

ANNEX 1

EXTRACTS OF SECTION 2.2 FROM ANNUAL REPORTS

ALBANIA

No technical difficulties encountered in implementation and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

BFT farming activities were initiated in 2021 – Albania had adopted all pertinent ICCAT recommendations into its local legislation mechanism and CPC Albania applied its best efforts to ensure correct governance in this new sector in the knowledge that, where necessary, it will have the support of the Secretariat.

ALGERIE

Pour mettre en œuvre et répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT, l'Algérie a mis en place des systèmes et des programmes de suivi, d'observation, d'inspection et de collecte pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences et transmettre toutes les informations sollicitées par l'ICCAT.

L'Algérie mène un travail continu afin d'adapter ces programmes pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT.

ANGOLA

In terms of implementation, we don't have many difficulties, since we only have one vessel, but since we are in a phase of adapting to the organization's guidelines, we will improve over time.

However, our difficulties consist of carrying out field work to collect scientific data, both for artisanal and industrial fishing. Regarding field tasks related to artisanal fishing, we have difficulties based on transportation to travel to the different base ports, lack of sufficient technicians to carry out the tasks continuously, landing schedules, and the availability of funds to purchase fish for analysis.

Regarding industrial fishing, in this case, the vessel Demersal 9 has an observer from the National Inspection Service on board who was instructed to collect scientific data, due to the time the vessel spends fishing, which lasts around three months, it is impossible to have a scientific observer on board at the moment, because we have few researchers, and due to the volume of work they have, it is impossible for them to stay on the vessel for this entire time.

However, these concerns have been analyzed in order to reverse this situation and be able to provide better responses, the tasks assigned to us, and comply with the goals of the organization of which we were part.

BARBADOS

Hitherto, inadequate legislation has hindered effective implementation and adherence to a number of ICCAT conservation and management measures. A comprehensive and appropriate regulatory framework will be implemented by the set of laws that includes the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Bill, the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Businesses) Bill, and auxiliary regulations such as the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Regulations. Together with the formulation of prudent Fisheries Management Plans and enhancements to the data gathering and MSC procedures, this would result in much more comprehensive management of all Barbados fisheries, including those under the jurisdiction of ICCAT.

BELIZE

Belize has been able to ensure satisfactory compliance with most of the significant measures adopted by the Commission despite being a small developing country. However, there are a few measures that have posed significant challenges to fully implement. This is because of several factors, including but not limited to, restrictions in human and institutional capacity, budgetary constraints as well as government bureaucracies. Although ICCAT provides technical support and capacity building programs to member countries to enhance their ability to implement and comply with conservation measures, Belize faces limitations in assessing these resources due to lack of institutional capacity.

Although the BHSFU serves as the focal point for all ICCAT-related issues, other organizations within our country also interact with ICCAT-managed species. Our efforts to comply with requirements become more challenging because these agencies are also involved. The involvement of these different agencies makes it difficult to ensure proper coordination and cooperation regarding conservation efforts which further hampers the effective implementation of ICCAT measures. This includes challenges in sharing information, aligning objectives, and coordinating actions, which ultimately undermines the overall success of compliance initiatives such as proper reporting.

Additionally, the introduction of new and even more stringent measures such as quota restrictions, seasonal closures, inter alia, have a significant economic impact on our industry particularly in balancing the economic needs of the fishing sector with conservation efforts. This makes it difficult to holistically implement these measures despite introducing domestic policies and procedures. The reporting requirements have also become even more onerous which poses many challenges due to the lack of sufficient human and institutional capacity to address all these reports.

Nonetheless, the adoption of our amended Act and subsidiary Regulations has allowed us to easily adopt and implement relevant conservation and management measures on one part. Despite our minor limitations with compliance obligations, Belize is fully committed and invested in making certain that the relevant steps are taken to ensure compliance with all relevant and important conservation and management measures to which we are obligated.

BOLIVIA

Bolivia no encontró dificultades para la implementación de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de la CICAA que debiera comunicar a la Comisión, precisamente por la incorporación automática de tales medidas al Derecho interno boliviano, como se ha indicado supra.

En cuanto al cumplimiento de tales medidas, en 2025 Bolivia no ha encontrado dificultades para cumplir con la mayoría de los plazos establecidos para la provisión de información requerida, salvo algunos requerimientos relacionados información estadística que se presenta en hojas de Excel, cuya fecha límite parece haberse adelantado al 15 de julio de 2025, cuando la práctica de Bolivia consistía en enviarla antes del 15 de septiembre de cada año. En 2024, Bolivia ha podido superar algunas deficiencias muy menores en el envío de información científica y de cumplimiento, logrando un cumplimiento superior a años anteriores. Esto revela que Bolivia está mejorando cada día más, encontrándose mejor preparada para que, al momento de desarrollar una flota de pesca o de apoyo a operaciones de pesca, no se incurra de nuevo en las deficiencias del pasado. Las mejoras se deben a los esfuerzos del personal de la Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima, los trabajos de la asesoría internacional especializada, así como el apoyo del Secretario Ejecutivo y del personal de la Comisión, y la comunicación fluida con el Presidente del CoC. Por otra parte, Bolivia ha encontrado problemas de orden procedimental y presupuestario interno, así como en su economía doméstica para poder honrar la contribución voluntaria de € 3.278,44, misma que se debía hacer en 2024, en su calidad de Parte No Contratante Colaboradora de la CICA, por mandato de la Rec. 21-24. En 2025 ya ha sido incluida la contribución de este año dentro del presupuesto del Ministerio de Defensa, por lo que la situación debería regularizarse a partir del presente año. En paralelo, se trabaja para que se produzca la adhesión de Bolivia al Convenio Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico hecho en Río de Janeiro, Brasil, el 14 de mayo de 1966, in continenti con el Protocolo hecho en Palma de Mallorca, España, el 18 de noviembre de 2019. Todos estos avances permiten a Bolivia cumplir mejor sus deberes, al tiempo que avizora convertirse en un actor competente y responsable cuando participe activamente en las pesquerías confiadas a la Comisión.

BRAZIL

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.

CABO VERDE

Despite Cabo Verde's commitment to implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures, several challenges remain. Cabo Verde fisheries are spread across many small and remote communities, which makes it difficult to ensure that every recommendation is fully implemented and that data are collected consistently for ICCAT Task I and Task II.

Financial and technical limitations further constrain the establishment of a comprehensive scientific programme. For example, although Cabo Verde aims to strengthen biological sampling of frigate tuna and little tuna, but our capacity is not yet sufficient. Likewise, inspections at sea are sometimes constrained by a lack of resources, even though monitoring and compliance are a priority for Cabo Verde.

CANADA

The availability of observers remains an issue in Atlantic Canada due to limited qualified workforce in the region. Canada is looking at various ways to increase the availability of observers, and to develop EMS as a way to complement the work of observers. Canada did not encounter any difficulties in the submission of the annual report for the 2024-2025 reporting year.

CHINA

Currently no such case. China will record and advise in a timely manner in future once encountered.

CHINESE TAPEI

To meet the reporting requirements established by ICCAT for species encountered as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries and "Recommendation on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries" (Rec. 11-10) which requires CPCs to provide bycatch and discard data, Chinese Taipei has taken necessary steps to collect and report these data to the extent possible. However, it should be noted that since some of bycatches are required to be released alive or discarded dead without being taken onboard, measuring weight and length turns out to be difficult. Therefore, crews or observers on board could only record the number of the bycatch.

COSTA RICA

Al tener Costa Rica embarcaciones de menos de 20 m de eslora, se le ha dificultado llegar a implementar un programa nacional de observadores a bordo, mismo que podría brindar información más detallada de las faenas de pesca. El tamaño de las embarcaciones presenta limitado espacio para albergar más personas a bordo aparte de la tripulación, además de las condiciones de seguridad y salubridad que representan una limitación importante para su implementación. Se está implementando un plan piloto de observadores a bordo (humano y electrónico), el cual sería la base para el diseño del programa nacional de observadores a bordo. La falta de personal por parte del INCOPESCA para atender la pesquería del Atlántico de Costa Rica, ha sido también una limitación importante, donde en algunos casos este factor afecta para el registro de más datos de estadísticas pesqueras.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- La Côte d'Ivoire dispose d'une petite unité de pêche sportive et récréative, cependant elle ne fait pas de suivi statistique et biologique à cause de l'irrégularité des activités mais aussi à cause de l'insuffisance de personnel technique.

- La Côte d'Ivoire ne dispose pas encore de plan de gestion sur les DCP car les travaux encourrent nécessitent une logistique additionnelle.

Les difficultés rencontrées en matière de déclaration sont dues à la charge de travail.

CURAÇAO

Curaçao only had 1 carrier vessel in 2024, there were no difficulties implementing and enforcing ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Curaçao is committed to comply with all the recommendations issued by ICCAT. All the vessels operating in international waters are monitored and controlled by satellite tracking through a VMS, called Web Themis which is in operation 365 24/7. The FMC also manage the catches through a program called Halios Catch Management System through a satellite system. This system provides detailed information on the different species, with specifics on size and weight. In addition, it supplies on a daily basis information on the bycatches with respect to type, size, quantity and it's condition (alive or dead). Curaçao is still in the process to further improve this system to provide management and reporting information details.

EGYPT

Egypt has encountered some challenges in the full implementation of certain ICCAT conservation and management measures and reporting requirements. The primary difficulty stems from limited human resources, as the national team responsible for the ICCAT file is small and concurrently manages several other international fisheries agreements and obligations in addition to other local commitments. This constraint has occasionally impacted the timelines of data submission and national reporting.

To proactively address this structural challenge, Egypt is pursuing a strategy of enhanced collaboration with national scientific institutions. We are actively engaging with key bodies such as National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT) that has recently signed a cooperation national protocol with the competent authority, LFRPDA. This collaboration aims to bolster our scientific and technical capacity, ensuring more robust and effective participation in ICCAT scientific meetings and working groups by qualified Egyptian experts.

Following Egypt's request mentioned in the annual report for 2024 to participate in the Japan's Capacity Building Program (JCAP-3), the program was successfully implemented. This achievement was made possible through the generous support of ICCAT. In this regard, Egypt would like to formally extend its sincere gratitude to ICCAT for its endorsement and vital role in facilitating this successful training opportunity and to Japan for their invaluable support in organizing and conducting this training program. Their commitment to advancing sustainable fisheries management and capacity building has been instrumental in the success of this initiative.

Egypt actively contributed to the ICCAT scientific programs by submitting proposals for both the Small Tunas Year Program (SMTYP) and the Swordfish Year program - Phase 7. However, we understand that one of the submitted proposals did not fully align with the specific Terms of Reference (TORs) while appreciating incorporating Egypt as a partner in the other.

To address this and enhance the overall quality of our future proposals and reporting, Egypt would like to get benefit from ICCAT consultants or experts. Such guidance is crucial for developing robust project proposals that are perfectly aligned with the TORs and the strategic frameworks of funding opportunities available through ICCAT. This support would be invaluable, not only in improving our direct access to available resources but also in significantly strengthening Egypt's scientific and administrative capacity. Ultimately, this will enable Egypt to contribute more effectively and meaningfully to ICCAT's critical research initiatives.

Finally, Egypt underscores the critical importance of scientific research for providing scientific advice and ensuring the sustainable management of ICCAT-related fisheries. Our strong ambition is to conduct annual, scientifically studies. However, the realization of this goal is contingent upon securing the necessary financial support and dedicated funding. Egypt remains committed to this objective and looks forward to exploring potential partnerships and funding mechanisms within the ICCAT framework to make this a reality.

Egypt confirms its commitment to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures, and work hardly to provide the fisheries data at the appropriate time as much as possible.

EL SALVADOR

No se encontró dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT y se han cumplido con los tiempos estipulados para el envío de los requisitos a la Secretaría de ICCAT.

EUROPEAN UNION

No difficulties were encountered in the implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures. All reporting obligations were met on time.

FRANCE SPM

Il n'y a pas eu de pêche des espèces relevant de la CICTA en 2024 et aucune difficulté dans la mise en œuvre et le respect des mesures de conservation et de gestion.

GABON

Les difficultés à collecter les données des pêcheries dans les régions enclavées demeurent toujours. De ce fait, un programme de restructuration du système est en cours et un plan de renforcement des capacités mis en place en 2023 se poursuit avec un appui du JCAP pour l'année 2025.

GHANA*Tropical*

The Ghanaian processing software for her catch data is still not available to streamline Task 2 after a decade of revisions. Within the complexities of our fishery, we do hope that the new software will be finalized by ICCAT/IRD which will yield fruitful results. Ghana has stated her willingness to co-operate in all spheres for a suitable programme which would stand the test of time. In the interim all raw data from all our individual vessels have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat and impartially incorporated into the ICCAT database since 2006.

MoU between ICCAT and Ghana for the data improvement and updating databases, softwares and computers to be funded by ICCAT/JCAP-3 with objective of improving compliance with ICCAT Recommendations related to data collection and reporting to begin in 2025 will aid in addressing this challenge.

It is very difficult to collate weekly data on tuna and other important species as vessels arrive after months of leaving port and more so have no real-time electronic monitoring systems to disseminate the information such as electronic logbook.

In integrating data collected in the field especially FAD deployed among others, over a set by set basis for monthly analysis for all segments of surface fishing fleets has become cumbersome and a unified system and software is envisaged coupled with training in analysing data collected.

Sharks & By-Catch Issues

There is the need for more training in this field as the fishery is becoming more important especially in areas of endangered species becoming extinct. Manuals are few and general and presently we are able to work closely on a few sharks grouping such as silky and blue sharks as we encounter them a lot. The others are termed others or as "shark NEI". We don't have the expertise in the field of shark taxonomy hence we often don't fill out the forms to the best of ICCAT's requirements; this has been a concern to us.

GUINEA REPUBLIC

Pour respecter les exigences de l'ICCAT en matière de déclaration et de réponses sur les données de la seule flottille nationale active dans la zone guinéenne, les données des captures et efforts ont été renseignées sur les formulaires jusqu'en juillet 2024. Aucune donnée n'a été déclarée pour cause d'inactivité du navire depuis pratiquement le reste de l'année 2024. Les données des prises accessoires de la pêche industrielle non thonière et les données de la pêche artisanale sont disponibles dans la base de données du CNSHB. Pour la mise à disposition de ces données dans la base de données de l'ICCAT, nous sollicitons une assistance technique.

La Guinée, sollicite auprès de l'ICCAT, la mise à disposition des données de journal de bord des navires évoluant dans la ZEE guinéenne. En plus, on sollicite un appui technique et financier de l'ICCAT en vue de poursuivre notre programme de collectes des données biologiques et participer aux analyses et interprétations des résultats de recherche.

GUATEMALA

No se encontraron dificultades de implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de CICA.

ICELAND

Due to a discard ban onboard Icelandic fishing vessels, ICCAT CMM provision that ban retention or landing of certain commercial fish species cannot be implemented as such. In yearly BFT regulations for directed fishing provisions are made that require such species (mostly shark species not present in Icelandic waters) to be released alive if possible. If dead the catch shall be landed, registered, and submitted to the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute for scientific purposes only.

JAPAN

There were no significant difficulties to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures in 2024.

KOREA

The Distant Water Fisheries Development Act of Korea stipulates that Korean vessels operating in waters beyond Korea's jurisdiction shall comply with all measures and requirements adopted by RFMOs.

LIBERIA

The implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures is a top priority for fisheries management in Liberia. The country is committed to fully complying with all ICCAT regulations to ensure the sustainable use and long-term conservation of tuna and tuna-like species within its waters. This commitment reflects Liberia's dedication to responsible fisheries governance and its obligations as a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

However, as a developing nation, Liberia faces challenges in effectively enforcing these measures due to limited human resource capacity and technical expertise. To address this, the country is actively working to strengthen its institutional and human resource capabilities through targeted training, capacity-building initiatives, and international partnerships. By investing in the development of skilled fisheries professionals and enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance systems, Liberia aims to improve its ability to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures effectively and contribute meaningfully to regional fisheries sustainability.

MAURITANIE

Pour respecter les exigences de l'ICCAT en matière de déclaration et les réponses sur les données et en absence d'une flottille nationale active dans la zone mauritanienne, les données des captures ont été fournies sur la base de déclarations dans les systèmes d'informations de l'IMROP. Aucune capture n'a été déclaré en 2024 pour les espèces sous quota. Les prises accessoires de la flottille non thonière sont déclarés dans les tableaux récapitulatives.

MAROC

Pour répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT, certaines difficultés sont rencontrées. Il s'agit principalement de :

- Les données disponibles sont limitées et ne permettent pas un traitement et une analyse optimale des informations collectées ;
- Le nombre réduit des observateurs handicape la bonne mise en œuvre du Programme National d'Observation Scientifique à bord ;
- L'espace limité à bord des navires de petites dimensions ciblant les thonidés mineurs, le thon rouge et l'espadon constitue une contrainte pour l'embarquement d'observateurs scientifiques. Cette situation a conduit le Royaume à développer une approche alternative, validée par le SCRS, permettant notamment d'estimer les données de rejets dans ces pêcheries.

Par ailleurs, il y a un besoin de formation et de renforcement des capacités en matière de collecte et d'analyse des données, d'identification des espèces, d'échantillonnage biologiques, de qualification des scientifiques pour pouvoir accomplir leurs tâches scientifiques à bord.

MEXICO

Existe preocupación sobre la existencia de algunas dificultades respecto a la implementación regulatoria para algunas medidas de conservación y ordenación de la Comisión que involucran algunas especies de tiburones. En consecuencia, se iniciarán mejoras respecto a la implementación de codificación para algunas especies de elasmobranchios, para su adecuada gestión, y la emisión de normatividad, que involucra un trabajo coordinado entre Gobierno, Programa de observadores, así como del sector pesquero.

NAMIBIA

Rec. 16-14: Implementation of Scientific Observer Programmes

Namibia do have a National Observer Program. The Fisheries Observer Agency's (FOA) mandate is to observe the harvesting, processing and handling of marine resources and to collect biological data onboard commercial fishing vessels. Fisheries observers were also tasked to observe the activities of fishing vessels at sea and report any violations for possible action to be taken against the culprits. Furthermore, Namibia had deployed Fisheries Inspectors both at sea onboard Fisheries Patrol vessels and in the harbours, to

ensure strict compliance with the country's rules and regulations related to the exploitation of marine living resources, including those adopted by Namibia as part of its obligations to RFMO's and International Organisations. One of the challenges is the limited availability of trained Observers and scientists to collect and analyse the much needed biological and research scientific data from commercial fishing activities, especially from the shark fisheries. There is also limited capacity, both in terms of availability of resources and research vessels, to carry out dedicated scientific research on sharks and other ICCAT managed species and this is complicated by the fact that these species are highly migratory and trans-boundary.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua no ha tenido dificultades para la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación del ICCAT, haremos todos los esfuerzos para evitar incumplimientos en las medidas establecidas por la Comisión.

NORWAY

Norway did not encounter any difficulties with ICCAT conservation and management measures in 2024.

PANAMA

None.

PHILIPPINES

None as of the moment because the Philippines has had no active fleet in the ICCAT Area of Convention from 2015 to the present.

RUSSIA

In 2024, Russia did not carry out the specialized fishery for tunas in the Atlantic Ocean. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). In 2024, the catch of tunas was 2435.00 t.

Difficulties are encountered in collecting scientific materials by observers on board fishing trawlers.

1. In 2024-2025, Russia did not have specialized tuna fishing vessels (purse seine, longline, pole and line) engaged in harvesting the ICCAT species (tunas, swordfishes, sharks and sea turtles). In this regard, the quantity of the ICCAT species in the total catch is extremely limited, since trawls conditionally suitable for catching large fish, served as a fishing gear. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other small species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). The catch of tunas from the group "Tropical Tunas" is represented by a small number (singular) of skipjack as a by-catch. Large tunas from this group were absent, as well as tunas of the group "Temperate Waters". Swordfishes and sharks are presented in by-catch of trawlers in single specimens.

2. In the absence of specialized fishing for tunas and with periodic by-catch (by trawl) of tunas (group "Small Tunas") in small quantities (sometimes singly) at certain periods, it is not possible to provide monthly data for some tuna species.

In order to more fully collect by-catch materials, two observers per vessel are sent to Russian fishing vessels. The work schedule of observers at sea is optimized for a more complete and efficient use of working time.

SENEGAL

Des difficultés d'ordre administratif, de gestion et techniques peuvent être évoquées pour une bonne observation des règles de gestion de l'ICCAT. Il s'agit de :

- La stabilité du personnel dédié aux activités de l'ICCAT ;
- la transposition de l'ensemble des recommandations pertinentes dans le cadre juridique de la pêche du Sénégal qui est un processus continu ;
- l'implication de plusieurs services administratifs nécessite une synergie et une coordination qui se mettent en place progressivement ;
- Les bases de données disponibles qui n'offrent pas un traitement optimal des informations ;
- La formation continue des observateurs pour mettre en œuvre le programme national d'observateurs scientifiques. Des besoins de formation et de renforcement des capacités en matière de collecte des données, d'identification des espèces, d'échantillonnage biologique, de mise à niveau pour pouvoir accomplir les tâches scientifiques à bord reconnus.

SIERRA LEONE

A main difficulties encountered in the implementation and compliance with ICCAT management measures are observer coverage for data collection onboard tuna fishing vessels. Sierra Leone does not have Observers on board tuna vessels licensed to fish tuna and tuna-like species in Sierra Leone. Therefore, tuna catch data submitted by Sierra Leone from the licensed industrial tuna vessels has never been included in the tuna data preparation for regional analysis. However, about 42 tuna vessels, many of which are purse seiners, mostly from Spain and France, were given access license to catch tuna and tuna-like species within the EEZ of Sierra Leone. Pre-license inspections on these vessels are conducted in Abidjan and Dakar ports. Regarding the industrial trawl vessels, the tuna catch reported as a by-catch, has not been classified into the various categories of species (YFT, BET and SKJ). Therefore, we cannot submit the data as individual bycatch species at this moment. Plan has been made to train at-sea observer onboard industrial trawl vessels to start collecting data by species types. For the artisanal tuna and tuna-like species data, plans are ongoing for data collection which will start later this year if the required fund is available.

SOUTH AFRICA

Noting serious capacity human resources capacity constraints, South Africa complied with all its data and reporting requirements to ICCAT.

ST VINCENT & GRENADINE

The key constraint faced in the implementation of conservation and management measures is a lack of capital to finance relevant initiatives. Additionally, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a small island development state with relatively small Government Departments. Hence, occasionally, there will be constraints in the availability sufficient personnel to complete tasks. Nonetheless, St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to implement activities towards the improvement of legislation, policies and procedures involving the marine space.

SURINAME

There are measures that have posed significant challenges in fully implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures. This is as a result of several factors, including but not limited to, human and financial capacity, interagency communication and collaboration, an outdated fisheries legislation.

Suriname's outdated fisheries legislation (dated from 1980) continues to be addressed to facilitate full compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. With the support of FAO, a draft for a new Fisheries Act has been drawn up which contains provisions on the management and conservation of fish stocks, including the requirement to establish fishing management plans. It also contains regulations of fishing and related activities on the high seas. The draft of the new Fisheries Act is still under review with intention of further amendments prior to the formal process of finalization and approval.

Suriname also acts as a port state; however, it has been found that Surinamese inspectors are currently not well trained enough to inspect foreign tuna vessels. Therefore, in 2012 Suriname requested ICCAT to assist Suriname in training these inspectors to comply with the obligations towards ICCAT (Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)).

To ensure full compliance with Recommendation 13-13 by ICCAT, Suriname is in need for some clarification on this recommendation. After sending a letter date May, 04, 2021 with ref. no. DVis-454 to the PWG on the 7th May 2021 requesting some clarification on this matter, it is still not entirely clear for the government of Suriname whether it is an obligation to register a non-tuna vessel longer than 20 meters, targeting demersal finfish in our waters (Exclusive Economic zone) under our national law as the main catch and catches some King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Cavalla*), Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (*scomberomorus maculatus*), and sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp.) as by-catch. However, we do report the data of these catches on the ST02 task 1, ST03 task 2 and ST04 task 2 forms to ICCAT.

A low level of enforcement due to insufficient collaboration among the different national authorities and the lack of funding for continued monitoring control and surveillance has been identified as a key weakness. Several steps have been taken to address this issue including the establishment of working groups to enhance collaboration. The Fisheries Department developed a comprehensive draft MOU aimed at improving the cooperation among the MCS authorities. The MOU has been shared with the other authorities for review for some time now and still needs follow up.

Despite of all the difficulties with compliance obligations, the Government of Suriname is fully committed and invested in making certain that the relevant steps are taken to ensure compliance with all relevant and important conservation and management measures to which we are obligated.

TUNISIE

Difficulté de répondre à tous les communiqués des données requises. A cet effet, il est souhaitable de réduire certaines d'entre elles ayant le même objet en une seule exigence de déclaration et l'élimination d'autres formulaires dont l'information est saisie par le biais de l'application eBCD, déclarations destinées au SCRS et déclarations destinées au COM.

TÜRKİYE

No particular difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures within the reporting period.

UNITED KINGDOM

2.2.1 Metropolitan United Kingdom (Met UK)

Regarding implementation of Rec. 16-14, the Met UK had a domestic observer programme in 2024, which was in place in its North Atlantic albacore fishery; this fishery consisted of two pair trawlers. In 2024, however, the albacore pair trawlers failed to meet the requirements on observer coverage. This was because they were unable to make a second trip which is when the observer was meant to be onboard. The Met UK government has since strengthened a condition in albacore licences to ensure that trawlers are obligated to take observers on their first trip; this prevents the possibility that only one trip is undertaken, with no observer coverage. Additionally, following the return of the vessels from the fishery, DAERA wrote to both owners to remind them of the licence conditions and that ICCAT requirements were not met. By way of an update, in 2025 the fishery had observers for the first trip, and we will update further in next year's annual report.

2.2.2 United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs)

Legislative changes to implement the ICCAT conservation and management measures in the UKOTs can take time and each territory has a separate process and legislature that enacts legislation. Implementation can also be impacted by the amount of outstanding legislation work in other areas.

Structured development of sustainable fisheries is a core component of the UK Government's environmental strategies for its Overseas Territories.

In 2016 the UK Government launched its 'Blue Belt' programme, which will continue through to 2029, providing technical advice to support improvements in institutional arrangements in the UKOTs and effective ecosystem-based management of marine resources, including compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

The Blue Belt programme undertook a gap analysis in 2023 to identify where work was required to fulfil the ICCAT in each UKOT and establish a work stream to implement the requirements.

To date the Blue Belt Programme has assisted the UKOTs with the implementation of new legislation; this has included establishing observer programmes in commercial and recreational fisheries and improving the management of ICCAT species fisheries through enhanced data collection and analysis. Enhanced data collection includes ongoing and new trials of EMS in Turks and Caicos Islands, St Helena and Bermuda.

2.2.3 Bermuda

Upgrades to the Bermuda Customs Department's system several years ago resulted in better itemisation of imported ICCAT species. However, there remains a challenge that a fair amount of tuna is still being characterised as 'other tunas'. To improve characterisation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working with the Customs Department. Additionally, import consignments of bigeye tuna and swordfish require more detailed checks in line with import requirements (GEN 0026; TRO 2006; SWO 3001). This process will require additional focus and resource in the future.

2.2.4 St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha

St Helena

St Helena has no difficulties to report regarding the implementation of the ICCAT conservation management measures.

Ascension Island

Ascension Island Government has limited capacity but has progressed new amendments to current legislation in 2024.

Proposed amendments to the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013 have been developed that will implement ICCAT-compliant minimum sizes for blue/white marlin/round scale spearfish, sailfish and swordfish and extend the current shark retention prohibitions.

Proposed new inshore legislation includes mandatory licensing, reporting of catch data for licence holders including visitors and sports fishers but will continue to be voluntary for local registered fishers through a paper logbook system.

2.2.5 Turks and Caicos Islands

Turks and Caicos Islands is in the process of amending its Fisheries Protection Regulations and Ordinances to ensure compliance with the ICCAT requirements. The legislation has been reviewed by the Fisheries Advisory Board and the relevant Ministry and will be subject to the standard parliamentary process in 2025. The Turks and Caicos Islands Government has limited legal capacity to develop these amendments but has made significant progress in 2024 with the assistance of the Blue Belt programme.

2.2.6 UK Virgin Islands

The UK Virgin Islands has experienced a decline in human and financial resources available to fisheries management. Efforts to recruit staff and implement co-management strategies are ongoing.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States has no difficulties to report regarding implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures.

URUGUAY

No se encontraron dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT.

Todas las Recomendaciones de ICCAT aprobadas durante la Reunión de la Comisión en el año 2023 han sido internalizadas en Uruguay.

VENEZUELA

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, como país parte de la Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (CICAA) desea dejar de manifiesto su más clara e impostergable voluntad de cumplir con el conjunto de edictos de la Comisión con el fin de garantizar toda y cada una de las medidas de conservación y ordenación establecido en el seno de la misma. Lo anterior se refleja en el andamiaje normativo nacional en materia de pesca y conservación de recursos hidrobiológicos, y en el trabajo que realiza a diario el personal técnico a través del Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura.

Para la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, es imperativo dar a conocer las agravantes circunstancias que de forma extraordinaria hemos venido sobrellevando como nación. Desde el año 2015 y con la imposición de más de 1041 Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales, nuestro país se le ha pretendido la imposición de un cerco absoluto para su relacionamiento internacional, además de perjudicar nuestro sector pesquero y acuícola nacional, con impacto en los procesos productivos, así como de desarrollo de la investigación.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela ratifica su disposición en la participación activa a través de la asistencia a reuniones de manera presencial y virtual, así como, facilitar la data solicitada sobre los aspectos técnicos de medición que realiza la Comisión bajo sus orientaciones metodológicas, y todas aquellas acciones que garanticen nuestro cumplimiento País, con miras a optimizar nuestros procesos de intercambio de información y comunicación plena con la Comisión.

La Administración Pesquera del país; a través del seguimiento y control de las pesquerías atuneras, emprenden acciones constantes para subsanar cualquier dificultad en el cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación en las pesquerías objetivo de ICCAT; en tal sentido desde el 15 de agosto del presente año fueron necesarias las medidas de descartes para la aguja blanca (*T. Albidus*). La implementación de los descartes se está realizando mediante las normas establecidas en la Providencia administrativa N°084/2024, de fecha 15/11/2024, publica en Gaceta Oficial de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela N° 43.033 de fecha 20/12/2024.

En cuanto al Programa de Observadores a Bordo, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela tenía previsto iniciar a mediados 2024 la reactivación del programa mediante una alianza estratégica entre la Fundación para la Pesca Sostenida y Responsable de Túnidos (FUNDATUN) y el Ministerio del Poder Popular para Pesca y Acuicultura, sin embargo, nuestra flota presento algunas dificultades operativas y logísticas lo que imposibilito comenzar con las formaciones de los observadores científicos, así como, coordinar con los capitanes la implementación y conocimiento del Programa de Observadores a Bordo científicos de Venezuela ante ICCAT.

Nuestro país, aun frente a las adversidades y desde la resiliencia, hace el mejor de los esfuerzos para cumplir con las recomendaciones y cumplimientos ante la CICAA, demostrado que el trabajo mancomunado entre el Estado, técnicos - científicos y pescadores del país, es el principal recurso con que cuenta nuestra Nación para dar cumplimiento a todas las medidas, estrategias y recomendaciones que emanan de la Comisión con el objeto de garantizar el sostenimiento de nuestros recursos hidrobiológicos, para así reorientar nuestras políticas públicas en el marco de una económica sostenida, autosustentable y en perfecta armonía con la madre naturaleza.