, Swedish fisheries reported by-catches of BFT with an aggregated volume of 0.640 tonnes. These by-catches occurred during two fishing trips in August and October, in pelagic trawl fisheries targeting herring and sprat.

SECTION 2: Research and statistics

Tuna-related research activities and results of particular interest to ICCAT

This report also applies for reporting to S:BFT09.

Atlantic bluefin tunas have recently returned to the Skagerrak-Kattegat-Sound area during their summer feeding migrations, where they have been extremely rare for over five decades. In an effort to understand the factors affecting their distribution and ecology, a tagging study was developed to enable an improved understanding of the migratory behaviour of these fish visiting the NE Atlantic. The study will over time accumulate substantial individual behavior data to shed light on the proximate causes leading to a north easterly expansion of distribution range similar to that before the 1960'ies. In 2024 the study deployed a variety of electronic and conventional tags on 12 large (> 238 cm curved fork length) Atlantic bluefin tuna captured by volunteer rod-reel anglers in Skagerrak between August 16 and September 8. Specifically, we deployed 12 pop-up satellite archival tags (6 of which were provided by ICCAT). Additionally, sampling fin clippings was done for each tagged individual for genetic analysis and muscle biopsy to explore the physiological status as well as the level of contaminants in the fish. These tagging and sampling operations will extend the results obtained from similar electronic tagging conducted in the same area in 2017 - 2023.

The study has been carried out by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the work has been carried out under the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (under ICCAT Executive Secretary circular G-00515-24 for EOI), which is funded by the European Union, several ICCAT CPCs, the ICCAT Secretariat, and other entities (see https://www.iccat.int/gbyp/en/overview.asp).

Please refer to the attached report for additional information: "Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (Phase 14), (ICCAT GBYP Award), Tagging of Adult Bluefin Tunas in Skagerrak 2024, Final draft (Deliverable 2)". The report has been submitted to the SCRS.

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PART 1: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS REPORTING

Req Nº (IOMS)	Requirement	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
S:GEN01	Annual Reports (Scientific)	Yes		pas de rapport transmis	
S:GEN02	Task 1 Fleet characteristics (T1FC)	Yes		pas de flottilles spécifiques à la pêcherie thonière	
S:GEN03	Task 1 Nominal catch estimations (T1NC)	Yes		2025/09/15	
S:GEN04	Task 2 Catch and effort (T2CE)	Yes		Pas de données	
S:GEN05	Task 2 Size samples (T2SZ)	Yes		pas de données	
S:GEN06	Task 2 Catch-at-size estimations (T2CS)	Yes		pas de données	
S:GEN07	Scientific tagging surveys (inventories)	Yes		pas d'activités réalisées	
S:GEN08	Conventional Tagging declaration (releases/recoveries)	Yes		pas de marques récupérées	
S:GEN09	Electronic Tagging declaration (releases/recoveries)	Yes		pas de marques recupérées	
S:GEN10	Task 3 Domestic observer program data (including EMS)	Yes		programme inactif cette année	
S:GEN11	Information on implementation of Rec. 16-14	Yes		pas de rapport, programme inactif	
S:GEN12	Information and data on pelagic Sargassum	Yes		n'existe pas dans notre zone	
S:GEN13	Specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year	Yes		pas d'activités dans cette zone.	
S:BFT02	Procedures and results from stereoscopical cameras OR alternative methodology for estimating size of bluefin tuna	Yes		pas de flottille ciblant le BFT, espèce non présente au Gabon	
S:BFT03	Task 2 Size samples from stereoscopical cameras resulting from S:BFT02	Yes		pas de flottille ciblant le BFT, espèce non présente au Gabon	
S:BFT04	Task 3 Domestic observer program data (BFT)	Yes		pas de flottille ciblant le BFT, espèce non présente au Gabon	
S:BFT05	Details of research programs on BFT-W	Yes		pas de flottille ciblant le BFT, espèce non présente au Gabon	
S:BFT06	Updates to abundance indices and other fishery indicators	Yes		No fishing activities in the BFT western Atlantic (BFT-W) stock	

Req Nº (IOMS)	Requirement	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
S:BFT07	Information resulting from GBYP related research including new information resulting from enhanced biological sampling activities	Yes		pas de flottille ciblant cette espèce	
S:BFT09	Report on the scientific activities conducted by vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program	Yes		pas de flottille ciblant cette espèce	
S:TRO02	Management plans for the use of fish aggregating devices (including steps to minimise ecological impact)	Yes		pas de pêcherie utilisant ce dispositif	
S:TRO03	Task 3 FAD information (tropicals) (month, 1x1 squares, FAD type, etc.)	Yes		pas de pêcherie utilisant ce dispositif	
S:TRO04	Task 3 Support vessels data on tropical fisheries (BB/PS)	Yes		Ces types de navires d'existent pas dans la flottille gabonaise.	
S:TRO05	Task 3 Domestic observer program data (tropicals)	Yes		programme inactif	
S:TRO10	Information on electronic monitoring systems (EMS)	Yes		pas d'information concernant ce système pour les navires exploitant les espèces relevant de la gestion de l'ICCAT.	
S:TRO06	Task 3 Port Sampling Program data (tropicals)	Yes		pas de pêcheries ciblant les thons tropicaux et pas de débarquement de ces espèces.	
S:TRO07	Historical FAD set data as required by the SCRS (Task 2 catch & effort)	Yes		pas de flottille utilisant les DCP	
S:ALB01	Size and age at maturity (ALB-MD)	Yes		pas d'étude sur cette espèce.	
S:ALB02	Habitat (ALB-MD)	Yes		pas d'études sur cette espèce.	
S:ALB03	Impact of longline fisheries in terms of catch composition (ALB-MD)	Yes		pas de pêcheries palangrières. Espèces non ciblées.	
S:ALB04	CPUE series (ALB-MD)	Yes		Espèces non ciblées.	
S:ALB05	Monthly estimate of proportion of spawners and recruits in the catches (ALB-MD)	Yes		pas de pêcherie ciblant cette espèce.	
S:BIL03	Statistical methodology used to estimate dead and live discards of marlins / roundscale spearfish	Yes		pas pêcheries ciblant ces espèces	
S:BIL04	Information about their data collection program for artisanal and/or small-scale fisheries	Yes		pas de pêcherie de ce type au Gabon	

Req Nº (IOMS)	Requirement	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
S:SHK01	Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level	Yes		pas de pêcheries ciblant ces espèces.	
S:SHK02	Results of research and biological sampling on shortfin mako	Yes		pas de pêcheries ciblant ces espèces.	
S:SHK03	Information on North Atlantic blue shark	Yes		pas de pêcheries ciblant ces espèces.	
S:SHK07	Information on South Atlantic blue shark	Yes		pas de pêcherie ciblant cette espèce	
S:SHK04	The amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards and live releases and statistical methodology used to calculate such discards/releases	Yes		pas de pêcheries ciblant ces espèces.	
S:SHK05	Statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases	Yes		pas de pêcheries ciblant ces espèces.	
S:SHK06	Information on artisanal/small-scale fisheries data collection programs	Yes		pas de pêcherie	
S:SHK08	Interactions with whale sharks during purse seiners operations	Yes		pas de pêcherie à la senne.	
S:BYC01	Provision of existing identification guides for sharks, seabirds and turtles and marine mammals caught in the Convention area	Yes		pas de guide élaboré propre au Gabon	
S:BYC02	Information on interactions of its fleet with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries by gear type	Yes		pas d'interactions enregistrées cette année	
S:BYC03	CPCs shall record data on seabird incidental catch by species through scientific observers in accordance with the Recommendation 10-10 and report these data annually	Yes		pas de données enregistrés.	
S:BYC04	Notification of measures taken on the collection of bycatch and discard data in artisanal fisheries through alternative means	Yes		pas de notifications	
S:BYC05	CPCs shall report on steps taken to mitigate bycatch and reduce discards, and on any relevant research	Yes		pas de pêcherie ayant des prise accessoires en relation avec l'ICCAT	
S:SWO01	Statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases of SWO-N	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	

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PART 2: MANAGEMENT REPORTING

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
GENERAL	M:GEN01	Annual Reports	Yes		2025/09/19	
	M:GEN02	Report on implementation of reporting obligations for all ICCAT fisheries, including shark species	Yes		2025/09/17	
	M:GEN03	ICCAT Compliance Reporting Table	Yes		2025/09/17	
	M:GEN04	Vessel Chartering - summary report	Yes		Nous n'avons pas affrété des navires cette année.	
	M:GEN05	Vessel Chartering - arrangements and termination	Yes		pas de navire affrété	
	M:GEN06a	Transhipment reports - at sea	Yes		pas d'activité dans ce sens	
	M:GEN06b	Transhipment reports in - port	Yes		pas d'activité dans ce sens	
	M:GEN07	Transhipment declarations (at sea)	Yes		pas d'activité dans ce sens	
	M:GEN08	Carrier vessels authorised to receive transhipments of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, either at-sea or in-port	Yes		pas d'activité dans ce sens	
	M:GEN09	LSPLVs which are authorised to tranship to carrier vessels in the Atlantic Ocean (and subsequent modifications)	Yes		pas d'activité dans ce sens	
	M:GEN10a	Points of contact for port entry notifications	Yes		informations non transmises	
	M:GEN10b	Contact points for receiving copies of Port Inspection reports	Yes		informations non transmises	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:GEN11	List of designated ports into which foreign fishing vessels may request entry	Yes		les informations sont les mêmes que l'année dernière	
	M:GEN12	Advance notification period required for entry into port of foreign fishing vessels	Yes		les informations sont les mêmes que l'année dernière, pas de mise à jour	
	M:GEN13	Report of Denial of Entry or Denial of Use of port	Yes		pas d'informations pour cette année.	
	M:GEN14	Copies of port inspection reports containing findings of potential non-compliance or apparent infringement (and others where practicable)	Yes		pas d'inspections réalisées	
	M:GEN15	Action taken following port inspection if apparent infringement is found	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN16	Notification of results of investigation of apparent infringements following port inspection	Yes		pas d'inspections réalisées.	
	M:GEN17	Information of bilateral or multilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation	Yes		pas d'accords autorisés en 2024	
	M:GEN42	Annual reporting on Port inspection activity	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN18	Access agreements and changes	Yes		pas de nouvelles informations	
	M:GEN19	Summary of activities carried out pursuant to access agreements, including all catches	Yes		pas d'informations	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:GEN20	List of vessels of 20 metres LOA or greater	Yes		pas de navires avec ces caractéristiques ciblant le thon	
	M:GEN21	Report on Review of Internal Actions	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN23	Techniques used to manage sport and recreational fisheries	Yes		l'attribution des autorisations de pêche sportive qui permet pour l'instant de connaitre le nombre d'acteurs impliqués dans cette pêcherie. des travaux sont en cours afin de mieux gérer cette pêcherie.	
	M:GEN24	Vessels involved in IUU Fishing / Flag CPC (and non-CPC) investigation repor t(s) on alleged IUU activities	Yes		pas de navires impliqués	
	M:GEN25	Comments on IUU allegations	Yes		pas de commentaires	
	M:GEN34	Request for removal of vessel from final IUU vessel list	Yes		pas de demandes	
	M:GEN41	Report on actions taken against nationals involved in IUU activities	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN26	Trade measures; submission of import and landing data	Yes		pas de données dans ce sens cette année	
	M:GEN27	Data on non-compliance	Yes		aucunes	
	M:GEN28	Findings of investigations in relation to allegations of non-compliance	Yes		aucunes	
	M:GEN29	Vessels sightings	Yes		pas d'observations	
	M:GEN30	Actions taken with regard to reports of vessel sightings	Yes		pas de mesures	
	M:GEN31	National authority responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate and/or National authority responsible for the bluefin tuna trap	No		pas de pêcherie	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
		and farming activities				
	M:GEN32	Designated point(s) of contact (POC) within that authority with responsibility for program implementation	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN33	Reporting on any activities carried out under the pilot program for exchange of inspection personnel	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN35	Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for observer recovery	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN36	Reports on observer incidents triggering provisions of the EAP, including any corrective action taken	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN37	Report of lost fishing gear retrieved	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN38	Report of lost fishing gear not retrieved	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN39	Points of contact to facilitate cooperation on vessel sighting (optional)	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN40	Supply Declarations	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN43	Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Domestic Programmes description	Yes		pas de programmes dans ce sens	
	M:GEN44	Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Domestic Programmes implementation report	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:GEN45	Report on Implementation of Res. 23-20, including Emergency Action Plans (EAP)	Yes		pas d'informations	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:GEN46	Reports on observer incidents involving serious injury, death, or in the event of an observer that is missing or presumed fallen overboard, including any corrective action taken by the flag CPC	Yes		pas d'informations	
BLUEFIN TUNA	M:BFT01	Bluefin tuna farming facilities	No		NA, espèce n'existant pas dans les eaux gabonaises et pas de pêcheries spécifiques.	
	M:BFT02	Bluefin tuna farming reports	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT03	Carry over of caged fish declaration	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT04	Bluefin tuna caging report	No		cett	
	M:BFT05	Bluefin tuna traps	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon	
	M:BFT07	Fishing, inspection and capacity plans	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT08	Farming capacity plan	Yes		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT09	Modifications to fishing plans	Yes		pas de pêcherie existante au Gabon	
	M:BFT10	Information on regulations and other related documents adopted for implementation of Rec. 22-08	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT11	Bluefin tuna catches in the preceding quota allocation period	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT12	Bluefin tuna catching vessels	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT13	Bluefin tuna other vessels	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT14	Joint Fishing Operations	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT15	VMS messages	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT16	Joint Inspection Scheme plans	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT17	List of inspection vessels	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT18	List of inspectors [and agencies]	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:BFT19	Copies of inspection reports from JIS	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT20	Bluefin tuna transhipment ports	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT21	Bluefin tuna landing ports	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT22	Bluefin tuna bi-weekly catch reports (including traps)	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT23	Bluefin tuna monthly catch reports	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT24	Dates when entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT25	Report on steps taken to encourage tag and release of all fish less than 30 kg/115 cm	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT27	BCD Annual Report	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT28	Validation seals and signatures for BCDs	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT29	BCD Contact points	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT30	BCD legislation	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT31	BCD tagging summary, sample tag	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT32	Vessels not included as BFT fishing vessels but known or presumed to have fished E-BFT	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT33	Data needed for registration in eBCD system	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT34	Random controls	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
	M:BFT35	National authority and points of contact responsible for the processing vessel participating in the REM pilot project	No		cette pêcherie n'existe pas au Gabon.	
TROPICAL SPECIES	M:TRO01	List of BET/YFT/SKJ vessels and subsequent changes	Yes		pas de navires ciblant ces espèces	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:TRO02	List of authorized vessels which fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in previous year	Yes		pas de navires ciblant ces espèces	
	M:TRO03	Reports on investigation of IUU activity by BET/YFT/SKJ vessels	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:TRO06	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs	Yes		pas de données. pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO07	Validation seals and signatures for SDPs	Yes		pas de capture pour ces espèces et pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO09	Quarterly catches of Tropical tuna	Yes		pas de prises enregistrées cette année	
	M:TRO10	Steps taken to minimalise ecological impacts of FADs (include in FAD management plan - see also requirement S:TRO02)	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO11	Tropical Tuna Fishing/Capacity Plans / Declarations	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO13	Monthly catches of tropical tuna (BET; SKJ; YFT)	Yes		pas de données enregistrées	
	M:TRO14	Weekly catches of bigeye tuna	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO15	Dates when entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has been utilized	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO17	Maximum on board bycatch limit for tropical tunas	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO18	Measure taken to ensure compliance with M:TRO17	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO19	Total amount of tropical tuna harvested as bycatch that year	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:TRO20	Maximum per trip bycatch limit allowed per stock for the coming fishing year	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
SWORDFISH	M:SWO01	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:SWO02	Validation seals and signatures for SDPs	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:SWO03	List of vessels targetting MED-SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO04	List of sport/recreational vessels authorized to catch Med-SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO05	List of special fishing permits for harpoons or longline for highly-migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean for the previous year	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO06	Report on implementation of Med-SWO closure	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO07	Development or fishing/management plan for North swordfish	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO10	List of authorised ports for MED-SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO11	Quarterly reports of MED-SWO catches	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO12	Summary of implementation of tagging programme	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:SWO13	List of inspection vessels	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:SWO14	List of inspectors [and agencies]	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO15	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for N. SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO16	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for S. SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:SWO17	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of N. SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:SWO18	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of S. SWO	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
	M:SWO19	Copies of inspection reports from JIS	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:SWO20	Fishing plan for Mediterranean swordfish	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
ALBACORE	M:ALB03	List of Vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:ALB04	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for North Atlantic albacore	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:ALB05	Specific authorisation for vessels 20m+ LOA for South Atlantic albacore	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:ALB06	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of N. ALB	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:ALB07	Maximum onboard bycatch limit of S. ALB	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques	
	M:ALB08	List of sport/recreational vessels authorized to catch Med-ALB	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:ALB09	Monthly catches of Mediterranean albacore	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
	M:ALB10	Quarterly catches of Mediterranean albacore	Yes		pas de pêcheries spécifiques dans cette zone	
BILLFISHES	M:BIL01	Report on the implementation of 19-05 and 16-11	Yes		2025/09/17	
	M:BIL04	Claim to exemption to release live BUM/WHM/SPF and measures taken to limit application of this exemption to such fisheries	Yes		Pas d'informations dans ce sens	
SHARKS	M:SHK05	Details of implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures	Yes		2025/09.17	
	M:SHK08	Monthly landings of North Atlantic and	Yes		pas de pêcherie ciblant ces espèces ni n'ayant une interaction avec.	

Group	Req Nº (IOMS)	Information required	Applicable	First submit	Response/Reason for N/A	Last update
		South Atlantic shortfin mako				
	M:SHK09	Report on interactions with whale sharks during purse seine operations.	Yes		par de pêcherie pouvant rentrer en contact avec les requins-baleines	
OTHER SPECIES / BY CATCH	M:BYC01	Report on implementation of Rec. 22-12, Paras 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8 and relevant actions taken to implement the FAO guidelines	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:BYC02	Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures and NPOA for seabirds	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:BYC03	Report on steps taken to mitigate bycatch & reduce discards and any relevant research in this field	Yes		pas de rapport, nous n'avons pas enregistré des données spécifiques à cette question.	
	M:BYC04	Report on the implementation of Res. 23-15	Yes		pas de rapport	
MISCELLANEOUS	M:SDP01	Description of pilot electronic statistical document systems	Yes		pas d'informations	
	M:MIX01	Information and clarification regarding objections to ICCAT Recs	Yes		pas d'informations	

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SUMMARY

Guyana's fisheries sector has historically played a vital role in the national economy, supporting employment, food security, foreign exchange earnings, and seafood exports. The industrial fishery once comprised three key sub-fisheries seabob, penaeid shrimp, and tuna operated by a fleet of 99 trawlers as of 2021. However, by the end of that year, both the penaeid shrimp and tuna fisheries ceased operations due to declining catch rates and economic viability, and the seabob fleet sharply declined from 89 to only 12 operational vessels by 2024. Despite these setbacks, the seabob fishery continues to function under strict sustainability standards, supported by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification and collaboration between the Fisheries Department and the Guyana Association of Trawler Owners and Seafood Processors (GATOSP). In contrast, the inshore artisanal fishery remains active and dominant, with over 1,300 vessels spread across six regions targeting a variety of demersal and coastal species. This sub-sector plays a crucial role in rural livelihoods and food security and is receiving increased support through improved licensing, surveillance, education, and co-management approaches aimed at reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Fisheries Department has significantly enhanced its data management through the introduction of the FAO-supported CALIPSEO system, leading to better data collection, reporting, and capacity-building among fishers and data collectors. Seabob stock assessments conducted in 2023 and updated in 2024 confirmed stocks are near maximum sustainable yield (MSY), prompting an annual 8-week closed season to allow for recovery. Guyana is also advancing two National Plans of Action (NPOAs) focused on shark conservation and the reduction of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), supported by FAO and regional projects. Additional initiatives in 2024 included testing dolphin deterrent pingers in the drift seine fishery, conducting eight at-sea patrols and one aerial reconnaissance mission to monitor IUU fishing, and a successful remote assessment of seabob fishing practices under the U.S. NOAA's Section 609 certification to confirm compliance with sea turtle protection standards.

A national frame survey of the artisanal fishery was also completed in 2024 to gather critical baseline data for improved management and development planning. That same year, marine fisheries production totaled 49,518 metric tonnes, with artisanal fisheries contributing 65% and industrial operations contributing 31%, showing modest growth despite ongoing challenges such as rising operational costs and stock declines. Meanwhile, tuna fishing remains suspended as the Fisheries Department works to clarify requirements set by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), strengthen regulatory frameworks, and build institutional capacity. Although challenges persistparticularly limited staff and experience with ICCAT protocols—Guyana remains committed to implementing conservation and management measures, including those targeting shark bycatch and turtle protection. The 2025 MSC recertification of the seabob fishery reaffirms the country's dedication to sustainable fisheries governance and positions the sector for long-term recovery, growth, and continued contribution to national development.

Section 1: Information on fisheries, research and statistics

1.1 Annual fisheries information

Guyana's **Industrial Fishery** has historically been a major contributor to the national economy, supporting employment, foreign exchange earnings, and seafood exports. In earlier years, up to 2021 the sector comprised three main sub-fisheries: the seabob fishery**,** the penaeid shrimp fishery, and the tuna longline fishery. The offshore trawl fleet included 99 vessels**.** Of these, six trawler**s** targeted penaeid shrimp**,** with finfish, squid, and lobster as bycatch. The majority**,** 89 trawlers, including 70 that were operational focused on seabob, along with small amounts of penaeid shrimp and finfish. Additionally, six longline vessels targeted tuna and tuna-like species.

These fisheries operated under regulated conditions to support sustainability. Penaeid shrimp trawlers typically spent 30 days at sea per trip, averaging 10–12 trips per year**.** Seabob trawlers conducted 7-day trips**,** making about 30 trips annually, while tuna vessels used longline gear with around 30 hooks, spending about 21 days at sea per trip. All shrimp trawlers were required by law to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and Bycatch

Reduction Devices (BRDs). Ice and freezing facilities servicing the industry were privately owned by stakeholders within the sector.

The **seabob fishery** emerged as the most economically viable. Foreign companies began exploiting penaeid shrimp (Penaeus spp.) in the 1950s and 60s. However, the declaration of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in the late 1970s restricted foreign activity, and shrimp landings began to decline. By the 1980s, falling catch rates forced many companies to shut down or sell their vessels. These vessels were later repurposed by local operators to harvest seabob (Xiphopenaeus kroyeri)**,** marking the official start of the seabob trawl fishery in 1984. The fishery experienced rapid growth through the 1990s, peaking around 2000, and became the backbone of Guyana's industrial fishing industry.

Today, however, the sector faces major shifts. At the end of the 2021 fishing season, both the penaeid shrimp and tuna fisheries ceased operations**.** The seabob fleet also contracted sharply in 2024 from 89 licensed trawlers to just 28**,** of which only 12 remain operational. The primary reason for this contraction is a significant decline in catch rates, making it economically unviable for many operators to continue fishing.

Despite these challenges, the seabob fishery continues to operate with a focus on sustainability. The Guyana Association of Trawler Owners and Seafood Processors (GATOSP)**,** which includes all trawler and seafood processing plant owners, works closely with the Fisheries Department to manage the resource. The seabob fishery is Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified and continues to improve its sustainability standards.

In contrast, the **Inshore Artisanal Fishery** is a predominantly demersal fishery operating along Guyana's coast, comprising 1,315 locally constructed vessels ranging from 6 to 16 meters in length and powered by either outboard or inboard engines. These vessels utilize a wide range of fishing gear, including Chinese seines (fyke nets), gillnets, cat guts, anchor seines**,** tie seines, purse seines, caddels lines and circle seines. The artisanal fleet is widely distributed across all six coastal regions, with the highest concentrations in region 4 (313 vessels) and Region 6 (340 vessels)**.** Key species harvested include seabob, whitebelly shrimp, gillbacker, bangamary, sea trout, grey snapper, butterfish, shark, kingfish**,** and catfish**.** This fishery plays a vital role in supporting food security**,** employment, and livelihoods in rural and coastal communities.

To ensure the sustainability of this important sub-sector, the Fisheries Department is actively strengthening management and regulatory frameworks. Efforts include enhancing monitoring and surveillance to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; implementing gear regulations to limit bycatch and protect juvenile species; and enforcing licensing and registration of vessels and fishers for improved oversight. The Department is also working on improvements in data collection and reporting systems aim to inform evidence-based decision-making. Community engagement is being promoted through education and outreach programs**,** encouraging co-management approaches and responsible fishing practices. These initiatives, supported by collaboration with industry stakeholders and other government agencies, reflect a broader commitment to safeguarding marine resources while maintaining the social and economic benefits of the artisanal fishery

Looking ahead, the future of Guyana's fisheries sector, particularly the industrial fishery will depend on its ability to respond to evolving environmental, economic, and operational challenges. Strengthening scientific research, expanding monitoring and data collection, and enforcing sustainable management practices will be essential for rebuilding fish stocks and supporting informed decision-making. At the same time, increased collaboration among government agencies, fishing communities, private sector stakeholders, and regional partners can help foster innovation, build resilience, and promote diversification within the industry. With targeted investment, adaptive governance, and a continued commitment to sustainability, Guyana's fisheries sector remains well-positioned to recover, grow, and continue playing a critical role in national development and coastal livelihoods

1.2 Research and statistics

The Fisheries Department (FD) has significantly strengthened its monitoring and data management capabilities through the development and operationalization of an enhanced **Fisheries Management and Information System** known as **CALIPSEO** (FAO CALIPSEO). The introduction of this system has led to improvements in the design and standardization of data collection tools, including the modification of interview forms across all fishery types. It has also expanded the range of data collected to include socio-economic information, bycatch and discards, as well as Abandoned, Lost, or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG). In addition, reporting processes have improved, with more timely and consistent submissions from stakeholders. The Fisheries Department has also implemented regular training programs to build capacity among data collectors and fishers, ensuring accurate and efficient use of the system. These advancements mark a major step forward in evidence-based fisheries management and support the long-term sustainability of Guyana's marine resources

Seabob stock assessment

A seabob stock assessment was conducted in March 2023 and subsequently updated in September 2024. The findings indicated that the seabob stock is performing at or near its Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), highlighting the need for careful management to ensure long-term sustainability. In response, the seabob fishing zone (8–18 fathoms) are closed for eight weeks (8) annually to allow for stock recovery.

During this recovery period, the Fisheries Department also focused on capacity building within the sector. Training sessions were conducted for fishers on several key topics, including the identification of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) and vulnerable species, safety at sea, environmental protection, and bycatch management stock assessment and relevant fisheries laws and regulations. These efforts aim to promote responsible fishing practices and enhance compliance, contributing to the overall sustainability and resilience of the seabob fishery

NPOAs

Guyana is advancing the development of two key fisheries management plans: the National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) and the National Plan of Action on Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear (NPOA-ALDFG), currently in their third and second draft stages, respectively. These initiatives are supported by two GEF-funded projects—REBYC-III CLME+ and EAF4SG—with technical guidance from the FAO and the University of the West Indies. The NPOA-Sharks aims to conserve shark populations through improved monitoring and bycatch reduction, while the NPOA-ALDFG focuses on reducing ghost fishing and marine debris. Additionally, tools like the WWF's onboard species identification guide are being used to support conservation efforts and improve compliance

Pinger Experiment

In 2024, Guyana began testing Dolphin Deterrent Devices (DDD pingers) in the drift seine fishery under the REBYC-III CLME+ project to reduce dolphin bycatch. The project also supports actions to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, including improved monitoring, licensing, and community awareness. These efforts promote sustainable fishing and align with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

At sea patrols and Aerial reconnaissance

In 2024, the Fisheries Department, in collaboration with the Guyana Coast Guard, conducted eight at-sea patrols and one aerial reconnaissance mission as part of its ongoing efforts to monitor and deter Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. These coordinated operations aimed to enhance surveillance within Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), ensure compliance with fisheries regulations, and protect marine resources from

unauthorized exploitation. The at-sea patrols allowed enforcement officers to board vessels, inspect licenses, verify gear types, and check catch documentation, while the aerial reconnaissance provided a broader view of vessel activity across wider areas, including hard-to-reach offshore zones.

Remote assessment under Section 609 of the U.S. NOAA certification for the seabob fishery

In 2024, the seabob fishery in Guyana underwent a remote assessment as part of the certification process under Section 609 of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations. Section 609 of the U.S. Public Law 101-162 prohibits the importation of shrimp and shrimp products harvested in ways that may adversely affect sea turtles, unless the harvesting nation has adopted and effectively implemented a regulatory program comparable to that of the U.S. This includes the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl fisheries. The remote assessment involved a thorough review of Guyana's fisheries legislation, enforcement mechanisms, TED compliance as well as the country's overall commitment to reducing sea turtle bycatch**.**

Artisanal Frame survey

In 2024, the Fisheries Department, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), conducted a frame survey focused on the artisanal fisheries sector. This nationwide assessment was designed to collect updated and reliable baseline data on various aspects of the inshore artisanal fishery, including the number and types of vessels, landing sites, gear types used, fishing effort, and key socio-economic characteristics of fishers and their communities. The data gathered is vital for understanding the structure and scale of artisanal fishing operations and will play a central role in informing resource management, licensing, monitoring and surveillance, and development planning.

Additionally, the survey provides valuable insight into the **livelihoods and economic conditions o**f artisanal fishers, helping to support more targeted policies and programs aimed at improving their well-being.

Marine Production

In **2024**, Guyana's marine fisheries sector recorded a **total production of 49,518.34 metric tonnes (mt),** reflecting a slight increase from the **48,859.7 mt** landed in **2023.** The **artisanal fishery** remained the dominant contributor, accounting for **32,138.52 mt,** or approximately **65%** of the total marine output. The **industrial fishery** contributed **15,303.02 mt,** representing around **31%** of the total catch. The remaining **4%** is attributed to the **semi-industrial fishery**, which primarily targets snapper and other demersal species. This modest growth demonstrates the sector's **resilience** and ongoing **contribution to national food security, rural livelihoods, employment, and export earnings,** despite persistent challenges such as declining catch rates in some areas, increasing fuel and operational costs, and the need for improved resource management across all sub-sectors

Section 2: Information on conservation and management measures

2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

In 2024, no tuna vessels were licensed or operational in Guyana. The Fisheries Department (FD) has withheld the approval of applications for the exploitation of pelagic fisheries, including tuna and tuna-like species, due to the need for further clarity on requirements set by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) including quotas, reporting protocols, and conservation standards. The situation was further impacted by the loss of key management personnel, which significantly hampered the Department's capacity to effectively manage and monitor a new fishery. Until a comprehensive study is conducted and the necessary regulatory framework is strengthened, the FD will not be accepting applications for tuna fishery development.
In the meantime, the Fisheries Department has continued its core responsibilities, including ongoing data collection on catch, effort, and biological sampling for other harvested species in the shrimp trawl and the artisanal fishery. Training activities were also carried out to guide vessel captains on accurate logbook completion, with a focus on improving data quality and traceability. The artisanal fishery remains open and accessible to all participants, providing a critical source of income and food security for coastal communities.

To enhance fisheries governance, the FD is actively working with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to integrate key principles of sustainable fisheries management into national legislation. This includes the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and strengthened actions against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, such as adopting the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).
Should companies wish to pursue tuna operations in the future, the FD will require strict compliance with international standards and laws. Vessels will be mandated to implement a suite of monitoring tools, including Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for onboard observation, and proper documentation of interactions with Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species. Requirements will also include measures to monitor and report on Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG).
Furthermore, in 2025, Guyana's seabob fishery successfully achieved recertification by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) after undergoing a rigorous assessment against the Council's sustainability standards in 2024. The evaluation examined the fishery's environmental impact, management effectiveness, and long-term sustainability practices. This recertification reaffirms Guyana's ongoing commitment to responsible fisheries management and helps ensure continued access to high-value international export markets that demand certified sustainable seafood

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

HK 01: The majority of shark catches in Guyana occur within the artisanal fishery, with most of the landed sharks consumed locally. These specimens are often landed without heads, making species-level identification challenging. Despite this limitation, the Contracting Party Country (CPC) remains committed to complying with ICCAT's recommendations on shark species management. The Fisheries Department (FD) is currently working closely with stakeholders to promote compliance, while simultaneously developing the necessary legislation and a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks), which is expected to be finalized by 2024 and implemented from 2025 onwards.

BYC 8002–8003: During the reporting period, turtle sightings by shrimp trawl operators were minimal, and interactions with fishing gear were negligible. This outcome is largely attributed to the effective use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and compliance with designated fishing zones, in accordance with the General Fisheries Regulations of 2018. These measures continue to play a critical role in mitigating bycatch and protecting vulnerable marine species.

Other: The FD remains fully committed to implementing all relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures, including accurate and timely data submission. While staff currently lack extensive experience in ICCAT-related processes, the FD welcomes capacity-building opportunities and technical training to strengthen institutional knowledge and performance. However, the Department continues to face challenges due to limited staffing and high turnover rates, which hinder consistent reporting and impact the overall efficiency of fisheries management activities

Appendices (if any)

Section 3: Online reporting

PART 1: RESEARCH AND STATISTICS REPORTING

IOMS

Guyana's marine fisheries sector engages in mandatory statistical reporting and compliance audits with three primary international and regional bodies, covering general capacity, highly migratory species, and critical export market access requirements:

1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

These bodies serve as the primary conduit for reporting fundamental national fisheries statistics and providing regional context:

- **Role:** The CRFM compiles national data from its Member States to produce regional statistical overviews, which are subsequently integrated into the global frameworks maintained by the FAO.
- **Data Content:** Guyana submits annual data on its core fisheries capacity, including the national fishing fleet characteristics, overall marine capture production volumes, and comprehensive employment figures for the sector.
- **Purpose**: This reporting fulfills general international statistical requirements and serves as the foundational data source for national capacity assessment

2. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

As the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) for the Atlantic, ICCAT manages highly migratory species (HMS), including tunas, billfishes, and sharks.

Reporting System: Guyana is required to submit data through the structured ICCAT Task data system annually.

- Task 1: Requires reporting general fleet characteristics (vessel numbers by size and gear) and nominal annual catch of HMS.
- Task 2: Demands high-resolution data necessary for stock assessments, including catch and effort statistics stratified by month, geographical area, gear type, and species.

Additional Information: ICCAT also encourages the submission of all available information regarding interactions and incidental catches of protected species, specifically sea turtles and seabird

3. U.S. Department of State (DOS) / NOAA Fisheries (Section 609 Certification)
This is a trade and conservation compliance requirement critical for accessing the U.S. market for wild-caught shrimp.

Legislation: Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 mandates that nations exporting wild-caught shrimp to the United States must have a sea turtle protection program comparable to that of the U.S.

Compliance Focus: The primary focus is the mandatory use and enforcement of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in commercial shrimp trawling operations. The U.S. Department of State is the certifying agency, with technical advice from NOAA Fisheries.

Status: Guyana is required to undergo an annual assessment (which may be conducted remotely) and is certified for eligibility to export wild-caught shrimp to the United States, as confirmed by the most recent determination effective May 12, 2025.

PART 2: MANAGEMENT REPORTING

IOMS

Guyana's marine fisheries management reporting requirements are structured across national administrative mandates, regional statistical contributions, and specialized international compliance audits. These requirements ensure the responsible development of the sector, provide data for stock assessment, and secure vital export market access.

The management and regulatory reporting requirements are categorized as follows:

I. National Regulatory and Administrative Reporting

The **Fisheries Department** under the Ministry of Agriculture is the core national authority responsible for managing and regulating the sustainable development of marine resources. Internal reporting requirements are mandated by its specialized units:

- **Statistical Unit:** Required to collect, manage, and analyze data from the sector to provide scientific and socio-economic information crucial for policy determination and resource management. This includes conducting market surveys and managing data entry and storage.
- **Legal and Inspectorate Unit:** Responsible for ensuring full compliance with the national **Fisheries Act 2002** and other administrative requirements. Key reporting/administrative outputs include:
    - **Vessel Registration and Licensing:** Monitoring the registration and licensing status of all fishing vessels.
    - **Compliance Monitoring:** Monitoring the compliance of the industrial fleet and artisanal fishers with their license conditions.
    - **Enforcement and Surveillance:** Reporting and documentation of enforcement activities.
    - **Export Licences:** Production and management of individual export licenses for fish and fish products.

II. International Statistical and Capacity Reporting

Guyana fulfills its general statistical obligations by reporting to regional and global bodies, primarily through the established framework of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

- **Reporting Bodies:** Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).
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Sección 3: Comunicaciones en línea

PARTE 1: COMUNICACIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN SOBRE INVESTIGACIÓN Y ESTADÍSTICAS

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
S:GEN01	Informes anuales (científico)	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
S:GEN02	Características de la flota de Tarea 1 (T1FC)	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
S:GEN03	Estimación de captura nominal de Tarea 1 (T1NC)	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
S:GEN04	Captura-esfuerzo de Tarea 2 (T2CE)	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
S:GEN05	Muestras de talla de Tarea 2 (T2SZ)	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
S:GEN06	Captura-esfuerzo de Tarea 2 (T2CS)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención, y por tanto reporta CERO CAPTURA).	
S:GEN07	Prospecciones de marcado científico (inventarios)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha realizado prospecciones para el marcado científico de atunes, ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:GEN08	Declaración de marcado convencional (marcado/recuperación)	No		No aplicable, (Nicaragua no ha realizado declaraciones de marcado convencional, ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:GEN09	Declaración de marcado electrónico (marcado/recuperación)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha realizado prospecciones para el marcado electrónico de atunes, , ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:GEN10	Tarea 3 - Datos de los programas de observadores nacionales (incluido el EMS)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha recopilado información en el marco de los observadores atuneros nacionales, ya que actualmente no	

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
				opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:GEN11	Información sobre la implementación de la Rec. 16-14.	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha recopilado información en el marco de los observadores atuneros nacionales, ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:GEN12	Información y datos sobre Sargassum pelágico	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha remitido información y datos sobre Sargassum pelágico, ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:GEN13	Información específica de los buques pesqueros que fueron autorizados a operar en pesquerías de palangre pelágico y arpón en el Mediterráneo durante el año anterior	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha tenido buques pesqueros palangreros pelágicos y de arpón autorizados para operar en el área de Mediterráneo en años anteriores).	
S:BFT02	Procedimientos y resultados de las cámaras estereoscópicas O metodología alternativa para estimar la talla del atún rojo	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no tiene granjas para la crianza y engorde de atún rojo en jaulas, por lo tanto, no se aplica ninguna metodología de filmación para la estimación del crecimiento de estas especies).	
S:BFT03	Tarea 2 - Muestras de tallas de cámaras estereoscópicas resultantes de S:BFT02	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no granjas para la crianza y engorde del atún rojo en jaulas, por lo tanto, no se aplica ninguna metodología de filmación para la estimación del crecimiento de estas especies).	
S:BFT04	Tarea 3 - Datos de los programas internos de observadores (BFT)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera ni observadores nacionales en buques que pescan el atún rojo).	
S:BFT05	Detalles de los programas de investigación sobre BFT-W	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no participa en los programas de investigación en	

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
				colaboración sobre W_BFT.	
S:BFT06	Actualizaciones de Índices de abundancia y otros indicadores de la pesquería	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no participa en los programas de investigación donde se estimen los índices de abundancia y otros indicadores del estado de las pesquerías.	
S:BFT07	Información procedente de la investigación del GBYP, lo que incluye la nueva información procedente de actividades de muestreo biológico mejoradas	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención, y no ha participado en actividades científicas de campo en el área de la ICCAT).	
S:BFT09	Informe de actividades científicas de los buques que operan en el contexto de un proyecto científico de un instituto de investigación integrado en un programa de investigación científica	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha participado en programas de ningún instituto de investigación integrado en el área de la ICCAT).	
S:TRO02	Planes de ordenación para la utilización de dispositivos de concentración de peces (lo que incluye acciones para minimizar su impacto ecológico).	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención, por lo tanto, no cuenta con planes de ordenación para la utilización de dispositivos de concentración de peces).	
S:TRO03	Tarea 3 - Información sobre DCP (tropicales)(mes, cuadrículas estadísticas de 1ºx1º, tipo de DCP, etc)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención ni DCP que estén operando en la zona de la ICCAT).	
S:TRO04	Tarea 3 - Datos de buques de apoyo en las pesquerías tropicales (PS/BB)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera ni buques de apoyo en el área de la convención).	
S:TRO05	Tarea 3 - Datos de los programas de observadores internos (tropicales)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no cuenta con un programa de observadores internos).	
S:TRO10	Información sobre sistemas de seguimiento electrónico (EMS)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no ha remitido información sobre EMS ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
S:TRO06	Tarea 3 - Datos del programa de muestreo en puerto (tropicales)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua aún no tiene puertos habilitados para realizar descargas, por lo tanto, aún no cuenta con programas de muestreo en puerto.	
S:TRO07	Datos históricos de lances sobre DCP tal y como requiere el SCRS (captura y esfuerzo de Tarea 2)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:ALB01	Talla y edad de madurez (ALB-MD)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:ALB02	Hábitat (ALB-MD)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:ALB03	Impacto de las pesquerías de palangre en términos de composición de la captura (ALB-MD)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:ALB04	Series de CPUE (ALB-MD)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:ALB05	Estimación mensual de la proporción de reproductores y reclutas en las capturas (ALB-MD)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:BIL03	Metodología estadística utilizada para estimar los descartes vivos y muertos de agujas/marlín peto	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera de aguja/marlín/peto en el área de la convención; no obstante, la captura de algunas especies pelágicas ocurre de manera incidental en la pesca artesanal de pargos y meros, las estadísticas de desembarque es recopilada por los inspectores de pesca directamente en los centros de acopio y plantas de proceso, la información de los pelágicos no se clasifica a nivel de especies, estos son reportados en la base de datos en el grupo de otras especies).	

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
S:BIL04	Información sobre su programa de recopilación de datos para las pesquerías artesanales y/o de pequeña escala	No		Nicaragua recopila información estadística de su pesquería artesanal por medio de sus inspectores de pesca directamente en centros de acopio y plantas de proceso, la información se obtiene por grupos de especie de acuerdo a su nombre común, la oficina central de estadísticas procesa la información de manera mensual y anual, según su procedencia y es publicada en los anuarios pesqueros y acuícolas del INPESCA.	
S:SHK01	Plan para mejorar la recopilación de datos de tiburones por especies	No		Nicaragua recopila información estadística de la pesca incidental de tiburones por medio de sus inspectores de pesca directamente en centros de acopio y plantas de proceso, la información se obtiene por grupos de especie de acuerdo a su nombre común, la oficina central de estadísticas procesa la información de manera mensual y anual, según su procedencia y es publicada en los anuarios pesqueros y acuícolas del INPESCA	
S:SHK02	Resultados de la investigación y muestreo biológico del marrajo dientuso	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no realiza investigaciones ni realiza muestreos biológicos del marrajo dientuso).	
S:SHK03	Información sobre tiburón azul del Atlantico norte	Sí	2025-10-02	Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención	2025-11-13
S:SHK07	Información sobre tiburón azul del Atlantico sur	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no realiza investigaciones ni realiza muestreos biológicos sobre el Tiburón Azul del Atlantico sur).	
S:SHK04	Cantidad de marrajo dientuso del Atlántico norte capturado y retenido a bordo, así como	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera que	

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
	descartes de peces muertos y las liberaciones de peces vivos y metodología estadística utilizada para calcular dichos descartes/liberaciones.			captura marrajo dientuso en el área de la convención).	
S:SHK05	Metodología estadística utilizada para estimar los descartes de ejemplares muertos y las liberaciones de ejemplares vivos.	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:SHK06	Información sobre programas de recopilacion de datos de pesquerías artesanales/de pequeña escala	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no captura especies ICCAT en pesca artesanal en el área de la convención).	
S:SHK08	Interacciones con tiburones ballena durante las operaciones de los cerqueros	Sí		Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención	2025-11-13
S:BYC01	Facilitar las guías de identificación existentes para los tiburones, aves marinas, tortugas marinas y mamíferos marinos capturados en la zona del Convenio	No		Para la identificación de los tiburones, aves marinas, las tortugas marinas y mamíferos marinos, Nicaragua utiliza diferentes guías de identificación, principalmente las guías de la FAO publicadas en su sitio web.	
S:BYC02	Información sobre interacciones de su flota con tortugas marinas en las pesquerías de ICCAT por tipo de arte	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	
S:BYC03	Las CPC consignarán datos sobre captura incidental de aves marinas por especies a través de observadores científicos de conformidad con la Rec. 10-10 y comunicarán estos datos anualmente	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera ni programa de observadores en el área de la convención).	
S:BYC04	Notificación de medidas adoptadas para la recopilación de datos de descartes y captura fortuita en las pesquerías artesanales a través de medios alternativos.	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no realiza recopilación de datos de descartes y captura fortuita a través de medios alternativos, solamente recopila a través de los inspectores de pesca descritos en el apartado S56).	
S:BYC05	Las CPC informarán sobre las acciones emprendidas para mitigar la captura fortuita y reducir los descartes y sobre cualquier investigación pertinente	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	

Nº Req. (IOMS)	Requisito	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
S:SWO01	Metodología estadística utilizada para estimar los descartes muertos y las liberaciones vivas de pez espada del Atlántico Norte (SWO-N)	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	

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Sección 3: Comunicaciones en línea

PARTE 2: COMUNICACIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN SOBRE ORDENACIÓN

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
GENERAL	M:GEN01	Informes anuales	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
	M:GEN02	Informe sobre la implementación de las obligaciones de comunicación para todas las pesquerías de ICCAT, lo que incluye las especies de tiburones	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
	M:GEN03	Tabla de transmisión de información sobre cumplimiento a ICCAT	Sí	2025-09-30		2025-09-30
	M:GEN04	Fletamento de buques - informe resumido	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN05	Fletamento de buques - acuerdos y finalización	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	
	M:GEN06a	Informes de transbordo en el mar	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN06b	Informes de transbordo en puerto	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN07	Declaración de transbordo (en el mar)	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN08	Buques de transporte autorizados a recibir transbordos de túnidos y	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		especies afines en el Atlántico, ya sea en el mar o en puerto				
	M:GEN09	Grandes palangreros pelágicos autorizados a transbordar a buques de transporte en el océano Atlántico (y cualquier modificación subsiguiente)	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN10a	Puntos de contacto para notificaciones de entrada en puerto	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN10b	Puntos de contacto para recibir copias de los informes de inspección portuaria	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN11	Lista de puertos designados a los cuales los buques pesqueros extranjeros podrían solicitar entrada	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene puertos designados para la entrada de buques pesqueros extranjeros).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN12	Periodo de notificación previa requerido para la entrada en puerto de buques pesqueros extranjeros	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene puertos designados para la entrada de buques pesqueros extranjeros).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN13	Informe de denegación de entrada o denegación del uso del puerto	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene puertos designados para la entrada de buques pesqueros extranjeros).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN14	Copias de los informes de inspección que incluyan hallazgos de incumplimientos potenciales o supuestas infracciones (u otras cuando sea viable)	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha recibido buques de bandera extranjera en puertos nicaragüenses).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN15	Acciones emprendidas después de la	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha recibido buques de	2025-09-30

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		inspección en puerto si se ha descubierto una presunta infracción			bandera extranjera en puertos nicaragüenses).	
	M:GEN16	Notificación de los resultados de la investigación de supuestas infracciones tras la inspección en puerto	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha recibido buques de bandera extranjera en puertos nicaragüenses).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN17	Información sobre acuerdos/arreglos bilaterales o multilaterales que permitan un programa de intercambio de inspectores diseñado para promover la cooperación.	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha suscrito acuerdos/arreglos bilaterales o multilaterales para intercambio de observadores ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN42	Declaración anual sobre las actividades de inspección en puerto	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha suscrito acuerdos/arreglos bilaterales o multilaterales para intercambio de observadores ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN18	Acuerdos de acceso y cambios	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha suscrito acuerdos de acceso o cambios ya que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN19	Resumen de actividades llevadas a cabo conforme a acuerdos de acceso, lo que incluye todas las capturas	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no realizado ningún resumen de actividades tomando en cuenta que no ha suscrito acuerdos de acceso o cambios).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN20	Lista de buques con una LOA de 20 m o superior	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN21	Informe de revisión de acciones internas	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
	M:GEN23	Técnicas utilizadas para gestionar las pesquerías deportivas y de recreo	No	2025-09-30	Nicaragua se encuentra en proceso de elaboración de la normativa para regular la pesca deportiva y recreativa, con el propósito de incentivar el desarrollo de la pesca deportiva y recreativa en el país.	2025-09-30
	M:GEN24	Buques implicados en actividades de pesca IUU / el/los informe(s) de la CPC (y la no CPC) de pabellón sobre las supuestas actividades IUU	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN25	Comentarios sobre alegaciones IUU	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN34	Solicitud de eliminación de un buque de la lista final de buques IUU	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua nunca ha tenido ningún buque en lista IUU de la ICCAT).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN41	Informe sobre acciones emprendidas contra nacionales implicados en actividades IUU	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN26	Medidas comerciales, presentación de datos de importación y desembarque	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN27	Datos sobre incumplimiento	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN28	Hallazgos de las investigaciones relacionadas con las alegaciones de incumplimientos	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN29	Avistamientos de buques	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN30	Acciones emprendidas con respecto a los informes de	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (No existen reportes de avistamientos).	2025-09-30

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		avistamientos de buques				
	M:GEN31	Autoridad nacional responsable de la inspección en el mar y otras agencias marítimas de apoyo, según proceda, y/o Autoridad nacional responsable de la almadraba y las actividades de cría de atún rojo	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota de atún rojo y actualmente no opera flota pesquera que realice pesca de esta especie en el área de la ICCAT).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN32	Punto(s) de contacto designado(s) (POC) entre las autoridades responsables de la implementación del programa	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN33	Informe de cualquier actividad realizada en el marco del programa piloto de intercambio de personal de inspección	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni opera flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la Conveción, por lo que no participa en los programas pilotos de intercambio de personal de inspección).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN35	Plan de Acción de Emergencia (EAP) para rescate de observadores	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene un programa de observadores activos en el área de la ICCAT).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN36	Informes sobre los incidentes de los observadores que activan las disposiciones del EAP, incluyendo cualquier medida correctiva adoptada	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene un programa de observadores activos en el área de la ICCAT).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN37	Informe de artes de pesca perdidos recuperados	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN38	Informe de artes de pesca perdidos no recuperados	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN39	Puntos de contacto para facilitar la cooperación en el	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		avistamiento de buques (opcional)				
	M:GEN40	Declaración de suministro	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN43	Descripción de los programas nacionales de sistemas de seguimiento electrónico (EMS)	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN44	Informe de implementación de los programas nacionales de sistemas de seguimiento electrónico (EMS)	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN45	Informe de implementación de la Res. 23-20, incluidos los Planes de acción de emergencia (EAP)	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
	M:GEN46	Informes sobre incidentes con observadores que impliquen heridas graves, fallecimiento, o en el caso de un observador desaparecido o que presuntamente haya caído por la borda, incluyendo en ellos cualquier acción correctiva emprendida por la CPC de pabellón	No	2025-09-30	No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	2025-09-30
ATÚN ROJO	M:BFT01	Granjas de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene granjas para atún rojo).	
	M:BFT02	Informes sobre cría de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene granjas para atún rojo).	
	M:BFT03	Declaración de traspaso de peces que permanecen en las jaulas	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene granjas para atunes, ni mantiene peces en jaulas).	
	M:BFT04	Informe de introducción de atún rojo en jaulas	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene peces en jaulas).	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
	M:BFT05	Almadrabas de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no utiliza almadrabas).	
	M:BFT07	Planes de pesca, de inspección y de capacidad	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT08	Plan de capacidad de cría	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no realiza esta actividad por lo tanto no realiza ajustes a planes de capacidad de cría).	
	M:BFT09	Modificaciones al plan de pesca	No		No aplicable No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT10	Información sobre reglamentos y otros documentos relacionados adoptados para la implementación de la Rec. 21-08	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT11	Capturas de atún rojo durante el periodo de asignación de cuota anterior	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT12	Buques de captura de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT13	Otros buques de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT14	Operaciones de pesca conjuntas	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT15	Mensajes VMS	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT16	Planes del programa de inspección conjunta	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
	M:BFT17	Lista de buques de inspección	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT18	Lista de inspectores (y agencias)	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT19	Copias de los informes de inspección de JIS	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT20	Puertos de transbordo de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT21	Puertos de desembarque de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT22	Informes quincenales de captura de atún rojo (incluidas almadrabas)	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT23	Informes de capturas mensuales de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT24	Fechas en las que se ha utilizado la totalidad de la cuota de atún rojo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT25	Informe sobre acciones emprendidas para incentivar el marcado y la liberación de todos los ejemplares de menos de 30 kg/115 cm	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT27	Informe anual BCD	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
	M:BFT28	Sellos y firmas de validación para los BCD	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT29	Puntos de contacto para el BCD	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT30	Legislación para el BCD	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT31	Resumen de marcado y marca de muestra para el BCD	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT32	Buques no incluidos como buques de pesca de atún rojo, pero que se sabe o que se supone que han capturado atún rojo del este	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT33	Datos necesarios para registrar en el Sistema eBCD	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT34	Controles aleatorios	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:BFT35	Autoridad nacional y puntos de contacto responsables del buque de transformación que participa en el proyecto piloto de REM	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene cuota ni flota pesquera para el atún rojo en el área de la ICCAT).	
ESPECIES TROPICALES	M:TRO01	Lista de buques BET/YFT/SKJ y cambios subsiguientes	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO02	Lista de buques autorizados que pescaron patudo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		y/o rabil y/o listado en el año anterior			de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO03	Informes de investigaciones de actividades IUU realizadas por buques BET/YFT/SKJ	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	
	M:TRO06	Datos de los programas de documento estadístico de ICCAT	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO07	Sellos y firmas de validación para el programa de documento estadístico	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha emitido documentos estadísticos).	
	M:TRO09	Capturas trimestrales de túnidos tropicales	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO10	Acciones emprendidas para minimizar el impacto ecológico de los DCP (incluir en plan de ordenación de DPC - véase también el requisito S:TRO02)	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	
	M:TRO11	Plan / Declaración de pesca/capacidad para los túnidos tropicales	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	
	M:TRO13	Capturas mensuales de túnidos tropicales (BET; SKJ; YFT)	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO14	Capturas semanales de patudo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO15	Fechas en las que se ha utilizado la totalidad del límite	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		de captura de patudo			tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO17	Límite máximo de captura fortuita a bordo para los túnidos tropicales	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención).	
	M:TRO18	Medidas tomadas para garantizar el cumplimiento de la M:TRO17	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO19	Cantidad total de túnidos tropicales capturada de forma fortuita ese año	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:TRO20	Límite máximo de captura fortuita por marea permitido por stock para el siguiente año pesquero	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
PEZ ESPADA	M:SWO01	Datos de los programas de documento estadístico de ICCAT	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no realiza capturas de especies ICCAT, en vista que actualmente no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, por tanto, reporta CAPTURA CERO).	
	M:SWO02	Sellos y firmas de validación para el programa de documento estadístico	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no ha emitido documentos estadísticos) estadísticos).	
	M:SWO03	Lista de buques que se dirigen al pez espada del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada de la zona en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:SWO04	Lista de buques deportivos/de recreo autorizados a capturar pez espada del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera deportiva para el pez espada en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:SWO05	Lista de permisos especiales de pesca para arpón o palangre dirigidos a stocks pelágicos altamente migratorios en el	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de arpón o palangre dirigida a los stock del pez espada del Mediterráneo).	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		Mediterráneo durante el año anterior				
	M:SWO06	Informe sobre la implementación de la veda a la pesca de pez espada del Mediterráneo.	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada de la zona en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:SWO07	Plan de desarrollo o pesca/ordenación para el pez espada del norte	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada del norte).	
	M:SWO10	Lista de puertos autorizados para SWO MED	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene puertos autorizados ni flota pesquera en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:SWO11	Informes trimestrales de capturas de pez espada del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada de la zona en el Mediterráneo, por lo tanto no elabora informes de capturas).	
	M:SWO12	Resumen de la implementación del programa de marcado	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene programa de marcado del pez espada, ya que aún no tiene flota pesquera en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:SWO13	Lista de buques de inspección	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua aún no tiene flota pesquera en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:SWO14	Lista de inspectores (y agencias)	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene inspectores ni flota pesquera en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:SWO15	Autorización específica para buques con una LOA de 20m o + para pez espada del norte	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada del norte).	
	M:SWO16	Autorización específica para buques con una LOA de 20 m o + para pez espada del sur	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada del sur).	
	M:SWO17	Límite máximo de captura fortuita de pez espada del norte a bordo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada del norte).	
	M:SWO18	Límite máximo de captura fortuita de pez espada del sur a bordo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera para el pez espada del sur).	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
	M:SWO19	Copias de los informes de inspección de JIS	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no envía informes de inspección por que no tiene flota pesquera en la zona de ICCAT)	
	M:SWO20	Plan de pesca para pez espada del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable. (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera en el Mediterráneo).	
ATÚN BLANCO	M:ALB03	Lista de buques autorizados a pescar atún blanco del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:ALB04	Autorización específica para buque con una LOA de 20 m o + para atún blanco del Atlántico norte	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Atlántico norte).	
	M:ALB05	Autorización específica para buques con una LOA de 20 m o + para atún blanco del Atlántico sur	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Atlántico sur).	
	M:ALB06	Límite máximo de captura fortuita de atún blanco del norte a bordo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Atlántico norte).	
	M:ALB07	Límite máximo de captura fortuita de atún blanco del sur a bordo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Atlántico sur).	
	M:ALB08	Lista de buques deportivos/de recreo autorizados a capturar atún blanco del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene buques deportivos/de recreo que operen en el área de la ICCAT).	
	M:ALB09	Capturas mensuales de atún blanco del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Mediterráneo).	
	M:ALB10	Capturas trimestrales de atún blanco del Mediterráneo	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera de atún blanco en el Mediterráneo).	
MARLINES	M:BIL01	Informe sobre la implementación de la Rec. 19-05 y 16-11.	Sí		No aplicable (Nicaragua no tiene flota pesquera que capture las especies referidas en estas recomendaciones).	
	M:BIL04	Exención para liberar BUM/WHM/SPF vivos y medidas	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no opera flota pesquera que capture las especies indicadas, por lo tanto no	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		adoptadas para limitar la aplicación de esta exención a dichas pesquerías			ha solicitado exención para liberar BUM/WHM/SPF vivos y medidas adoptadas para limitar la aplicación de esta exención).	
TIBURONES	M:SHK05	Información detallada sobre la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT relacionadas con los tiburones	Sí		Nicaragua aún no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, razón por la cual no tiene un plan de medidas de conservación y ordenación de la ICCAT relacionada con los tiburones, no obstante, siendo país miembro de SICA-OSPESCA, Nicaragua cumple con las disposiciones establecidas por ese organismo para la conservación y ordenación de los tiburones, siendo estos, los siguientes: PAR-TIBURÓN 2011 y el Reglamento Regional OSP-05-11 Para prohibir el aleteo del tiburón en los países de Centroamérica.	
	M:SHK08	Desembarques mensuales de marrajo dientuso del Atlántico norte y sur	Sí		Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención	2025-11-13
	M:SHK09	Informe de las interacciones con tiburones ballena durante operaciones de cerco.	Sí		Nicaragua actualmente no opera flota pesquera propia, ni fletada, en el área de la convención	2025-11-13
OTRAS ESPECIES / CAPTURA FORTUITA	M:BYC01	Informe sobre la implementación de la Rec. 22-12, párrs. 1, 2, 4, 5 y 8, y acciones pertinentes emprendidas para implementar las directrices de FAO	Sí		No aplicable (Nicaragua no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención capturando especies ICCAT, razón por la que no se remite informe sobre la implementación de dichas Recomendaciones).	
	M:BYC02	Informe sobre la implementación de medidas de mitigación para las	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención capturando	

Grupo	Nº Req. (IOMS)	Información requerida	Aplicable	Primer envío	Respuesta/motivo de N/A	Última actualización
		aves marinas y Plan de Acción Nacional para las aves marinas			especies ICCAT que tengan interacción con aves marinas, razón por la que no se remite informe sobre la implementación de las medidas de mitigación).	
	M:BYC03	Informe de las acciones emprendidas para mitigar la captura fortuita y reducir los descartes y cualquier investigación pertinente en este campo	No		No aplicable. (debido a que Nicaragua aún no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, no envía informes de acciones para mitigar la captura fortuita y reducir los descartes.	
	M:BYC04	Informe sobre la implementación de la Res. 23-15.	No		No aplicable. (debido a que Nicaragua aún no opera flota pesquera en el área de la Convención, no envía informes de acciones sobre cercamiento de Cetáceos.	
MISCELÁNEA	M:SDP01	Descripción de los sistemas piloto electrónicos de documento estadístico	No		No aplicable (Nicaragua no desarrolla ningún programa piloto de documento estadístico electrónico).	
	M:MIX01	Información y aclaraciones sobre las objeciones a las Recs. de ICCAT	No		Nicaragua, en el período que se informa, no solicitó ninguna aclaración, ni realizó ninguna objeción a las recomendaciones de ICCAT.	