# Original: English/Spanish

**Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures**

*ICCAT Secretariat*

# Measures which were repealed and/or replaced by measures adopted in 2024

Rec. 14-13: *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-13

Rec. 17-02 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-10

Res. 19-14 *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-10

Rec. 21-15 *Recommendation by ICCAT on transhipment*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-15

Rec. 22-01 *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-01

Res. 22-02 *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack*

Repealed and replaced by Res. 24-04

Rec. 22-05 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-08

Rec. 22-08 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-05

Rec. 22-16 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-16

Rec. 22-17 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the integrated online management system*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-17

Ref. 22-19 *Document number on transhipment declaration*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-15

Rec. 23-01 *Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-01

Rec. 23-02 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Brazil’s bigeye tuna payback plan*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-03

Rec. 23-04 *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-10

Rec. 23-06 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-05

Rec. 23-08 *Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-06

Rec. 23-14 *Recommendation by ICCAT on mobulid rays (family Mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*

Repealed and replaced by Rec. 24-12

# Suggestions for future streamlining of Recommendations

* East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: With regard to the deadlines and data reporting under requirements M:BFT02 and M:BFT04, it should be noted that following the adoption of Recommendation 21-08, which replaced Recommendation 06-07, there is no longer a specific deadline for reporting caging and farming data.

According to Rec. 24-05 Paras 24 and 188:

*“24. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements.*

*[…]*

***Caging report***

*188. Within 15 days after the completion of the release orders, the farm CPC competent authority shall issue a caging report for each single caging operation, or in the case of a JFO or traps of the same CPC/EU Member State, for the complete set of caging operations related to that JFO or those traps. The caging report shall include the information referred to in Annex 9 paragraph 3 and be communicated to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority and* to the ICCAT Secretariat.”

The Secretariat considers that M:BFT02 and M:BFT04 represent related but distinct reporting requirements:

* M:BFT04 - Bluefin tuna caging report, refers solely to caging information, which includes both release and subsequent caging operations or caging alone where no release takes place. The deadline is explicitly stated as 15 days after the completion of the release, or if there is no release, it implies 15 days after the caging operation.
* M:BFT02 - Bluefin tuna farming reports, refers to other farming activities within the farm, such as intra-farm transfers, carry-over, harvests, etc., as listed in the CP09 form events table. These are not explicitly covered by the current Recommendation with a defined deadline.

While the ICCAT website currently indicates a deadline for M:BFT02, this may seem vague or redundant, as caging and release operations are already addressed under M:BFT04. The lack of a clearly defined deadline in the current Recommendation could lead to confusion. It might be helpful to clarify the specific data required and to establish an explicit deadline for these additional operations in the new East bluefin tuna Recommendation to be developed this year.

* Tropical tunas: To reduce the current reporting burden on CPCs, as well as to minimise redundancy and discrepancies in the data submitted under requirements M:TRO09 and M:TRO13, it is suggested that tropical tuna catch data be reported exclusively on a monthly basis until 80% of the CPC’s bigeye tuna catch limit has been reached. From that point onwards, catch reporting would be on a weekly basis.

Consequently, paragraphs 15 and 16 of Rec. 24-01 could be amended as follows:

“*15. CPCs shall report, on a monthly basis, to the ICCAT Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas by species caught by vessels flying their flag, within the month following that in which the catches were made.*

*16. Notwithstanding paragraph 15, CPCs shall report on a weekly basis once* *80% of their bigeye tuna catch limits have been reached.*”

* Mediterranean albacore: The provisions defining requirements M:ALB09 and M:ALB10, relating to the submission of monthly and quarterly catch data, respectively, for Mediterranean albacore, as well as the obligation of CPCs to notify the ICCAT Secretariat when they have reached 80% of the TAC, are not included in Rec. 24-08, yet are included in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean Albacore Meeting held in February 2022. It is suggested that all recommendations amending or replacing Rec. 24-08 explicitly include these obligations.
* South Atlantic swordfish: For ease of reference, it is suggested that future amendments be made directly on the main measure, or a new measure be proposed in its entirety.
* Seabirds: The combination of Recs 07-07 and 11-09 on seabirds is still pending. The Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch has noted ongoing developments regarding seabird bycatch mitigation measures, which are expected to be completed by late 2026 or early 2027. It has therefore been suggested that any effort to combine or revise these recommendations should wait until after the Commission receives any new SCRS advice.
* Sharks in general: There are several sharks measures which deal with sharks: Res. 95-02; Res. 03- 10; Rec. 04-10; Rec. 07-06 and Rec. 13-10. It is suggested that the relevant provisions of these measures be consolidated into one measure, both for ease of reference and for simplification of the shark check sheet (Rec. 18-06) which is becoming increasingly more complex and cumbersome. Any consolidated version should be reviewed and approved by Panel 4.