
**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
for the
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS**

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2016-17
PART II (2017) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2017)

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman

R. DELGADO, PANAMA
(since 21 November 2017)

First Vice Chair

S. DEPYPERE, EU
(since 17 November 2015)

Second Vice Chair

Z. DRIOUICH, MOROCCO
(since 21 November 2017)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

-1- <i>Tropical tunas</i>	Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Côte d'Ivoire
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Venezuela.	Japan
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	Belize, Brazil, China (People's Rep.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, United States, Uruguay.	South Africa
-4- <i>Other species</i>	Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tome & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Brazil

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	H. A. ELEKON, Turkey (since 21 November 2017)
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS) Sub-Committee on Statistics: G. DÍAZ (United States), Convener Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: K. YOKAWA (Japan), A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners	D. DIE, United States (since 3 October 2014)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)	D. CAMPBELL, United States (since 25 November 2013)
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	N. ANSELL, European Union (since 21 November 2017)
STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM)	R. DELGADO, Panama (since 21 November 2017)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

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FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "**Report for the Biennial Period, 2016-2017, Part II (2017)**", which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Marrakesh, Morocco, 14-21 November 2017) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention area.

The Report is published in four volumes. **Volume 1** includes the Proceedings of the Commission Meetings and the reports of all the associated meetings (with the exception of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics-SCRS). **Volume 2** contains the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and its appendices. **Volume 3** includes the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission. **Volume 4** includes the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, the Secretariat's Administrative and Financial Reports, and the Secretariat's Reports to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC), and to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). Volumes 3 and 4 of the Biennial Report are only published in electronic format.

This Report has been prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 9, and Article IV, paragraph 2-d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

RAÚL DELGADO
Commission Chairman

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 25th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**
(Marrakesh, Morocco, 14-21 November 2017)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Commission Chair, Mr. Martin Tsamenyi, opened the 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission. He welcomed all the participants and introduced the Moroccan Secretary of State for Fisheries, Ms. Mbarka Bouaida and the Wali of Marrakesh-Safi.

Ms. Bouaida, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, welcomed the participants to Marrakesh and explained how Morocco had always placed great importance on sustainable fisheries and played a dynamic role in the international fisheries arena. At the national level, the Moroccan fisheries and aquaculture sector has a clear roadmap based on three main foundations: sustainable exploitation of resources, high quality and efficient fisheries development and strengthening of competitiveness in order to conquer new market shares at both national and international level. The Secretary of State wished the participants a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Marrakesh.

The Chair thanked the Government of Morocco for its hospitality and the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the meeting, recalling the importance of Morocco in ICCAT. Mr. Tsamenyi thanked the various Moroccan personalities who had made major contributions to fisheries administration, with special thanks to the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, for his work over the last 14 years. He also thanked all the delegates for their good wishes and encouragement, which had helped him significantly in his recovery. He urged the Commission to finalise the Convention Amendment process, and to give ample time to discussing the findings of the second ICCAT performance review. The Chair also stressed that while taking measures on a stock-by-stock basis was important, such measures were insufficient unless they are backed by an effective package of monitoring, control and surveillance measures and a good compliance process.

The opening addresses are contained in **ANNEX 3.1**.

2 Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted as attached in **ANNEX 1**. The Secretariat served as rapporteur.

3 Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations

The Executive Secretary introduced the following 44 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curacao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Executive Secretary further informed the Commission during the sessions that confirmation of adherence to the Convention by Grenada had been received. Grenada was welcomed as an ICCAT Contracting Party.

The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**. The opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the plenary session are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**.

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. The opening statements of NCPs to the plenary session are attached as **ANNEX 3.3**.

4 Introduction of Observers

The Executive Secretary introduced the observers that had been admitted to the meeting. A Representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as the following inter-governmental organizations attended the meeting: Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP), Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO), the General Commission for Mediterranean Fisheries (GFCM), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Infopêche.

Two non-Contracting Parties, Benin and Cuba, attended the meeting as observers. Observers from the following non-governmental organisations were also in attendance: Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR), Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA), Association euro-méditerranéenne des pêcheurs professionnels de thon (AEPPT), Blue Water Fisherman's Association (BWFA), Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau For Conservation And Development (EBCD), Européche, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), FEDERCOOPESCA, Humane Society International (HSI), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Legacoop Agroalimentare, Medisamak, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), Project Aware Foundation, The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), The Ocean Foundation; The Shark Trust, University of North Carolina, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The list of observers is included in the List of Participants (**ANNEX 2**).

The statements made to the plenary session, submitted in writing by the observers, are attached as **ANNEX 3.4**.

5 Review of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

The SCRS Chair, Dr David Die, apprised the Commission of the accomplishments and challenges of the 2017 SCRS Plenary meeting, which had been held in Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 6 October 2017. He expressed his thanks for the work of the SCRS scientists and the ICCAT Secretariat. Dr Die presented a summary of the Report of the SCRS, indicating that the specific recommendations for each species would be presented in the respective Panels.

The main issues apart from the stock assessments were the findings of the sub-committees, the progress and mid-term review of the strategic plan, progress on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), the general recommendations and work plan for 2018 and the responses to the Commission's requests. These included suggestions to improve the effectiveness of scientific observer programs, including possible revisions to Rec. 16-14 and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards; results of the review Rec. 14-09 on VMS and any suggested revisions to improve its effectiveness; results of the findings of the Shark Species Group regarding exemption of the necessity for data submission by CPC and the development of rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers.

The CPCs thanked the SCRS Chair and scientists for their work during the year. In response to requests for clarification, Dr Die informed the Commission that the work of the joint tuna RFMOs on fish aggregating devices (FADs), Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Ecosystems which had been funded by the FAO/ ABNJ Common Oceans and the European Union had been beneficial to the SCRS. The Executive Secretary confirmed that the ICCAT Secretariat would continue to lead these activities, despite changes in personnel.

In response to an enquiry from the European Union, the Chair of the SCRS also confirmed that an external review of the strategic plan would be beneficial, but was not initially planned.

Dr Die responded to a question on the utility of electronic monitoring that the SCRS supported such initiatives and indicated that additional discussion on this would be provided to Panel 1.

The delegation of Senegal took the opportunity to inform the Commission that a workshop on Harvest Control Rules would be held in Dakar, and encouraged the participation of all those interested.

The 2017 report of the SCRS was adopted by the Commission.

6 Review of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions

The report of the intersessional meeting of Panel 4 was adopted by the Commission. No additional actions were considered necessary by the Plenary. The Report of the intersessional meeting of Panel 4 is contained in **ANNEX 4.1**.

7 Review of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment informed the Commission that all parties had come very close to reaching agreement, but that final consensus could not yet be attained in the Working Group. Several CPCs then tabled new proposals to try to reconcile the remaining outstanding issues. The Chair of the Working Group informed that she undertook a series of informal consultations with CPC delegations and worked to incorporate the new proposals into a revised Chair's text, which was circulated and is attached as (**ANNEX 6.2**). However, there was insufficient time to fully discuss this paper and achieve a final consensus. For this reason, it was agreed that a short meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment would be convened in 2018, working off of the Chair's text, in order to finalise the amendments and agree on next steps. The Secretariat undertook to maintain all documents on the web site available to members in order to facilitate intersessional work. The Report of the Working Group on Convention Amendment is contained in **ANNEX 4.2**.

8 Review of the Report of the Working Group to follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions

Mr. Stefaan Depypere, the Chair of the Working Group presented the report of the Working Group to follow up on the Second Performance Review, and indicated that the recommendations of the Performance Review Panel had been assigned to the various subsidiary bodies and each body was requested to give consideration to these. A template had been designed to monitor progress, and it was agreed that this item should be on the agenda each year until action had been taken in respect to all the recommendations considered necessary.

The Report of the Working Group on Performance Review is contained in **ANNEX 4.3**.

9 Review of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and consideration of any necessary actions

The report of the meeting of the SWGSM was adopted by the Commission, and the relevant sections forwarded to the pertinent subsidiary bodies for any follow up actions required. The importance of the work of this group was highlighted, and the Commission agreed that its work should continue.

The Report of the SWGSM is contained in **ANNEX 4.4**.

10 Review of the Reports of the First Joint tuna RFMO Working Group on FADs and the Third meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on FADs and consideration of any necessary actions

The reports of the intersessional meeting of the First Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on FADs and the third meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on FADs were approved by the Commission. It was agreed that a Technical Working Group on FADs be established to work primarily electronically in order to consider and act upon the proposals contained in the report of the Joint Working Group. Dr Josu Santiago (EU) was nominated to lead the working group; the Commission supported this nomination and would seek the agreement of the other tuna RFMOs.

The Report of the Third Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on FADS is included in **ANNEX 4.5**. The report of the First joint tRFMO Working Group has been published on the tuna.org web site (www.tuna-org.org).

11 Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe, Chair of STACFAD, reported to the Commission that STACFAD had agreed on the biennial budget and contributions for the 2018/19 period (**Tables 1-7 to ANNEX 7**), which were being put forward to the Commission for consideration and adoption. She informed the Commission that a proposal for financing the eBCD system had not been approved by the Committee, and that work on this would continue in the future, and hence this line item would need to be financed through the regular budget, with any shortfall coming from the Working Capital Fund or voluntary contributions. She summarized the areas that would need support from the Working Capital Fund or voluntary contributions; namely, the funding of requests by the SCRS in Chapter 11, now called Strategic Research Programme; maintenance of the eBCD system in Chapter 12; and the Meeting Participation Fund and Chairs' Travel in a new Chapter 13, Travel. The adopted budget reflected a 5% increase for 2018 compared with 2017 and 5% in 2019 compared with 2018; it had been agreed that the regularisation of the aforementioned budgetary items would be phased in over four years rather than two. CPCs noted the importance of the SCRS activities and the need to support the additional projects the Commission has tasked the SCRS with. STACFAD agreed to use the funds in the Scientific Capacity Building Fund in 2018 as a mechanism to support additional SCRS funding. The fund will be used completely, remain an active Commission fund, and be supplemented through voluntary contributions. The Commission adopted the budget put forward for the 2018-2019 biennial period.

The outgoing Chair of STACFAD transmitted the concerns of the Committee on the poor state of the Working Capital Fund, and urged the Commission to refrain from approving expenditures which would worsen the situation. She also highlighted the recommendation of the Performance Review Panel that CPCs should consider the resource and financial implications when putting forward proposals for new conservation and management measures.

STACFAD had approved the 2017 Administrative Report, the 2017 Financial Report and the publication of a revised Basic Texts to incorporate changes previously agreed by the Commission. The Commission adopted the reports and endorsed publication of the revised Basic Texts.

No new work had been carried out by the Communications working group during the intersessional period, and hence STACFAD had nothing to report to the Commission on this. Given the lack of progress by the working group and a question as to the need at this time for a ICCAT Communications Policy, the Chair suggested that the group stand down and any proposed improvements to current practices be left to individual CPCs to raise in future meetings.

Ms. Lapointe confirmed that, following interviews and election by the Heads of Delegation, the position of Executive Secretary had been offered to Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, who would take up his appointment in 2018. It was agreed that the newly elected Chair would manage the transition period between Mr. Driss Meski and the new Executive Secretary.

Finally, Ms. Lapointe indicated that she would no longer be available to serve as Chair of STACFAD, and the Commission appointed Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey) as Chair of STACFAD.

The Commission expressed its appreciation to Ms. Lapointe for her work over the years. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, also expressed his gratitude for the work of the outgoing Chair, as well as to the administration of Morocco, the Commission and to the Secretariat staff for their dedication and professionalism. He stated that a relationship of trust is essential to perform the job. Mr. Meski expressed special thanks to Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, head of Department of Administration and Finance, and the staff of his department, whose honesty and dedication had created a relationship of trust. Mr. Meski's statement is included as **ANNEX 3.5**.

12 Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

Panel 1

Mr. Shep Helguilè reported on the work of Panel 1 and informed the Commission that the Panel had welcomed a new member, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories). The Panel had agreed on the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Prohibition of Discards of Tropical Tunas Caught by Purse Seiners* (Rec. 17-01) which was being put forward for adoption by the Commission.

No agreement had been reached on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Supplement Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” proposed by South Africa, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Japan, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Uruguay or on the “Draft Proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT to Supplement Recommendation [16-01] by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” put forward by the European Union.

The Panel 1 Chair also informed the Commission that Panel 1 had requested an intersessional meeting, for which the European Union had offered to draft the Terms of Reference. Other CPCs, including the United States and South Africa, offered to contribute to the drafting of the ToRs for the intersessional meeting of Panel 1 and were encouraged to liaise with the EU for that purpose.

The Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Prohibition of Discards of Tropical Tunas Caught by Purse Seiners* [Rec. 17-01], which is presented in **ANNEX 5**.

The Commission thanked Mr. Shep for his work and elected Cote d’Ivoire to continue to serve as Panel 1 Chair.

Panel 2

Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan), Chair of Panel 2, informed the Commission that Panel 2 had reached consensus on a *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme, Rec. 16-06* [Rec. 17-04]; a *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing Management Measures for the Stock of Mediterranean Albacore* [Rec. 17-05]; and a *Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna* [Rec. 17-06].

Mr. Miyahara reported that, despite the hard work of all the Panel members, final agreement on a revised management plan for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna had not been achieved, although tentative agreement on the three year TAC was reached and incorporated into the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 17-07], which was being put forward for adoption with a reservation by Norway.

Panel 2 had also called for an intersessional meeting to approve the fishing plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and to address adjustment to E-BFT quotas for 2019 and 2020 by use of the reserves, requesting that this be held in early March 2018.

Venezuela requested confirmation that a transfer of 60 t of northern Albacore quota from European Union to Venezuela could be authorised, and this was endorsed by the Commission.

The Commission adopted the four Recommendations cited above which are included in **ANNEX 5**. The reservation expressed by Norway regarding Rec. 17-07 was noted.

Given the admirable work to date, the Commission unanimously re-elected Japan as Chair of Panel 2.

Panel 3

The Chair of Panel 3, Mr. Asanda Njobeni (South Africa) informed the Commission that Panel 3 had not proposed any new measures in 2017, given that current measures remain in force until 2020. The Panel had liaised with the Compliance Committee regarding the carry-over of additional underages as provided for in the current measure, and the revised figures were included in the Compliance Annex.

The Commission unanimously agreed to the re-election of South Africa as Panel 3 Chair.

Panel 4

Dr F. Hazin (Brazil), Chair of Panel 4, reported on the work of the Panel, which was proposing three measures for adoption:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03* [Rec. 17-02];
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-04* [Rec. 17-03] and;
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* [Rec. 17-08].

These three Recommendations were adopted by the Commission and are contained in **ANNEX 5**.

The Chair of Panel 4 regretted that consensus had not been reached on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”; a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of South Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries” or a “Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”.

The Commission thanked Dr Hazin for his excellent work and elected Brazil to continue to serve as Panel 4 Chair.

13 Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

The Compliance Committee Chair, Mr. Derek Campbell (USA), provided a report of the work of his Committee. The Compliance Committee had adopted the Compliance Annex with the exception of the tables for southern albacore and bigeye tuna, which were being put forward to the Commission for consideration, given that the adjustments had not been made in time for consideration by the Committee. Catch quotas, including those of bigeye tuna had been adjusted on the basis of the total reported in the Compliance Annex, and not on the basis of the Task I or quarterly report figures. The United States noted that it would not block the endorsement of the Compliance Annex, but requested that its reservation on this procedure be reflected in the report given its understanding of the TAC overharvest payback requirements set out in Rec. 16-01. The Commission endorsed the Compliance Annex in its entirety.

In order to avoid delays and allow timely input of the Panels in the future, the Compliance Committee requested that an agenda item be added to all the Panels’ agendas to review and provide relevant input on the compliance tables and then refer them to the Compliance Committee for appropriate action per the terms of Recommendation 11-11. This suggestion was accepted, and it was agreed that future Panel agendas would include an item to allow for review of relevant compliance tables.

The Compliance Committee recommended the renewal of cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname, to which the Commission concurred.

The Compliance Committee also recommended that identification of Sierra Leone and Dominica be maintained but that identification be lifted from Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, Trinidad & Tobago, Cambodia and Grenada. It was also proposed that letters regarding compliance issues be sent to 38 CPCs, as well as

letters to St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia encouraging greater participation in the work of the Commission. The Compliance Committee also requested the Commission Chair to send a letter to Gibraltar to request cooperation with ICCAT, including the provision of catch data and information on measures in place to manage and control bluefin tuna fisheries in a manner consistent with ICCAT measures. These proposals were accepted by the Commission, and it was agreed that the aforementioned letters would be sent. It was also agreed that letters of prohibition on retention of ICCAT species would be sent to those with missing Task I data after 1 December except for Brazil, as the Commission accepted Brazil's request to delay the application of Rec. 11-15 on the commitment by Brazil that it would submit a comprehensive revision of its Task I data for the last five years by 31 March 2018.

In order to improve compliance in the billfish fisheries, the Compliance Committee suggested that a reporting check sheet be developed for consideration at the 2018 annual meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat would work with the Panel 4 and Compliance Committee Chairs to develop such a sheet. In addition, it was agreed that the Secretariat would communicate with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) to request that billfish catch data for WECAFC members, including ICCAT non-CPCs, be provided to ICCAT.

The Commission agreed that shark check sheets, required by Rec. 16-13, should continue to be accepted in 2018, in particular by those CPCs who had not yet made their submission, to allow for a thorough review of compliance with ICCAT's shark measures at the 2018 annual meeting. In addition, the Commission agreed to consider at the 2018 annual meeting whether to adopt the shark check sheet as an annual requirement.

Finally, the Commission also approved the request from the Compliance Committee to hold an intersessional meeting of the Online Reporting Working Group, which could be expanded to include SCRS representation, as well as to hold the first sessions of the Compliance Committee immediately before the start of the 2018 annual meeting, as provided for in Res. 16-22.

The Commission thanked Mr. Campbell for his dedication, and unanimously re-elected him as Chair of the Conservation and Management Compliance Committee.

14 Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

The Chair of PWG, Mr. F. Donatella (European Union), presented the report of the Working Group to the Commission. The PWG had adopted a *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system* [Rec. 17-09], which was submitted for final adoption to the Commission.

This Recommendation was adopted by the Commission and is presented in **ANNEX 5**.

The PWG had also revised the provisional IUU list, the amended version of which was presented to the Commission. The IUU list, with the changes introduced by the PWG, was adopted by the Commission.

Several other proposals had been put forward, but Mr. Donatella explained that these would be the matter for discussion in an intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), among other topics. These measures included a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs", submitted by the United States; a "Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspectors to Conduct Joint International Inspections At Sea" submitted by the United States, EU, Liberia, and Senegal; two "Draft Recommendations by ICCAT amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system", one submitted by Norway and the other by Japan; and one "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Catch Documentation Program", submitted by Norway. The United States added that review of ICCAT's recommendation on minimum standards for vessel monitoring systems should be a priority discussion at the IMM working group meeting as there was no time to do so during PWG this year as required by Recommendation 14-09.

Mr. Donatella reported on the intersessional work of the Port Inspection Expert Group, which had developed a questionnaire to determine capacity building needs and priorities. The Report of this group and the self-assessment questionnaire were adopted by the Commission, and it was agreed that the Group should continue its work and meet intersessionally in 2018.

The Commission thanked Mr. Donatella for his work and elected Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union) to serve as Chair of the PWG.

15 Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

The Executive Secretary presented a document prepared by the Secretariat: Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). He invited the CPCs to inform the STACFAD and the Secretariat of the amounts which they could commit to the MPF through voluntary contributions for 2018.

The Chair of the Commission reminded all delegates that simple attendance at meetings was not sufficient to build capacity and urged all beneficiaries of such funds to participate as fully as possible in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Many of the Contracting Parties present assured the Chair that they were fully aware of the obligations that attendance to ICCAT meetings imposed on them, and that they were participating in the work of the organization as fully as possible. All agreed that the fund had been a positive step towards increasing inclusiveness in the work of ICCAT, as well as improving compliance with ICCAT measures.

16 Cooperation with other inter-governmental organisations

Mr. Stefaan Depypere, current Chair of the Kobe Group, outlined the difficulties and challenges of trying to organise a full-scale Kobe meeting and expressed his belief in the merits of continuing on the path of small working groups on specialised topics. This suggestion met with the approval of the Commission.

The correspondence with WECAFC was noted and it was agreed that cooperation should be maintained between the two organisations to ensure that there was no overlap in their respective mandates, while at the same time benefitting from possible additional data and cooperation of WECAFC members that such relationship could yield.

Continued participation in the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project was discussed and it was agreed that ICCAT would continue to participate in the projects underway. Several CPCs noted the value of this cooperation, as pointed out by the SCRS Chair, and there was general agreement that engagement in this project should continue in the future, in order to complement and strengthen related scientific and management initiatives within ICCAT. The Executive Secretary expressed his disappointment regarding the amounts that had been assigned to ICCAT-led projects under the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ tuna project compared with other organisations, and hoped that this imbalance would be rectified in the future, if the project were to continue.

The observer from the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC/CSRP) expressed the desire of his organisation to work closely with ICCAT particularly in the areas of data collection and capacity building. This cooperation was welcomed.

17 Inter-sessional meetings in 2018

It was agreed that the following intersessional meetings would be held in 2018:

- An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 (dependent on the agreement of Terms of Reference). The European Union offered to host the meeting in Bilbao. It was suggested that the meeting be held after the bigeye assessment scheduled for July 2018.

- An intersessional meeting of Panel 2, to endorse the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing plans and consider possible changes to the allocation scheme for 2019 and 2020, to be held in 5-7 March 2018, in Madrid.
- A fourth meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM). The United States indicated that it would explore the possibility of hosting this meeting.
- A final meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.
- A twelfth meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group.
- A second meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity and Assistance.
- A meeting of the On-line Reporting Working Group.

In addition, it was agreed that the first sessions of the Compliance Committee would be held immediately before the start of the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission.

The delegate of Senegal recalled that the Working Group on Recreational and Sport Fisheries established in 2009 had not met since then and suggested that new life be breathed into this group. It was agreed that this item would be considered at the 2018 annual meeting.

18 Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

Mr. Raul Delgado (Panama) was unanimously elected as Chair of the Commission. Mr. S. Depypere (European Union) was re-elected as First Vice-Chair, and Ms. Zakia Driouich (Morocco) as Second Vice-Chair. All three thanked the Commission for the trust placed in them.

19 Other matters

19.1 The Secretariat presented an updated version of the document on Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures, which had been drafted in conjunction with the Chairs of the relevant bodies. Given the lack of time, it was agreed that the majority of the issues would be considered by the subsidiary bodies either at intersessional meetings or at the next Commission meeting, but that the following measures would be rescinded:

- *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Capacity Working Group* [Res. 06-19]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group for Preparing the Next Performance Review* [Rec. 14-12]
- *Resolution by ICCAT on a Program of Work for the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT* [Res. 11-25]

19.2 The Delegate of Japan presented draft Guidelines for Submission of Proposals, aimed at facilitating the understanding of the various versions of the proposals presented and the subsequent changes. The Commission adopted these guidelines, which are attached as **ANNEX 6.1**.

20 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

The Commission thanked the EU for offering to host the 21st Special meeting, and it was agreed that this would be held in Croatia, 10-19 November 2018, the first two days of which would be sessions of the Compliance Committee.

21 Adoption of the report and adjournment

The outgoing Chair, Mr. Martin Tsamenyi, expressed his appreciation to all delegations for their support, as well as to the Secretariat staff, the interpreters and especially to the Executive Secretary. He regretted that lack of time had prevented a proper farewell celebration for Mr. Meski from being held, and it was agreed that the outgoing Executive Secretary would be invited to the 2018 annual meeting in order for the Commission to show its appreciation. Mr. Tsamenyi was given a standing ovation by the Commission for his hard work and perseverance.

With the agreement that the report would be adopted by correspondence, the meeting was adjourned.

COMMISSION AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the report of the Working Group to follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of the report of the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions
9. Review of the report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)
10. Review of the reports of the First Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on FADs and the Third Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on FADs and consideration of any necessary actions
11. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
15. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
16. Cooperation with other organisations
17. Inter-sessional meetings in 2018
18. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
19. Other matters
20. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
21. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS**3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES****By Mr. Martin Tsamenyi, ICCAT Chairman**

It is my great honour to welcome you all to the 25th Regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and to express our sincere appreciation to the Royal Kingdom of Morocco for offering to host us once again in this beautiful and historic City of Marrakesh.

To the Wali of the Marrakesh area, we thank you very much for allowing us to hold this meeting in your beautiful city and the protection you have provided to us.

This is the third ICCAT Meeting to be held in Marrakesh, and the fourth in Morocco. This proves Morocco's long standing commitment to ICCAT.

Morocco has been a Contracting Party to the ICCAT Convention since 1969, making it one of the first ten Parties to express its commitment to be bound by the ICCAT Convention. It is, therefore, most appropriate that this 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission should be held in Morocco.

Morocco has also been instrumental in supporting the governance of ICCAT in many ways. In this respect, it is appropriate to mention the names of a few Moroccans, who have served our organization.

First, and foremost, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Dahman Laayachi, the former Director General in charge of fisheries, at a time when Morocco did not have a ministry of fisheries. Mr. Laayachi, whom some of you will remember very well, represented Morocco at ICCAT in the early 1970s and played a prominent role during the formative years of ICCAT. Sadly, Mr. Laayachi passed away a few years ago.

The second person I would like to acknowledge is Mr. Abdellah Srour, the current Executive Secretary of GFCM, who served as the First Vice Chair of ICCAT from 1999 to 2005.

Third, I acknowledge Ms. Zakia Driouich, the current Secretary General of the Ministry of Fisheries, who served as the First Vice Chair of ICCAT from 2009 to 2011.

And more recently, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri served as the Chair of PWG from 2011 to 2015.

And, of course, Mr. Driss Meski, our current Executive Secretary for the past 14 years.

Morocco, has not only supported the governance of ICCAT, but has also played a vital role in promoting the active participation of African Atlantic coast countries in ICCAT through ATLAFCO, or COMHAFAT. In recent years, COMHAFAT has become a very important organization to unify the voices of African Atlantic coast members in ICCAT.

Morocco's annual financial contribution to ICCAT is 32,000 Euros.

Marrakesh

Now a little bit about the beautiful city which we are in. ICAAT's first meeting in Marrakesh took place in November 2000 and the second in 2008.

Marrakesh, also called the Red City because of its red sandstone buildings, was founded in 1062 by the Berber dynasty.

It quickly grew to become the most important cultural, religious and commercial center in Morocco and, eventually becoming the capital of Morocco in the 16th century.

In the 1990s Marrakesh was made internationally popular by Crosby, Stills and Nash in their rock hit song: Marrakesh Express. The rock fans among us will recall that Graham Nash was a member of the English rock band, the Hollies. Additionally, there was the 1989 Academy award winning movie; The Marrakesh Express, directed by the Italian movie maker, Gabriele Salvatores.

These days, Marrakesh is a major tourist destination, with 2 million visitors per year expected by 2020. The motoring enthusiasts among us will be interested to know that the main streets of Marrakesh also host the world famous touring car formula 2 race.

And it is in this splendid venue, the Mövenpick Hotel, where the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization was signed in early 1994.

Traditionally, ICCAT Meetings are held in locations close to the ocean with some connection to ICCAT. And here we are, several hours away from the closest beach, sitting on the edge of the Sahara Desert.

Yet, Marrakesh boasts the largest fish market in Africa. If you struggle to believe me, check it out for yourselves. I understand that the market extends over an area of 3 hectares, and if you are lucky enough, you may see some ICCAT species on sale.

Marrakesh is definitely an ideal place from which to experience the wonders and diversity of Morocco and I hope you will have sufficient time at the meeting to explore the wonders of this grand city.

There cannot be a better place other than Marrakesh to extend our thanks to Morocco and to Mr. Driss Meski, our Executive Secretary, who has dedicated so much effort over the past 14 years to our organization. Driss is a true son of the Berber soil in every respect. His ancestral home which is not very far from where we are, nestles in the foothills of the Sahara Desert. It is fitting that we should have this meeting on his home soil and in his region.

Driss, I wish to express ICCAT's sincere appreciation to you. You have left big shoes for ICCAT which will be very difficult to fill. You have made Morocco proud and you have made Africa proud. Thank you very much.

When you elected me as your Chair about two years ago, I was full of optimism and hope that ICCAT would successfully meet its goals as one of the leading tuna management organizations in the world through my leadership that champions transparency and promotes the special interests of developing states and the active participation by industry and non-governmental organizations in decisions that affect the management of the resources in the ICCAT Convention area. Members are well aware of my personal health challenges shortly after my election. I would like to thank you all for your understanding, support and good wishes to me over the last years.

I would especially like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Stefaan Depypere, First Vice Chair and Mr. Raul Delgado, Second Vice Chair for their support. I would also like to thank Mr. Driss Meski and the ICCAT Secretariat for their support. And most importantly, I would like to thank all of you for your continuing prayers, support and communications with me. Hardly a day went by without communication from one of you, checking on my health and to encourage me to persevere as Chair of the Commission. Although my health has significantly improved. In the interest of the Commission, it will be my pleasure to hand over the leadership of this Commission to another Chair of the Commission at the end of this meeting. Let me assure you of my continuing enthusiasm to advocate for the sustainable and responsible management of the fisheries resources within the ICCAT Convention area in my work.

Once again this meeting brings us many challenges. In my Circular to you, I highlighted key issues I consider critical to be resolved at this meeting. These are issues I intend to get resolved at this meeting. These issues will require bold decisions which I am hopeful, you are all ready to take.

- The first priority issue on my list relates to amendments to the ICCAT Convention to bring our convention in line with 21st century international fisheries management standards and norms. The international community expects us to complete this process, and we cannot fail.

We have spent almost three years on this process. Our forebearers took no more than three years to negotiate the original ICCAT Convention. This was a remarkable achievement at a time given that they did not have the luxuries of modern communication tools we now enjoy in the form of internet, Skype, or track change facilities to documents. At this meeting, it is my wish that we can bring the Convention amendment process to a close. In this context, would like to formally acknowledge and thank, the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer for her hard work in steering us through complex issues.

- The Commission would also need to consider other important issues. They include revision of the management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and possible measures to enhance the management of Atlantic swordfish, Mediterranean albacore as well as any other species which the SCRS will bring to our attention as requiring special attention. It is my firm belief that measures on a stock-by-stock basis are insufficient unless they are backed by an effective MCS package and a good compliance process. I count on the PWG and the Compliance Committee to provide us with the needed direction on relevant issues.
- I would like to urge all Panels to review with great attention the recommendations emanating from the Second ICCAT Performance Review, in order to strive for excellence within our Commission. The follow up Inter-sessional Working Group Meeting has already assigned the recommendations to be reviewed by each body. We must ensure that this important work is not overlooked in the many other tasks we have ahead of us this week.

Finally, this year brings us additional tasks of choosing the next Executive Secretary and the next Chair of the Commission and the Chairs of our working groups and Panels. These positions play key roles in the functioning of our organization so we should all take the process very seriously.

In particular, the process of selecting a new Executive Secretary will be challenging to all of us. We have not gone through such a process for some 14 years. The last time we did so was in 2003 when we elected our current Executive Secretary.

I am confident that the ICCAT Contracting Parties will be ready to meet all of the challenges ahead of us. Like Morocco, all the ICCAT family now realizes the importance of good fisheries management based on scientific knowledge and advice, and the increasing importance of the role that the international community plays in the sustainable use of marine living resources.

At this meeting, international attention will once again focus on our organization, as this is an important year for bluefin tuna.

As you are well aware, the international image of ICCAT is defined by how well we manage bluefin tuna. Consequently, decisive action on bluefin tuna at this meeting is something that should concern us all, even if we are not actively involved in the bluefin tuna fishery. We cannot afford to be described again as an international failure and shame as was the case previously.

I thank you all once again for your good wishes, and reiterate my gratitude to the Government of Morocco for hosting this meeting and to the Executive Secretary for its organisation.

In accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of ICCAT, I hereby declare the 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission duly open.

I now give the floor to Ms. Bouaida, Secretary of State for Fisheries and to formally invite her to address the meeting.

By Ms. Mbarka Bouaida, Secretary of State to the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, in charge of Maritime Fisheries

I would like to welcome you to the working session of the 25th regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas which is being held for the fourth time on Moroccan soil, and this year in this beautiful city of Marrakesh.

I would like to take this occasion to thank the Wali of the region of Marrakesh - Safi as well as the local authorities for the valuable support and backing that they have given in the organisation of this event.

My thanks go also to all the organisers and participants who have worked over the past few weeks for the holding of this meeting.

What binds us together during this session is the shared conviction that management of fisheries resources, tuna in this case, should be subject to conservation measures and to a consensus among the countries concerned by these shared stocks.

The Kingdom of Morocco, with its two coastlines, is naturally a maritime country. The sea is an effective medium for different activities, such as fishing, maritime transport, trade and tourism, and as such we are responsible for conserving and managing it in relation to these activities in a sustainable manner.

Morocco has placed sustainable development at the heart of its public priorities, and sustainable management of fisheries resources is one of the most prominent aspects.

At national level, for the fisheries and aquaculture sector, a clear roadmap has been developed within the framework of the Halieutis strategy. This strategy is based on three main principles: sustainable use of resources, development of a highly performing and quality fishery and the strengthening of competitiveness as well as obtaining new shares in the national and international markets.

Regarding sustainability, Morocco has introduced several projects under Halieutis. For example:

- Research on fisheries has been strengthened, which has become a major consideration in the formulation of scientific advice;
- The major fisheries are managed with reference to management plans which contain a series of measures based on sound management of stocks and vessel activity;
- The fight against IUU fishing has continued with the fleet being equipping with satellite-based geolocation beacons as well as the introduction of a computerised catch certification procedure;
- Aquaculture has a specialist agency which prepares aquaculture management plans for both coastlines.

During the CoP22 Convention on climate change held here in Marrakesh, Morocco confirmed its commitment to sustainable development and launched the Blue Belt initiative as a common action for the climate and the oceans based on the conviction that the fisheries and aquaculture can become a model of sustainability subject to the principles of the blue economy.

At international level, our country plays a dynamic role within regional and international organisations specialising in management of the maritime fisheries, actively participating in work of these bodies. It is in this way that several international conventions have been ratified and action programmes adopted, with the aim to combine growth, sustainable development and social solidarity.

During this 25th meeting, the Commission will review the advice of the Scientific Committee on the stocks for which assessments have been carried out this year and will take stock of the conclusion of the different working groups.

I have no doubt about the ability of the parties to identify the necessary basis for consensus which will lead to satisfactory decisions and recommendations, capable of preserving and ensuring the best management schemes for tuna and tuna-like species. Such an approach can only strengthen the role of the Commission as an intergovernmental instrument for discussion and decision-making in the area of maritime fishing.

I bid all participants once again a very pleasant stay and every success for the work of this session.

Thank you for your kind attention.

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Algeria

The delegation of Algeria wishes to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 25th regular meeting of ICCAT in this marvellous city of Marrakesh.

It is important to note that Algeria was not represented at the 17th special meeting of ICCAT held in Paris in 2010 when its annual catch quota was drastically reduced, the allocation key being lowered from 5.073% to 1.073%.

However, it should also be noted the efforts made and understanding expressed by all CPCs since 2010 with regard to remedying the harm caused to Algeria, and this is reflected in the favourable provisions of Recommendations 12-03, 14-04 and 16-09, which contain the increases in Algeria's quota but its historical quota is never reached.

Despite this situation, Algeria has spared no effort in honouring its commitments and complying with the provisions of the ICCAT Convention, in particular, implementation into the national regulation of conservation and management measures, participation of Algerian scientists in the work of the scientific committee (SCRS) and regular financial contributions to ICCAT.

After a wait of eight years, Algeria is counting on the sense of equity and responsibility of all the Parties for repair of the harm caused in 2010. This will enable ICCAT to turn over this shameful page once and for all.

In this regard, Algeria requests the support and backing of all Contracting Parties to re-establish its historical quota.

The delegation of Algeria wishes all delegations a pleasant and productive stay in the city of Marrakesh, and is willing to work with all parties in a spirit of cooperation and responsibility for the success of this ICCAT meeting.

European Union

The European Union is very pleased to attend this year's 25th Regular Annual Meeting of ICCAT in this wonderful country and historical city. We would like to express our very great appreciation for the Moroccan Government's hospitality and we are looking forward to a very successful meeting. It is very fitting that ICCAT should meet in this great maritime country, boasting thousands of kilometres of coastline, on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, with the strong fishing traditions that this entails.

We would also like to thank the Executive Secretary, Driss Meski, and his talented team for organising this meeting and for the hard work they will no doubt be performing during the course of this meeting.

In the next ten days, the eyes of the fishing world will be upon us, such are the expectations for this organisation as we strive to continue to raise the standards in terms of the fisheries management of tuna species. The Second Performance Review of ICCAT, conducted last year, is a great testimony to the progress ICCAT has made over the years. Once again, we are expected to show leadership by being prepared to take the difficult decisions that are required, no matter how long or difficult the road may be.

But our resolve and past efforts are starting to deliver noticeable results. There is no better example of this than the case of the eastern stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna, which 10 years ago was being branded worldwide as the embodiment of the failure of fisheries management, and which today has turned into one of the great success stories. Scientists have for a few years now emphasised the steady and strong progress towards recovery of the stock and advised to review the management measures for this stock in light of its new improved status. We are looking forward to be able to take this long-awaited step this

week by gradually moving away from the emergency measures adopted a decade ago to a more adapted framework, and to help those who have made sacrifices during the recovery period to be rewarded for their efforts. We are confident that this can be achieved while at the same time securing the sustainable management of this stock in the long term. We are also hopeful that solutions can be found to resolve long standing disputes related to the management of this fishery, and that this can result in a more inclusive process and enhanced participation by all CPCs in the work of the Commission.

We note at the same time with satisfaction the constant improvement in our understanding of the status of the stocks, thanks to the relentless work of the SCRS. This is the result of strong collective efforts and forms the indispensable basis for the rational and sustainable management of the resources. The improvements in our understanding of the stocks status unfortunately also means that we are confronted with new emerging challenges which we will have to address with determination. This year the SCRS brought to our attention the very worrying situation of the northern and southern stocks of shortfin mako sharks, a long lived slow growing species, a magnificent predator at the top of the food chain, which we have a duty to protect. We hope that we can take the courageous decisions required to protect this amazing fish and we have tabled a proposal to achieve this. The European Union will continue to promote the responsible and precautionary management of all shark species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries. This includes the adoption of a policy on fins-naturally attached, for which a large majority of CPCs have now expressed their support for several years.

We also hope that this commitment to protect shark species can be enshrined in the ICCAT Convention, and that we will be able to successfully conclude the amendment process by finding consensus. The EU is ready to do its part towards achieving this aim and will be ready to show flexibility to facilitate an outcome at this year's meeting.

After several years of work by the SCRS, and via a successful dialogue between scientists and managers, we are also hopeful that the Commission will for the first time be able to adopt harvest control rules for northern albacore. A lot of hard work and time has been put into this process and it is important that we now take the necessary decision. This should pave the way for managing other stocks through harvest control rules in the near future, demonstrating the commitment of the Commission to base its decisions on sound science and enhanced participation of all the stakeholders.

While perhaps not as worrying as shortfin mako, several stocks have nevertheless also been highlighted by the SCRS as requiring our attention. We strongly believe that now is the time to take precautionary measures to ensure their long terms sustainability and that we should not wait for a worsening of the situation before assuming our responsibilities and take action. This will require reviewing some practices which in our view are no longer compatible with the sustainable management of fish stocks.

As always, this year the European Union continues to attach great importance to the compliance process. We believe that only full compliance by everybody ensures the effectiveness of the conservation measures adopted by the Commission and guarantees a level playing field across the entire Convention area and among all ICCAT CPCs. We are therefore determined to ensure that ICCAT maintains a high level of commitment to the compliance review and assessment.

Finally, this year, three important figures of ICCAT are retiring. We would like to express our profound gratitude to Dr Antonio Di Natale and Dr Lawrence Kell for their exceptional contributions to the work of the ICCAT Commission. As we prepare to select a new Executive Secretary, we would also like to express our appreciation for the superb work done by Driss Meski in ICCAT. As one of the longest serving Executive Secretary in an RFMO, Driss has been instrumental in facilitating the work of the Commission, in always delivering very well organised meetings, by keeping a watchful eye on the financial situation of the organisation, and importantly by providing constant and terrific support to the Parties. We wish these three great colleagues the very best for their retirement.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 25th Annual Meeting of ICCAT.

Japan

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Morocco for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful city, Marrakesh, one of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. We also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 25th regular meeting of the Commission.

This year's Commission meeting will be probably one of the busiest ones in recent years. We must develop management measures for bluefin tuna, swordfish and shortfin mako as well as northern albacore based on the results of the first ICCAT MSE process. Discussion of the Convention amendment and election of the Executive Secretary are also important. Japan would like to cooperate with the Chairman and other CPCs to produce good outcomes for these important items.

Among other things, Japan would like to touch upon a few issues. First, regarding Atlantic bluefin tuna, we commend the SCRS taking a different approach to avoid traditional argument on uncertainties involved in the biomass level and future recruitment. Thanks to this new approach, now the recommendation is much more clear than previous ones, allowing us to increase the TAC up to 36,000 t with gradual increase for east and 2,500 t for west, and Japan fully supports them. With such distinct scientific advice, we hope that the TAC levels can be agreed relatively easily. The real challenge for the Commission is allocation, particularly for east. While we recognize rights of coastal states and developing states, we would like to stress our contribution to scientific work, that is, Japanese fishing vessels have been providing a long-time CPUE series which greatly enhances the reliability of the stock assessment. It may not be possible to find a solution that makes everybody happy, but possible to find a solution that makes everybody equally unhappy, which we believe is the best solution.

While the story of bluefin tuna is considered one of the success stories of ICCAT, Japan is concerned about the stock status of north Atlantic shortfin mako. Japan is proposing management measures for this stock, taking into account the SCRS advice. This demonstrates our commitment to conservation of shark species. We consider that the Commission should spend time on this proposal rather than talking about "naturally attached fins" issue.

Another sign of our commitment on shark conservation is the Shark Implementation Check Sheet adopted last year based on Japan's proposal. Our delegation looks forward to reviewing the check sheets at the Compliance Committee.

Finally, I cannot believe that this is the last Commission meeting for us to work with Mr. Driss Meski. Our delegation really appreciates his enthusiasm and tireless work for matters of ICCAT for many years. It may not be easy for CPCs to choose the next Executive Secretary after his great era, but I have no doubt that the Commission would make a good decision at the end of the day.

Mr. Chairman, the Japanese Delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this regular meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Korea

Good Morning, all. My name is Chansoo Park who leads Korean delegation to the 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission and I am from the Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries of Korea. First, it is my honor to attend this meeting held in a beautiful city of Marrakesh, which keeps a long history and proud tradition. I sincerely would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Government of Morocco and the ICCAT Secretariat for their tireless efforts to organize this important meeting.

As many of you are well aware of, the overfishing and depletion of fishery stocks become a crucial problem to the world. According to the FAO, one third of the fishery stocks on the globe are experiencing overfishing. Some even provide a doomed projection that in 2048 we may not find seafood on the table any longer if this trend keeps going on for next 30 years. In this regard, preventing fishery stocks from depletion and ensuring the sustainability of fisheries can't be overemphasized.

ICCAT is a best-practice body which takes the lead other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) achieving the recovery of the bluefin tuna stock, which was used to be to be reduced to the historically lowest level, through a workable solution.

At this meeting, the Commission is supposed to discuss about many issues for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in Atlantic Ocean. Many CPCs put forward a variety of proposals to amend current recommendations on bluefin tuna's multi-annual recovery plan, e-BCD system; and to establish new recommendations for observer safety and health, prohibition on discards of tropical tuna by purse seiners and conservation of incidentally caught sharks. I would like to appreciate the proponents for providing meaningful proposals.

Most importantly, the Commission will decide TAC and quota allocated to CPCs during this meeting. I hope that we could reach a well-balanced agreement that ensures the protection of the bluefin tuna stock in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean; and reflects aspirations of fishing nations fairly and squarely considering of the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities specified in the Resolution 15-13.

Last but not least I wish that 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission could accomplish meaningful outcomes to protect fishery stocks that are becoming increasingly depleted.

Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco is pleased to have placed sustainable development at the heart of its public action priorities. On 29 June this year, Morocco adopted its National Strategy for Sustainable Development which is designed to ensure a transition to a green and inclusive economy through sustained strengthening of our economic competitiveness, human and social development and specific cultural attributes as well as systematic consideration of environmental issues.

In addition, the Kingdom of Morocco showed once again, during COP22, its exemplary commitment to sustainable development. The "blue belt" initiative of common action for the climate and oceans, addressed during this conference, is based on the conviction that the fisheries and aquaculture can become a model of sustainability subject to the principles of the green and blue economies.

The Kingdom of Morocco was one of the first countries to be part of this increased awareness regarding protection of the environment and its biodiversity, through ratification of relevant international conventions and adoption of national action programmes on this matter, which aim to combine enduring economic growth, sustainable development and social solidarity, dispensing with short-term interests dictated by immediate gain and non-consideration of sustainable development and the future generations.

Furthermore, for the first time in Moroccan constitutional history, the 2011 constitution has enshrined the right to sustainable development. This confirms the undertaking by the Moroccan State to recognise the supremacy of relevant international agreements and its full endorsement of the different international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Kingdom of Morocco is the custodian of rich and diversified natural ecosystems, and consequently, has implemented an array of plans and programmes within the framework of its policies on protection and sustainable development of these resources and their optimised use, using a cooperative and inclusive approach.

The Haliétuis strategy is structured around 3 major aspects: sustainability, performance and competitiveness. It is a comprehensive approach to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Morocco. There are three main principles: sustainable exploitation of resources and promotion of responsible fisheries involving fishers who are also considered to be key players in the development of the sector; development of a highly performing and quality fisheries; and strengthening competitiveness, as well as obtaining new shares in the national and international markets.

This is the fourth time that the Kingdom of Morocco is organising this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, which will primarily undertake a review of the results and advice of the Scientific Committee in relation to the stocks for which assessments have been carried out this year, as well as the conclusions of the different working groups. This is a clear demonstration of Morocco's willingness to sustainably manage its resources.

Finally, I wish you a pleasant stay in the Kingdom of Morocco and I invite you to visit this beautiful red city of Marrakesh.

United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)

The UK Overseas Territories would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to Morocco for hosting the 25th Regular Meeting for the ICCAT Commission.

The UKOTs represents four different United Kingdom Overseas Territories; British Virgin Islands (BVI), Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. Two of those territories, BVI and TCI, have experienced unprecedented devastation in September this year from hurricanes Irma and Maria.

These four territories are small coastal states in varying stages of development. During the year we have worked hard to meet all our ICCAT obligations, in the face of some unavoidable challenges, and hope that we have managed to do so to the satisfaction of the Commission. The UK Government and its Overseas Territories are also committed to ensuring that marine resources are managed to a high standard, and will further this goal through the Government's continued work with the Territories on the implementation of its new Blue Belt policy in the coming years. The UK Overseas Territories recognise that scientific information is necessary to underpin sound decision-making at ICCAT and are working with the UK Government to improve understanding of marine resources in the Territories.

While we acknowledge that the main focus of the meeting will be on Atlantic bluefin where the TAC measures are set for revision, we hope that Contracting Parties can work together in order to safeguard the future sustainability of all species under ICCAT's remit. The effective management of bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna are of particular interest to the UKOTs. Measures taken to protect sharks at previous annual meetings are very welcome, although we would like to see further precautionary management measures to protect vulnerable shark species and support the strengthening of the prohibition on shark-finning. We look forward to these discussions and are confident that ICCAT will once again demonstrate to the world that it can manage the marine resources for which it is responsible, in a sustainable and efficient manner.

The UKOTs were pleased to welcome Martin Tsamenyi back briefly after his long recovery period, for the SWGSM in June, and are grateful to the Secretariat for all the work it has done to fill the position of the ICCAT Executive Secretary this year. The UKOTs look forward to the announcement of a new Executive Secretary.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for the outstanding work that it continues to do on behalf of the Contracting Parties. We wish them, the ICCAT Chair, the other chairs of the various committees and panels and other Contracting Parties our best wishes for a constructive and successful meeting.

3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

Cuba

The Republic of Cuba welcomes the invitation to participate in the 25th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, which is being held in this beautiful city of Marrakesh.

Cuba participated in the conference where the ICCAT Convention was adopted. It was a signatory thereto, becoming a Contracting Party on 15 January 1975.

In 1991, Cuba withdrew from the organisation because the Cuban tuna fleet had become inactive due to contractions in the industry as well as the country's the economic situation which made it difficult to operate a fleet that met the technological requirements of the market.

From 2000, the need was assessed for Cuba to rejoin ICCAT, and attempts were made on several occasions to maintain our presence in the organisation and comply with the regulations that it lays down. However, for different reasons, since 2004, it has not been possible for Cuba to participate in ICCAT meetings, and consequently Cuba has lost the contact it had established with the members of the organisation and with the Secretariat.

In this 25th Regular meeting, as observers, it is our intention to express Cuba's interest in rejoining the organisation. Cuba wishes therefore to express its willingness with regard to the following:

1. Begin to report to ICCAT the national tuna catch statistics.
2. Cooperate fully in relation to scientific information on the tuna species in the area of concern.
3. Define and analyse Cuba's financial situation with the organisation and seek possible solutions.

Therefore, and taking into account how important it is for the Cuban fishing sector to be in line with the organisation's recommendations and resolutions, we submit for your consideration the assessment of Cuba joining ICCAT.

We are available for any further clarifications.

3.4 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ecology Action Centre (EAC)

Check List for Success

Tunas

Set precautionary, science based quotas for western Atlantic bluefin tuna that will allow the stock to continue to grow, in line with ICCAT's rebuilding plan. According to the SCRS advice, this would mean a quota of 1,000 T or less.

Set precautionary, science based quotas for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna that will allow the stock to continue to grow, which is no more than 28,000 T by 2020 according to the science advice.

Adopt a harvest strategy for northern albacore and continue to advance harvest strategies for priority stocks to improve and modernize stock management.

Reduce total Atlantic bigeye catch to a level that has a high probability of rebuilding the stock by 2028.

Adopt measures for the management of fish aggregating devices (FADs) that minimize the impact of FAD fisheries on juvenile tropical tunas and the ocean ecosystem.

Sharks

Prohibit retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks to immediately to stop overfishing and have a reasonable chance (54%) of rebuilding the population by 2040.

Prohibit retention of South Atlantic shortfin mako as well. Given the uncertainty of this stock's status and the high vulnerability of the species, a precautionary approach is imperative.

Adopt a package of additional measures to minimize mako discard mortality.

Ensure full reporting of all shark discards.

Adopt the proposed 'fins naturally attached' requirement to strengthen the existing shark finning ban. This best practice would facilitate both enforcement and species-specific data collection, and is as such increasingly accepted by ICCAT parties.

Swordfish

Reduce the quota for Northern Atlantic swordfish to 13,200 t in line with the scientific advice.

Convention Amendment

Amend the ICCAT Convention text to contain modern best practices including those that will require ICCAT to incorporate the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management into decision making and expand the list of species covered explicitly by the Convention to include sharks.

International Game Fish Association (IGFA)

Recommendations to 25th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers throughout the world. IGFA was established in 1939, has active members in over 150 countries, and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Many of IGFA's members target the highly migratory species managed by ICCAT, especially marlin, sailfish and spearfish (i.e. billfish) which are primarily caught and released.

IGFA continues to have great concern about how highly migratory species are being managed on a global level. The lack of data and accurate reporting on billfish catch is of particular concern. As an organization that is committed to the conservation of game fishes and obtaining more and better data on them, IGFA has deployed over 300 pop-up satellite archival tags in billfish around the world in the last six years, many of which have been in waters under this organization's purview. The information gained from this exercise is open access and available to your Scientific Committee and others who wish to utilize it for management purposes.

Billfish

The most recent stock assessments for blue marlin (2011), white marlin (2012), and western and eastern Atlantic sailfish (2016) indicate that all stocks are currently still overfished with overfishing occurring in blue marlin and eastern Atlantic sailfish. ICCAT Recommendation 11-13 states *“that for stocks that are subject to overfishing, the Commission shall immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, inter alia, the biology of the stock and the SCRS advise, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a time as possible.”* Yet, all three of these stocks have been in alternating states of being overfished and/or experiencing overfishing for three decades. While positive steps rolled forward during the 2016 Commission meeting, IGFA does not feel that the TAC structure implemented in blue and white marlin/spearfish is sufficient to rebuild these stocks in a timely manner, especially given their protracted history of overfishing. According to the SCRS, the established TAC of 2,000 t for blue marlin only gives a 32% chance that the stock will not be overfished with overfishing not occurring by 2026. The established TAC for white marlin is worse, giving it a 0% chance of being rebuilt with overfishing not occurring by 2022. In regard to sailfish, the results of the 2016 assessment are equivocal and the SCRS has stated that: *“Both the eastern and western sailfish stocks may have been reduced to stock sizes below B_{MSY} ”*. As such, the IGFA recommends the Commission take the following actions:

- Reduce the harvest of blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, and eastern and western Atlantic sailfish.
- Institute harvest control rules for sailfish that will allow rebuilding of both eastern and western stocks.
- Implement a prohibition on Atlantic billfish entering into international trade. Similar legislation has been passed in the United States, at the request of IGFA, which bans importation of all marlin, sailfish and spearfish into the continental United States.
- Require all countries to use non-offset circle hooks in their longline fisheries.
- Improve the quality and quantity of biological data and catch data, particularly in developing countries/artisanal fisheries.
- Adhere to the proposed deadlines of 2018 and 2019 for updated stock assessments for blue and white marlin, respectively.

Bluefin tuna

The 2017 stock assessment for eastern and western stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna suggest growth in both populations since the last assessment conducted in 2014. However, the eastern stock assessment did not conclude that it has fully recovered. Furthermore, the SCRS has cautioned that uncertainties in the assessment may have overestimated abundance. In the case of the western stock, biomass estimates continue to be plagued by ambiguity regarding opposing recruitment scenarios. In addition, the strong 2003 year class is past peak biomass and there is no indication of a new, strong year class recruiting into the fishery. This combined with an increasing number of eastern fish entering the western fishery has effectively precluded managers from determining the stock's condition relative to B_{MSY} . Despite uncertainties in assessments for both stocks, the SCRS has proposed quota increases up to 36,000 metric tons by 2020 for the eastern stock and 2,500 metric tons for the western, even though such increases could lead to declines in abundance.

Therefore, IGFA recommends that the Commission:

- Take a precautionary approach in quota increases in the face of scientific uncertainty that will keep both stocks on a rebuilding trajectory. Specifically, do not allow quotas over 28,000 metric tons and 1,000 metric tons for the eastern and western stock, respectively.

Bigeye tuna

The 2015 bigeye assessment found the stock both overfished and experiencing overfishing. Yet, at last year's meeting, the Commission approved a TAC of 65,000 t that gives the stock only a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2028. There is also little evidence that Recommendation 15-01 will end overfishing, as the TAC was exceeded in 2016.

IGFA recommends that the Commission:

- Adopt a TAC that will give the stock a minimum of 60% chance of rebuilding by 2024, or two generation times since the stock was declared overfished in 2015.

IUU Fishing

- Increase efforts to reduce IUU fishing by requiring functioning VMS on all authorized fishing vessels.
- Ban transshipment at sea until the Commission can verify that it is not facilitating IUU fishing.
- Strengthen the IUU vessel list by allowing vessels to be added at an intersessional basis.

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

The growing prevalence of FAD associated fisheries has significantly increased fishing mortality for juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

IGFA recommends the Commission:

- Enact regulatory actions that minimize the ecosystem impact of FAD fisheries, especially unsustainable catch of juvenile tunas.

Recreational fishing

Recreational angling is a growing and economically vibrant entity in many countries and we wish that ICCAT recognize both its relevance and that it may necessitate alternate management objectives than those used in commercial fisheries. IGFA kindly offers its consultation to ICCAT on recreational fisheries issues. Current ICCAT quota allocation and reallocation policies do not take into consideration the economic value of catch and release recreational fisheries. ICCAT Contracting Parties should be free to utilize quota as they desire, even if it is not fully harvested without penalty of quota redistribution.

International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF)

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) is an international charity working to support the one-by-one tuna fisheries and the communities around them. Our role is two-fold: To promote the benefits of one-by-one tuna fisheries; and to improve their viability and sustainability. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities who are committed to environmentally and socially responsible fishing methods, such as baitboat, troll, and handline.

An important part of our work involves connecting people and organisations that want to support sustainable and socially responsible one-by-one tuna fisheries. Our membership – which currently stands at 50 – includes a broad range of fishing associations and businesses involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. They have proven to be active collaborators, and together we have accomplished several meaningful improvements in data collection, traceability, and fisheries management in many ocean areas.

The ICCAT Convention area is home to a number of one-by-one fisheries, including many baitboat fisheries for temperate and tropical Atlantic tunas (Azores, Brazil, Madeira, Senegal, South Africa, Saint Helena, Northern Spain, Canary Islands, Ghana, Namibia and others). The success and future of these fishing communities relies heavily on the responsible management by ICCAT as the stocks are highly migratory.

At this year's Regular Meeting, IPNLF encourages ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs collectively) to adopt management measures to strengthen the framework for sustainable and equitable tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Specifically, we urge action in the following areas:

- Fix the tropical tuna measure (2016-01) to reduce catches of yellowfin and bigeye to sustainable levels. At current catch rates, the bigeye tuna rebuilding target has a 62% chance of failure.
- Improve data collection and regulation of supply vessels and other undermanaged fishing gears that contribute to overall fishing effort, including drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs).
- Adopt an interim Harvest Control Rule for north Atlantic albacore, and advance the development of harvest strategies for other species as a matter of priority to avoid adverse impacts on stocks, thereby also recognizing the social and economic dependence of coastal communities that rely on the fisheries for food security and livelihoods.
- Adopt measures to reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles.

The current tropical tuna measure (2016-01) is not working, threatening the future of coastal fisheries highly dependent on the yellowfin and bigeye catches in communities across the Convention area. According to the SCRS, the establish catch limits for bigeye and yellowfin were exceeded in 2016 by 11% and 16%, respectively. The SCRS has identified purse seine fisheries using drifting FADs to be a critical driver, and continues to recommend that the Commission adopt measures to reduce FAD-driven mortality of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye. Waiting another year to take action would ignore the scientific advice, lead to further overfishing, and discriminate against the fisheries operating within the bounds of sustainability.

To complement stricter limits on FAD fishing, CPCs should also address the largely unregulated use of supply vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, which contributes to increased fishing efficiency and effort (effort creep), bigeye overfishing, marine litter, and bycatch of vulnerable marine species. The primary function of supply vessels is to deploy and maintain drifting FADs, to build drifting FADs, to check the quantities of tunas under FADs, to search for drifting FADs belonging to other vessels and to search for free schools of tuna. All of these activities facilitate higher catches of target, non-target and bycatch species. In recognition of this unmanaged fishing effort and conservation challenges, supply vessels have been prohibited in the eastern Pacific Ocean since 1999 (IATTC Resolution C-99-07). In the Indian Ocean it has been recognized that "supply vessels contribute to the increase in effort and capacity of purse seiners and that the number of supply vessels has increased significantly over the years" and IOTC Resolution 17/01 addresses this through time-bound limits and reductions of their numbers. We therefore encourage ICCAT delegates to pursue a similar course of action to the approach followed at IATTC and IOTC by controlling and limiting the use of supply vessels, thereby enhancing the management of Atlantic Ocean tuna stocks.

We are pleased with the progress ICCAT has made towards the evaluation and development of harvest strategies. We encourage CPCs to continue on this path for all species, and specifically to adopt a harvest control rule this year for North Atlantic albacore. If adopted, more sustainable management frameworks will benefit every CPC, bring positive long-term returns to fishing communities, and minimize the risk of future fisheries collapses.

The Atlantic Ocean is home to an array of one-by-one fisheries and fishing communities. IPNLF would like to see management measures adopted that safeguard tuna stocks and ecosystems so that one-by-one fisheries, and the social benefits they provide to the communities that depend on them, can flourish. We will continue to work with our Members to strive for the highest environmental and social standards, which will reinforce the good work of the Commission.

We look forward to working with all delegations at the 2017 Regular Meeting in Marrakesh, and we are hopeful that the CPCs will find common ground in supporting management improvements.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Our Top Asks for ICCAT in 2017

- 1 Adopt stock-specific tuna management measures that are consistent with the scientific advice, allocate the yellowfin catch limit by gear and/or flag, and strengthen overall the management of tropical tuna fisheries to ensure compliance with catch limits.
- 2 Immediately address the serious gaps that exist in FAD data reporting, ensure that the ICCAT requirement for non-entangling FADs is being complied with, and promote research into biodegradable FADs.
- 3 Adopt, on an interim basis, one of the Harvest Control Rules for North Atlantic Albacore that have been tested and advance MSE for other species, ensuring sufficient funding for it to progress.
- 4 Strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures, such as Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and Port State Measures.
- 5 Increase the observer coverage requirements for large-scale purse seine vessels and longline vessels to support data collection.

What are the issues?

Effective management measures are needed to ensure bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches are maintained at sustainable levels.

Why are we concerned?

According to SCRS estimates, the established catch limits for bigeye and yellowfin were exceeded in 2016 by 11% and 16%, respectively. Exceeding TACs for overfished stocks will worsen their status and hinder their rebuilding to healthy levels. An added complication for yellowfin is that the catch limit is not allocated between fishing gears or CPCs, which makes it very difficult to take corrective measures.

Also, while other RFMOs have adopted tuna catch retention measures, ICCAT has not yet taken steps to do so. The dumping of less-valuable tuna in favor of higher-value catch distorts our understanding of fishing operations' actual impact on tuna stocks.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (i) Adopt stock-specific management measures consistent with SCRS advice.
- (ii) Allocate the yellowfin catch limit by gear and/or flag so that CPCs clearly know their individual limits.
- (iii) Strengthen its management of tropical tuna fisheries by: (a) ensuring that fishing capacity of the purse seine fleets is commensurate with catch limits (see Vessel Registries and Fleet Capacity below), and (b) adopting in-season monitoring of catches to avoid overshooting of catch limits (see Transparency in Catch Quotas below).

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

Monitoring and Management

What are the issues?

Comprehensive data on FAD deployments and usage by all fleets are required to effectively manage the tropical tuna purse seine fishery. In addition, ensuring that currently deployed FADs are non-entangling and moving towards biodegradable FADs in the future are critical steps towards mitigating ecosystem impacts.

Why are we concerned?

In the Atlantic, FAD sets account for nearly 50% of tropical tuna catches — including 67% of skipjack catches. It's time for a concerted global effort to better monitor and manage FAD usage in every ocean region. Since 2013, ICCAT has required the submission of FAD data to the Secretariat for use by the SCRS (Recs. 13-01, 14-01, 15-01 and 16-01). However, each year only a few CPCs submit the required data, usually in an incomplete fashion, thus hindering regional analyses by SCRS. By the time of the 2017 SCRS, some FAD data covering 2016 had been reported for only 3 of 11 flags that operate purse seine vessels in the Atlantic. Some fleets point to the lack of clear definitions in Rec. 16-01 and unclear data submission forms as the reasons for not reporting.

Shark mortality and other FAD-fishing ecosystem impacts in the Atlantic Ocean need to be reduced. ICCAT has required the use of non-entangling FADs since January 2016 to reduce the entanglement of sharks and turtles. Compliance with this requirement needs to be addressed by ICCAT. Moving towards the use of biodegradable FADs is a critical next step to address marine debris.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (i) Immediately address the serious gaps that continue to exist in FAD data reporting, such as through requiring a combination of clearer definitions and clearer instructions on required data and submission forms.
- (ii) Require that all FAD data items identified in paragraph 23 of Recommendation 16-01 should be in 1°x1° squares so that they can inform detailed analyses by the SCRS.
- (iii) Ensure that its requirement for non-entangling FADs is being met, and promote research into biodegradable FADs.

Harvest Strategies

What are the issues?

ISSF applauds the successful meeting of ICCAT's Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) this year. ISSF also applauds the progress ICCAT made last year to advance its Harvest Strategy processes, which now have a timetable, and the testing this year of HCR elements for Northern Atlantic albacore tuna via management strategy evaluations (MSEs). These actions pave the way for ICCAT to implement a comprehensive harvest strategy that fisheries can follow to maintain stocks at an optimal level.

Why are we concerned?

Harvest Strategies - which include target and limit reference points together with harvest control rules provide pre-agreed rules for managing fisheries resources and acting in response to stock status changes. It is important to ensure that these pre-agreed rules are robust because these rules and strategies help to rebuild stocks or avoid overfishing. They also reduce the need for protracted negotiations and delays that can lead to further stock declines.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (i) Adopt, on an interim basis, one of the Harvest Control Rules for North Atlantic Albacore that have been tested by SCRS, and carry out an independent peer review of the MSE work.
- (ii) Advance MSE for other species, ensuring sufficient funding for it to progress.

By-catch and sharks

What are the issues?

ICCAT needs to improve measures and strengthen efforts to mitigate the bycatch of vulnerable species in both purse seine and longline fisheries. In addition, science-based conservation and management

measures to limit fishing mortality on sharks must be adopted and implemented. Data collection and reporting is essential; therefore, ISSF applauds ICCAT for adopting Recommendation 2016-13 on the Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries last year.

Why are we concerned?

A 2017 assessment indicates that the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako is overfished and catches need to be reduced by more than two-thirds to prevent further stock declines.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

(i) Adopt measures to reduce catches of the northern shortfin mako stock while ensuring that accurate data are collected and submitted on catches of all oceanic sharks.

(ii) Strengthen ICCAT's shark-finning measure [Rec 04-10] by requiring that all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached.

Monitoring Control and Surveillance

Observer Coverage and Electronic Monitoring

What are the issues?

Effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures that meet global standards are essential to data collection - promoting compliance with conservation measures, and combatting IUU fishing activities on the water and in port. In particular, comprehensive observer coverage on vessels is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas.

ICCAT requires 100% observer coverage on tropical tuna purse seiners, but only during the time/area FAD moratorium. Since 2013, ISSF Conservation Measure 4.3(a) has required that processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry conduct transactions only with those large-scale purse seine vessels that have 100% observer coverage (human or electronic if proven to be effective) on every fishing trip, and observing every fishing operation - even though it is not required by ICCAT year-round. Also, the ICCAT observer requirement for longline fisheries is only 5%. If human onboard observers are not possible for certain fleets or vessel sizes, including longliners, then ICCAT should adopt guidelines for using electronic monitoring.

Why are we concerned?

All large-scale purse seine vessels should have 100% observer coverage on every fishing trip to ensure the collection of critical data on bycatch and discards. Further, the SCRS has highlighted that the current 5% observer coverage requirement is inadequate to provide reasonable estimates of total bycatch. Data on observer coverage in longline fisheries indicates some fleets are not even meeting the 5% mandatory minimum requirement. The paucity of data on longline catches and interactions with non-target species prevents assessments - hindering scientific input on effective conservation measures.

Finally, to ensure RFMOs receive quality data from observer programs, it is essential that these observers can do their jobs in a safe and professional environment.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

(i) Implement the FAD Working Group recommendation to extend the 100% observer coverage on large-scale purse seine vessels to cover the entire year, as the IATTC and WCPFC have done. Such a requirement would be facilitated if it included a regional mechanism for an observer from a coastal State national program (registered with the Secretariat) to be valid in other countries' EEZs.

- (ii) Implement the SCRS recommendation to increase the minimum level of observer coverage to 20% for all major fishing gears and, at the same time, strengthen CPC compliance by identifying and sanctioning non-compliance through the Compliance Committee.
- (iii) Follow the example of the WCPFC and develop binding measures to ensure the safety of human observers.
- (iv) Progress the development of E-monitoring and E-reporting standards for longline vessels, as soon as possible.
- (v) Develop measures to require electronic monitoring for both large-scale purse seine vessels and longline vessels that will be in addition to the observer coverage levels currently required by ICCAT for the purposes of strengthening transparency of these fishing operations.

Transshipment

What are the issues?

ISSF is concerned by some CPCs' failure to provide required transshipment reports or advance notifications. ISSF also recognizes that electronic monitoring systems and e-reporting are being tested and developed, which could potentially be used to address some of these problems.

Why are we concerned?

Transshipment at sea can pose a high IUU risk if monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures are insufficient.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

Amend the ICCAT Transshipment Recommendation 2016-15 so that it covers longline vessels of 20m or greater LOA.

MCS Tools

What are the issues?

MCS tools are an essential component of sustainable fisheries management. For example, satellite Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) strengthen vessel compliance on the water, combat IUU fishing, and improve fisheries management by reducing uncertainty. Port State Measures are also an essential tool for combatting IUU fishing and ensuring fish or fish products from such activities do not enter the market.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT's MCS tools, such as its vessel monitoring system (VMS) measure 2014-09 and Recommendation 12-07 on an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspections in Port, must be strengthened and aligned with best-practice standards and the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, respectively.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (i) Adopt further amendments to modernize its VMS measure [Rec 14-09] and bring it in line with global best practices, such as providing for the availability and use of VMS data to the Secretariat, SCRS scientists and the Compliance Committee, and reducing the frequency of transmissions (which is currently 4 hours, which the SCRS has noted is insufficient for most fishing gears), to 1-hour as is required in the WCPFC.
- (ii) Adopt amendments to Recommendation 12-07 to better align it with the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. ISSF also urges all CPCs that have not yet done so to ratify the 2009 FAO Agreement.

Transparency in catch quotas

What are the issues?

ICCAT has adopted a total allowable catch (TAC), and in some cases, catch limits for CPCs for bigeye, yellowfin, albacore and bluefin tunas. However, during a given year, there is no mechanism for CPC reporting when the total and/or allocated catch limits are being approached and if CPCs are harvesting within their prescribed annual catch limits. The IATTC has had such a mechanism for the purse seine fishery whereby in season consumption of annual catch limits were reported by CPCs to the Secretariat (C-17-01). This mechanism allows an RFMO to make necessary conservation decisions during a given year if quotas are being achieved more quickly than anticipated.

Why are we concerned?

A lack of monitoring how CPCs are approaching, or possibly exceeding, annual individual catch limits for particular tuna stocks, or a TAC for a specific tuna stock, prevents an RFMO from making rapid and precautionary conservation and management decisions within a given year.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

Develop a mechanism to require CPCs to report to ICCAT its in-season status with respect to their individual annual catch limits and/or an annual TAC, where specified for specific tuna stocks.

Compliance

Compliance processes

What are the issues?

ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment processes of the five tuna RFMOs, but it can be strengthened. CPCs must recognize that a strong compliance process improves fisheries management. In 2016, ICCAT adopted Resolution 16-17 Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Action to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures, which is a positive development and the first of its kind among the four tropical tuna RFMOs.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT should further improve its compliance process by making binding the schedule of actions to improve compliance.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

Codify Resolution 16-17 into a binding Recommendation, as soon as possible.

Capacity management

Vessel Registries & Fleet Capacity

What are the issues?

Experts agree that there is overcapacity in the global tuna fleets.

Why are we concerned?

ISSF continues to be concerned with the global growth of fishing capacity in ICCAT. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures, and eventually it leads to stock overexploitation.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (i) Establish limited entry through closed vessel registries, and develop a common currency to measure fishing capacity, such as cubic meters of well volume.
- (ii) Support the Kobe III call for creating mechanisms to transfer capacity to developing countries.

Did You Know?

ISSF is leading research on biodegradable FADs in collaboration with fleets operating in the EPO, coastal nations, and other stakeholders.

ISSF develops resources for the vessel community, including skippers guidebooks on bycatch-mitigation techniques as well as reports on electronic monitoring and vessel monitoring systems.

ISSF offers guidelines for implementing non-entangling FADs.

Three ISSF conservation measures focus on shark bycatch mitigation.

ISSF Global Priorities for Tuna RFMOs

Implementation of rigorous harvest strategies, including harvest control rules and reference points.

Effective management of fleet capacity, including developing mechanisms that support developing coastal state engagement in the fishery.

Science-based FAD management & non-entangling FAD designs.

Increased member compliance with all adopted measures, and greater transparency of processes reviewing member compliance with measures.

Strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures and increased observer coverage, including through modern technologies such as electronic monitoring and e-reporting.

Adoption of best-practice bycatch mitigation and shark conservation and management measures.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) (in conjunction with NGOs, industry, vessel associations, retailers, buyers and food services)

Part 1

This letter is submitted on behalf of the undersigned companies, non-governmental organizations and fishing industry associations, all of whom recognise that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to businesses and livelihoods, as well as the health of the marine environment.

Our companies represent major seafood buyers that source seafood products from a diverse, international supply network. Our non-governmental organizations work in more than 100 countries and engage suppliers and provide advice to retailers, buyers and food service sectors regarding improvements in tuna sustainability. Our fishing industry associations represent a variety of gear types, including purse seine, longline, troll, pole and line and handline vessels active in tuna fisheries worldwide.

Your government serves as an important leader as a member of one or more of the four regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) charged with managing the world's tropical tuna fisheries throughout their range. We are writing to bring to your attention our views on the development of harvest strategies and the need for strengthened monitoring, control and surveillance tools, such as 100% observer coverage for purse seine vessels in those RFMOs that do not yet require it and at-sea transshipment activities and monitoring and management of fish aggregating devices (FADs) – pressing issues that we believe are fundamental to sustainable fisheries management - and those that necessitate immediate action by all tuna RFMOs.

We recognize that certain tuna RFMOs have made some initial progress in recent years to develop harvest strategies, including through the establishment of interim target and limit reference points, management objectives, rebuilding time frames for overfished stocks, and conducting management strategy evaluations. In addition, we observe that some RFMOs, such as the IATTC and WCPFC, already have 100% observer coverage for large scale purse seine vessels. All four tuna RFMOs require at least 5% observer coverage on longline and other types of vessels, and some RFMOs are actively developing standards for electronic reporting and monitoring. Finally, we note that all tuna RFMOs collect some data on FADs and have had working groups consider data needs and management options.

However, we wish to underscore that while this initial progress is positive, we urge accelerated action at this year's RFMO meetings to:

- Develop precautionary harvest strategies, including specific timelines to adopt target reference points, harvest control rules and the other elements of a harvest strategy approach that ensures sustainable fisheries for all tuna stocks;
- Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels, where it is not already required, and of at sea- transshipment activities and require the use of the best available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures;
- Increase compliance with the mandatory 5% longline observer coverage rates by identifying and sanctioning non-compliance, and adopt a level of coverage that would reduce uncertainty and provide better estimates of bycatch, such as a minimum of 20% which has been recommended by the scientific committees of IATTC and ICCAT;
- Adopt standards for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring for all major gear types to enable the implementation of this technology to support robust decision making;
- Adopt effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and the eventual transition to their use in FADs in order to mitigate marine debris; and
- Urgently develop science-based recommendations for the management of FADs, including how to integrate FAD based information into stock assessments to reduce uncertainties.

We request that your government, as a member of one or more of the tuna RFMOs, take active steps to ensure significant progress on these issues at each of the relevant RFMO meetings in 2017, as a matter of priority.

Part 2

The Tuna Companies; NIRSA, EUROFISH, JADRAN, SERVIGRUP and TRIMARINE; who form part of the initiative TUNACONS (Tuna Conservation Group), based in Guayaquil – Ecuador, are engaged in a FIP (Fishery Improvement Project) for the tuna purse seine fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The FIP is based on the MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) principles of sustainability.

We have carefully read the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) joint RFMO outreach letter that was broadly endorsed by major seafood companies, retailers, NGOs, and other tuna industry stakeholders from around the world. The aim of the letter is to urge the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to take urgent action on tuna conservation by adopting resolutions that contribute strongly to improved tuna stock abundance and management, and reducing the negative impacts of fishing on the marine ecosystem.

Our Tuna Conservation Group fully supports the letter and hereby adds our voice to the many others calling for greater RFMO action.

Part 3

Starkist, as the leading tuna brand in the United States and a founding Participating Company with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, joins and strongly supports the joint letter dated March 22, 2017 from a consortium of companies representing major global seafood buyers, non-governmental organizations and fishing industry associations, all of whom recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to business and livelihoods, as well as the health of the marine environment.

We are writing this letter to confirm our full support for the priorities as stated in the March 22 letter and urge you to take accelerated action at this year's RFMO meetings to:

- Develop precautionary harvest strategies, including specific timelines to adopt target reference points, harvest control rules and the other elements of a harvest strategy approach that ensures sustainable fisheries for all tuna stocks;
- Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels, where it is not already required, and of at sea-transshipment activities and require the use of the best available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures;
- Increase compliance with the mandatory 5% longline observer coverage rates by identifying and sanctioning non-compliance, and adopt a level of coverage that would reduce uncertainty and provide better estimates of bycatch, such as a minimum of 20% which has been recommended by the scientific committees of IATTC and ICCAT;
- Adopt standards for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring for all major gear types to enable the implementation of this technology to support robust decision making;
- Adopt effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and the eventual transition to their use in FADs in order to mitigate marine debris; and
- Urgently develop science-based recommendations for the management of FADs, including how to integrate FAD based information into stock assessments to reduce uncertainties.

We request that your government, as a member of one or more of the tuna RFMOs, take active steps to ensure significant progress on these issues at each of the relevant RFMO meetings in 2017, as a matter of priority, and please understand that you have our complete support along with the other participants in this initiative.

Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, I would first like to thank our host country, the Kingdom of Morocco, for their generous hospitality.

This year's ICCAT agenda is full of high priority issues that must be addressed at this meeting, including Atlantic bluefin quotas and allocation, tropical tuna quota overages, advancement of harvest strategies, dealing with the alarming state of shortfin mako shark, reports of illegal fishing, and other priorities. I will not expand on all of these, since we will be providing opening statements for several of the relevant ICCAT Panels and Working Groups that will meet during the course of the meeting to address this full agenda.

In addition to these issues that will be taken up by the Panels, Pew urges the Commission to use Plenary sessions to:

- Further integrate the recommendations of the second independent performance review into this year's decisions;

- Continue ICCAT's commitment to the implementation of harvest strategies and harvest control rules by updating the roadmap and scheduling sufficient intersessional time for a dialogue in 2018; and
- Finalize the Convention amendment process, in order to update the Convention to be more closely aligned with modern fisheries management, to ensure proper application of precautionary and ecosystem approach for the management of ICCAT species, and to enhance the conservation status of bycatch and non-target species. We urge all members to make the greatest efforts to reach an agreement on this paramount matter during this annual meeting in the days to come.

Here in Marrakesh, ICCAT has an opportunity to uphold its responsibility to sustainably manage the highly valuable fisheries under its jurisdiction. Pew encourages ICCAT to embrace this opportunity.

3.5 CLOSING ADDRESS

By Mr. Driss Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary

This is the last meeting that I will attend as Executive Secretary. Even though it is often difficult not to be emotional in situations such as these, I will endeavour to describe in general terms how rewarding this experience has been for me.

First of all, I would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for giving me the opportunity to take on this role, having appointed me as Head Delegate in the late 1990s and then supporting my candidacy for the position of ICCAT Executive Secretary. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Zakia Driouich, General Secretary of the Department of Fisheries and Head Delegate of Morocco, for her support over the past 10 years or more, and for having organized three ICCAT annual meetings in Morocco.

The meeting has been particularly difficult to organize, due to very special circumstances involving calendar clashes, and Ms. Driouich and myself have suffered greatly to ensure its success. Nevertheless, Ms. Driouich, with the support of her team and the agency Fan Tours, has succeeded in meeting the challenge. I apologise to the delegations and all participants for the implications that these changes might have. I can assure you that it has been very difficult to manage this puzzle.

As several of you can attest, ICCAT has grown considerably since the early 2000s. This increase is concerned with the number of Contracting Parties, the level of discipline and compliance with the measures adopted by the organisation, and the efforts undertaken to rebuild some stocks. ICCAT has made huge progress in terms of scientific approach, data collection and involvement of all Contracting Parties in decision making. This entire process has been invaluable for me.

It is therefore undeniable that ICCAT has become the most important tRFMO in terms of the role that it plays in an international setting. It is a matter of great pride for me to have directly contributed, among others, to ICCAT becoming an essential instrument in tuna management and international cooperation.

I can assure you that I have served ICCAT selflessly and without calculation. I have always placed the interests of this organisation before my own interests and I am proud of this. I hope that you are as proud of my work as I am of what ICCAT has achieved.

I should like to thank all the delegations for their assistance and understanding which has enabled me perform my duties in optimum conditions. Moreover, I would like to apologise if at times I give the wrong impression, but I can assure you that it is not intentional and can only be due to an excessive workload.

All that has been achieved by the Secretariat is not the product of my work alone. It is thanks to the efforts of the Secretariat's highly skilled team that this work has been accomplished. I would like to pay great tribute to all the Secretariat staff for all their help and sincerely thank them for their valuable assistance.

As you know, to do a good job, an atmosphere of complete trust is needed. And over the past 14 years, I have been able to trust Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, to whom I pay my respects. He is a very honest man that has served the Secretariat in the area of administrative and financial management for over 40 years. I would like to thank him very much as well as his team and all the Secretariat.

My thanks also go to the interpreters to whose excellent services we have become accustomed.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife and my family for all the support they have given me for more than 37 years.

It only remains for me to wish ICCAT good luck in its rewarding activities and luck and success to my successor Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel for the years to come.

REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 4 ON MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH (Madrid, Spain, 20-22 February 2017)

1 Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Raul Delgado, 2nd Vice-Chair of the Commission, opened the meeting and reminded participants of the objectives of the Mediterranean Swordfish Working Group. The ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, welcomed all the participants in the name of ICCAT, highlighted the importance of the meeting and reiterated the need to reach an agreement due to the conservation status of the Mediterranean swordfish stock.

The following members of Panel 4 were present: Algeria, Egypt, European Union, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United States. Albania and Libya who are not members of Panel 4 were also present. The List of Participants is included as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1**.

2 Nomination of Rapporteur and other meeting arrangements

Ms. Rachel O'Malley (United States) was nominated as rapporteur. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT provided the meeting arrangements.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**). One delegation suggested that bilateral consultations could be helpful in reaching constructive solutions. The Chair replied that there could be some flexibility in the schedule to accommodate this. It was agreed to devote the remainder of the first day to bilateral consultations and to reconvene the meeting of Panel 4 on Wednesday morning.

4 Establishment of a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean swordfish

A statement was introduced by the European Union (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**). This statement describes the socioeconomics of the Mediterranean swordfish fishery within the European Union, which is mainly small-scale artisanal, and the efforts made by the European Union to manage and control this fishery.

Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey each took the floor in turn to describe the nature of their fisheries for Mediterranean swordfish. Similar to the European Union, these fisheries are mainly composed of small vessels fishing with longline gear in coastal areas. These catches are mainly going to local markets. The fishermen involved are heavily dependent on the resource and most of them have limited options to fish for other species. Libya and Albania informed the Group about the importance of the swordfish fisheries in their respective areas.

Morocco highlighted their historical efforts to prohibit the use of driftnets that were used to target juvenile swordfish, and the conversion to other fishing technologies that are more selective.

Turkey expressed that it had implemented stringent measures, including prohibition of modified driftnets used traditionally in the Mediterranean swordfish fishery.

Libya explained its current effort to improve catch statistics through training programs for its fishermen.

It was recognized that the stock is subject to a significant degree of overfishing. The total allowable catch (TAC) established in Recommendation 16-05 is an important first step to begin the recovery of this stock. Further measures will be needed to ensure its long-term sustainability and this will require a joint effort by all participants in the fisheries to support responsible management, including those CPCs that catch Mediterranean swordfish only as by-catch. Several delegations mentioned the challenges associated with managing small-scale fisheries, particularly when the points of landing are not centralized.

Catch history was generally acknowledged as a core part of the elements to be considered in the allocation of quota. Socioeconomic factors must also be taken into account, as well as efforts undertaken by individual CPCs to manage their fisheries responsibly and sustainably. Other criteria, as outlined in Resolution 15-13, should also receive consideration, and the delegations indicated openness to exchanging views on this.

Statements were provided by Algeria (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**), Turkey (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1**) and Morocco (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1**).

5 Establishment of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned

The Chair reminded CPCs of the mandate of the Working Group, which was established through paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-05 in order to: a) establish a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean swordfish; b) establish a CPC quota for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned; and c) establish the mechanism to manage the TAC.

The European Union thanked the other delegations for their input during the bilateral consultations, and explained that on the basis of these consultations and the allocation criteria in Resolution 15-13, they had developed a proposed allocation key and a quota table for 2017. The draft proposal was made available informally for review by the concerned CPCs. Following these informal discussions, the table was modified and circulated (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**).

Turkey expressed concern from adoption of insufficient technical management measures in Rec. 16-05 that still fall behind the legal practices in Turkey. For instance, minimum size should never be smaller than 125 cm LJFL, hook size should never be smaller than 9cm and maximum number of hooks to be fixed should never exceed 1,000. Notwithstanding, Turkey still joins the consensus on Rec. 16-05 with a view to contribute joint efforts towards a better stock status.

Turkey stressed that Turkish fishermen have been aggrieved and simply penalized for decades, in return for their compliance to stricter measures and responsible attitudes, with constantly decreasing catch amounts and subsistence as a result of overcapacity, overfishing and unregulated fishing activities mainly in the central and western Mediterranean. Turkey considers that due to insufficient, unregulated and unequally implemented conservation measures imposed by the biggest harvester CPCs with large industrial fleets, as a matter of fact, boom values as allocation percentages have been taken into account during TAC allocation for Mediterranean swordfish. Consequently, Turkey stated that a fair, equitable and higher TAC share should be allocated to Turkey in acknowledgement of its stricter implementation of conservation measures and its contributions and devotions to the success of management and conservation efforts for Mediterranean swordfish.

The delegates of Egypt and the United States also reserved their positions, in order to consult. Further, the delegate of Egypt reported that its government would gather and report catch statistics to the SCRS and reiterated Egypt's interest in being included in the quota for Other CPCs.

In light of questions from some CPCs, the European Union explained the basis of the Other CPCs category. The amount of quota allocated to Other CPCs in the EU proposal was based on the maximum catches reported by CPCs that have not consistently reported catches of Mediterranean swordfish over the past 25 years.

The delegate of Albania addressed the Panel 4 members to express concerns regarding the EU proposal. Albania is undertaking efforts to improve its catch statistics and to manage the stock in a sustainable manner, and would like this to be recognized in the allocation process with an allocation of 50 t. Albania provided a statement for the consideration of Panel 4 (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.1**).

The delegate of Libya asked for clarification regarding whether it is considered a member of this Working Group.

The Executive Secretary and the Chair clarified that since the Working Group is a subsidiary body of Panel 4, only CPCs that are currently members of Panel 4 are members of the Working Group. However, this meeting is open to all CPCs, and all CPCs will have an opportunity to review and endorse (or choose not to endorse) the report of the deliberations of this Group. The Executive Secretary reminded the CPCs that anyone wishing to join as a member of Panel 4 will have the opportunity to request Panel membership at the regular Annual meeting in 2017, according to the established procedures.

Libya explained to the Panel 4 members that it had established a closed season for Mediterranean swordfish and that it was committed to responsible management for this stock. Libya expressed its concerns about the EU proposal and submitted a statement for the consideration of Panel 4 (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.1**).

While taking note of the reservations, the Chair recommended that the EU proposal be appended to the meeting report and circulated for the consideration of all CPCs (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**).

6 Establishment of a mechanism to manage the TAC

The proposed mechanism to manage the TAC for Mediterranean swordfish is described in the EU proposal (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**). There was no discussion of these provisions by the Working Group.

7 Consideration of requests for clarification in relation to Rec. 16-05

The Secretariat introduced document with requests for clarification on several elements of Rec. 16-05, including the vessel lists, inspection reports and fishing plans. Clarifications are reflected in the corrected version presented by the Secretariat (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.1**). There was consensus on this document.

Turkey indicated its willingness to translate the inspection report template as requested by the Secretariat.

8 Other matters

No other matters were raised.

9 Adoption of the Report

Algeria, EU, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey all expressed a commitment to respect the allocation and maintain catches within the TAC starting in 2017.

The report was adopted during the meeting and will be circulated to the Commission.

10 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur and other meeting arrangements.
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Establishment of a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean swordfish.
5. Establishment of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned.
6. Establishment of a mechanism to manage the TAC.
7. Consideration of requests for clarification in relation to Rec. 16-05.
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the Report
10. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1

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Statement by the European Union

Introduction

During the 2016 ICCAT Annual meeting held in Vilamoura Portugal, the ICCAT CPCs took a decisive step to address the alarming situation of Mediterranean swordfish through the adoption of a 15 years Recovery plan (ICCAT Recommendation 16-05).

The European Union (EU) is very grateful that the concerned CPCs were able to make such a commitment to secure a long term future for this stock and for the fishing communities involved.

ICCAT CPCs are now facing important challenges before the Recovery plan can fully deliver on its objectives. One of these challenges concerns the allocation of fishing opportunities which is required in order to efficiently manage the TAC introduced in the Recovery plan.

The discussions held in Vilamoura have already identified some candidate criteria to reflect the respective importance of this fishery for the CPCs concerned. While there are some common patterns found across all CPCs, there are also an important differences in terms of the fleets involved, the fishing methods and the levels of interactions with other fisheries.

This document aims to provide a factual insight into the crucial importance of this resource for the European fishing sectors and coastal communities in the Mediterranean.

Socio Economics

- The main catching nations in the EU are Italy (in particular the southern regions of Sicily and Calabria), Spain, Greece and to a lesser extent Malta. Mediterranean swordfish is also exploited by Cypriot, Croat and French fleets.
- In 2015, the catches of Mediterranean swordfish by the European Union amounted to just under *8,000 t*, or *79% of the total catches of Mediterranean swordfish*. Since 2010, the share of the EU in terms of the total landings of Mediterranean swordfish has been stable around 76% (**Figure 1**).
- In recent years, around *14,000* EU vessels have been involved in the fishery for Mediterranean swordfish, with annual landings worth *€ 270 million*.
- The EU operators involved in this fishery often rely primarily on this stock and have few other fishing opportunities, in particular following the implementation of the Recovery plan for eastern bluefin tuna and the subsequent reductions of the TAC for this stock. In fact, a noticeable shift of the fishing effort took place from the bluefin tuna to the swordfish fisheries.
- The fishing activities for Mediterranean swordfish sustain directly around *20,000 jobs*, with an additional *10,000 ancillary jobs* in coastal communities. Most of these jobs are located in remote coastal and southern areas, characterised by very high unemployment rates and the lack of alternative economic activities.
- This is particularly true for remote islands communities found mainly, but not exclusively in the Ionian, Aegean and Adriatic seas. The high number of these islands means that the EU has around *32.000km* of coastline in the Mediterranean, or *3 times the length of the coastline of all the other Mediterranean nations together*.

Artisanal Fisheries

- The swordfish fishing sector in the Mediterranean is one of the most artisanal sectors in the European Union, with vessels under 10m in length making up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the EU swordfish fleet.
- These are small scale artisanal and family owned vessels, operating essentially in coastal areas and landing in local ports.
- The swordfish landed are mostly traded and consumed locally, reflecting the strong and historical dependency of the coastal populations on this resource. This supports a local network of economic activities which are otherwise very scarce in remote coastal areas, conferring on this fishery a very significant socio economic importance.
- Among the larger EU vessels, some are, however, also fundamentally artisanal in nature. For instance, the Harpoon fishery in the strait of Sicily, which is very selective, has a minimal ecological footprint as well as very high cultural and historical significance.
- There are few alternative activities for these operators considering the status of most of the fisheries resources in the Mediterranean, and the current lack of fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna for small scale artisanal vessels.

Promotion of Conservation Measures

Faced with the alarming state of the stock, EU Member States have over the years promoted a range of conservation measures going far beyond the measures adopted in ICCAT.

- In terms of fishing capacity, EU member States have operated considerable reductions of their fishing capacity. The number of Greek and Italian vessels, historically the two largest European swordfish fleets, *decreased by in excess of 70%* in recent years. The number of Spanish vessels had been also significantly reduced a decade ago.
- Regarding the protection of juveniles, several Member States implement a *complementary fishery closure for several months*, in addition to the ICCAT closure periods. This is still the case in 2017 with some member States enforcing a six months closure from January to June. The Italian, Spanish and Greek fleets have also adjusted their fishing methods which resulted in a significant reduction of the proportion of juveniles being caught.
- Some Member States also restrict the number of hooks to 500 instead of 2,500 in ICCAT, and the length of the longline is reduced from a limit of 55km in ICCAT to a maximum 15-20km.
- Member States are also implementing additional measures concerning the obligation to carry VMS and electronic logbooks on-board, in order to facilitate the controls and accuracy of the catches reporting.
- At the EU level, a *joint scheme of inspection* covering the swordfish fishery has been implemented since 2014 by the EU member States, the European Fishery Control Agency and the European Commission.
- A central element in the management of the resource at the EU level has been the implementation of an *extensive control framework* adopted under Regulation 1224/2009. This regulation goes significantly further than the ICCAT requirements in terms of controls and allows ensuring the legality of the catches. It imposes specific control requirements on European Member States and their fishing operators. The provisions of EU Regulations 1224/2009 are minimum requirements for European fishing vessels, and some of the most relevant provisions are provided in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1.**

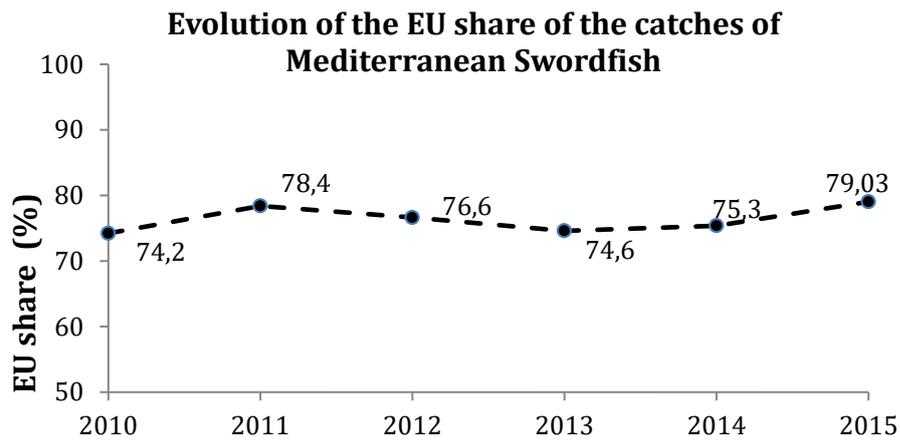


Figure 1. Evolution of the EU share of the catches of Mediterranean swordfish between 2010 and 2015.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**Relevant Control Measures Implemented by the European Union****Vessel monitoring system**

Member States of the EU must operate a satellite-based vessel monitoring system for effective monitoring of fishing activities of the fishing vessels flying their flag wherever those vessels may be and of fishing activities in the Member States' waters. This applies to vessels of 12m length overall, with a transmission frequency of 2 hours. In addition, Member States are obliged to operate Fisheries Monitoring Centres and to monitor fishing activities and fishing effort.

Completion and submission of the fishing logbook

Masters of Community fishing vessels of 10 metres' length or more must keep a fishing logbook of their operations, indicating specifically all quantities of each species caught and kept on board above 50 kg of live-weight. The recording of exit/entry into ports areas or areas of conservation is also required, as well as the date, time and coordinates for setting gear and of all operations. The master is also obliged to provide to its competent authorities, within 48 hrs of landing, a landing declaration.

Electronic completion and transmission of fishing logbook data

Masters of Community fishing vessels of 12 metres' length or more must record electronically and send by electronic means the logbook information to the competent authority of the flag Member State at least once a day.

Prior notification

Masters of Community fishing vessels of 12 metres' length or more engaged in fisheries on stocks subject to a multiannual plan, which are under the obligation to record fishing logbook data electronically, must notify the competent authorities of their flag Member State at least four hours before the estimated time of arrival at port.

Electronic completion and transmission of landing declaration data

The master of a Community fishing vessel of 12 metres length or more must record by electronic means the logbook information, and must send it by electronic means to the competent authority of the flag Member State within 24 hours after completion of the landing operation. The landing declaration must indicate information such as the quantities of each species in kilograms in product weight, broken down by type of product presentation or number of individuals.

Traceability

All lots of fisheries and aquaculture products must be traceable at all stages of production, processing and distribution, from catching or harvesting to retail stage. Fisheries and aquaculture products placed on the market in the Community must be adequately labelled to ensure the traceability of each lot.

Member States must ensure that operators have in place systems and procedures to identify any operator from whom they have been supplied with lots of fisheries and aquaculture products and to whom these products have been supplied. This information must be made available to the competent authorities' on demand.

First sale of fisheries products

Member States must ensure that all fisheries products are first marketed or registered at an auction centre or to registered buyers or to producer organisations.

The buyer of fisheries products from a fishing vessel at first sale must be registered with the competent authorities of the Member State where the first sale takes place.

Weighing of fishery products

Member States must ensure that all fishery products are weighed on systems approved by the competent authorities, unless it has adopted a sampling plan approved by the European Commission and based on the risk-based methodology adopted by the European Commission. The weighing must be carried out on landing prior to the fisheries products being held in storage, transported or sold.

Completion and submission of sales notes

Registered buyers, registered auctions or other bodies or persons authorised by Member States which are responsible for the first marketing of fisheries products landed in a Member State, must submit, if possible electronically, within 48 hours after the first sale, a sales note to the competent authorities of the Member State in whose territory the first sale takes place.

Electronic completion and transmission of sales notes data

Registered buyers, registered auctions or other bodies or persons authorised by Member States must record by electronic means the information, and must send it by electronic means within 24 hours after completion of the first sale to the competent authorities of the Member State in whose territory the first sale takes place.

Take-over declaration

When the fisheries products are intended for sale at a later stage, registered buyers, registered auctions or other bodies which are responsible for the first marketing of fisheries products landed in a Member State must submit within 48 hours after completion of landing a take-over declaration to the competent authorities of the Member State where the take-over takes place.

Completion and submission of the transport document

Fisheries products landed into the Community, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board, for which neither a sales note nor a take-over declaration has been submitted and which are transported to a place other than that of landing, must be accompanied by a document drawn up by the transporter until the first sale has taken place. The transporter must submit, within 48 hours after the loading, a transport document to the competent authorities of the Member State in whose territory the landing has taken place or other bodies authorised by it.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**Statement by Algeria**

Artisanal fishing plays a very important social and economic role in Algeria. It represents more than 60% of the fishing fleet, employs at least 60% of workers directly taking part in fishing activities, and contributes to around 25% of the total landings from capture fisheries.

Despite the 1,600 km of coastal line, the geomorphology of the Algerian coastal area shows a rugged terrain, which allows to limit trawl fishing in a natural way, and therefore, preserve the stocks against different forms of overexploitation. This geomorphology, however, enables the development of artisanal fisheries.

These type of artisanal fisheries, conducted by small vessels, significantly contributes to the stabilization of isolated and remote coastal populations, to respond to the expectations of the population scattered along the coast, in particular, young people, and search for income-generating and self-consumption activities for these populations, mainly in remote and mountainous areas. Out of 5,043 fishing vessels registered in the national fleet registry, 60% are small "métier" type vessels.

As regards swordfish fishing, this is mainly carried out by small scale vessels. Of the 445 units registered in the ICCAT register, the fleet is comprised of the following vessels:

- 77% measuring between 4.8m and less than 10m;
- 22% measuring between 10m and less than 15m;
- 1% measuring over 15m;

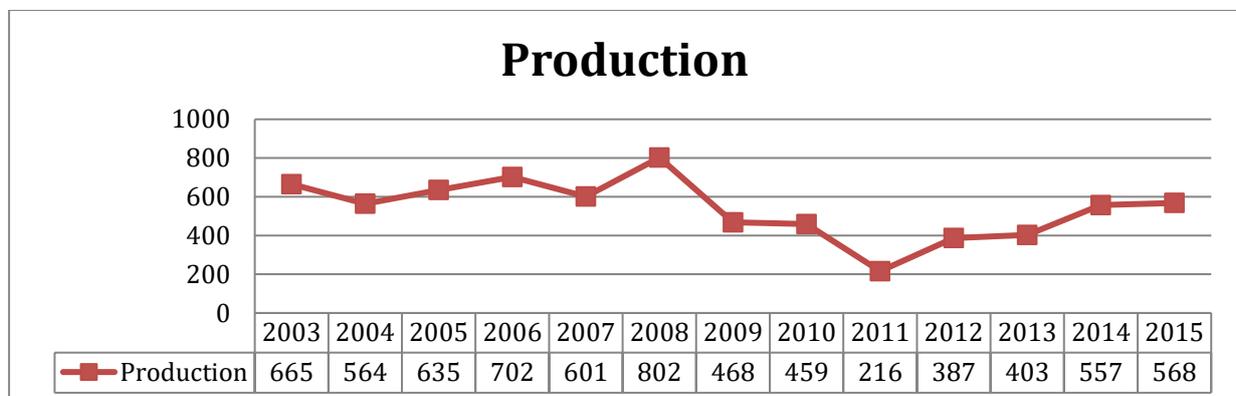
Taking into account the above mentioned data, it is observed that swordfish fishing is conducted almost exclusively by the artisanal fleet.

As regards the swordfish production, it should be noted, that according to the statistics on landings, Algeria accounted for an average production of 566 t throughout the last 15 years (2001-2015). Statistical analysis regarding the production shows that Algeria and other countries are not responsible for the swordfish stock decline.

The marine professionals who carry out activities in this fishery sector account for around 5,000 people, i.e.: more than 11% of registered marine professionals.

As regards swordfish trade, the total swordfish caught is destined to the Algerian market. The last swordfish exports date back to 2009.

Algeria is aware of the implementation of a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish principle, however, Algeria wishes that the quota allocation be carried out in a fair and transparent manner, taking into account the socio-economic conditions of each CPC.



Statement by Turkey

Turkey holds the view that the current management and conservation measures that have been adopted at the 20th Special Meeting of the Commission are obviously far from being sufficient to remediate the deteriorating stocks of the Mediterranean swordfish (Med-SWO)¹.

In consequence of harsh and effective conservation measures taken voluntarily in the last decade, Turkey leads among the CPCs whose fishers have suffered the most, socially and economically, since Med-SWO landings have relatively been reduced.

As a matter of fact, Turkey has adopted a precautionary approach over the past decades and has voluntarily restricted its fleet capacity to only about 150 fishing vessels, on yearly basis, from among 14,650 active vessels under 15 meters LoA, at the risk of fishermen's welfare and livelihood. Harboring one of the largest and most powerful fleets among other Mediterranean CPCs, Turkey could have realized a lot more Med-SWO catches if it had not observed the very principles of responsible fisheries management properly. With this approach, Turkey has never put in place a management mechanism to increase its fishing capacity towards Med-SWO and thus fishing practices and volume of catches and landings have remained constant without any increase over the years, despite these figures could have been boosted easily. Instead Turkey preferred to introduce a series of stringent measures, including prohibition of the unique and most efficient fishing gear being utilized traditionally in Med-SWO fishery for the benefit of an effective conservation and fisheries management.

Average yearly catches of Turkey have decreased sharply as a result of effective capacity limitations and further strengthened administrative measures for special fishing permits since decades. This downward trend had almost "hit rock bottom" for the period 2011-2015 when Turkey prohibited fishermen's traditional fishing gear as a further conservative measure (**Figure 1**).

In the same period, despite a new conservatory approach adopted by ICCAT in 2011 (Rec. 11-03) with a view to improve the declining swordfish stocks, some of CPCs are seen to have increased their Med-SWO catch shares proportionally, quite the contrary in comparison with that of Turkey.

Under such terms, in the case that quotas are allocated on the basis of previous catches only, those CPCs who have caught more Med-SWO irresponsibly would be more advantageous than the CPCs who behaved responsibly in terms of conservation. In this respect, it is unacceptable to base allocations only to "historical catch figures".

Before anything else, TAC allocation should be made in a fair, equitable and transparent manner pursuant to proper and fair criteria to be adopted by common consent. Due regard should be paid to efforts exerted by Turkey and by some CPCs that have adopted and implemented a conservative approach in the region with the view of achieving a much better and improved stock status for Med-SWO, even before introduction of a binding recommendation.

Along these lines, Turkey believes that a reward and fair compensation should be granted to those Parties (CPCs) that have voluntarily kept held their catch levels stable without allowing an increase. Such compensation should also apply to those Parties who have lost their traditional catch levels dramatically, especially in the last decade, due to implementing rules of management methods recommended by ICCAT in a very strict way for the benefits of stock recovery. Thus a special approach should be granted to those parties which adopted precautionary approach and imposed further and stricter measures although they have had sufficient fishing capacities.

¹ During the Panel 4 sessions, Turkey indicated that it would not break the consensus reached on the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Med-SWO (PA4-810/16)* but also requested the following statement to be included in the final report of Panel 4; "Turkey expressed concern from adoption of insufficient technical management measures through the proposal (PA4-810/16) that still fall behind the legal practices in Turkey. For instance, minimum size should never be smaller than 125 cm LJFL, hook size should never be smaller than 9 cm and maximum number of hooks to be fixed should never exceed 1000. Notwithstanding, Turkey would still join the consensus on this proposal with a view to contribute joint efforts towards a better stock status."

In addition, Turkey would like to emphasize that a fair and equitable quota allocation criteria should also guarantee the rights of coastal Mediterranean states with limited fishing capacities in view of the fact that these states could participate swordfish fishery in the Mediterranean in the future.

Turkey trusts that unjust, improper and unfair bluefin allocation precedent, discriminating Turkey unjustly for more than a decade, will not be repeated in this Panel. Turkey believes that it is time for ICCAT to demonstrate how a well-working mechanism for a fair and equitable allocation scheme could be established successfully to underlay an effective fisheries management regime for Med-SWO.

In this sense, with full commitment to achieve an effective management and stock recovery in line with the Convention objectives, Turkey hopes that the meeting will result in success in terms of establishing a fair, equitable and commonly agreed TAC allocation for Med-SWO.

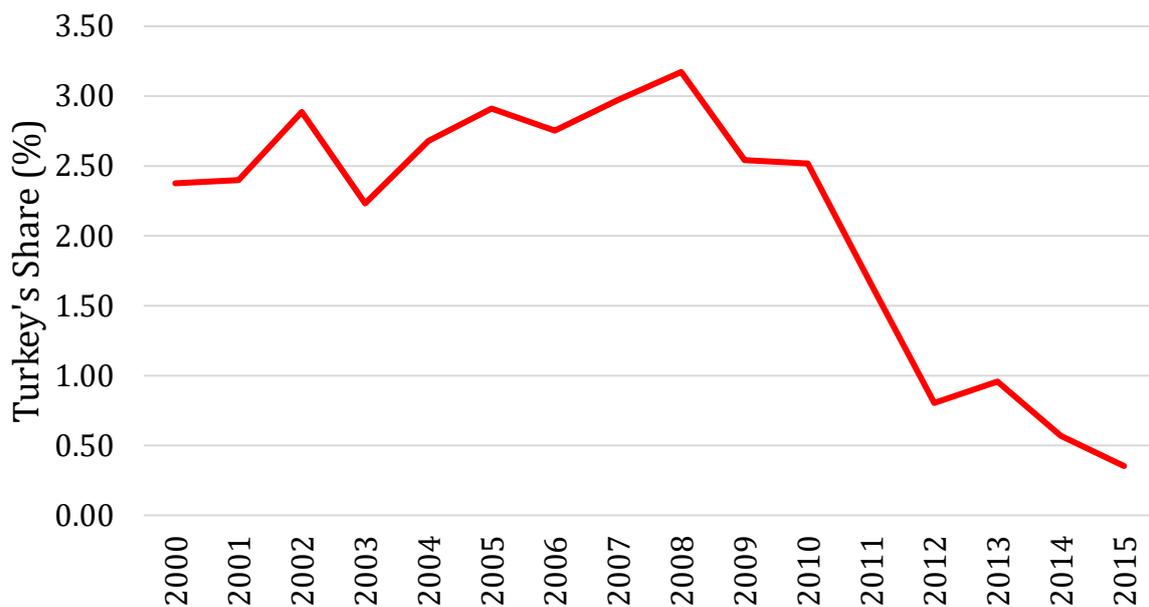


Figure 1. Turkey's share of the catches of Mediterranean swordfish between 2000 and 2015.

Statement by Morocco

The Commission implemented a 15 year recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish stock [ICCAT Recommendation 16-05] at the 20th Special meeting held in Vilamoura (Portugal).

This note aims at providing information on swordfish fishing activity in the Kingdom of Morocco.

Socio-economic aspects

- Moroccan Mediterranean swordfish fishing is a subsistence fishing activity which is artisanal (artisanal boats with a LHT < 7m and an engine power < 20 CV) ;
- Around 3,400 fishing units are registered in the ICCAT Register of Mediterranean swordfish, of which 90% are composed of artisanal boats;
- This activity generates around 62,000 direct and indirect jobs;
- The catches for Mediterranean swordfish are estimated at around 8 million Euros per year;
- The average swordfish catches in the Mediterranean Moroccan coast during the 2005-2009 period are estimated at 1,970 t;
- The average catches for swordfish in the Mediterranean Moroccan coast during the 2010-2014 period, were estimated at 1,000 t, which represents a reduction of 50% compared to the average catches in the 2005-2009 period;
- This reduction of catches is mainly due to the elimination of drift gillnet in the Moroccan coasts since 2010, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 03-04, measure which was adopted for the conservation of this stock.

Strengthening of conservation and management measures

- Elimination of drift gillnet (FMD) since 2010;
- Strengthening of the national legal arsenal aimed at the prohibition of FMDs by means of adopting several legal texts;
- Adoption of a management plan for this species including the following management measures:
 - Implementation of the VMS for vessels over 15m;
 - Implementation of the computerized traceability system throughout the chain (from catch to export);
 - Identification of artisanal boats by radio-frequency (project under way).

Negative socio-economic impacts of FMD elimination

The national program to eliminate FMDs has had negative socio-economic impacts on the population of this area where fishing constitutes one of the main activities, with a considerable loss of jobs.

- This program has an overall budget envelope in the amount of 25 million Euros, destined to the following output: demolition and elimination of the National Registry vessel, withdrawal of FMDs and conversion and compensation of sea fishermen working onboard these vessels.

The Kingdom of Morocco, convinced of the need to conserve this stock, calls for a fair and equitable allocation key, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Resolution 15-13.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**EU Proposal of the ICCAT Working Group Established under paragraph 3 of Recommendation 16-05**

Following paragraphs 2 and 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 16-05], a Working Group was established and met in Madrid on 20-22 February 2017 to:

- (a) Establish a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean swordfish;
- (b) Establish a CPC quota for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned;
- (c) Establish the mechanism to manage the TAC.

The total allowable catch (TAC) was fixed at 10,500 t.

The reference period used for the calculation of quota allocations was fixed as 2010-2014. The Working Group has taken into consideration other criteria, as set out under ICCAT Resolution [15-13], notably the efforts made by CPCs to manage the fisheries and to apply in some cases stricter rules than those defined in ICCAT recommendations, as well as socio economic considerations.

CPCs Members of the Panel 4 agree on the following table:

	<i>CPC TAC allocation (%)</i>	<i>2017 Quota per CPC (t)</i>
Algeria	5.238	550.000
European Union	70.756	7410.480
Morocco	9.952	1045.000
Tunisia	9.597	1007.694
Turkey	4.200	441.000
Reserve Other CPCs	0.436	45.826
Total	100	10,500

Starting in 2017, CPCs agree to implement with immediate effect the quota allocation defined in the table above. Furthermore, CPCs shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat without delay when 80% of their quota has been exhausted and provide to the ICCAT Secretariat more regular catch reports (on a monthly basis) than defined under Paragraph 37 of ICCAT Recommendation [16-05].

If in a given year, a CPC total catch exceeds its allocated quota, the excess amount shall be deducted the following year from the adjusted quota of the CPC concerned. The agreed allocation key provided in the table above could be inserted in ICCAT Recommendation [16-05].

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.1

Statement by Albania

As a continuation of my first pronouncement, despite the fact that Albania has not authorized yet the fishing vessels having the swordfish as target fishing, this type of fishing is reality: as by-catch or hooks/longline, artisanal or commercial. The problem is not reporting those activities and catches. The conservation measures start from clearing the situation, then management and monitoring and control.

In fact Albania didn't submit a list of fishing vessels less than 7m length overall, and the vessels over 12m length, that intend to fish swordfish as request of Rec. 16-05 because we are at the recovery of the fishing fleet register after a total census of entire fishing vessels. The list will be sent soon.

Setting a worthy quota for Albania will bring not only the fair economic incomes but, above all, will create premises for tutelage, local and international, to manage, monitor, observe, to report, then it will recovering this fishing resource from abusive practices.

Albania signed with FAO the "Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing", as well as the VMS system is in place. All those are the good premises that guaranty the correct tutelage and fishing process.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX4.1

Statement by Libya

Note from Libya to the Meeting of the Mediterranean Swordfish Working Group established under paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-05.

The proposal by the EU of the ICCAT Working Group established under paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-05 referring to the allocation of swordfish quotas has relegated Libya to a residual number of CPCs grouped together under "Reserve Other CPCs", allocating to them a total olympic quota in the amount of 48.500 t.

In 2016 the Head Delegate of Libya was denied to obtain a visa by the Portuguese Authorities and could not participate in 20th Special Meeting of the Commission held in Portugal and unfortunately this led to Libya missing the opportunity of presenting a request for membership on Panel 4, however, Libya did participate actively in the preparation for this swordfish Working Group and submitted the required statistics and information in its fishing report for 2016.

Over the last years Libya has also been experiencing a serious upheaval in its political life and the members of this Authority, although only starting their brief in 2016, have ensured that the fisheries in the country are managed as best as possible.

Libya is responsible for one of the largest fishing zones in the Central Mediterranean where swordfish is concerned and not taking this fact into account can only be detrimental to the management and eventual survival of this species.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.1**Requests for clarification of Rec. 16-05
presented by the ICCAT Secretariat****1. SWO-MED Vessel Lists**

Rec. 16-05: Paragraphs 27-29 shall be implemented in accordance with the procedures laid down in Rec. 13-13, so therefore the Secretariat understands that such lists shall be published on the ICCAT web site.

Notwithstanding, no mention is made to publication of the (rod and line) Sport and Recreational fisheries vessel lists.

1. Does the Panel foresee that such vessels be included in the data base of the ICCAT Record, assigned an ICCAT number and published on the ICCAT Web site? **YES**
2. Confirmation is sought that all fields in para 21 are obligatory (unless marked with “if any”, whereby it would be obligatory only if existing) i.e. all vessels must be reported with a minimum of name, register number and length, as well as owner/operator information. **NO, IF MORE THAN ONE OPERATOR, ONLY OWNER NAME MAY BE SUBMITTED**
3. Is this sport and recreational vessel list an annual list, or are any authorisation periods required? Or, as in the case of 20m+ list, the period of authorisation for these vessels can be indefinite (automatically renewed each year), and only additions / deletions / change of owner-operator or name need be reported? **AS 20M, INDEFINITE IF REQUIRED**

2. ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Paragraph 11 of Annex 1 of Rec. 16-05 stipulates that *Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission.*

1. Can the same basic report format be used for both eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin (E-BFT) and Mediterranean swordfish (Med-SWO)? **YES**
2. If yes to above, is the format developed by the Secretariat (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.1**) acceptable to the Panel, and should copies of this be printed and provided, to CPCs as is currently the case for the E-BFT Inspection Scheme on request? **CHANGES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED**
3. If yes to above, would concerned CPCs be in a position to provide translation templates in languages other than ICCAT official languages? (e.g. Arabic, Korean, Japanese, Turkish). **YES FROM TURKEY. OTHER LANGUAGES TO BE DETERMINED WITH THE CPCs IF FORMAT AGREED**

3. Fishing plans

Paragraph 10 of Rec. 16-05 required CPCs to submit a fishing plan. It is understood that no endorsement of such plans is required. The Secretariat has developed, on the basis of the E-BFT template, a working draft format for the submission of such plans.

1. Is such a standardised format acceptable to the Panel, or is a free-text submission preferred? **STANDARD PREFERRED**
2. If a template is preferred, what changes to the working draft (**Addendum 2 to Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.1**) are required? **CHANGES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED**

Addendum 1 to Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.1

ICCAT INSPECTION REPORTS

REPORT OF INSPECTION N°

PART I: COMMON TO E-BFT AND TO SWO-MED

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Inspector(s) | Inspector's witness |
| 1.1 Name..... | Name..... |
| 1.2 Nationality..... | Nationality..... |
| 1.3 Contracting Parties..... | Contracting Parties |
| 1.4 ICCAT Identity Card number..... | ICCAT Identity Card number..... |

2. Vessel carrying the Inspector

- 2.1 Name and Registration
- 2.2 Flag.....

3. Vessel inspected

- 3.1 Name and Registration.....
- 3.2 Flag.....
- 3.3 Captain (Name and address).....
- 3.4 Ship owner (Name and address).....
- 3.5 ICCAT Record number.....
- 3.6 Type of vessel.....

4. Position

- 4.1 As determined by the inspector: Lat..... Long.....
- 4.2 As determined by the captain of the fishing vessel: Lat..... Long.....
- 4.3 Time (GMT) when position was recorded:

5. Date (dd/mm/yyyy).....

6. Time

- 6.1 On arrival on board.....
- 6.2 Of departure from the vessel.....

7. Fishing gear on board

Longline

Purse seine

Hand Line

Trolling lines

Harpoon

Pole & Line (Baitboat)

Other (specify)

8. Statement of photographs taken with description of subjects:

9. List of documents inspected and comments:

9.1 Log book Yes No

Infringement Yes No

9.2 BCD/Statistical document Yes No

Infringement Yes No

9.3 Transfer / transhipment declaration Yes No

Infringement Yes No

9.4 Other (specify)

10. Results of the inspection of the fish on board:

10.1 Species observed on board

SPECIES				
TOTAL CATCH (kg)				
<i>INFORMATION SOURCE</i>				
PRODUCT TYPE				
SAMPLE INSPECTED				
% UNDER MIN SIZE				

10.2 Species declared to be in the cage/s – for E-BFT

Towing cage(s) Yes No Number of cages:.....

Transfer document No..... Date of first transfer Farm of destination.....

Catching vessel name.....

ICCAT No.....

Cage No Species..... Number of fish..... Weight (kg).....

11. Infringements of ICCAT conservation and management measures observed (description of infringement with mention of legal reference, and if serious violation(s) have been detected, please complete the attached sheet)

12. Inspector's comments (if necessary use a complementary sheet specifying: "*attachment to ICCAT report number xxxx*")

13. Inspector's signature _____ Witness' signature _____

14. Observer's name, comments and signature

15. Captain's comments and signature

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OBSERVED

Vessel name: _____

Vessel flag: _____

ICCAT number: _____

- fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
- failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
- fishing in a closed area;
- fishing during a closed season;
- intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
- significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
- use of prohibited fishing gear;
- falsification or intentional concealment of the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- concealment, tampering with or disposal of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
- assault, resistance, intimidation, sexual harassment, interference with, or undue obstruction or delay of an authorized inspector or observer;
- intentional tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
- interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operates without VMS system;
- transshipment at sea
- other (specify)

PART II: ONLY FOR E-BFT

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OBSERVED SPECIFIC TO E-BFT

E-BFT:

- fishing with assistance of spotter planes;

- transfer activity without transfer declaration;

Inspector's signature _____ Witness' signature _____

Date _____

Addendum 2 to Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.1**Mediterranean swordfish tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan****Name of CPC: XXX****Fishing Plan Year: 20XX****1. Introduction**

Each CPC will provide a summary of its fishing plan, which includes information on their allocated quota, number of fishing vessels by gear type, and relevant national legislation.

2. Details of fishing plan

Each CPC will provide information on all fishing gear groups that catch Mediterranean Swordfish, including the total number of vessels in each group, how quotas are allocated to each gear group and, where applicable, how they are allocated to each vessel in that group. CPCs will also provide information on method(s) used to manage quotas as well as how catches are monitored and controlled to ensure vessel and gear group quotas are respected.

CPCs should also complete the following table:

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 16-05)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Fleet development plan (para. 9)			
2	Choice of closed Fishing Seasons (paras. 11-13)			
3	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras. 21-26)			
4	Allocation for by-catch and detail of limit per vessel/operation (para. 30)			
5	Catch recording and reporting (paras. 35-37)			
6	Measures taken to control landings (para 34)			
7	CPC Scientific Observer (para. 44)			
8	Other requirements (specify)			

Inspection Plan**a) CPC's inspection and control (para 13)**

Each CPC will provide information on its plan for inspection and control of closed season.

b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1)

Each CPC will provide information about joint international inspections that are implemented in accordance with Part IV of Rec. 16-05 (if applicable).

Capacity Management Plan (para 6-10)

Each CPC will provide the number of fishing vessels using the template provided by the Secretariat (attached).

MED SWO Vessel Fleet	Choose one		New < 7 m vessels in 2017 (para 7)	Total Fleet (vessels)			% difference between reference period and 2017 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2018 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2019 (max 5%)
	Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)	Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016)		2017	2018	2019			
Longliner over 40m									
Longliner between 24 and 40m									
Longliner less than 24m									
Handline									
Harpoon									
Sport/Recreational (Rod & reel)									
Trap									
Other (please specify)									
Total number of vessels < 7 m									
Total number of vessels > 7 m									
Total fleet									
Quota									
Adjusted quota (if applicable)									

4.2 REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT (Madrid, Spain, 26 June 2017)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegations to the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (Working Group).

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced the 28 Contracting Parties and one cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity in attendance (collectively CPCs). He also noted the participation of one intergovernmental and four non-governmental organizations. He explained that although El Salvador could not be present, its position has been sent in writing and is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

2 Nomination of Rapporteur

Ms. Andreina Fenech Farrugia (EU) was appointed rapporteur.

3 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**. In response to questions and concerns raised by Cote d'Ivoire, on behalf of the members of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), and China about whether or not the issue of the possible change in Convention depositary should appear on the agenda, the Chair explained that the depositary issue has always been discussed as a component of the item related to fishing entity participation, rather than as a discrete issue, and thus has never been included as a separate, stand-alone issue on the Working Group's agenda.

4 Finalizing remaining proposals for amendment

The Chair summarized the significant progress the Working Group has made to develop a comprehensive set of proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention that address almost all of the key issues identified in the Working Group's terms of reference. She noted that the two remaining issues before the Working Group concerned the proposals on fishing entity participation in the work of the Commission, (linked to the issue of the Convention depositary) and on dispute resolution procedures.

To facilitate discussion of these matters, the Chair invited the Chair of the Commission to present his paper, "Correspondence from the ICCAT Chair regarding the meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment", **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**. This document makes a detailed analysis of the outstanding issues and offers a number of proposals intended to initiate the discussion with a view to reach an agreement on the basic principles. Among the proposed ways forward, and respecting the views expressed by the ATLAFCO members and the precondition by one Contracting Party, the Chair of the Commission proposed that the FAO Director General would remain depositary of the original ICCAT Convention, but that the ICCAT Executive Secretary also be designated depositary for any new members of the Commission, including the fishing entity participating pursuant to the proposed new Annex II. The paper also offers ideas intended to further clarify the functions of the depositary, and a proposal to establish explicitly the Commission's intention that Chinese Taipei is to be the only fishing entity to participate in ICCAT pursuant to Annex II.

Fishing entity participation

The Chair recalled that, at the time the Commission decided by consensus to include non-party participation on Annex I of the Working Group's terms of reference [Rec. 12-10], one Contracting Party had clearly indicated that a change to the depositary was a precondition for the advancement of that issue. She requested the views of the participants on ways forward, and in particular on the dual depositary approach proposed by the Chair of the Commission.

The Chair explained that, should ICCAT proceed to a dual depositary, the Working Group would need to consider the following issues:

- Who will be the second depositary?
- Would the second depositary be a possible option for any CPC to use, or only for a fishing entity?
- Should there be a new article in the Convention specifying the functions of the depositary, either through a specific list of duties or incorporating by reference the relevant sections of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties?
- How would the two depositaries function together and what communication channels should be established?

The ATLAFCO member CPCs indicated that their position remained in favor of maintaining the FAO as the depositary of the ICCAT Convention; however, these delegations expressed appreciation for the Commission Chairman's proposal, which could help to find a way forward on this issue. They noted that, since this concept had only recently been put forward, more time was needed for the necessary consultations prior to the communication of an official position. A number of CPCs requested additional clarity on the costs and workload implications of the Executive Secretary taking on such a role. A request was also made to ensure that FAO is informed of such a proposal in order to maintain the current good relationship with this organization.

With regard to the functions of the depositary, several CPCs noted that the creation of a second depositary would have no impact on the rights and obligations of members given that this is an administrative, mailbox function, and that, correspondingly, workload and costs of a second depositary could be minimal. Some CPCs also suggested that no new article on the functions of a depositary would be necessary given that the role of a depositary is already spelled out clearly in existing provisions in the Convention. The Chair of the Working Group noted that there seemed to be little appetite to include a new paragraph on functions of a depositary given that the duties of the depositary are already set out in various articles of the Convention and such an effort could create a very complicated, lengthy negotiation. She also noted the risk that the end result could be inconsistent with other international instruments.

Following a long discussion, a number of delegations indicated that, while they may prefer different options, the option that appeared most likely to address all concerns would be to establish the ICCAT Executive Secretary as a second depositary solely for the processes set out in the proposed new annex regarding the fishing entities' participation in Commission work. Some CPCs stated that this may not increase the financial burden on CPCs.

The Working Group considered the other proposals in the Chair of the Commission's paper intended to provide additional clarity around the application of the proposed fishing entity annex. Several CPCs noted that the concept of fishing entity was not clearly defined in the Convention and raised questions about how broadly it could be interpreted in the ICCAT context. Some CPCs noted that the Convention should more clearly define what the term "fishing entity" meant in this context. One Party emphasized that the concept of "fishing entities" is a term taken from the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and ICCAT is not in the position to clarify its meaning. The Chairman recalled that the text of the annex, as resolved at the 2016 meeting of the Working Group, made it clear that only a fishing entity that had been granted cooperating status by the Commission as of 10 July 2013 was eligible to deposit its commitment to comply with the Convention and receive in return enhanced participation comparable to members. The Working Group further noted that only one such fishing entity, Chinese Taipei, met this clear criterion. At the same time, some CPCs proposed that, if some CPCs had lingering concerns that this could change in the future, the Working Group could consider adding an additional provision that would stipulate that this annex could only be amended in the future with the consensus of all Contracting Parties. The Working Group considered this option, or the option presented in the paper from the Chair of the Commission that participation of any other fishing entities pursuant to the annex would require invitation by the Commission. China pointed out that, as integral parts of the Convention, the annexes should not be subject to a different amendment process than that already set out in Article XIII. These issues remain unsolved.

Dispute Settlement Procedures

The Chair noted that the Working Group had made good progress to develop an ICCAT dispute resolution process as mandated in the Working Group's terms of reference, and much of the text in the new Article VIII bis was now resolved. She highlighted that two key issues remain in brackets: first, whether recourse to arbitration for settlement of a dispute would be compulsory, voluntary, or some hybrid approach, and second, whether ICCAT would establish its own procedures for arbitration or defer to the procedures under the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague.

Regarding the process to initiate arbitration, paragraph 3 of Article VIII bis contains three alternative options in brackets:

- Arbitration can be invoked at the request of any party to the dispute (compulsory);
- Arbitration can be invoked at the joint request of the parties to the dispute (voluntary); or
- Arbitration can be invoked either at the joint request of the parties to the dispute, or by some percentage of the Contracting Parties (hybrid).

The Working Group agreed that the third option above, which had been proposed as a possible compromise at the previous meeting of the Working Group, could be deleted. However, the Working Group remained unable to reach consensus on either of the other options. One Party highlighted that, without prejudice to the ongoing discussion, Parties are free to revisit other options such as comprehensive dispute settlement procedures embodied in UNCLOS part XV as this issue remains open.

Regarding the procedures ICCAT would use in constituting and conducting an arbitral tribunal, the text in paragraph 3 of Article VIII bis presents two bracketed alternatives: either to establish ICCAT-specific procedures, set out in a new Annex I to the Convention, to utilize the processes established by the PCA. Several CPCs noted that using the PCA rules could create potential confusion or ambiguities, as these rules are updated from time to time. In order to address these potential ambiguities, Norway presented a proposal (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**) that would specifically call for ICCAT to utilize the 2012 version of the PCA rules unless the Commission agreed otherwise. The Working Group also discussed different options for specifying key details under the PCA rules (such as the place of arbitration, language(s) to be used, number of arbitrators, etc.) but did not come to final agreement. Several CPCs expressed a strong preference to maintain the ICCAT-specific procedure in Annex I rather than using some form of the PCA rules, as they interpreted the PCA Rules to envision only a non-compulsory process.

The Working Group was unable to further refine the text in paragraph 3 of Article VIII bis.

In response to one Party's inquiry, the Chair of the Working Group noted her opinion that the dispute settlement procedure in Article VIII bis will only be applied among Contracting Parties. The disputes involving fishing entities should be referred to the dispute settlement procedure in the proposed Annex II.

5 Arrangements for the formalization of the amended text

The updated compiled proposals for Convention amendment is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**.

Without prejudice to the clear positions on the Depositary issue stated by a number of Contracting Parties, the Working Group agreed that the concept of a dual depositary showed some promise to form the basis for an eventual resolution of the Fishing Entity issue. The Working Group also noted the need to come to closure on the financial, legal, and practical implications of different ways to adopt the amendments and terms for their entry into force, in order to agree on a process at the 2017 ICCAT annual meeting.

In order to facilitate progress, the Working Group agreed that the Chair will prepare a paper with concrete drafting proposals based on the ideas discussed in this meeting, and the previous meetings of the Working Group, that appear to have the best chance at reaching consensus to resolve the remaining issues. This paper will be circulated as soon as possible after the Working Group meeting to allow CPCs to consult internally with their relevant government authorities and with other CPCs. The Chair highlighted the importance of transparency in the process of finalizing the remaining issues and urged CPCs to share positions and any alternative drafting proposals in the months before the annual meeting, including through a dedicated share-point page that will be established on the ICCAT website for this purpose.

The Chair will be in contact with the Chair of the Commission to reserve sufficient time during the 2017 ICCAT annual meeting in order to finalize and adopt the draft proposals for Convention amendment put forward by this Working Group. The Working Group agreed that its preference was to work on the remaining issues in the months leading up to the annual meeting. The Chair noted that it would be very difficult to defer extensive, detailed debate on the unresolved issues themselves at the annual meeting, given the extremely heavy Commission agenda this year. Her expectation is that CPCs will work to resolve the remaining issues intersessionally through electronic correspondence, and both internal and bilateral consultations, and that a clear report will be made to the Commission that will facilitate decision-making.

6 Other matters

There were no other matters raised.

7 Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Chair noted that the remaining issues of substance must be solved by the time of the 2017 ICCAT annual meeting. She stressed that the Working Group does not want to be in the position of seeking another extension of its mandate from the Commission this year. She again urged CPCs to work together to resolve the technical, legal, and policy aspects of the dispute resolution issue as well as to come to closure on the fishing entity annex by considering positively a dual depositary.

The Working Group adopted the report by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Finalizing remaining proposals for amendment
 - a) Fishing Entity Participation
 - b) Dispute Settlement Procedures
5. Arrangements for the formalisation of the amended text
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
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EL SALVADOR**

El Salvador, 23 June 2017

Mr. Driss Meski
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Madrid, Spain

Dear Mr. Meski,

I greet you with the same cordiality as always, and I shall take this opportunity to refer to the upcoming meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, which my country is unable to attend. However, I would like to make known our position on the three subjects to be addressed according to the agenda.

Change in depository

We have carefully read the declaration of the sixteen member countries of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT), all of the recitals of which we respect, but we do not support withdrawal from the agenda of the item related to the change in depository; this is because we have already made very substantial progress in this area, and profit should be drawn from the efforts made on this occasion. Since ICCAT has been in existence for the past 50 years we believe that these small but significant details of the Convention that governs us should be clarified.

In accordance with the foregoing, we welcome and support the proposal of the Commission Chairman contained in Circular #4115/17 of 12 June of the current, which provides a solution for the change in depository by applying the provisions contained in article 76, paragraph 1 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Participation of Fishing Entities

El Salvador, as a member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), would like to share that in 1998, at the 62nd Annual Meeting, we invited the Fishing Entities actively fishing in the Commission area to become members, a decision which has without doubt contributed to the governance of the Organization.

In the context of this discussion on Convention amendment, we believe that it should be clearly set out in Annex 2 of the amendments that Fishing Entities shall be understood to be those that in 2013 were registered with ICCAT as a cooperating non-contracting fishing entity.

It is our belief that it should be taken into consideration that the Fishing Entity that we support through this amendment has been a cooperating non-contracting Entity since 1999, and that according to the historical statistics of Commission, it has been fishing in the Convention area since 1962.

The Recommendation containing all the amendments to the Convention should make clear in one of its paragraphs that the only Fishing Entity that at the date of the amendments is entitled to become a member of the Commission is Chinese Taipei, which would resolve the concerns of all those involved in these discussions.

Dispute settlement

We welcome Norway's initiative which has studied more closely the appropriateness of having recourse to the Permanent Court of Arbitration or the International Court of Justice as a court of arbitration to settle disputes, in accordance with Circular #6131/16 of September 2016.

We consider that it is appropriate to include Article VIII bis in the Convention, since, as we all know, the current text does not establish a mechanism or contain a provision for settling disputes.

In view of the foregoing, we approve the contents of paragraph 3, Article VIII bis of the amendments, in that the Regulations of the Permanent Court of Arbitration are retained as the mechanism for settling disputes, and the city of The Hague as the arbitration venue, which is the seat of the Court, and where all the parties involved in this discussion regarding amendment of the Convention text are sure to have diplomatic representation.

El Salvador wishes success to all the participants in this final meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.

We thank the Executive Secretary for making our views contained herein known to all the members of the Commission, and the cooperating non-contracting Fishing Entities and Parties.

Regards,

GOD UNION LIBERTY

(signed)

(sealed)

Gustavo Antonio Portillo
Director General

**Correspondence from the ICCAT Chair regarding the meeting of
the Working Group on Convention Amendment**
ICCAT Circular #4115/17

12 June 2017

SUBJECT: ICCAT CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR THE CONVENTION AMENDMENT

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, ICCAT commenced a process of modernizing the ICCAT Convention, through ICCAT Recommendation 12-10 with the establishment of the Convention Amendment Working Group, in 2012. After several rounds of Working Group meetings¹, substantial progress has been achieved and agreement has been reached on several key priority issues.

Despite the progress achieved by the Working Group, three issues remain to be resolved. These include: (1) change of Depositary of the Convention, (2) non-party participation and (3) dispute resolution.

To enable a timely completion of its work, the 20th Special Meeting of the Commission agreed to convene an additional one-day meeting of the Convention Amendment Working Group in 2017 which is scheduled to be held in Madrid on 26 June 2017. While the intent of the Commission is applauded, if current positions are maintained in respect of the three issues, we run the real risk of simply going over old ground with very little progress likely to be achieved at that one day meeting. Further delay would reflect poorly on our organization.

In my capacity as Chair of the Commission, and in an effort to ensure that we make maximum use of time at the forthcoming one-day meeting to reach consensus on the unresolved issues I offer some ideas and suggestions for your consideration. These ideas and suggestions are presented in good faith with due respect to, and in recognition of, the various positions and views of CPCs expressed during the Convention amendment process to date. I am open to additional modifications and refinements of my ideas to ensure consistency and coherency.

1 Change of Depositary

The Terms of Reference for the Convention Amendment Working Group, in ICCAT Recommendation 12-10, did not require the amendment of provisions relating to the Depositary². Despite this, the Convention Amendment Working Group has spent a lot of time and resources trying to resolve this issue which has delayed the amendment process. As I well know, it became necessary to discuss changing the depositary of the Convention because of the precondition laid down by one Contracting Party before inclusion of any provisions in the amended Convention on fishing entities which is one component of “non-party participation” under Recommendation 12-10.

In response to this request, the European Union offered the Agreements Office of the Council of the European Union as the Depositary for the amended Convention. Although there has been no formal rejection of the offer by EU, it is on record that a few CPCs have expressed a preference to retain the FAO Director-General as the Depositary for the amended Convention. Attempts to reach a compromise on this issue, including communications from the Director-General of FAO, have not been able to produce consensus. The continuing failure to reach agreement on the Depositary issue has been frustrating, time consuming and has delayed completion of the work of the Working Group. In my view, we need a bold and fresh approach on the issue of change of depositary to make progress at the forthcoming one-day meeting.

¹ Sapporo, Japan (10-12 July, 2013); Barcelona, Spain (19-21 May 2014); Miami, United States (18-22 May 2015); Madrid, Spain (7-8 March 2016).

² Currently the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

In a recent development, sixteen ATLAFCO members States issued a joint Declaration requesting withdrawal of the item relating to change of Depositary from the agenda of the Convention Amendment Working Group meeting. I understand the view expressed by the ATLAFCO Resolution. In my view, the position expressed by the ATLAFCO member States who represent about 25% of the ICCAT membership cannot be ignored. As I have noted above, the original Terms of Reference for the Convention Amendment Working Group, in ICCAT Recommendation 12-10, did not require amendment of provisions of the Convention relating to the Depositary.

As a way forward and respecting the views expressed by the ATLAFCO members and the precondition by one Contracting Party I propose that we adopt a dual depositary approach. This will involve retaining the FAO Director-General as the Depositary for the amended ICCAT Convention as is currently the case. Because of the inability of CPCs to reach consensus on the offer by EU, and to accommodate the precondition by one Contracting Party which I referred to earlier, I propose that in place of the Agreements Office of the Council of the European Union, we designate the Executive Secretary of ICCAT as the second Depositary for the amended Convention (and in any subsequent amendments to the Convention if that were to arise).

The proposal to designate the Executive Secretary of ICCAT as a Depositary for the amended ICCAT Convention is consistent with international law (as provided for in Article 76 paragraph 1 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties).³ The proposal is also consistent with State practice (for example, the Protocol to the United Nations Charter and the International Coffee Agreement).⁴

This proposal would address three concerns expressed in the Working Group: (1) the preference for the FAO Director-General as the Depositary by some CPCs, including (2) the Declaration recently submitted by some of the ATLAFCO member States and (3) the precondition established by one Contracting Party for the incorporation of provisions on fishing entities in the ICCAT Convention.

If this proposal is accepted, all original Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention will have the discretion and flexibility to choose either of the two Depositaries to communicate their instruments of acceptance of the amended Convention. On the other hand, to respect the precondition laid down by one Contracting Party, all non-contracting parties to the ICCAT Convention and new members of the Commission (including fishing entities and those accepting the Convention after the adoption of the amended Convention) will be required to use the Executive Secretary of ICCAT as their Depositary. The text reflecting this proposal, for insertion in the revised Convention, is included in the attachment to this Proposal.

I have consulted the Head of the EU delegation to ICCAT on this proposal who advised me in his personal capacity that the offer by EU was made in good faith and as a service. He would have no difficulty with the approach I have suggested if this will pave the way for the reaching of consensus on the depositary issue in the Working Group. I thank the Head of EU Delegation for his understanding.

The capacity of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT to discharge his/her duty as a Depositary, consistent with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, is a relevant consideration. If CPCs decide to use the Executive Secretary of ICCAT as the Depositary, it may give rise to additional financial cost for the Commission. It could be argued that assigning the depositary functions to a neutral and experienced office like the Agreements Office of the Council of the European Union would reduce cost and enable the functions to be discharged competently.

However, if there is a preference to assign that responsibility to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, there are practical ways by which the Commission can address the resource implications of the Executive Secretary acting as the Depositary.

³ Article 76 paragraph 1 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties stipulates that

“1. The designation of the depositary of a treaty may be made by the negotiating States, either in the treaty itself or in some other manner. The depositary may be one or more States, an international organization or the chief administrative officer of the organization.”

⁴ In the case of the UN, United States of America is the Depositary of the UN Charter, whilst the Secretary General of UN is the Depositary for the Protocol. Another good example of the use of an international organization as the Depositary is the International Coffee Agreement which designates its own Secretariat as the Depositary.

2 Non-party participation/Fishing Entities

The key issue being considered in the Convention amendment process under this heading is the involvement of fishing entities in ICCAT, with the objective of bringing ICCAT into line with virtually all other modern RFMOs, and international fisheries instruments including the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995);⁵ and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)⁶ which make specific reference to fishing entities. Although these instruments do not specifically define a fishing entity, it is commonly understood in international fisheries law and management that the term refers to Chinese Taipei. For example, provisions on fishing entities to broaden non-party participation are included in the Convention establishing the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC, 2000), the “Antigua Convention” (2003) that amended in its entirety the 1949 Convention establishing the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), as well as the Conventions establishing the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO, 2010), and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPF, 2012).

With the exception of location of the depositary, the incorporation of provisions into the revised ICCAT Convention to enable the participation of fishing entities in the Commission to broaden non-party participation as reflected in draft Annex 2 has received general agreement in the Working Group. In relation to the concept of fishing entities, however, it appears that there are lingering uncertainties among a few CPCs as to the exact scope of the “fishing entities” and to whom it may apply in the ICCAT context. Further, there appears to be some concern that the fishing entity concept is very broad, undefined, and could result in indirectly creating a loophole that would allow a large number of new members to join the Commission under the fishing entity category. To make progress, it is important to address these concerns openly and clearly in the amended Convention to allay the concerns of CPCs. In addition to clarifying the concept of fishing entities, and who qualifies to become a member of the ICCAT Commission as a fishing entity, we need to ensure that we do not create a loophole under the fishing entity category. The concerns noted above have largely been addressed in the current draft Annex 2 on fishing entities which specifies clearly the criteria to qualify as a fishing entity.

To provide an additional safeguard for CPCs concerned about the scope of the fishing entity concept, I propose that, in the Resolution for the Adoption of the Amendments to the ICCAT Convention, we include a paragraph which expressly states that for the purpose of the ICCAT Convention, Chinese Taipei is the only fishing entity to qualify for membership status in ICCAT. In addition, the same Resolution could state that, in future, any other entity intending to apply for membership of ICCAT under the legal capacity of fishing entity will be subject to consensus invitation by an ICCAT Commission Resolution. This proposal, if accepted may also be incorporated into the current Annex 2 or may be stated clearly in the records of the Working Group as a recommendation to the Commission.

3 Dispute resolution

“Dispute resolution” is one of the priority matters listed in the Annex 1 of ICCAT Recommendation 12-10. Despite several efforts since the commencement of the Working Group, CPCs have not been able to reach consensus on various proposals.

Article VIII *bis* and the related Annex 1 reflect the status of discussions on dispute resolution in the Working Group. Paragraph 3 of Article VIII *bis* seems to be the source of disagreement among CPCs at present. The key points of difference are whether the dispute settlement framework shall be subject to compulsory or non-compulsory settlement.

The ICCAT Convention does not have any provisions on dispute resolution. This sets ICCAT apart from all other tuna RFMOs and modern international fisheries treaties and governance standards.

⁵ For example, Article 1 paragraph 3 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement reads: “This Agreement applies *mutatis mutandis* to other fishing entities whose vessels fish on the high seas.”

⁶ For example, Article 1.2 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries reads: “The Code is global in scope, and is directed toward members and non-members of FAO, fishing entities, sub regional, regional and global organizations . . .” and Article 4.1 reads: “All members and non-members of FAO, fishing entities and relevant sub-regional, regional and global organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, and all persons concerned with the conservation, management and utilization of fisheries resources and trade in fish and fishery products should collaborate in the fulfillment and implementation of the objectives and principles contained in this Code.”

The absence of a dispute resolution provision in the ICCAT Convention makes it imperative for us to include provisions on dispute resolution in the amended Convention. Therefore, I appeal to all CPCs to come to the Working Group meeting willing to show some flexibility to reach agreement on a dispute resolution provision in a constructive manner.

If CPCs are not able to reach consensus on a dispute resolution framework for ICCAT based on the draft Article VIII *bis*, and the proposal by Norway and any other proposals, another option to consider is to replace the current draft paragraph 3 of Article VIII *bis* with a new paragraph to empower the Commission to determine a dispute resolution framework through a Resolution of the Commission, or in any other manner, at some future point in time after the adoption of the amendments. This approach will avoid further delays to completing the amendments, and ensure that the ICCAT Convention will eventually have a dispute resolution mechanism.

In addition, in order to accommodate a constructive proposal made by Norway for the adopting the 2012 Arbitration Rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration into the ICCAT dispute resolution mechanism, I suggest the revision of Point 2 of the current draft Annex 1 so as to allow the arbitral tribunal to proceed in accordance with the 2012 Arbitration Rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The suggested wording is presented in the attachment to this Proposal.

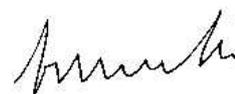
Conclusion

It is my understanding that some CPCs, mainly from the ATLAFCO member States, may not be able to attend the Working Group meeting because the dates for the meeting coincide with Ramadan. To ensure adequate geographical representation at the Working Group meeting, I have raised with the Executive Secretary the possibilities of rescheduling the meeting to another more convenient date to ensure a more inclusive participation. However, I have been advised by the Executive Secretary that rescheduling the meeting at this late stage is not a feasible option because the Secretariat has already made administrative arrangements which will result in additional cost to the Commission if the meeting were postponed. To prevent further delay to the work of the Working Group, I respectfully request all CPCs to make every effort to ensure that their views are represented at the Working Group meeting. If all efforts to ensure representation fail, I respectfully request all CPCs who will not be able to attend the Working Group meeting to clearly communicate their positions and views on the proposals I have made to the Chairperson of the Working Group not later than close of business on 25 June 2017. This will enable the Working Group to make well-informed and inclusive Recommendations to the Commission on the Convention amendment.

I plan to attend the forthcoming Convention Amendment Working Group meeting and I look forward to discussing my ideas and proposals with you.

I urge all CPCs to consider my proposals in good faith and to be constructive at the Working Group meeting in order to bring the Convention amendment process to a close as soon as possible to pave the way for an early adoption of the new Convention.

Sincerely,



Martin Tsamenyi
ICCAT Chair

Attachment to the ICCAT Chair's Proposal

On the issue of depositary

Article XIII bis Depositaries and their functions

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XIII, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as may be amended from time to time.
2. The Executive Secretary of the ICCAT Commission is also hereby designated as the Depositary of this and any later amended Convention.
3. The functions of the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of the Commission as Depositaries of this and any later amended Convention include but not limited to:
 - (a) keeping custody of the original text of this and any later amended Convention and of any Full Powers delivered to him.
 - (b) preparing and circulating certified true copies of this and any later amended Convention.
 - (c) receiving and keeping custody of any instruments, notifications and communications relating to this and any later amended Convention.
 - (d) examining whether the signature or any instrument, notification or communication relating to this and any later amended Convention is in due and proper form.
 - (e) circulating acts, notifications and communications relating to this and any later amended Convention.
 - (f) informing all members of the Commission of the date of deposit of each instrument or notification of acceptance, of the date of entry into force of this and any later amended Convention.
 - (g) registering this and any later amended Convention with the Secretariat of the United Nations.
 - (h) in the event of any questions about the performance of the Depositary's functions, bringing the matter to the attention of the members of the Commission.
4. In relation to matters strictly within the functions of Depositaries, any acceding Contracting Parties to the 1966 ICCAT Convention and those who intend to become members of the ICCAT Commission, including fishing entities, after the adoption of this and any later amended Convention shall communicate their consent to be bound with the Executive Secretary of the Commission.
5. Any proposal to amend this Convention shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Commission at least ninety (90) days prior to the meeting at which it is proposed to be considered, and the Executive Secretary shall promptly transmit the proposal to all members of the Commission.
6. The Commission shall ensure that adequate resources and capacity are provided to the Secretariat of the Commission to enable the Executive Secretary to discharge his/her functions adequately as a Depositary in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. To that end, at its first meeting after the adoption of these amendments, the Commission shall cause to be undertaken an assessment of the resource implications of the Secretariat for the Executive Secretary serving as a Depositary.

On the fishing entity

In addition to the current draft Annex 2, in the Resolution for the Adoption of Amendments to the ICCAT Convention, a paragraph as shown below may be incorporated:

"... Agrees that for the purpose of this present amended Convention, Chinese Taipei is, and will be, the one and the only fishing entity to qualify for membership status in ICCAT." This idea can also be inserted into an appropriate part of draft Annex 2.

On the dispute resolution

The current draft text of paragraph 3 of Article VIII *bis* will be replaced in its entirety by the paragraph as show below:

“The Commission shall develop the modality and procedures for dispute resolution within two years after the entry into force of these amendments to the Convention through a Commission Resolution or in any other manner. If the Commission is unable to agree on a dispute resolution framework within two years after the adoption of these amendments, the procedures specified in Annex 1 to this Convention shall apply to all disputes among members of the Commission relating to the interpretation or application of this Convention.”

And, the entire draft Article VIII *bis* will read as:

Article VIII bis

1. Every effort shall be made within the Commission in order to prevent disputes, and the parties to any dispute shall consult each other in order to settle disputes concerning this Convention by amicable means and as quickly as possible.
2. Where a dispute concerns a matter of a technical nature, the parties to the dispute may jointly refer the dispute to an *ad hoc* expert panel established in accordance with the procedures that the Commission adopts for this purpose. The panel shall confer with the parties to the dispute and shall endeavour to expeditiously resolve the dispute without recourse to binding procedures.
3. ~~A dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention that is not resolved through a means set out in paragraph 1 or where relevant, paragraph 2, shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration for settlement, [at the request of any party to the dispute] [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute] [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute, or xxxx of the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission]]. The arbitral tribunal shall be constituted and conducted in accordance with [Annex 1 of this Convention] [the rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators. [The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Convention, other relevant rules of international law, and generally accepted standards for the conservation and management of living marine resources. The place of arbitration shall be Madrid, Spain, and the language used shall be one of the three official languages of the Commission unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the dispute]].~~
3. The Commission shall develop the modality and procedures for dispute resolution within two years after the entry into force of these amendments to the Convention through a Commission Resolution or in any other manner. If the Commission is unable to agree on a dispute resolution framework within two years after the adoption of these amendments, the procedures specified in Annex 1 to this Convention shall apply to all disputes among members of the Commission relating to the interpretation or application of this Convention.
4. The dispute settlement mechanisms set out in this Article are not applied to disputes that relate to any act or fact which took place or any situation which ceased to exist before the date of the entry into force of this Article.
5. Nothing in this Article shall prejudice the ability of parties to any dispute to pursue dispute settlement under other treaties or international agreements to which they are parties, in accordance with the requirements of that treaty or international agreement.

Annex 1

Point 2 The arbitral tribunal shall decide the location of its headquarters and shall ~~adopt its own rules of procedure~~ proceed in accordance with the 2012 Arbitration Rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

**Norwegian proposal regarding the ICCAT Convention amendment:
dispute settlement**

ICCAT Circular #6131/16

With reference to the report from the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment in March 2016 and to ICCAT Circular # 1477/2016 regarding the intersessional work of this working group, Norway would like to take this opportunity to revive the discussions on remaining issues. Although the Working Group on Convention Amendment has made considerable progress, two important issues remain unsolved: procedures for dispute resolution and Convention depositary. Both the Commission Chair and the Chair of the working group have urged CPCs to work intersessionally to find solutions to these issues.

The key remaining issue regarding a dispute resolution is whether the Convention should provide for a compulsory or non-compulsory process for final and binding arbitration. As a way forward, Norway proposed, at the fourth working group meeting, to replace the arbitration procedures bracketed in Annex 1 of the compiled proposals, by a reference to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) 2012 Arbitration Rules. This proposal was supported by several CPCs, whereas others needed more time to reflect on this. Hence, both proposals remain in brackets⁷.

The PCA is dedicated to serving the international community in the field of dispute resolution, and the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules are the PCA's newest set of procedural rules for arbitration of disputes involving various combinations of states, state-controlled entities, intergovernmental organizations and private parties. They are a consolidation of four prior sets of PCA procedural rules⁸ and build on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules. Hence, the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules reflect public international law elements that may arise in disputes involving states, state controlled entities and/or intergovernmental organisations. They offer an internationally recognized framework for dispute resolution, reflect arbitration rules which have been tried over a number of years and reduce the number of negotiation topics for dispute resolution. As the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules and the services of the Secretary-General and the International Bureau of the PCA are available for use by all states, and are not restricted to disputes in which the state is a party to either the Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes of 1899 or that of 1907, Norway would reiterate our proposal to refer to these rules when it comes to submitting a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the ICCAT Convention to final arbitration.

At the working group meeting in March it was noted by some parties that the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules could be amended at a later point in time, and that this could lead to confusion as to whether or not such amendments would apply. In order to include any subsequent amendments, a more general referral to the PCA's Arbitration Rules was included in the draft. It is, however, important to notice that the 2012 Arbitration Rules as such will not be subject to any future amendments. The PCA may establish new sets of Arbitration Rules, but such new rules will not affect the 2012 Arbitration Rules. The 2012 Arbitration Rules will continue to apply, just as the four previous sets of PCA Arbitration Rules still applies to any dispute subject to those Arbitration Rules. A general reference to PCA's Arbitration Rules would, on the other hand, create ambiguity with regard to which set of rules should apply, as well as insecurity with regard to future amendments, the content of which is not known. Our preferred option would hence be to refer to the 2012 Arbitration Rules, alternatively with the option to apply any subsequent sets of PCA Arbitration Rules, if the parties to the dispute so agree.

⁷ cf. Appendix 3 to the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, Article VIII bis paragraph 3 and Annex 1.

⁸ The PCA Arbitration Rules 2012 are a consolidation of four prior sets of PCA procedural rules: the Optional Rules for Arbitrating Disputes between Two States (1992); the Optional Rules for Arbitrating Disputes between Two Parties of Which Only One is a State (1993); the Optional Rules for Arbitration Between International Organizations and States (1996); and the Optional Rules for Arbitration Between International Organizations and Private Parties (1996).

Under the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules, the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague shall serve as registry for the proceedings and provide secretariat services. Furthermore, the 2012 rules includes topics such as recourse to arbitration, representation and assistance during arbitration, composition of the arbitral tribunal, appointment of arbitrators, arbitral proceedings, applicable law, interim measures, evidence, hearings, objections, form and effect of the award, interpretation of the award, costs etc.

It should be noted that it is clearly stated in Article 1 Paragraph 1 that where it is agreed to refer disputes to arbitration under the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules, such disputes shall be settled in accordance with those rules, *subject to such modification as the parties may agree*. At the working group meeting in March, concern was raised by some parties fearing that a referral to the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules would make the discussions regarding whether the final dispute resolution measure should be compulsory or non-compulsory redundant. However, as it is clearly stated that the parties may make modifications to the arbitration rules, the question of whether a dispute should be submitted to final dispute resolution [at the request of any party to the dispute] or [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute]⁹ remains an important issue to agree on before finalising the amended Convention.

The 2012 Arbitration Rules include an Annex with model arbitration clauses for treaties, encouraging parties to consider adding the number of arbitrators, the place of arbitration (country and town) and the language to be used during arbitration. Furthermore, according to Article 35, the arbitral tribunal shall apply the rules of law designated by the parties. Hence, Norway proposed that ICCAT should include text regarding these issues in the amended Convention. This proposal is now included in brackets in Article VIII bis Paragraph 3 of the compiled proposals and reads as follows: [The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Convention, other relevant rules of international law, and generally accepted standards for the conservation and management of living marine resources. The place of arbitration shall be Madrid, Spain, and the language used shall be one of the three languages of the Commission unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the dispute.]

The parties should, however, bear in mind that it might be preferable to choose the Hague, and not Madrid, as the place of arbitration. This would enable the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague to serve as registry for the proceedings and to provide secretariat services in a cost-efficient manner as envisaged in the 2012-rules. The parties may want to consider whether suitable premises and infrastructure for such arbitral proceedings exist in Madrid, and whether the ICCAT secretariat would have the capacity and the competence necessary to provide secretariat services for arbitration proceedings taking place in Madrid.

In order to reduce cost, Norway would prefer the place of arbitration to be the Hague, but we remain open to the views of other parties on this.

If not previously agreed by the parties, Article 7 of the 2012 rules provides that the number of arbitrators shall be three, and if the place of arbitration and language is not agreed, the tribunal shall determine this in accordance with Articles 18 and 19. In addition, Article 35 provides the rules of law to be applied, if not designated by the parties.

Unlike the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration has no sitting judges, as the parties themselves select the arbitrators. In exercising its discretion, the arbitral tribunal shall establish a provisional timetable and conduct the proceedings to avoid unnecessary delay and expense and to provide a fair and efficient process for resolving the parties' dispute. All awards shall be made in writing and shall be final and binding on the parties and the arbitral tribunal shall state the reasons upon which the award is based, unless the parties have agreed that no reasons are to be given. The parties shall carry out all awards without delay.

Norway would welcome other parties' views on the proposal to refer to the PCA 2012 Arbitration Rules for final dispute resolution under the ICCAT Convention.

We would ask the ICCAT Secretary to kindly circulate this proposal to all CPCs.

⁹ Cf. Article VIII bis paragraph 3 in the Compiled Proposal for Amendment of the ICCAT Convention, Appendix III to the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.

Yours sincerely,

Sigrun M. Holst
Deputy Director General

Elisabeth Sjørdahl
Adviser

This document has been signed electronically and therefore it is not signed by hand.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2

**Compiled proposals for amendment of the
International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
as of 26 June 2017**

Prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment

NOTE: Highlighted text below reflects editorial corrections identified by the Chair, or received in writing from CPCs in response to the Chair's invitation.

Preamble

The Governments whose duly authorized representatives have subscribed hereto, considering their mutual interest in the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory found in the Atlantic Ocean, and desiring to co-operate in maintaining the populations of these fishes at levels which will permit their long term conservation and sustainable use ~~maximum sustainable catch~~ for food and other purposes, resolve to conclude a Convention for the conservation of these resources of tuna and tuna-like fishes of the Atlantic Ocean, and to that end agree as follows:

Article I

The area to which this Convention shall apply, hereinafter referred to as the "Convention area", shall be all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent Seas.

Article II

Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under international law. This Convention shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with international law. ~~be considered as affecting the rights, claims or views of any Contracting Party in regard to the limits of territorial waters or the extent of jurisdiction over fisheries under international law.~~

Article III

1. The Contracting Parties hereby agree to establish and maintain a Commission to be known as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", which shall carry out the objectives set forth in this Convention. [Each Contracting Party shall be a Member of the Commission.]

2. Each of the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission] shall be represented on the Commission by not more than three Delegates. Such Delegates may be assisted by experts and advisors.

3. ~~Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention~~ Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus as a general rule. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, if consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission] present and casting affirmative or negative votes, each [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission] having one vote. Two-thirds of the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission] shall constitute a quorum.

4. The Commission shall hold a regular meeting once every two years. A special meeting may be called at any time at the request of a majority of the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission] or by decision of the Council as constituted in Article V.

5. At its first meeting, and thereafter at each regular meeting, the Commission shall elect from among its [Contracting Parties]~~[Members]~~ a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman who shall not be re-elected for more than one term.
6. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the Commission otherwise decides.
7. The official languages of the Commission shall be English, French and Spanish.
8. The Commission shall have authority to adopt such rules of procedure and financial regulations as are necessary to carry out its functions.
9. The Commission shall submit a report to the [Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission]~~ every two years on its work and findings and shall also inform any [Contracting Party]~~[Member of the Commission]~~, whenever requested, on any matter relating to the objectives of the Convention.

Article III bis

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under the Convention, shall act to:

- (a) apply the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards and, as appropriate, recommended practices and procedures;
- (b) use the best scientific evidence available;
- (c) protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- (d) ensure fairness and transparency in decision making processes, including with respect to the allocation of fishing possibilities, and other activities; and
- (e) give full recognition to the special requirements of developing Members of the Commission, including the need for their capacity building, in accordance with international law, to implement their obligations under this Convention and to develop their fisheries.

Article IV

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes ~~(the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*)~~ and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory (hereinafter "ICCAT species"), and such other species of fishes exploited caught in tuna fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area, ~~as are not under investigation by another~~ taking into account the work of other relevant international fishery-related organizations or arrangements. Such study shall include research on ~~the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes these species;~~ the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission may also study species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent or associated with the ICCAT species. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the [Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission]~~ and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any public or private institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget with the cooperation of concerned [Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission]~~, independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations. The Commission shall ensure that any information received from such institution, organization, or individual is consistent with established scientific standards regarding quality and objectivity.

2. The carrying out of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include:
 - (a) collecting and analysing statistical information relating to the current conditions and trends of ~~the tuna fishery resources of~~ ICCAT species in the Convention area;
 - (b) studying and appraising information concerning measures and methods to ensure maintenance of the populations of ICCAT species ~~tuna and tuna-like fishes~~ in the Convention area at or above levels ~~which will permit the~~ capable of producing maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield and which will ensure the effective exploitation of these species ~~fishes~~ in a manner consistent with this yield ~~catch~~;
 - (c) recommending studies and investigations to the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission];
 - (d) publishing and otherwise disseminating reports of its findings and statistical, biological and other scientific information relative to ~~the tuna fisheries of~~ ICCAT species in the Convention area.

Article V

1. There is established within the Commission a Council which shall consist of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties represented on the Council shall be elected at each regular meeting of the Commission. However, if at any time the number of the Contracting Parties exceeds forty, the Commission may elect an additional two Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council. The Contracting Parties of which the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are nationals shall not be elected to the Council. In elections to the Council the Commission shall give due consideration to the geographic, tuna fishing and tuna processing interests of the Contracting Parties, as well as to the equal right of the Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council.
2. The Council shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by this Convention or are designated by the Commission, and shall meet at least once in the interim between regular meetings of the Commission. Between meetings of the Commission the Council shall make necessary decisions on the duties to be carried out by the staff and shall issue necessary instructions to the Executive Secretary. Decisions of the Council shall be made in accordance with rules to be established by the Commission.

Article VI

To carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission may establish Panels on the basis of species, group of species, or of geographic areas. Each Panel in such case:

- (a) shall be responsible for keeping under review the species, group of species, or geographic area under its purview, and for collecting scientific and other information relating thereto;
- (b) may propose to the Commission, upon the basis of scientific investigations, recommendations for joint action by the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission];
- (c) may recommend to the Commission studies and investigations necessary for obtaining information relating to its species, group of species, or geographic area, as well as the co-ordination of programmes of investigation by the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission].

Article VII

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Secretary who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, subject to such rules and procedures as may be determined by the Commission, shall have authority with respect to the selection and administration of the staff of the Commission. He shall also perform, *inter alia*, the following functions as the Commission may prescribe:

- (a) coordinating the programmes of investigation ~~by the Contracting Parties~~ carried out pursuant to Articles IV and VI;
- (b) preparing budget estimates for review by the Commission;
- (c) authorising the disbursement of funds in accordance with the Commission's budget;

- (d) accounting for the funds of the Commission;
- (e) arranging for co-operation with the organizations referred to in Article XI of this Convention;
- (f) preparing the collection and analysis of data necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Convention particularly those data relating to the current and maximum sustainable ~~catch yield~~ of ~~tuna~~ stocks of ICCAT species;
- (g) preparing for approval by the Commission scientific, administrative and other reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Article VIII

1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to ~~maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch;~~
 (i) ~~ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species by maintaining or restoring the abundance of the stocks of those species at or above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield; and~~
 (ii) ~~promote where necessary the conservation of other species that are dependent on or associated with ICCAT species, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.~~
 These recommendations shall be applicable to the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~~~[Members of the Commission]~~ under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

- (b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:
 - (i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established; or
 - (ii) ~~at the initiative of the Commission with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission] if an appropriate Panel has been established but a proposal has not been approved;~~
 - (iii) on a proposal ~~that has been approved by an appropriate Panel if such a Panel has been established;~~
 - (iv) on a proposal ~~that has been approved by the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.~~

2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all ~~[Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission] six~~ four months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the ~~[Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission]~~, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commission at the time a recommendation is adopted and except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article. However, under no circumstances shall a recommendation become effective in less than three months.

- 3. (a) If any ~~[Contracting Party][Member of the Commission]~~ in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) or (ii) above, or any ~~[Contracting Party][Member of the Commission]~~ which is also a member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(iii) or (iv) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six months~~ period established pursuant to ~~provided for in~~ paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for ~~an additional sixty days~~ the ~~[Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission]~~ concerned.
 - (b) ~~Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional sixty days period, or within forty five days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional sixty days, whichever date shall be the later.~~
 - (c) ~~The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.~~
 - (d) ~~However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.~~

- (e) ~~In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of sixty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.~~
- (f) ~~If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the Contracting Parties that have not presented an objection thereto.~~
- (b~~g~~) ~~If objections have been presented by a majority of the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission] within the period established pursuant to paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for any [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission].~~
- (c~~h~~) ~~A [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission] presenting an objection in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, the reason for its objection, which shall be based on one or more of the following grounds:~~
- (i) ~~The recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or other relevant provisions of international law; or~~
- (ii) ~~The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission].~~
- (iii) ~~The [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission] cannot practicably comply with the measure because it has adopted a different approach to conservation and sustainable management or because it does not have the technical capabilities to implement the recommendation.~~
- (iv) ~~Security constraints as a result of which the objecting [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission] is not in a position to implement or comply with the measure.~~
- (d~~i~~) ~~Each [Contracting Party][Member of the Commission] that presents an objection pursuant to this Article shall also provide to the Commission, to the extent practicable, a description of any alternative conservation and management and conservation measures, which shall be at least equally effective as the measure to which it is objecting.~~

4. Any ~~[Contracting Party][Member of the Commission]~~ objecting to a recommendation may at any time withdraw that objection, and the recommendation shall become effective with respect to such ~~[Contracting Party][Member of the Commission]~~ immediately if the recommendation is already in effect, or at such time as it may become effective under the terms of this Article.

5. The ~~Commission Executive Secretary~~ shall promptly circulate to all ~~[Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission]~~ the details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this Article ~~notify each Contracting Party immediately upon receipt of each objection and of each withdrawal of such an objection, and shall notify all [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission] of the entry into force of any recommendation.~~

Article VIII bis

1. Every effort shall be made within the Commission in order to prevent disputes, and the parties to any dispute shall consult each other in order to settle disputes concerning this Convention by amicable means and as quickly as possible.
2. Where a dispute concerns a matter of a technical nature, the parties to the dispute may jointly refer the dispute to an *ad hoc* expert panel established in accordance with the procedures that the Commission adopts for this purpose. The panel shall confer with the parties to the dispute and shall endeavour to expeditiously resolve the dispute without recourse to binding procedures.

3. A dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention that is not resolved through a means set out in paragraph 1 or where relevant, paragraph 2, shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration for settlement, [at the request of any party to the dispute] [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute] [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute, or xxxx of the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission]]. The arbitral tribunal shall be constituted and conducted in accordance with [Annex 1 of this Convention] [the rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators. [The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with this Convention, international law, and generally accepted standards for the conservation of living marine resources. The place of arbitration shall be Madrid, Spain, and the language used shall be one of the three official languages of the Commission unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the dispute]].
4. The dispute settlement mechanisms set out in this Article are not applied to disputes that relate to any act or fact which took place or any situation which ceased to exist before the date of the entry into force of this Article.
5. Nothing in this Article shall prejudice the ability of parties to any dispute to pursue dispute settlement under other treaties or international agreements to which they are parties, in accordance with the requirements of that treaty or international agreement.

Article IX

1. The ~~[Contracting Parties]~~~~[Members of the Commission]~~ agree to take all action necessary to ensure the enforcement of this Convention. Each ~~[Contracting Party]~~~~[Member of the Commission]~~ shall transmit to the Commission, biennially or at such other times as may be required by the Commission, a statement of the action taken by it for these purposes.
2. The ~~[Contracting Parties]~~~~[Members of the Commission]~~ agree:
 - (a) to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need for the purposes of this Convention;
 - (b) when their official agencies are unable to obtain and furnish the said information, to allow the Commission, through the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~~~[Members of the Commission]~~, to obtain it on a voluntary basis direct from companies and individual fishermen.
3. The ~~[Contracting Parties]~~~~[Members of the Commission]~~ undertake to collaborate with each other with a view to the adoption of suitable effective measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention[.
4. ~~Contracting Parties undertake]~~~~[and in particular]~~ to set up a system of international enforcement to be applied to the Convention area except the territorial sea and other waters, if any, in which a ~~s~~State is entitled under international law to exercise jurisdiction over fisheries.

Article X*

1. The Commission shall adopt a budget for the joint expenses of the Commission for the biennium following each regular meeting.
2. Each ~~[Contracting Party]~~~~[Member of the Commission]~~ shall contribute annually to the budget of the Commission an amount calculated in accordance with a scheme provided for in the Financial Regulations, as adopted by the Commission. The Commission, in adopting this scheme, should consider *inter alia* each ~~[Contracting Party's]~~~~[Member of the Commission's]~~ fixed basic fees for Commission and Panel membership, the total round weight of catch and net weight of canned products of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fishes and the degree of economic development of the ~~[Contracting Parties]~~~~[Members of the Commission]~~.

* As modified by the Madrid Protocol, which entered into force on March 10, 2005.

The scheme of annual contributions in the Financial Regulations shall be established or modified only through the agreement of all the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] present and voting. The [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] shall be informed of this ninety days in advance.

3. The Council shall review the second half of the biennial budget at its regular meeting between Commission meetings and, on the basis of current and anticipated developments, may authorise reapportionment of amounts in the Commission budget for the second year within the total budget approved by the Commission.

4. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall notify each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] of its yearly assessment. The contributions shall be payable on January first of the year for which the assessment was levied. Contributions not received before January first of the succeeding year shall be considered as in arrears.

5. Contributions to the biennial budget shall be payable in such currencies as the Commission may decide.

6. At its first meeting the Commission shall approve a budget for the balance of the first year the Commission functions and for the following biennium. It shall immediately transmit to the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] copies of these budgets together with notices of the respective assessments for the first annual contribution.

7. Thereafter, within a period not less than sixty days before the regular meeting of the Commission which precedes the biennium, the Executive Secretary shall submit to each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] a draft biennial budget together with a schedule of proposed assessments.

8. The Commission may suspend the voting rights of any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years.

9. The Commission shall establish a Working Capital fund to finance operations of the Commission prior to receiving annual contributions, and for such other purposes as the Commission may determine. The Commission shall determine the level of the Fund, assess advances necessary for its establishment, and adopt regulations governing the use of the Fund.

10. The Commission shall arrange an annual independent audit of the Commission's accounts. The reports of such audits shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission or by the Council in years when there is no regular Commission meeting.

11. The Commission may accept contributions, other than provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article, for the prosecution of its work.

Article XI

1. The Contracting Parties agree that there should be a working relationship between the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. To this end the Commission shall enter into negotiations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with a view to concluding an agreement pursuant to Article XIII of the Organization's Constitution**. Such agreement should provide, *inter alia*, for the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to appoint a Representative who would participate in all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, but without the right to vote.

** See FAO Agreement.

2. The ~~[Contracting Parties]~~[Members of the Commission] agree that there should be co-operation between the Commission and other international fisheries commissions and scientific organizations which might contribute to the work of the Commission. The Commission may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations.
3. The Commission may invite any appropriate international organization and any Government which is a member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations and which is not a member of the Commission, to send observers to meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Article XII

1. This Convention shall remain in force for ten years and thereafter until a majority of the Contracting Parties agree to terminate it.

2. At any time after ten years from the date of entry into force of this Convention, any Contracting Party may withdraw from the Convention on December thirty-first of any year including the tenth year by written notification of withdrawal given on or before December thirty-first of the preceding year to the ~~[Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]~~[Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

3. Any other Contracting Party may thereupon withdraw from this Convention with effect from the same December thirty-first by giving written notification of withdrawal to the ~~[Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]~~[Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] not later than one month from the date of receipt of information from the ~~[Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]~~[Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] concerning any withdrawal, but not later than April first of that year.

Article XIII

1. Any Contracting Party or the Commission may propose amendments to this Convention. The ~~[Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]~~[Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] shall transmit a certified copy of the text of any proposed amendment to all the Contracting Parties. Any amendment not involving new obligations shall take effect for all Contracting Parties on the thirtieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties. Any amendment involving new obligations shall take effect for each Contracting Party accepting the amendment on the ninetieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon acceptance by it. Any amendment considered by one or more Contracting Parties to involve new obligations shall be deemed to involve new obligations and shall take effect accordingly. A government which becomes a Contracting Party after an amendment to this Convention has been opened for acceptance pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be bound by the Convention as amended when the said amendment comes into force.

2. Proposed amendments shall be deposited with the ~~[Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]~~[Secretary General of the Council of the European Union]. Notifications of acceptance of amendments shall be deposited with the ~~[Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]~~[Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

[Article XIII bis

The [Annex forms][Annexes form] an integral part of this Convention and a reference to this Convention includes a reference to the Annex[es].]

Article XIV***

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Government of any State which is a Member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Any such Government which does not sign this Convention may adhere to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval by signatory countries in accordance with their constitutions. Instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence shall be deposited with the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

3. This Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence by seven Governments and shall enter into force with respect to each Government which subsequently deposits an instrument of ratification, approval, or adherence on the date of such deposit.

4. This Convention shall be open for signature or adherence by any inter-governmental economic integration organization constituted by States that have transferred to it competence over the matters governed by this Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of those matters.

5. Upon the deposit of its instrument of formal confirmation or adherence, any organization referred to in paragraph 4 shall be a Contracting Party having the same rights and obligations in respect of the provisions of the Convention as the other Contracting Parties. Reference in the text of the Convention to the term "State" in Article IX, paragraph [3][4], and to the term "government" in the Preamble and in Article XIII, paragraph 1, shall be interpreted in this manner.

6. When an organization referred to in paragraph 4 becomes a Contracting Party to this Convention, the member states of that organization and those which adhere to it in the future shall cease to be parties to the Convention; they shall transmit a written notification to this effect to the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

Article XV***

[The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] shall inform all Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of Article XIV and all the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article of deposits of instruments of ratification, approval, formal confirmation or adherence, the entry into force of this Convention, proposals for amendment, notifications of acceptance of amendments, entry into force of amendments, and notifications of withdrawal.

Article XVI***

The original of this Convention shall be deposited with the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] who shall send certified copies of it to the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of Article XIV and to the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article.

*** As modified by the Paris Protocol, which entered into force on December 14, 1997.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives duly authorized by their respective Governments have signed the present Convention. Done at Rio de Janeiro this fourteenth day of May 1966 in a single copy in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally authoritative.

[ANNEX 1**DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

1. The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph 4 of Article VIII bis is composed of three arbitrators who are appointed as follows:
 - (a) The [Contracting Party] [Member of the Commission] that commences a proceeding shall communicate the name of an arbitrator to the other party to the dispute that shall, in turn, within a period of forty days following that notification, communicate the name of the second arbitrator. In disputes between more than two [Contracting Parties] [Members of the Commission], parties that have the same interest shall jointly appoint one arbitrator. The parties to the dispute shall, within a period of sixty days following the appointment of the second arbitrator, appoint the third arbitrator, who is not a national of either [Contracting Party] [Member of the Commission] and is not of the same nationality as either of the first two arbitrators. The third arbitrator shall preside over the tribunal;
 - (b) If the second arbitrator is not appointed within the prescribed period, or if the parties are not able to concur within the prescribed period on the appointment of the third arbitrator, that arbitrator is appointed, at the request of one of those parties, by the Chair of the Commission within two months from the date of receipt of the request.
2. The arbitral tribunal shall decide the location of its headquarters and shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
3. The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with this Convention and international law.
4. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is made by a majority of its members, which may not abstain from voting.
5. A [Contracting Party] [Member of the Commission] that is not a party to the dispute may intervene in the proceedings with the consent of the arbitral tribunal.
6. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute. The parties to the dispute shall comply with the decision without delay. The arbitral tribunal shall interpret the decision at the request of one of the parties to the dispute or of any intervening party.
7. Unless the arbitral tribunal determines otherwise because of the particular circumstances of the case, the parties to the dispute shall bear in equal shares the expenses of the tribunal, including the remuneration of its members.]

ANNEX 2¹⁰

FISHING ENTITIES

1. After the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention adopted on <date of adoption>, any fishing entity that attained by 10 July 2013 Cooperating Status in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission, may, by a written instrument delivered to the Depositary, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it.* Such commitment shall become effective 30 days from the date of receipt of the instrument. Any such fishing entity may withdraw such commitment by a written notification addressed to the Depositary. The withdrawal shall become effective 1 year after the date of its receipt, unless the notification specifies a later date.
2. In case of any further amendment made to the Convention pursuant to Article XIII, any fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 may, by a written instrument delivered to the Depositary, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of the amended Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. This commitment of a fishing entity shall be effective from the dates referred to in Article XIII or on the date of receipt of the written communication referred to in this paragraph, whichever is later.
3. A fishing entity which has expressed its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 may participate in the relevant work, including decision making, of the Commission, and shall, mutatis mutandis, enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, IV, VI, VIII, IX, X, and XI of the Convention.
4. If a dispute involves a fishing entity which has expressed its commitment to be bound by the terms of this Convention in accordance with this Annex and cannot be settled by amicable means, the dispute shall, at the request of any party to the dispute, be submitted to final and binding arbitration in accordance with the relevant rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.¹¹
5. The provisions of this Annex relating to the participation of a fishing entity are only for the purposes of this Convention.]

* Any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for purposes of this Annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, IV, VI, VIII, X, XI of the Convention.

¹⁰The proposal for this Annex is linked to the understanding that a Contracting Party will take the full role of depositary from the FAO as reflected in the bracketed proposals in Articles XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI.

¹¹Resolution of the remaining bracketed issues related to dispute settlement in Article VIII bis may require conforming changes to this paragraph.

4.3 REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FOLLOW UP OF THE SECOND ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW (Madrid, Spain, 27-28 June 2017)

1 Opening of the meeting

The ICCAT First Vice-Chair, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, on behalf of the ICCAT Chair, welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review (further: Working Group).

2 Nomination of Rapporteur

Ms. Terra Lederhouse (USA) was nominated as rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the Agenda and Meeting Arrangements

Japan requested a discussion on *Draft guidelines for submission of proposals* under Agenda item “7. Other Matters”. The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3**.

The Executive Secretary introduced the Contracting Parties present at the meeting: Algeria, Belize, Canada, Côte D’Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Honduras, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, the United States, and Uruguay. The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Ecology Action Center (EAC), International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF), and Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), and the Ocean Foundation participated as observers. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**.

4 Identification of issues raised by the Second Independent Performance Review of ICCAT requiring further consideration

and

5 Designation of tasks to the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission based on the issues identified in item 4

The Chair highlighted the value of the performance review process. Following the report of the Performance Review panel in 2016, Resolution 16-20 established an Ad hoc Working Group on the Performance Review Follow up. The Working Group was, in particular, tasked with identifying the issues raised by the panel and recommendations requiring follow up, and proposing next steps by drawing up a work plan. Finally, the Working Group is to report to the ICCAT Commission during the 2017 annual meeting. The review panel pointed out that ICCAT had made significant progress in strengthening its performance since the review in 2008, and issued several recommendations to further improve ICCAT'S performance.

Considering the large number of recommendations by the panel (131 total), the Chair urged the Working Group to avoid detailed discussions on the substance of each recommendation, instead focusing on identifying a process for each recommendation to be appropriately addressed by the relevant ICCAT body. With this in mind, the Chair prepared a document to facilitate the discussions. This document was submitted using the framework provided by the Secretariat.

The proposed approach identifies timeframes for addressing the recommendations, taking into account existing schedules in ICCAT (e.g. the timing of the assessment for various stocks). The Chair stressed that the identified timeframes are not a reflection of the importance of action to be taken by the Commission but rather provide indication on what consideration or action could be taken within various timeframes.

The United States thanked the Chair for his significant effort to facilitate discussion, noting that the proposed approach should help the Working Group address its terms of reference in a very straightforward and efficient way. The United States further noted that the proposed document appeared to take a balanced and factual approach to treating the recommendations. The United States also encouraged the Working Group to identify, at a minimum, those recommendations of greatest importance.

Norway also supported the Chair's proposed approach. The representative suggested noting those recommendations that are simply observations that do not require action while also having some substantive discussion on select recommendations to best identify responsible bodies and next steps.

The European Union expressed support for the Chair's proposed process and reiterated his instructions for the Working Group to focus on assigning timeframes and responsible bodies without getting much into the substance of the recommendations.

CPCs identified a number of additions to the Chair's proposed process, including: identifying a lead body to keep track of progress and discussions when multiple bodies are identified to follow up on a recommendation; ensuring that the Terms of Reference for the identified bodies include such actions identified by the performance review recommendations; clarifying the timeframes; and, for recommendations described as observations, noting ongoing work in the Observations/Comments column but not assigning a timeframe or responsible body.

With the agreed upon process in mind, the Chair introduced a *Template for developing a draft action plan to implement the recommendations from the independent performance review of ICCAT*, a working document listing the panel's recommendations, assigning a responsible ICCAT body or bodies as well as timeframes, and initiating next steps and comments. After review, the Working Group agreed on a new version.

The delegates discussed Recommendation 4, regarding applying the precautionary approach to associated species. Panel 4 and the Commission should take necessary action consistent with the precautionary approach, and the recommendation was amended to reference *relevant* non-target species.

Regarding Recommendation 19, a delegate noted that the Commission should not develop an allocation scheme for yellowfin tuna in 2017.

A CPC highlighted incorrect information in Recommendation 33, noting that southern albacore is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The SCRS Chair confirmed that the review panel made this recommendation before the results of the 2016 southern albacore stock assessment were available. The Chair suggested making note of this particular inaccuracy and not assigning action to any ICCAT body, but to not review each recommendation for accuracy, as that role will be filled by the identified responsible bodies.

The Group also had extended discussion on whether Recommendation 43 on the precautionary approach is an observation or recommendation requiring action. The Ocean Foundation encouraged the Working Group to propose that ICCAT renew and solidify its commitment to science-based management through a formal recommendation. The Working Group concluded that Recommendation 43 is an observation and did not assign a timeframe or a responsible ICCAT body.

On Recommendation 61 regarding compatibility of management measures, the Secretariat noted that many CPCs do take action domestically to be in alignment with ICCAT decisions, but the information is not always communicated to the Secretariat. This information is required to be submitted in the Annual Report. The Chair suggested that the issue of reporting management measure compatibility be raised at the annual meeting, possibly within the Compliance Committee.

The Group also discussed Recommendation 88 to consider putting draft recommendations to a vote. A delegate noted information contained in the review panel's report indicating that voting should be used more often. Another delegate expressed concern that encouraging votes will take up valuable Commission time that would be better spent addressing other important matters.

An observer requested that a medium timeframe be assigned to Recommendation 96 regarding closing formal ICCAT meetings to observers. The Secretariat highlighted ICCAT's reputation for transparency. A delegate supported the Secretariat's intervention and suggested that such groups have only been excluded from informal meetings and not formal meetings. Another delegate reminded the Working Group that it had agreed to not debate the merits of recommendations.

A delegate shared his strong concerns about the significant change in process proposed by Recommendation 118 to outsource stock assessments to an external science provider, and encouraged the Commission to be economical in its time considering this recommendation.

The Chair again reviewed the history of the Second ICCAT Performance Review, and the task assigned to this Working Group to create a structured work plan for considering the recommendations, further noting that it is not the role of this Working Group to address the merits of each recommendation. Instead, the assigned ICCAT bodies will consider each recommendation and identify necessary actions.

Delegates briefly discussed the role of the ICCAT body identified as the "lead" for a recommendation, and concluded that any discrepancy between advice provided by identified ICCAT bodies would be subsumed and reconciled by the lead body. This is noted in the updated instructions for reviewing the performance review template (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**), which was referred to the Commission for further consideration and action at the 2017 annual meeting.

CPCs also briefly discussed how to address recommendations in which CWG or SWGSM are assigned as the lead body, in the event that the body no longer exists. It was agreed that in such event that either a Group no longer exists, actions would be referred to the Commission.

CPCs discussed the overall treatment of recommendations related to FADs. A delegate noted that much of the FAD Working Group's work is tasked by Panel 1 as the body was created by that Panel. It was suggested that the table assign such recommendations to Panel 1 or Panel 4, as appropriate, and reference the FAD Working Group in the next steps or observations. Dr. Die clarified that FAD issues are discussed in both Panel 1 and Panel 4. Delegates agreed to suggest assigning FAD related recommendations to the FAD Working Group with the understanding that this body would be directed by Panel 1, in particular.

The United States suggested that the template could be further improved if the Working Group identified recommendations of greatest importance. The representative noted that two issues of clear priority to the Review Panel included ensuring effective conservation and management of bigeye tuna and continuing to make progress in the development of management strategy evaluation and harvest control rules for priority stocks. The representative noted that the United States shared these priorities as well as those related to addressing data improvement and functioning/operational matters. Other delegations stressed that prioritization is not within the scope of this WG.

6 Preparation of a comprehensive Work Plan for proposal to the Commission

Dr. Die presented his paper, *Proposed Process for the SCRS to Respond to the Recommendations of the Second Performance Review* (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3**). The document indicated an intention by the SCRS to identify which recommendations are already included in the SCRS Science Strategic Plan and which are not as well as progress that has been made to date to implement such recommendations and to assign recommendations to relevant working groups or subcommittees. The delegates welcomed the proposed plan and also requested that the SCRS review resource implications associated with implementing the recommendations.

The Chair noted that recommendations from this Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review, as documented in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**, have no standing within the organization until approved by the Commission. The delegates, therefore, had an extensive discussion on a potential path forward to develop a further work plan to address the Working Group's recommendations.

The Group recommended that the Commission act on the Working Group's recommendations at the annual meeting and to task the various assigned bodies to evaluate the recommendations. The Chair of the Working Group, working with the Secretariat, will develop a common template for each body to report on its progress. In that regard, the reporting structure used by NAFO was recalled as a good approach.

The Working Group also encouraged Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to begin communicating with their respective CPCs regarding the recommendations of the Working Group and include in their agendas for the annual meeting an item concerning the review of and reporting on those issue/recommendations assigned to them. The SCRS in particular was encouraged to begin discussing the recommendations at its meeting in October 2017. ICCAT bodies should evaluate the merits of the respective recommendations and identify how they may best be incorporated into work plans. The Chair of each body should report on its progress to the Commission. In doing so, each body should consider resource implications of the recommendations, ensure coordination with other assigned bodies, offer for the Chairs of relevant associated bodies to participate in discussions, and ensure transparency in reporting on progress. The Chair of the Working Group will propose a simple tool to monitor progress in considering the various recommendations.

7 Other matters

Japan presented the *Draft guidelines for submission of proposals (Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3)*, which proposed guidelines relating to the submitting of proposals to the Commission that would require the use of tracking changes. Japan requested informal feedback from CPCs concerning this proposal.

Overall, the delegates found the proposal to be a helpful initiative that would improve transparency during document review and facilitate full engagement of all participants at ICCAT meetings. However, CPCs also noted the need to manage the resource and logistical challenges that such changes in process will present to the Secretariat. CPCs welcomed the Secretariat's input on how best to meet the goals of improved transparency while minimizing impact to their work noting that the changes proposed could present difficulties with current software and create delays. It was noted that other multilingual international organizations follow similar procedures as outlined in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3**. The ICCAT Secretariat was asked to gather information on how other organizations working in two or more languages deal with this matter and report back to the Commission this fall.

CPCs also provided feedback on specific components of the proposal, stressing the need to show all changes and to ensure that proposals previously considered by the Commission will be considered a new proposal when re-submitted.

8 Adoption of report and adjournment

The Chair informed the participants that a draft report of the meeting would be posted on the meeting ownCloud documents folder and sent to all participants for adoption by correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Meeting Arrangements
4. Identification of issues raised by the Second Independent Performance Review of ICCAT requiring further consideration
5. Designation of tasks to the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission based on the issues identified in item 4
6. Preparation of a comprehensive Work Plan for proposal to the Commission
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of report and adjournment

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TEMPLATE FOR DEVELOPING A DRAFT ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF ICCAT*Proposal by the Chair*

The Working Group to follow up on the Second Performance Review (further: PR) met in Madrid on 27 and 28 June 2017. Following the request by the Commission it worked towards identifying the issues raised by the PR that required further consideration and it attempted to designate the subsidiary body that could best be tasked to take the lead. It also looked at establishing a work plan and a mechanism to monitor progress.

Referral

The attached table contains a summary of the suggestions that are submitted to the Commission. It is important to indicate first that the Working Group did not discuss the recommendations in substance. The referral – by the Working Group – does not imply an endorsement of the recommendations nor an invitation to the Commission or the subsidiary body to proceed with an implementation.

In a number of cases, the Working Group concluded that the recommendation was an observation or an opinion that required no further follow-up. Also in these cases, the "no follow-up" advice was not intended to imply either endorsement or rejection. In a number of cases, the Working Group found that more than one body needed to consider the recommendation. In such cases however, it indicated which body was best suited to take the lead. In certain cases a body was indicated that may not continue to exist in the future. In such cases the Commission itself would take over the task if and when the body would cease to operate. To guide its work, the Group used the summary list of 131 recommendations such as produced by the PR experts. In one instance, however, the Group considered that one recommendation was clearly identified as recommendation in the report but did not feature in the summary list. The Group did consider the recommendation and listed it under number 6 bis. It did so for ease of future reference and to avoid changing any numbering.

Timing and work plan

The Working Group also suggested a time frame for the bodies to consider the recommendations and take action (if deemed necessary).

Obviously each body will need to assess the priorities and the workload. The Chair of the Working Group suggested that each body be invited to introduce a review of the PR recommendations in the agenda of each of its future meetings and to report systematically on the progress of such review.

Regular follow-up

The Chair of the Working Group offered to develop a simple tool permitting to monitor the progress in considering and possibly carrying out the recommendation of the PR. This tool will be submitted before long.

Template Key:**Responsible ICCAT Body**

LEAD = ICCAT body identified to lead oversight of action
 COM = Full Commission
 PA 1 = Panel 1, Tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack)
 PA 2 = Panel 2, Northern temperate tunas (northern albacore and bluefin)
 PA 3 = Panel 3, Southern temperate tunas (southern albacore and bluefin)
 PA 4 = Panel 4, Other species (swordfish, billfishes, sharks, small tunas, other species)
 COC = Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee
 STACFAD = Standing Committee on Finance and Administration
 SCRS = Standing Committee on Research and Statistics
 PWG = Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures
 SWGSM = Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers
 CWG = Working Group on Convention Amendment
 FAD = Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices
 SEC = ICCAT Secretariat
 CPCs = Individual Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties

Timeframe

This represents the timeframe for initiating action on the recommendation.

✓	The recommendation has already been implemented
S	Short term – initiate action in one to two years
S/M	Action will be initiated in a short to medium timeframe
M	Medium term – initiate action in three to five years
M / L	Action will be initiated in a medium to long timeframe
L	Long term – initiate action after five years
NOAC	No action necessary

Long term – initiate action after five years

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments		
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs	
1. Introduction																				
Draft Amended ICCAT Convention	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																			Note: Convention Amendment related Recs: 1, 2, 3, 44, 89, 90, 92, 93.
	1. Urges its CPCs to make all necessary efforts to bring the work of the WG on Convention Amendment to a successful conclusion. This also includes agreement:	CWG	X									X				X	S	Work underway by CWG.		
	1. a) on rules and procedures to ensure the smooth and timely adoption and entry into force of the amendments to the ICCAT Convention, either by adopting the amendments by the Commission or by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties; and	CWG	X									X					S	Issue already part of CWG discussions; would need to be further considered by the CWG and/or Commission once Convention amendments are agreed.		
	1. b) on a (de facto) provisional application of some or all amendments to the ICCAT Convention from the time of their adoption.	CWG	X									X				X		Issue would need to be considered once Convention amendments are agreed.		
	2. Urge its Members, following the conclusion of the work of the WG on Convention Amendment, to make all necessary efforts to ensure that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention enter into force as soon as possible.	COM	X													X		Issue would need to be considered once Convention amendments are agreed.		
ICCAT Basic Texts	3. The Panel recommends that ICCAT make consolidated versions of individual basic ICCAT instruments available on the ICCAT website.	STACFAD	X						X							X	S	Refer this and related recommendations, in particular those concerning revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and observer rules, to STACFAD for consideration and appropriate action, including providing advice to the Commission on the timing for posting of these documents on the ICCAT website.	Mail voting procedures (Rule 9) need particular attention. In addition, several other recommendations from the Performance Review relate to revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and should be considered as a package by STACFAD.	

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs	
2. Conservation and Management																				
Trends in the Status of Non-Target Species	4. The Panel recommends that the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertainty and that their status is often poorly known.	PA4					X			X								M	While led by Panel 4, refer to SCRS to provide advice to assist in applying a precautionary approach to relevant non-target species.	This refers to relevant associated species as defined in the Review.
Data Collection and Sharing	5. The Panel recommends that the possible non-reporting of incidental catches by vessels not on CPCs authorised list should be investigated by the Compliance Committee.	COC						X										M	Refer to the COC for appropriate action.	PR Panel believes that this is unlikely to be a major problem (pg 10).
	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC		X	X	X	X	X			X							M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS		X	X	X	X	X			X	X						M		
	7. The Panel considers that major progress in data availability is necessary and recommends that substantial improvements in data quality and data completeness can only be achieved by simplifying and automating the process of collecting data in a systematic and integrated way. This may not be possible for artisanal fleets, but should be possible for most of the fleets in developed CPCs.	SCRS									X					X	X	S	Secretariat and SCRS should collaborate to identify the existing shortcomings in data collection and reporting processes, procedures, and mechanisms at the Commission level as well as possible improvements.	Improvements should also be considered by CPCs in their domestic data collection programs, where appropriate.
Adoption of Conservation and Management Measures																				
	8. The Panel confirms that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	SCRS is conducting a new stock assessment in 2017.

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments		
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs	
Eastern Bluefin	9. The Panel recommends that Panel 2 takes advantage of this favourable context to resolve outstanding quota allocation issues among CPCs.	PA2			X													S	Refer to Panel 2 for consideration when discussing revisions to Rec. 14-04.	Some provisions of Rec. 14-04 expire in 2017.
Western Bluefin	10. The Panel confirms that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	This observation is true for the low recruitment scenario only. A new stock assessment is being conducted in 2017.
	11. The Panel considers that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is not consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY as the probability of rebuilding in more than 10 years is less than 50%.	NOAC																	NOAC	Next stock assessment planned for 2018.
	12. The Panel recommends that bigeye, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.	SWGSM		X							X		X		X			S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1
	13. The Panel recommends that, in view of the current poor status of the stock, the sustainable management of the tropical tunas should be a key immediate management priority for ICCAT. The same commitment devoted to eastern bluefin by ICCAT, should now be addressed to the tropical tuna stocks.	PA1		X														S	Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.	Paragraph 6 of recs 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs		
Bigeye	14. The Panel notes that the lowered TAC has only a 49% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2028 and recommends that the TAC be decreased further to increase the probability of rebuilding in a shorter period.	PA1		X														S	Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15- 01 (as revised by Rec. 16- 01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.	Paragraph 6 of Recs. 15- 01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.	
	15. The Panel, noting that ICCAT has established a working group on FADs, recommends that ICCAT prioritise this work and, in parallel, pursue the initiative across all tuna RFMOs to pool the information, knowledge and approaches on how to introduce effective management of FADs into the tropical tuna fisheries on a worldwide scale.	PA1		X							X								S	Work on matters related to FADs is already underway, in particular within the context of the FAD WG. This should continue and Panel 1 should consider this work when discussing conservation and management measures for tropical tuna fisheries.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1
	16. The Panel notes that, according to the SCRS, the area and time closure has not worked and therefore its impact on reducing juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin, is negligible. The Panel recommends that this policy needs to be re- examined and this can, in part, be done through initiatives on limiting the number and use of FADs.	PA1		X											X				S	Refer to Panel 1 for consideration when reviewing conservation and management measures for the tropical tunas fishery.	Additional information on this matter is expected from SCRS and FAD Working Group which has already started work on this issue.
Yellowfin	17. The Panel considers that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY because fishing mortality is less than FMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	Next stock assessment planned for 2021.	
	18. The Panel recommends that yellowfin, which is fished in association with juvenile bigeye and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.	SWGSM		X							X		X		X				S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs				
	19. The Panel recommends that a quota allocation scheme be adopted by ICCAT to manage the fishery, as is already the case for bigeye.	PA1		X														S/M	Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 as revised by Rec. 16-01 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review YFT management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.	Paragraph 11 of Recs. 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.
Skipjack	20. The Panel considers that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	Next stock assessment planned for 2019.
	21. The Panel recommends that skipjack, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.	SWGSM		X						X		X		X				S/M	Refer matter to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1
	22. The Panel recommends that vessels which fish bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in the Convention area should be covered by Rec. 15-01. For reasons that are not clear to the Panel, skipjack fisheries in the West Atlantic seem to be outside the remit of Rec. 15-01.	PA1		X															M	Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01). The Panel should further review SKJ management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from next assessment.

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs				
North Atlantic Swordfish	23. The Panel confirms that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	SCRS is conducting a new stock assessment for NSWO in 2017.
	24. The Panel recommends that ICCAT vessel list be introduced for North Atlantic swordfish in line with other key ICCAT fisheries.	Complete																	✓	Action has been completed.
South Atlantic Swordfish	25. The Panel confirms that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	SCRS is conducting a new stock assessment for SSWO in 2017.
	26. The Panel recommends that an ICCAT vessel list be introduced for South Atlantic swordfish in line with other key ICCAT fisheries.	Complete																✓	Action has been completed.	Included in Rec. 16-04.
	27. The Panel notes the high underage permitted to be transferred from year to year of 30%, and indeed 50% from 2013. The Panel finds this inconsistent with sound management given the high uncertainty in the assessment, and the more modest underage/ overage allowed for other ICCAT stocks (10 or 15%).	PA4					X			X								S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration during 2017 discussion of conservation and management measures, but may need input from SCRS in medium term.	Rec. 16-04 expires in 2017.
Mediterranean Swordfish	28. The Panel expresses concern at the continuing unsatisfactory status of this stock. The stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. It is unclear whether the current management is in line with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																	NOAC	Next stock assessment planned for 2019.
	29. The Panel recommends that catch limits and/or capacity limits are introduced for this fishery.	PA4					X											M	Refer to Panel 4 where work is already ongoing.	This was addressed during the 2016 Annual meeting through the adoption of Rec. 16-05 (Recovery plan).

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs					
	30. The Panel encourages ICCAT to intensify its efforts to improve the scientific and fisheries database for this stock and endorses the SCRS recommendation that the fishery be closely monitored and that every component of the Mediterranean swordfish mortality be adequately reported to ICCAT by the CPCs.	PA4					X				X							X	M	Refer to Panel 4 to consider shortcomings in data collection and reporting and ways to address them.	COC, SCRS, the Secretariat, and/or CPCs may also have roles to play in implementing this Recommendation. SCRS will carry out an assessment in 2019.
Northern Albacore	31. The Panel confirms that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																		NOAC	Next stock assessment planned for 2020.
	32. The Panel commends ICCAT for the approach that it has adopted on this stock through the fixing of the management objective and the commitment to deciding on the harvest control rules.	NOAC																			NOAC. Note is taken on the commitment to continue this work.
Southern Albacore	33. The Panel confirms that the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is not quite consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining stocks at BMSY.	NOAC																		Not referred to Panel because original statement was based on a previous assessment.	SCRS has since assessed this stock and results are different. Next stock assessment planned for 2020.

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs				
	42. The Panel supports the view that shark fins should be naturally attached on landings. The shark finning practice applied to stocks already depleted or severely reduced, is but another factor negatively impacting on the shark stocks.	PA4					X											S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration and appropriate action.	The origin of this view is not clear from this statement.
Precautionary Approach	43. The Panel considers that on the basis of the stock by stock analysis contained in section 2, ICCAT has not applied in a consistent manner the precautionary approach. ICCAT has based its management on the best available scientific advice, when assessments were considered reliable, but has generally not applied the precautionary approach where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate.	NOAC																	NOAC	
	44. The Panel recommends (a) that the content of Res. 15-12 be transformed into an ICCAT recommendation and (b) that the new Convention contains an explicit commitment to apply the precautionary approach.	COM	X																S/M	(a) Refer to the Commission for consideration and appropriate action.
	45. The Panel considers the adoption of Rec. 15-07 on harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation, and Rec. 15-04 on establishing harvest control rules for northern albacore, to be an important first step in agreeing long term strategies.	NOAC																	Work underway in SWGSM; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.	Rec. 15-04 was replaced by 16-06.
	46. The Panel considers that ICCAT, with its vast experience in tuna fisheries management, is ideally placed to be the pioneer in the rapid introduction of long term management strategies to ensure the sustainability of individual stocks and consistency of management approach across the range of stocks.	NOAC																	Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.	

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs					
Rebuilding Plans	47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.	SWGSM		X	X	X	X				X		X					S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.		
	48. The Panel recommends that ICCAT should prioritise the development of a long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.	SWGSM								X		X						S/M	Refer to SWGSM and Panel 1 where work is already underway.		
	49. The Panel recommends that ICCAT agree a work plan across all the stocks for the SCRS and Commission, as has been agreed by WCPFC. Apart from the obvious advantage of ensuring consistency of approach across the stocks, it would also engage all the CPCs simultaneously in this key process.	SCRS	X								X		X						S	Refer to SCRS to consider development of a workplan across all stocks.	The road map adopted by the Commission in 2016 provides the foundation for this work.
	50. The Panel considers that ICCAT, by Rec 13-11, has put in place strict measures, which if effectively applied by CPC vessels, will lead to a reduction in turtle by-catch.	NOAC																	NOAC		
	51. The Panel endorses the SCRS advice that the Commission consider the adoption of measures such as, the mandatory use of non- offset circle hooks.	PA4					X												S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration.	Not clear that this is a recommendation from the SCRS.
	52. The Panel considers that this issue affects all tuna RFMOs, and knowledge and experience should continue to be pooled between the RFMOs.	SCRS									X								S/M	Refer to SCRS to engage as appropriate with other tRFMOs and gather and evaluate relevant information.	Should be considered within Kobe process.

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs				
Sea turtles	53. The Panel noted that there are no reliable estimates of the mortality caused by longlines on these species and recommends that a time-limited program be designed to estimate seabird and turtle mortality in ICCAT longline fisheries. This programme should be of at least one year duration and involve increased observer coverage deemed sufficient to estimate turtle and seabird mortality by all major fleets. Such increased observer coverage would also provide information on the impact of ICCAT fisheries on other components of the ecosystem.	SCRS									X							M	Refer to SCRS to assess the rationale for this recommendation and if necessary and appropriate, to consider development of a program of data collection for the fisheries concerned.	Some work in this area is already ongoing within SCRS.
Seabirds	54. The Panel commends ICCAT on the measures it has introduced to date and recommends that it pursues its stated goal of further reducing bird mortality through the refinement of existing mitigation measures.	PA4					X				X							S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration based on input from SCRS, as needed.	
	55. The Panel considers that this issue affects all tuna RFMOs, and knowledge and experience should continue to be pooled between the RFMOs.	SCRS									X							S	Refer to SCRS to engage as appropriate with other tRFMOs and gather and evaluate relevant information.	Should be considered within Kobe process.
	56. The Panel reiterates its recommendation on a time-limited programme to estimate seabird and turtle mortality in ICCAT longline fisheries.	SCRS									X							M	See recommendation 53 above for proposed action.	
Pollution, Waste and Discarded Gears	57. The Panel notes the measures adopted by ICCAT to date and recommends that ICCAT expands the range of its measures addressing these policy matters. In this regard, the Panel would refer to CCAMLR CM 26-01 on general environmental protection during fishing.	COM	X				X			X				X				M	Refer to the Commission for consideration. FAD WG also addressing this issue, and should be guided by Panel 4. Work also being carried out through Kobe process.	
	58. Considering the important role played by the sport and recreational fisheries in a number of key fisheries, notably billfishes, the Panel recommends that:	NOAC																	NOAC	

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs					
Previously Unregulated Fisheries	a) the Working Group is re-activated to complete its mandate; and	COM	X															S	Refer to the Commission for consideration	Lack of the submission of relevant information on recreational fisheries by many CPCs has limited the utility of this Working Group.	
	b) mechanisms are developed by ICCAT to engage this sector in the deliberations of ICCAT on management and control measures for these fisheries.	COM	X														X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration	CPC's have an important role in engaging their stakeholders on ICCAT matters.	
Capacity Management	59. The Panel considers that ICCAT under its mandate has judiciously applied the limitation of capacity approach to the fisheries. ICCAT has introduced capacity limitations to three key fisheries, namely, eastern bluefin tuna, bigeye and northern albacore.	NOAC																	NOAC		
	60. The Panel understands that ICCAT has demonstrated a preference for managing fisheries on the basis of TAC and quotas, but that for certain stocks it has incorporated capacity measures to complement the catch restrictions. The Panel considers this approach to have been effective.	NOAC																		NOAC	
Compatibility of Management Measures	61. The Panel considers that ICCAT does not need to take any action on the compatibility issue. The Convention is quite clear that the "Convention Area" includes all waters of the Atlantic and adjacent seas. The Panel thus considers that conservation and other measures adopted by ICCAT apply without distinction to both the exclusive economic zones of CPCs and the high seas	NOAC																	NOAC	NOAC	This information should be included in Annual Reports, no additional follow up required.
	62. The Panel considers that it is a major strength of ICCAT, compared to other tuna RFMOs, that the ICCAT mandate is framed in that manner. It ensures that a uniform and consistent implementation of the ICCAT measures is applied throughout the Atlantic and adjacent seas, and crucially, that the management of fisheries on the stocks is consistent throughout their migratory range.	NOAC																		NOAC	

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs	
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	X	X	X	X											S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	
	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	X	X	X	X	X											S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	
	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	X	X	X	X	X											S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	
3. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)																				
Port State Measures	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																			
	66. Encourages its CPCs to become Contracting Parties to the PSM Agreement.	COM	X														X	S		
	67. Amends Rec 12-07 to ensure more consistency with the PSM Agreement, in particular by including definitions and requiring CPCs to impose key port State measures such as denial or use of port in certain scenarios.	PWG										X							S	Refer to PWG for consideration and appropriate action.
	68. Closely follows IOTC's efforts to enhance effective implementation of its port State measures through, inter alia, its e-PSM system, and, where appropriate, adopt similar efforts within ICCAT.	PWG									X							S/M	Refer to Online Reporting Working Group for analysis.	

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs				
	69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.	COC						X			X							S	Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.	
Integrated MCS Measures	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																			
	70. Gives priority to adopting a modern HSBI scheme - through a Recommendation and not a Resolution - that extends to all key ICCAT fisheries as such, but can be applied in practice to selected fisheries according to the COC's compliance priorities.	PWG									X							M	Refer to the PWG as work on this matter is ongoing.	
	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG		X	X	X	X				X							M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.
	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG		X	X	X	X				X							S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	
73. Works towards replacing all SDPs with electronic CDPs that are harmonized among tuna RFMOs where appropriate - in particular for bigeye tuna - while taking account of the envisaged FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.	PWG									X								M	Refer to PWG for further analysis.	PWG has discussed this issue periodically in recent years.

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			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs		
	74. Considers, in the interest of transparency, incorporating all measures relating to distinct MCS measures - in particular transhipment and on-board observers - in one single ICCAT Recommendation, so that CPCs have only one reference document to consult.	PWG									X							M	Refer to PWG for assessment of the pros and cons of this approach.		
	75. Assesses whether, in relation to transhipment, the differences in minimum vessel-lengths in Recs 12-06 and 13-13 have created a potential loophole.	Complete																✓	Action has been completed.	Addressed in Rec. 16-15.	
4. Compliance and Enforcement																					
Flag State Duties	76. The Panel considers that the Flag State duties recognized in international fisheries law are adequately reflected in current ICCAT recommendations.	NOAC																	NOAC		
	77. The Panel has no view as to whether such responsibilities are being executed correctly, as it does not have information at its disposal in ICCAT to form a judgement.	NOAC																		NOAC	
Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance	78. The Panel recommends that the COC should identify key compliance priorities across the range of different fisheries, and programme its work accordingly. Identification of non-respect of reporting requirements or incomplete reporting by CPCs should be entrusted to the ICCAT secretariat and its report submitted to COC in advance of the Annual meeting.	COC						X									X		S	COC should consider this matter in light of the terms of recently adopted Rec. 16-22.	
	79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.	PWG						X			X							X		M	Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments		
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs	
	80. The Panel recommends that ICCAT lists be established for the northern and southern swordfish fisheries. As mentioned previously, CPCs are obliged in accordance with Rec 03-12 to maintain an up-to-date record of fishing vessels authorised to fish species under the purview of ICCAT, so the establishment of an ICCAT list is no additional burden for the CPCs involved.	Complete																✓	Action has been completed	Included in Rec. 16-03 and 16-04.
Follow-Up on Infringements	81. The Panel considers the key task of the COC should be to make a qualitative assessment as to the degree to which the measures in the individual fisheries contained in the ICCAT recommendations, are being respected by the vessels of the Parties.	COC						X									X	S/M	Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.	Implementation of Rec. 16-22 should assist with this work. Clear and timely reporting by all CPCs on the implementation of ICCAT requirements is also essential.
	82. In the view of the Panel, the COC will be unable to exercise such a function until it obtains information from independent sources, such as, a joint inspection scheme and effective regional observer programmes. It suffices to contrast the information available to the COC on the eastern bluefin tuna fisheries, as a result of observer reports and inspection reports, with the paucity of information on other fisheries.	NOAC																		NOAC
Market-Related Measures	83. The Panel concurs with the 2008 Panel's observation, that the imposition or the threat of imposition of market or trade measures is probably the single most persuasive measure that will ensure compliance with ICCAT measures.	NOAC																	NOAC	
	84. The Panel, noting Rec. 12-09, commends ICCAT for its initiatives in this area and recommends that catch documents, preferably electronic, be introduced for bigeye and swordfish species.	PWG									X								M	See Recommendation 73 above for proposed action.

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments					
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs				
Reporting Requirements	85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, through its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.	PWG		X	X	X	X					X							M	Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.	Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate.		
	86. The Panel recommends that before the adoption of each new recommendation, there should be an assessment as to the likely impact on the Secretariat's workload that its implementation implies.	STACFAD							X										X		S	Refer to STACFAD to develop options for implementing this recommendation.	
	87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.	COM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X									S	Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments			
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs		
5. Governance																					
Decision-Making	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																				
	88. Chairs of the Commission, Panels, COC and PWG should be prepared, once there has been sufficient discussion, to put draft Recommendations to a vote.	COM	X															S	Refer to the Commission for consideration		
	89. Revises the opt-out procedures included in Res 12-11 and the most recent text of the Amended ICCAT Convention to bring them more in line with modern opt-out procedures used by RFMOs that have been recently established or that have recently amended their constitutive instruments.	STACFAD							X										M - re/ Res 12-11; NOAC - re/ Convention amendment opt out provisions	Refer recommendation to revise Res. 12-11 to STACFAD for consideration.	The opt-out procedures developed by the CWG was a topic of intense negotiation.
	90. Ensures that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention relating to decision-making and opt-out procedures are provisionally applied from the moment of their formal adoption.	CWG	X										X					X	M	See Recommendation 1 (b) for proposed action	
	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	X	X	X	X	X	X											S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.
92. Reviews its Rules of Procedure, among other things to integrate its 2011 Deadlines and Guidelines for the Submission of Draft Proposals, Rec. 03-20 and Res. 94-06.	STACFAD							X										S	See recommendation 3 above for proposed action.		

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body														Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments		
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs					
Dispute Settlement	93. The Panel recommends that ICCAT urges its CPCs to reach agreement on the inclusion of compulsory dispute settlement procedures entailing binding decisions in the Amended ICCAT Convention, which also devote attention to provisional arrangements of a practical nature pending the establishment of a dispute [settlement procedure].	CWG												X					S	Refer dispute settlement recommendation to CWG to consider in ongoing discussion of this issue.	
Transparency	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																				
	94. Considers codifying its practices on participation by NGOs - which are consistent with international minimum standards and comparable to those of other tuna RFMOs - by amending the ICCAT Observer Guidelines and Criteria or the ICCAT Rules of Procedure.	STACFAD							X										M	See recommendation 3 above for proposed action.	
	95. Considers requiring Contracting Parties that object to an application by an NGO for Observer Status with ICCAT to provide their reasons in writing.	STACFAD							X										S	See recommendation 3 above for proposed action.	
	96. Considers that closing formal ICCAT meetings to observers requires an explicit and reasoned decision supported by a simple majority of Contracting Parties.	STACFAD							X										S/M	See recommendation 3 above for proposed action.	
Confidentiality	The Panel commends ICCAT for the significant improvements in transparency and confidentiality since 2008 and recommends that ICCAT:	NOAC																	NOAC		
	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM	X								X	X								M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments				
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs			
	98. Conducts a review of its Rules and Procedures on Data Confidentiality as envisaged in its paragraph 33, taking into account the need for harmonization among tuna RFMOs consistent with Rec KIII-1. As part of this review, it should adopt an ICCAT's Information Security Policy (ISP), where appropriate.	PWG									X	X							M	Refer the issue to the PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		
Relationship to Cooperating Non-Members	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																					
	99. Reviews Rec. 03-20 in order, inter alia, to clarify the rights of States and Entities with Cooperating Status; integrate elements of Res. 94-06; replace the PWG with the COC; and include a requirement to apply for renewal of Cooperating Status.	COC							X											M	Refer to COC to review the issue of cooperating status and determine if additional clarity on this matter is needed.	The roles and responsibilities of the COC and PWG were clarified a few years ago and there is no longer any overlap in their mandates. Both bodies have heavy workloads during the Annual meeting.
	100. Considers formalising the procedure for inviting non-CPCs.	COM	X																	M	Refer to COC for consideration.	
Relationship to Non-Cooperating Non-Members	The Panel recommends that ICCAT																					
	101. Continues to monitor fishing activities by non-cooperating non-members through cooperation between the ICCAT Secretariat and CPCs, and between CPCs.	COC							X								X	X		S	Secretariat, CPCs and the COC should continue to monitor fishing activities by non-members and bring them to the attention of the Commission.	
	102. Considers taking appropriate sanctions against non-cooperating non-members that continue to ignore ICCAT's requests for information and cooperation. This is particularly relevant in relation to overfished stocks, such as marlins.	COC							X											S	Refer to COC to recommend appropriate action.	COC has a key role in monitoring the fishing activities of non-CPCs and recommending ways to improve cooperation, including through application of Rec. 06-13 (Trade measures Recommendation).

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body														Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments		
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs					
	109. Develops an overarching strategy for capacity building and assistance programs, which integrates the various existing capacity building initiatives.	STACFAD							X									S/M	Refer to STACFAD to undertake a review of its capacity building and assistance work and advise on		
	110. As regards capacity building for port State measures	NOAC																	NOAC		
	a) Urges developing CPCs to make the necessary efforts to assist the ICCAT Secretariat in identifying their capacity building needs;	PWG									X						X	S	Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).		
	b) Closely coordinates the operation of Rec 14-08 with existing and future capacity building initiatives undertaken by other intergovernmental bodies.	PWG									X						X	S/M	Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-		
6. Science																					
Best Scientific Advice	111. The Panel notes that aerial survey estimates in the spawning areas could be very useful in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and recommends that efforts be made to derive a usable index and that data continue to be collected.	SCRS									X						X	S	Refer to SCRS for appropriate action.	SCRS continues to emphasize the need for developing fishery independent indices of abundance like this aerial survey.	
	112. The Panel re-iterates the recommendation of the 2008 Panel that a better balance of scientists with knowledge of the fishery and modelling expertise be sent to the assessment meetings of the SCRS.	SCRS										X						X	S/M	Refer to SCRS to advise CPCs/Commission on key participants needed at science meetings and any other relevant matters. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.	
	113. The Panel recommends that Management Strategy Evaluation should be used on a few stocks to estimate the costs and benefits of collecting more detailed information.	SCRS										X		X					S/M	Refer to SCRS to consider this issue specifically when conducting MSEs and advise SWGSM on the findings.	
	114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS	SWGSM		X	X	X	X							X					S	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments		
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs	
Presentation Scientific Advice	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM		X	X	X	X				X		X					S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.	
	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	X	X	X	X												S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.
Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat	117. The Panel recommends that clear guidelines / processes on how the scientific resources of the Secretariat should be allocated to species should be agreed.	COM	X							X						X		S	Commission to consider appropriate action, including referring to SCRS for input on this matter.	
	118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulate the advice based on the stock assessments.	COM	X						X	X								M/L	For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	
Capacity Building Initiatives	119. The Panel recommends that specific mentoring projects to include trainees in stock assessment teams be implemented.	SCRS							X	X								M/L	Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits of this idea and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.	SCRS has conducted some training on stock assessment techniques in the past.

<p>120. The Panel recommends that ICCAT develop specific mechanisms to ensure that more scientists with knowledge of the fisheries participate in stock assessment meetings and are directly involved in assessment teams.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>							<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>								<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise CPCs/Commission on key participants needed at science meetings and any other relevant matters. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.</p>	<p>Related to recommendation 112</p>
<p>121. The Panel also recommends that formal training in stock assessment be provided, possibly in cooperation with other organizations.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>							<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>									<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess the financial implications.</p>	

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body														Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments			
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC	CPCs						
SCRS Long-Term Strategy	122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.	COM	X							X							X		S	Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be funded through the regular budget.		
Implementation Res 11-17	123. The Panel recommends that model runs that are the basis of the SCRS advice should be available on the ICCAT website and easy to find. This should include the most recent model runs, but as assessments are updated, older runs should also be available.	SCRS									X						X		S	Refer to SCRS for action	This work is already underway in 2017.	
	124. The Panel recommends that ICCAT cooperates with other stock assessments organizations to develop an integrated stock assessment framework where all current models could be run and new models could be integrated, while being transparent on what data and parameters have been used under what assumptions.	SCRS									X							X		S	Refer to SCRS to consider and advise on this matter. The Secretariat should assist with this work as needed.	
	125. The Panel recommends that ICCAT considers adopting a system with scientists from external organisations, universities or otherwise are contracted to review SCRS assessments.	SCRS								X	X									S	Refer to SCRS to review and update the current TORs for these reviewers	A mechanism already exists for external reviewers to participate in SCRS stock assessments.
Total Quality Management Process	126. The Panel recommends that ICCAT provides training in efficient chairing meetings to current Chairs and to new ones when they assume their duties	STACFAD							X								X		S	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options for acquiring such training and on financial aspects; the Secretariat should assist STACFAD in considering this matter as needed.		

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments	
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs
8. Financial and Administrative Issues																			
	127. The Panel recommends that a Working Capital Fund equivalent to 70% of the Annual Budget is prudent. This fund needs to be kept at that level in the interest of sound financial management. It should also be borne in mind that there are no guarantees that the costs of Annual meetings and scientific programmes etc., will continue to be financed by extra budgetary funds.	STACFAD							X								S	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on.	
	128. The Panel, taking account of the clear progress made by ICCAT in reducing outstanding debts on annual contributions by CPCs, recommends that ICCAT consider erasing CPCs debts for annual contributions outstanding for more than two years i.e. debts before 2015. This measure would alleviate the debt burden for certain Developing States. However, in parallel, ICCAT should amend its financial procedures and introduce an automatic sanction whereby, if the previous two years' contributions have not been paid in full by the following Annual meeting, then the right to vote and be a quota holder is withdrawn for that CPC, until those debts are acquitted in full.	STACFAD							X								M	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on.	
	129. The Panel also recommends that ICCAT consider cost recovery to finance key parts of their activities and thereby reduce the CPCs budgetary contributions and/or expand ICCAT's activities (e.g. the High Seas Inspection Scheme). This cost recovery approach is based on the principle that the vessels of CPCs, which benefit from access to profitable fisheries, should share the financial burden for the science and monitoring programmes, which are crucial for the sustainability of those resources. An annual fee could be envisaged which would be paid per vessel of a certain size to ICCAT, via if necessary, the Flag CPC.	STACFAD							X								M/L	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on	

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Responsible ICCAT Body													Timeframe	Proposed next steps	Observations/ Comments			
			COM	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	COC	STACFAD	SCRS	PWG	SWGSM	CWG	FAD WG	SEC				CPCs		
	130. The Panel recommends, in line with good management practice, that ICCAT reviews every five years, through an independent human resources consultancy company, the staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat and, if necessary, adjust it to accurately reflect current and programmed workloads. In that review, the company should also review the staff assessment process.	STACFAD							X								X		S	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on financial and other considerations. Contracting process would be undertaken by the Secretariat	
	131. The Panel recommends that STACFAD be responsible for the terms of reference and the follow-up to the report of the consultancy.	STACFAD							X										M	Refer to STACFAD for input on options for tracking progress on the follow up to the consultants report.	

**PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE SCRS TO RESPOND TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE SECOND ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

David J. Die

Summary

This document contains a proposal by the Chair of the SCRS for the process to be followed by the SCRS in order to deal with the recommendations from the Second Performance Review. The document has not been reviewed by the SCRS and will be discussed at its upcoming meeting in October 2017.

The SCRS did not have the report of the performance review available for its consideration in November 2016.

At the 2017 plenary the SCRS will consider the Second Performance Review report and develop an initial response to it for the benefit of the Commission by:

- Reviewing the list of recommendations in light of the review of progress towards the Science Strategic Plan.²
 - Define which actions are already part of the Science Strategic Plan and are addressing the recommendations of the Second Performance Review.
 - Determine whether progress on those actions is satisfactory and according to the Science Strategic plan.
 - If progress is not satisfactory recommend a modification to the SCRS Working Groups (WGs) and Sub-committees (SCs) work plans for 2018-2020.
 - Define which recommendations do not have an associated goal or actions in the Science Strategic Plan.
- Identifying which WG or SC of the SCRS has a responsibility on any SCRS relevant recommendation not addressed by the Science Strategic Plan.
 - Ask the WGs or SCs of the SCRS to develop a response to each recommendation.
 - Determine whether some of these actions are relevant to be taken up in the next Science Plan for 2021-2025.

During the SCRS plenary meeting of 2020:

- Present a report on the accomplishments of the Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 which includes reference to the recommendations contained in the ICCAT Second Performance Review.
- Present the new Science Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 including references to the recommendations contained in the ICCAT Second Performance Review.

² The SCRS is conducting a review of progress towards reaching the goals of the Science Strategic Plan because 2017 is the half way point of the 6 year plan.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Submitted by Japan [Comments by other CPCs incorporated]

Rational for the submission

1. During the past meetings, several CPCs acknowledged problems regarding submission of proposals.

Examples are:

- (1) It is not always clear whether the presented proposal is a totally new proposal or a proposal to amend existing documents (e.g. recommendation).
 - (2) When a proposal for amendment is first submitted or is further amended during the meeting, some CPCs use track changes while other CPCs do not (i.e. all the proposed amendments have been already incorporated). In the latter case, it is very difficult for CPCs to identify where the proposal was modified and, therefore, what is being proposed as amendments from previous versions.
 - (3) During the meeting, a proposal is frequently amended based on some informal discussions. In some cases when the new version of the proposal is circulated to all CPCs it has already incorporated previously proposed amendments (shown in the previous versions) and indicates only additional proposed amendments based on the informal discussion. In these cases, participants who were not involved in the informal discussions have difficulties in tracking all the proposed amendments in comparison to the original recommendation, or other type of document.
 - (4) A new version is produced whenever a new co-sponsor is added even when there is no amendment in the text. This should be avoided in order to save considerable amounts of paper and cut resource consumption.
2. Japan would like to offer draft guidelines for this purpose as attached for consideration at the 2017 Annual meeting. The guidelines may be adopted as a part of the Rules of Procedure.

Draft Guidelines for Submission of Proposals

1 Title of the proposal

- a) When a CPC submits a proposal that is not based on existing Recommendations, or any other type of document, it should indicate “(a new proposal)” at the end of the title.

e.g. Draft Recommendation on Deployment of Robot Observers on board Fishing Vessels (a new proposal)

- b) When a CPC submits a proposal to amend an existing Recommendation, or any other type of document, it should indicate in the title which existing document it proposes to amend, and “(amendment)” at the end of the title.

e.g. Draft Recommendation to amend Rec. 17-01 on Deployment of Robot Observers on board Fishing Vessels (amendment)

- c) A proposal that was presented at a previous meeting but not adopted is regarded as either a new proposal or amendment.

2 Use of track changes

- a) General Rule: When a CPC submits a proposal amending an existing Recommendation, or any other type of document, the CPC should use track changes to distinguish additions and deletions to the text of the original document. Proposed new text should be underlined and proposed deletions should be struck through. Empty square brackets (i.e., []) or square brackets containing only dots (i.e., [...]) should not be used to indicate deleted text. Square brackets should only be used to indicate pending issues, such as alternative drafting options that have not yet been agreed or as a placeholder for text to be added later.

e.g. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been catching ~~actively fishing for~~ swordfish in the North Atlantic should take [the following measures] [effective measure to limit catch, as follows]:.

- b) In addition, the following practices should be followed for the situations set forth below:

- (i) Situation 1: A new or amended proposal (as defined in Section 1 above), has been circulated and discussed on the floor of the meeting. Based on those discussions, the CPC revises the proposal and submits it for circulation. In this case, the revised document should only indicate the proposed changes from the version discussed on the floor, with all changes in the previous version having been accepted and reflected. For any proposed revisions to the previously discussed version that the submitting CPC(s) would still like to indicate are unresolved, the track changes should be accepted, but the text should be placed within square brackets.

e.g. The CPC submitted PA2-604 to amend Rec. 14-04 before the meeting, and PA2-604 was discussed on the floor. The CPC revises PA2-604 based on Panel 2 discussions and resubmits it as PA2-604A. In this case, when recirculated, PA2-604A should incorporate all the proposed amendments contained in PA2-604 (including introducing square brackets around any unresolved amendments from that version) and only reflect in track changes proposed revisions to PA2-604.

- (ii) Situation 2: A new version of a proposal is submitted after circulation of the previous version to the Parties but *before* discussion of the previous version has taken place on the floor. Generally speaking in these cases, the new changes should be added to any earlier track changes so that all proposed revisions are evident in one document. [An exception, however, could be made if showing every change in this way would complicate rather than ease review. To improve transparency, later revisions may be distinguished from earlier changes through the use of a highlight or other distinct formatting. The practices specified in this paragraph should be applied even when new revisions to a circulated proposal result from informal discussions held on the margins of the meeting.[P]].

e.g. The CPC submits PA2-604 to amend Rec. 14-04 before the meeting, and it is circulated to the Parties. Before discussion by Panel 2, the CPC revises PA2-604 based on informal discussions and submits PA2-604A, which is circulated. In this case, PA2-604A should show cumulative amendments proposed for Rec. 14-04 in track changes. [If, before discussion by Panel 2, the CPC revises PA2-604A further based on additional informal discussions and submits PA2-604B, this version of the document should also indicate in track changes the cumulative amendments proposed for Rec. 14-04. To ease review, the changes between versions could also be highlighted, such as in grey like this. (Note: Once Panel 2 discusses PA2-604B, any additional revisions would follow the procedures outlined in Situation 1 above.)[P]].

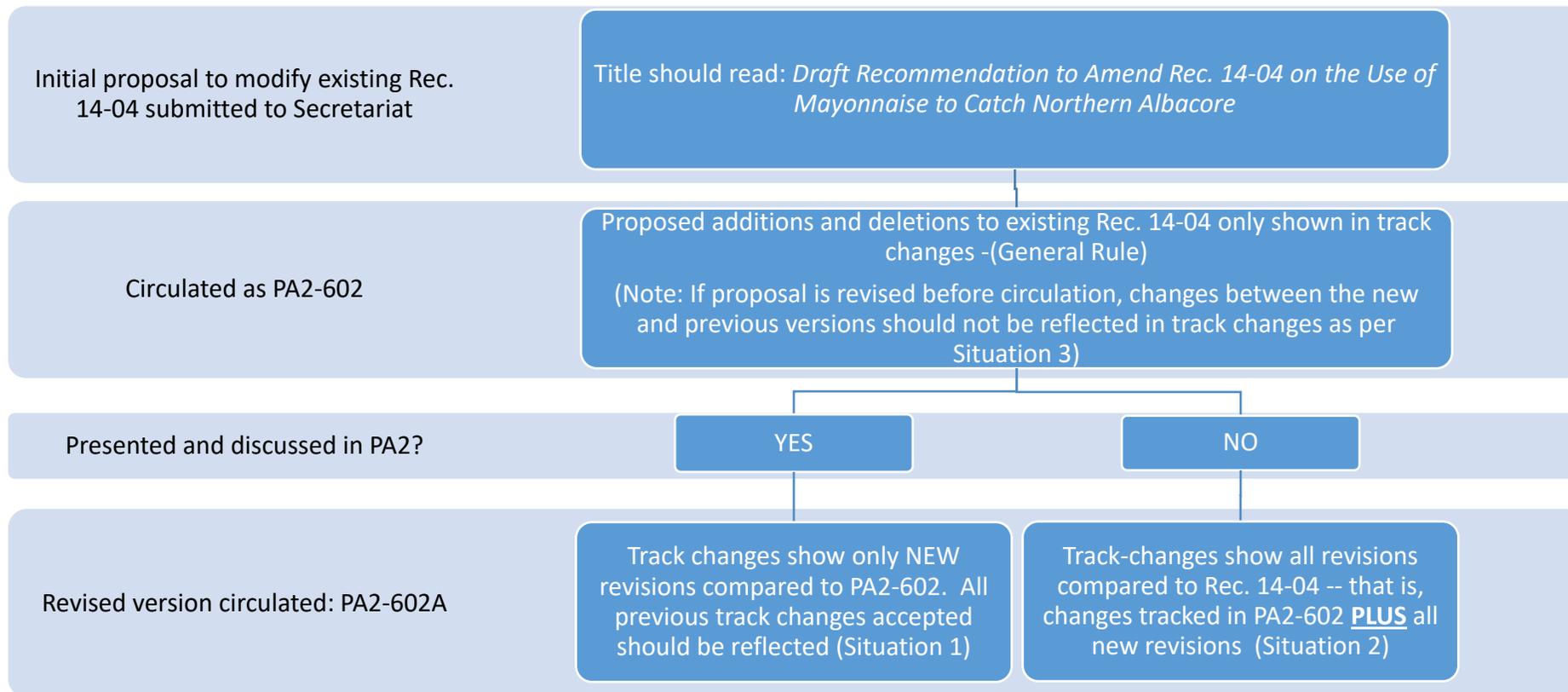
- (iii) Situation 3: A new version of a proposal is submitted *before* the previous version has been formally circulated to the Parties. In this case, changes between the new and previous versions should not be reflected in track changes. If the proposal is amending an existing measure (as defined in paragraph 1(b) above), the new version should be circulated showing revisions in track changes to the existing measure only (i.e. general rule as specified in paragraph 2(a)). If the document is a new proposal (as defined in paragraph 1(a) above), it should be circulated as a clean copy (i.e. no track changes included).

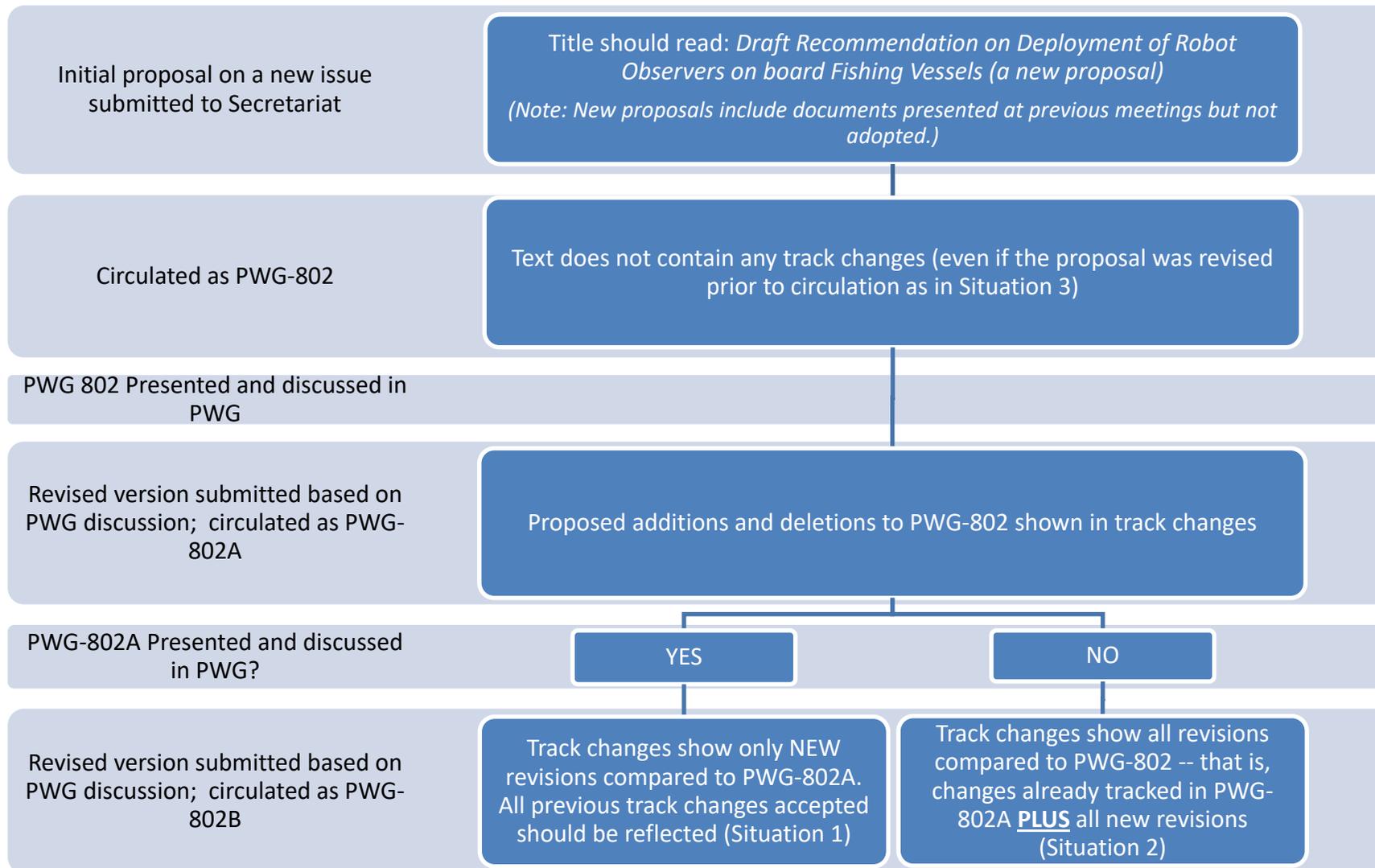
e.g., A CPC submits PA2-604 to amend Rec. 14-04 but, before it is formally circulated to the Parties, the CPC submits revisions. The CPC should replace PA2-604 with the revised version, reflecting in track changes only the proposed amendments to the existing measure (i.e., Rec 14-04). The proposal number will not change (i.e., PA2-604). New proposals should be clean the first time they are circulated to the parties even if revised after submission to the Secretariat.

3 Addition of new co-sponsors

When a proposal is amended only to add new co-sponsors, the Secretariat should upload the revised version on the server while retaining in track changes any amendments to the text that have been proposed but not yet agreed. The Secretariat should announce the availability of the revised proposal to the meeting participants, but not print it out for distribution unless there is no Wifi access at the meeting location.

Proposal flow chart





4.4 REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM) (Madrid, Spain, 29-30 June 2017)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM), Dr Martin Tsamenyi (Ghana), welcomed all participants and introduced the SCRS Chair, Dr David Die. The Chair encouraged communication between the fisheries scientists and managers and suggested the group develop recommendations to be referred back to the Commission. He stressed the importance of broad participation. The Commission has recognized this by dedicating funding to support the participation of one scientist and one manager from each developing CPC.

The Executive Secretary noted that 21 CPCs were present (Algeria, Angola, Belize, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Honduras, Japan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, United States and Uruguay) as well as the fishing entity Chinese Taipei.

The following non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting: Ecology Action Center (EAC), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Pew Charitable Trusts and the Ocean Foundation.

The List of Participants is appended as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**.

2 Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Dr Die proposed that point 5 on the tentative agenda, *Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)*, be moved to follow the discussion of point 9, Consideration of other stocks for possible addition to the 5-year road map. It was agreed that this change would improve the flow of discussion. The Chair noted his intention to raise the relevant findings of the 2016 independent performance review under Other Matters.

The Agenda was adopted and is appended as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**.

3 Nomination of the rapporteur

Ms. Oriana Villar and Ms. Rachel O'Malley (United States) served as rapporteurs for the meeting.

4 SWGSM Terms of Reference [Rec. 14-13] and outcomes of 1st and 2nd SWGSM meetings

The development of a general framework to guide establishment, review and update of management objectives and strategies.

Dr Die reviewed the SWGSM Terms of Reference. Following the SWGSM meetings in 2014 and 2015, the Commission adopted Rec. 15-07, which calls for the Commission to provide guidance to the SCRS on the following: a) management objectives; b) acceptable quantitative level(s) of probability of achieving and/or maintaining stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding limit reference points; and c) timeframes for halting overfishing on a stock and/or rebuilding an overfished stock. The SCRS was requested to provide the Commission with a 5-year schedule for the establishment of species-specific harvest control rules (HCRs). Rec. 15-04 established northern albacore as the "pilot stock" for this effort. In 2016, with input from the SCRS, the Commission agreed on a 5-year road map to advance this work for priority stocks: northern albacore, North Atlantic swordfish, bluefin tuna and tropical tunas (*ICCAT Report of Biennial Period 2016-2017, Part I*, 2016 (Vol. 1), Annex 7.2).

Dr Die introduced Dr Michael Schirripa, Chair of the SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods. Dr Schirripa provided the Group with an introduction to management strategy evaluation (MSE) (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**), which involves using simulation to compare different combinations of data collection schemes, methods of analysis and subsequent processes leading to management actions. The outputs can help managers to weigh each alternative's relative effectiveness in achieving management objectives. Ideally a clear set of management objectives is defined in advance based on ongoing dialogue among scientists, managers, and stakeholders. Dr Schirripa led the Group through a conceptual overview of the MSE modeling process and outlined which Group is responsible for which steps (either the SCRS or the Commission) within the MSE.

Dr Schirripa recalled Rec. 11-13 and clarified some of the basic terminology, including reference points typically used in a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) (i.e., target, threshold, and limit reference points) and Management Procedures (MPs, the combination of a set of data, an assessment method and an HCR). At a future stage, when establishing the HCR for a particular stock, the Commission will determine pre-agreed management actions that would be triggered to halt or reduce fishing mortality if limit or threshold reference points are breached. This has the potential to provide for more predictable management actions in response to changes in the condition of stocks. One CPC noted that the use of different reference points varies among the regional fisheries management organizations, which can be a source of confusion.

There was general recognition that the concepts of HCR and MSE are challenging, and that the SWGSM provides an important forum for managers to ask questions and develop a deeper understanding of the process. It was suggested that future examples of MSE, for illustrative purposes, should focus on scenarios currently faced by ICCAT, in order to make the concepts more readily understandable and practical for managers. Dr Schirripa suggested that there are different levels of managers' understanding regarding the MSE process. The most important is a clear understanding of management objectives, followed by familiarity with basic terminology, and finally a deeper understanding of the simulation and modeling.

Several CPCs noted that yield is an important consideration for their fisheries. There was a question about how short-term vs. long-term benefits to the fishery are evaluated through MSE. Dr Schirripa explained that this is a clear example of trade-offs and how the performance metrics provide information that the Commission can use as a basis for making more informed decisions. He emphasized that a single HCR cannot fully achieve all management objectives simultaneously; it is up to the Commission to decide which HCR best meets the combination of identified management objectives. Dr Die reiterated that HCRs should not be determined in isolation; other aspects of the MP should be also determined, including the data and assessment models to be used as part of the MP.

There was general agreement that the spider plots are a useful way to display a complex series of MSE outputs for consideration by managers. However, when the performance of all metrics is shown on a spider plot, there are so many overlapping lines that it can become difficult for managers to interpret the outcomes. One CPC asked whether there is a danger in oversimplifying the spider plots when a more comprehensive set of performance metrics has been considered. Dr Schirripa explained that the performance metrics adopted by the Commission for northern albacore can be grouped in four categories (status, safety, stability, and yield), and a representative metric can be selected to illustrate each of these on the spider plot. Other types of graphical displays can also be used to summarize MSE outputs.

The Chair noted that the adoption of management procedures is a step-wise and iterative process in which scientists rely on input and feedback from the CPCs and their stakeholders. In response to a question about the setting of the TAC for northern albacore, Dr Die explained that HCR should be considered a tool for the Commission to use in deciding future TACs and levels of exploitation. Several CPCs noted that it is important for managers to understand and consider the implications of alternative management procedures and the range of associated potential outcomes (e.g. regarding stability and yield) before selecting an HCR.

There was general recognition that the HCR/MSE process will require new expertise and committed resources to support this work. This fall, the SCRS should advise on the technical resources that are needed for future work and these needs should be considered by STACFAD at the Commission's Annual meeting.

5 Status of the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and actions to be taken in 2017 for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07

Dr Die provided a detailed explanation of the development of HCRs and action to be taken in 2017 for priority stock. A summary is provided in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**.

5.1 Northern albacore

Dr Die explained how MSE is being used to test the robustness of alternative limit, target, and threshold reference points, and associated HCRs in relation to the northern albacore management objectives, probabilities, and timeframes already determined by the Commission (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**). Under Rec. 16-06, the Commission agreed to endeavour to adopt an HCR by 2017 and defined the management objective as maintaining the stock in the green zone with at least a 60% probability, while maximizing long term yield. Through MSE, the SCRS is conducting an evaluation of alternative management procedures through simulation. The results of these simulations will allow managers to evaluate the performance of candidate HCRs by examining trade-offs through the examination of performance indicators. The performance indicators are grouped in four categories, as follows: 1) Status of stock (5 indicators); 2) Safety (2 indicators); 3) Yield (3 indicators) and 4) Stability (5 indicators).

Dr Die described changes that have been made since the previous MSE exercise for northern albacore. These changes include efforts to better characterize uncertainty about the system using a greater number of operating models (132 total), to define stability in terms of quantitative bounds for variability in the TAC, and to use the performance indicators defined by the Commission in Rec. 16-06. The expanded grid of operating models is an attempt to represent uncertainty through a broad range of plausible states of nature. Results were calculated and averaged across the 132 operating models and projected to the year 2045.

One CPC asked whether the MSE could be run again on the basis of the 2016 stock assessment (Anon. 2017a), rather than the 2013 stock assessment (Anon. 2014). While the modelers could try to do so, Dr Die explained that stock status scenarios such as those represented in the 2016 stock assessment are already part of the broad set of operating models that were tested. The best MSE approach is to design a range of operating models that are plausible and focus on testing the candidate HCRs to be robust to all these operating model scenarios. In this way, the performance of the management procedures is robust to the possibility that the system dynamics are not necessarily represented by the results of the 2016 assessment.

Dr Die presented the proposed format for a detailed table that shows MSE results for all performance indicators and candidate HCRs. In this table, the first four columns help to define the HCR and each row corresponds to the results of that particular HCR. The resulting figures do not reflect individual results; rather, the outputs are averaged across operating models so the table provides a broad view of results.

The potential trade-offs were illustrated through spider plots with four main axes reflecting the four categories of performance indicators, with the intent that this method could be used to present outputs to the Commission. Through these performance indicators, the Commission can quantitatively examine how well its management objectives would be met. One CPC asked whether the management objectives related to status, safety, stability, and yield were equally weighted. It was explained that weighting of management objectives is not part of the input to the spider plot; the weighting of management objectives is determined later in the process as the managers consider MSE outputs and make decisions about preferred trade-offs.

The main trade-off illustrated through this MSE is between stock status and the long-term yield. All runs resulted in a probability of being in the green zone of the Kobe plot (not overfished, no overfishing) of >60%. Under some of the candidate HCRs tested, long-term yield could reach 35,000 t. There was a question about whether it was possible to evaluate candidate HCRs with probabilities of the stock biomass remaining in the green zone that are closer to 60%. One CPC suggested that the range of candidate HCRs may be too conservative, given that many have a probability of remaining in the green zone that is much higher than 60% (ranging from 66-92%). Dr Die explained that the probability associated with stock status is not applied as an initial constraint; it is an output of the model. All candidate HCRs tested had a high percentage of remaining in the green.

There were several questions for the SCRS Chair about the MSE outputs regarding short-term yield, which indicated catches less than the current TAC. Dr Die explained that this was the result of the fact that SCRS considered all of the hypotheses concerning stock status. The 2016 assessment results, based on updated indices, are more optimistic than the majority of the OMs considered in their work thus far. The SCRS has not yet calculated the TAC implications for any particular HCR. Preliminary calculations, however, suggest that the TAC for 2018-2020 will not be lower than the current TAC under any of the candidate HCRs. In terms of safety, all runs resulted in a probability > 95% of avoiding the B_{limit} ($0.4B_{MSY}$).

Stability, considered at the request of the Commission, is largely driven by the constraints on variability in the TAC, the current stock status, and the placement of target and threshold reference points. In this particular MSE, the smaller the TAC constraint (e.g., 20%), the greater the stability without significant loss in the other indicators. For this reason, it was generally agreed that constraints on the variability of TAC should be limited to 20% change (rather than 25% or 30%) in future testing of the management procedures.

There was a question about the constraints applied to ensure TAC stability, and whether this would limit the Commission's responsiveness in a case where there were concerns about rapidly declining biomass. Dr Die explained that if the stock biomass declines below the $B_{threshold}$ and begins to approach the B_{limit} , the HCR would adjust the TAC as needed to begin rebuilding the stock biomass. One CPC suggested that it would be informative to evaluate the management procedures with and without the stability clause for cases when the stock is assessed to be between $B_{threshold}$ and B_{limit} .

One CPC asked on what basis the SCRS selected the particular values assigned to each axis of the spider plot. Depending on the selected values they will give different impressions of the trade-offs. It was agreed that it would be helpful for the SCRS to include an explanation of the rationale for selecting these values in future reports of MSE work.

Discussions returned to the summary table in Dr Die's presentation, which was based on Merino *et al.* (2017). As the most recent MSE work produced 24 candidate HCRs, Dr Die suggested that the SWGSM consider choosing a smaller set of HCRs for the SCRS to analyze further. One CPC noted that the presentation provided summary information, but did not provide the full range of outputs from 132 runs. Dr Die explained that Merino *et al.* (2017) paper had been presented to the Albacore Species Group on June 5-9, 2017 (Anon. 2017b), but had not yet been presented to the SCRS Plenary, and, therefore, according to the usual SCRS process, it had not been widely distributed. Several CPCs expressed concerns about their ability to consider all of the alternatives under these circumstances. The SWGSM agreed that it would be necessary for all to have access to the Merino *et al.* (2017) paper in order to provide guidance on how to narrow the set of candidate HCRs. With the authors' permission, the paper was made available to participants on the meeting ownCloud background documents folder.

Dr Die noted that next steps planned for the northern Atlantic albacore MSE include conducting further diagnostic tests, documenting OM/OEM assumptions, and responding to issues raised at meetings of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods and the Albacore Species Group meetings earlier this year. The SCRS Plenary will review this work in October 2-6, 2017, and, taking this into account, will provide the Commission with management advice for northern albacore, including TACs for 2018-2020 resulting from the application of the selected HCRs.

The CPCs reiterated their support for the MSE process and thanked the SCRS their work. One CPC voiced its expectation that the Commission will be able to select an HCR this year, as anticipated in Rec. 16-06. Several other CPCs maintained that more robust discussions were necessary and the process should not be rushed. One CPC noted that the management objectives should be iterative and that lessons learned through this new process can inform refinement of the objectives. It was generally agreed that there should be further testing of the northern albacore MSE, and that this work should be reviewed by the SCRS Plenary before the Commission takes a decision to select an HCR. If the Commission does adopt an HCR in 2017, it should also determine when and how the HCR's performance should be reviewed by the SCRS.

It was agreed to return to this discussion under point 6 of the Agenda (item 6 of this report).

5.2 Bluefin tuna

Dr Die provided an update on MSE-related work for bluefin tuna. This is a flexible framework used to test hypotheses about system dynamics, especially those related to mixing and spatial structure. Results of the 2017 bluefin tuna stock assessment will inform the range of operating models to be used in future MSE work. The SCRS will continue developing appropriate simulation models that encompass the current understanding of system dynamics.

Dr Die informed participants that the MSE work for bluefin tuna is likely to take longer than anticipated in the original HCR/MSE road map, and asked the SWGSM whether a delay of one year (from 2018 to 2019) would cause concern for the Commission. There was general agreement that the SCRS should devote this additional year to further development and refinement of the bluefin tuna MSE. Based on this work and on additional input from the Commission, the SCRS will develop alternative management procedures, including candidate HCRs, and test them through simulation as part of the MSE.

Dr Die reiterated that the Commission should consider its management objectives and associated performance indicators for bluefin tuna, as this will guide the MSE process and facilitate the Commission's ability to evaluate trade-offs in the future. Several CPCs stated that northern albacore management objectives identified in Rec. 16-06 provide a good starting point for deliberations; some emphasized that the management objectives may need to be adapted for bluefin tuna. These management objectives will need to be considered within Panel 2 and agreed by the Commission.

One CPC asked for clarification on whether it is possible to develop management objectives and performance indicators for the eastern and western stocks, given that the stocks are currently managed separately. Dr Die responded that the Commission could determine its objectives and indicators for the separate stocks, and MSE could be used to test alternative management procedures for both stocks to see how they would perform. He noted the SCRS may be able to evaluate spatial indicators as part of this process. It was generally agreed that management objectives should be considered separately for separate stocks, although the harmonization of objectives and performance indicators may also be considered, as appropriate, in light of stock mixing. One CPC noted that it would be important to keep the deliberations on management objectives separate from allocation decisions. One CPC questioned whether it would be possible to develop management objectives for the western stock, given that the stock assessment is based on the assumption of low recruitment and high recruitment scenarios, which provide two totally different pictures.

An observer from the Ocean Foundation encouraged CPCs to consider possible management objectives in light of recommendations from the independent performance review that call for greater precaution, including higher probabilities of success, in light of uncertainty and Rec. 11-13.

5.3 North Atlantic swordfish

Dr Die noted that work has been presented at the SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods to support development of the operating model and future testing of candidate HCRs for North Atlantic swordfish, but the MSE framework is incomplete. Results of the 2017 stock assessment for North Atlantic swordfish will help to confirm the range of operating models to be tested in the MSE. There must also be a plan for financing the necessary research to support the MSE process. One of the main challenges is that unlike bluefin tuna, which has the GBYP, there is no Atlantic-wide research program for swordfish that can inform the process.

It is up to the Commission to define management objectives for the stock and select performance indicators. One CPC expressed concern with the idea of committing to a specific and quantitative management objective before the performance indicators are determined and there is some indication of outputs that will affect the fishery in the short term and long term. Another CPC agreed, noting that this is an iterative process and the probability of stock status staying in the green zone of the Kobe plot (no overfishing; not overfished) will be an output of testing the candidate HCRs. Dr Die suggested that the Commission should begin by defining the management objectives in a more focused way so that there is a more manageable range of candidate HCRs to be analyzed and considered through the MSE process.

5.4 Tropical tunas

Dr Die recalled that although one CPC had an interest in developing an MSE for western Atlantic skipjack independently of other tropical tuna stocks, this work has not yet been presented to the SCRS. When the SCRS Tropical Species Group meets in 4-8 September 2017, they will discuss the development of a multispecies MSE for bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and Atlantic skipjack.

Considering the early stage of MSE development in tropical tunas, the SCRS has advised that the earliest a full MSE for tropical tunas can be completed is 2020. Partial support has already been provided by ICCAT's Atlantic Ocean Tropical tunas Tagging Program (AOTTP) to support the estimation of population parameters that are required to support the development of the operating model. However, the MSE for tropical tunas will require investment in resources that are currently not available to the Tropical Tunas Species Group of the SCRS. The Tropical Tunas Species Group will develop a plan and associated budget when it meets in September 2017.

There was general support within the SWGSM for a multispecies approach to tropical tunas. In response to a question about how a multi-species HCR is structured when one stock is overfished but others are not, Dr Die said that the management objectives are developed by fishery (e.g., performance indicators are identified separately for different gear types). This will involve a challenging discussion for managers, including decisions about the preferred size selectivity in the tropical tunas fisheries. It was noted that WCPFC is considering the adoption of harvest strategies on a multispecies basis. This experience can be informative to the Commission and the SCRS. One CPC stated that it would be practical and necessary to focus on bigeye, whose stock status is low, as the first step, rather than a multispecies approach.

6 Recommendations to the Commission on management objectives, performance indicators and HCR for stocks referred to under point 5

The CPCs reviewed a Chair's paper "Recommendations relating to northern albacore (NALB)" that contained draft recommendations to guide additional work on the testing of candidate HCRs for northern albacore through MSE. There was extensive discussion of the elements in this paper and several CPCs proposed modifications that were incorporated. The resulting recommendations are designed to guide the sequence of next steps within the SCRS and the Commission.

There was a request for clarification of the term "exceptional circumstances," which has been associated with different meanings in different RFMOs such as CCSBT and NAFO. It was confirmed that in the Chair's paper this term is used as in CCSBT, where it is not an opt-out clause but rather an integral part of the agreed management procedure for bluefin tuna. ICCAT would need to define what it considers "exceptional circumstances" that would result in suspending the application of the HCR, and also establish guidance on the alternative management response in those circumstances. There was a question about the role of the SCRS in defining "exceptional circumstances", for example, whether the disappearance of critical data streams would be considered an exceptional circumstance. Dr Die suggested that the SCRS could provide some advice on the technical aspects of this issue for the Commission's consideration.

It was noted that the external review of stock assessments has become standard practice within the SCRS, and considering that the use of management procedures is a newly emerging tool for ICCAT, an external review of this work would also be appropriate in the case of the northern albacore MSE. It was also noted that when the Commission selects an HCR for northern albacore, it will need to establish the terms- especially the timeframe-of the SCRS review process.

It was also noted that paragraph 4 in first block of the Chair's paper should be revisited at the annual meeting, which requires more consideration to reach consensus.

The SWGSM did not reach agreement on specific recommendations for stocks other than northern albacore. It was decided to focus on next steps for northern albacore so that all CPCs can more fully understand the MSE and have confidence in the process. There was general acknowledgement that ICCAT's commitment to MSE and the eventual adoption of management procedures for priority stocks is a resource-intensive undertaking. The SCRS should advise on specific needs in terms of expert participation and financial resources, including needs within the Secretariat, from participation by CPC scientists to engagement of external experts as the SCRS deems appropriate. Financial implications should be considered by the Commission's Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) at the upcoming annual meeting so that priority work can be supported.

The agreed recommendations are attached in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4**.

7 Review of the 5-year road map for the development of MSE/HCR for priority stocks

Dr Die presented the schedule for stock assessment and MSE work as planned for 2017-2021, confirming that this schedule reflects the earliest possible time an MSE could be completed for various stocks. This schedule is subject to change based on priorities expressed by the Commission and SCRS workload. Dr Die emphasized the resource challenges faced by the SCRS in coming years. Further development of MSE for ICCAT stocks requires specialized scientific expertise and takes substantial time; these resource needs must be considered and supported by the Commission if the work is to continue as planned.

It was generally agreed that the Commission should aim to maintain momentum while at the same time be realistic about the amount of work involved, particularly on the part of the SCRS. Dr Die emphasized that future consideration of candidate HCRs for ICCAT stocks will depend on a structured process that is best accomplished through MSE. It will also depend on the Commission providing specific input to the SCRS to guide their work (e.g. on management objectives and performance indicators). This will require hard work, engagement, communication, trust and proper planning by the SCRS and the Commission.

8 Consideration of other stocks for possible addition to the 5-year road map

Dr Die reminded participants that the SCRS Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 calls for the application of MSE to evaluate candidate HCRs and the information value of different data sources. One CPC had expressed interest in developing an independent MSE for western Atlantic skipjack. Rec. 16-12 requests the SCRS to provide, if possible, candidate HCRs with associated reference points for blue shark by the next assessment in 2021. One CPC expressed the desire to begin work on an MSE for Mediterranean swordfish due to the overfished status of the stock. Dr Die informed the Group that the next stock assessment for Mediterranean swordfish will be in 2019, which would be an appropriate point to begin the MSE process.

No changes were made to the road map. It is anticipated that the road map will be reviewed at the 2017 Annual meeting, in light of SWGSM discussions and taking into account additional information about necessary tasks and workload provided by the 2017 SCRS this fall.

9 Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

Dr Paul de Bruyn of the ICCAT Secretariat provided a summary of the first meeting of the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (t-RFMOs) Joint Working Group on MSE (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**), held at the offices of the ICCAT Secretariat on 1-3 November 2016. Prior to this meeting, the ICCAT Secretariat had created a wiki for the Group to engage virtually and share their efforts online: <http://groupspaces.com/tRFMO-MSE/wiki/>.

There was general agreement on the importance of collaboration among the tRFMOs on this issue. The importance of disseminating results among scientific colleagues and communicating with managers was emphasized. The technical expertise of this Group and its potential ability to inform or review further work on ICCAT's northern albacore MSE was also noted. Eventually the development of "shiny apps" will facilitate better visualization of the MSE process. The 2016 meeting was supported by GEF/ABNJ funding, and a second meeting of this Group is anticipated in the GEF/ABNJ work plan for 2017-2018.

10 Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

There was a report of outcomes from the Joint Meeting of t-RFMOs on EBFM, initiated by ICCAT and supported by the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project implemented by FAO and funded by the GEF, which brought together scientists from the five t-RFMOs and national experts in December 2016 (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4**). During that meeting, participants from each of the t-RFMOs presented a summary of progress towards implementation of EAF/EBFM. Many of the elements necessary for an operational EAF or EBFM are already present in most t-RFMOs but challenges remain in determining how to operationalize this in a holistic and integrated way.

The tRFMO Group concluded that implementation of EAF and EBFM will not require a substantial amount of additional data. However, as with MSE, the design and implementation of an EAF and EBFM plan is a participatory process that must involve managers, science and stakeholders. EAF and EBFM are management tools that can only be initiated at a Commission level, not by the Scientific Committee or dedicated technical subcommittees or Working Groups.

The SWGSM recognized that there was much to be gained from ongoing discussions with other tRFMOs on the subject, particularly for issues relating to data availability and communication with managers. Another joint t-RFMO working group on EAF /EBFM issue could be an effective way to formalize collaboration and establish an understanding of common challenges and solutions. A second meeting of this Group is anticipated in the ABNJ work plan for 2017-2018, this time with the participation of CPCs.

11 Development of a draft road map to implement EBFM, including roles and responsibilities

Dr María José Juan-Jordá, on behalf of AZTI and its consortium members, gave a presentation on “Selecting Ecosystem Indicators for Fisheries Targeting Highly Migratory Species” (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4**). The objectives of this work are to provide: 1) a list of ecosystem indicators and guidance for associated reference points to monitor the impacts of fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species on ecosystems; 2) criteria and guidelines to choose regions with meaningful ecological boundaries for highly migratory species; and, 3) guidelines for an EAFM plan using two ecoregions as case studies (one in ICCAT and one in IOTC). Dr Juan-Jordá described the tasks associated with this project. Currently it is a scientific exercise, but the work can later be adapted in light of management needs.

Dr Die presented a flowchart to illustrate information flow that could lead to a draft road map for EBFM within ICCAT. Each species group of the SCRS would provide indicators and the SCRS would develop ecosystem report cards to inform the Commission. He noted that the SCRS may engage experts in this particular field, which is the usual process when the SCRS does not have the necessary information or expertise. The SCRS intends to develop a draft road map from the scientific perspective, which will be informed by its review of the SCRS Strategic Plan for 2015-2020, and present this for the Commission’s consideration.

There was a discussion about the benefits of EBFM versus the traditional focus on management of target species within ICCAT. It is important for CPCs to engage their stakeholder groups in this issue. Several CPCs mentioned the need to acknowledge the human component including by taking socioeconomic impacts into account. In the HCR/MSE process, socio-economic considerations are taken into account when management objectives and related performance indicators are established as well as when an HCR is selected based on MSE evaluation of management trade-offs. Once an HCR is selected, determination of TACs becomes more automatic. One CPC stated that if the Commission decides to adopt an EBFM road map, it should be comprehensive and incorporate all related activities. Dr Die invited participants to consider this and provide suggestions on how this topic should be handled in future SWGSM meetings.

12 Other matters

The Chair noted that [the Ad hoc Working Group on follow up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review](#) (Anon. 2017c), which met in Madrid, 27-28 June 2017 had identified the following recommendations of the 2016 Independent Performance Review for the SWGSM’s consideration:

12 The Panel recommends that bigeye, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks. (short/medium timeframe)

18. The Panel recommends that yellowfin, which is fished in association with juvenile bigeye and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy. (short/medium timeframe)

21. The Panel recommends that skipjack, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy. (short/medium timeframe)

47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme. (short/medium timeframe)

48. The Panel recommends that ICCAT should prioritise the development of a long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks. (short/medium timeframe)

114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice. (short timeframe)

115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported. (short timeframe)

It was recognized that the SWGSM, the SCRS and the Commission have already begun work on many of these recommendations and that they would be taken into account in future meetings of the SWGSM, consistent with the process that is determined when the Performance Review Working Group presents its report to the Commission at the 2017 Annual meeting.

13 Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Chair thanked the participants and asked the CPCs to consider their views on a future work plan for the SWGSM, consistent with its mandate as outlined in the terms of reference. The Chair noted that he would welcome any proposals in this regard in advance of the 2017 Annual meeting.

Dr Die encouraged greater input and participation from the managers during future presentations. This suggestion was welcomed, and there was general agreement that an informal dialogue between scientists and managers tends to be the most productive approach. It was agreed to adopt the report by correspondence.

The third meeting of the SWGSM was adjourned.

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- Anon. 2017b. Report of the 2017 ICCAT albacore species group intersessional meeting (including assessment of Mediterranean albacore) (*Madrid, Spain, 5-9 June 2017*). Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. 74(2): 331-378.
- Anon. 2017c. Report of the meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on follow up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review (*Madrid 27-28 June 2017*) (http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2017_PERF_REP_ENG.pdf)
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Agenda

Introduction

This Tentative Agenda has been prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) (ICCAT Recommendation 14-13), taking into account the detailed program for its third meeting contained in ICCAT Resolution 16-21.

1. Opening of the meeting (Working Group Chair)
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. SWGSM Terms of Reference (Rec. 14-13) and outcomes of 1st and 2nd SWGSM meetings, with emphasis on:
 - a. the development of a general framework to guide establishment, review and update of management objectives and strategies, which
 - i. is consistent with the Convention objectives, the ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches;
 - ii. defines the role and the responsibilities of both fisheries managers and scientists (SCRS) and possible interactions and feedbacks; and
 - iii. allows for reflecting both conservation and socio-economic considerations.
 - b. ways to improve managers and scientists' mutual understanding of concepts related to management strategies, including:
 - i. the adoption of Limit and Target Reference Points (LRPs and TRPs);
 - ii. the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs);
 - iii. the application of Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE).
 - c. the analysis of case studies, exchanges and feedbacks on ongoing experiences.
 - d. the identification of opportunities / approaches that would enhance the available data.
 - e. the identification of research needs and priorities, in the light of discussions on SCRS annual work programmes and on the Strategic Plan on Science and including possible social and economic research topics.
 - f. the promotion of an efficient use of scientific resources and information.
5. Status of the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and actions to be taken in 2017 for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07:

N-ALB:

 - Status update on the testing of candidate HCRs through MSE

BFT:

 - Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS
 - Consideration of management objectives
 - Identification of performance indicators

N-SWO:

- Identification of the acceptable quantitative probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point
- Identification of performance indicators

Tropical tunas:

- Identification of the acceptable quantitative probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point
- Review of indicative performance indicators adopted in Rec. 16-01, Annex 8

6. Recommendations to the Commission on management objectives, performance indicators and HCR for stocks referred to under point 5.
7. Review of the 5-year road map for the development of MSE/HCR for priority stocks
8. Consideration of other stocks for possible addition to the 5-year road map
9. Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): SCRS Chair
10. Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)
11. Development of a draft road map to implement EBFM, including roles and responsibilities
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of Report and adjournment

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**Title: Introduction to Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)**

Author(s): Michael J. Schirripa

Summary

Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) involves using simulation to compare the relative effectiveness for achieving management objectives of different combinations of data collection schemes, methods of analysis and subsequent processes leading to management actions. MSE can be used to identify a 'best' management strategy among a set of candidate strategies, or to determine how well an existing strategy performs (Punt *et al.* 2014). Effective understanding and participation of the various ICCAT resolutions and dialogues depends on a working understanding of the basic terminology that is used within the resolutions and discussions.

At the very foundation of the MSE process lies an agreed upon and clear set of management objectives. For the MSE process to be most effective, these management objectives need to be established at the very beginning of the MSE process. The agreement upon the management objectives emerges from the development and maintenance of ongoing dialogue between scientists, managers, and stakeholders. This dialogue is critical to the communication and agreement upon a set of clear management objectives in that these objectives will be used to evaluate the performance of various management procedures under consideration. In the case of the ICCAT these management procedures are generally in the form of candidate harvest control rules (HCR). Meetings such as the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) create a unique opportunity for the development of the dialogue necessary to identify the set of management objectives that benefit the fishery as a whole.

It needs to be recognized that there is no one HCR that can fully achieve all stated management objectives simultaneously. Rather, the MSE process is designed to make obvious and clear the trade-offs associated with the various management objectives that results from the potential adoption of each of the candidate management procedures. The ability of MSE to facilitate fisheries management achieving its aims depends on how well uncertainty is represented, and how effectively the results of simulations are summarized and presented to the decision-makers. Key challenges for effective use of MSE therefore include characterizing objectives and uncertainty, assigning plausibility ranks to the trials considered, and working with decision makers to interpret and implement the results of the MSE.

**Update on progress and Work Plan for MSE conducted by
the SCRS on bluefin tuna, northern swordfish and tropical tunas**

David J. Die

Summary

The Commission adopted Rec. 15-07 to develop MSE processes for northern swordfish, bluefin and tropical tunas to evaluate the possibility of adopting HCR for such stocks. In 2016 the Commission adopted a more detailed work schedule to conduct such processes. The schedule calls for the SCRS to provide the earliest results of these evaluations by 2018 (bluefin tuna, western skipjack), 2019 (northern swordfish) and 2020 (bigeye, yellowfin, eastern skipjack).

Work on bluefin tuna has been proceeding on MSE since 2015, supported by the ICCAT GBYP. This work has progressed so that the basic components of the simulation framework are ready to implement the evaluation of HCRs. Further progress depends on the Commission providing guidance on management objectives, performance indicators and potential management procedures for bluefin tuna.

Work on northern swordfish only started in 2016 and is in the very basic stages of development. The SCRS has not yet defined the range of OMs that would have to be considered and the type of candidate assessment models that could be used in the management procedure. Further progress also depends on the Commission providing guidance on management objectives, performance indicators and potential management procedures for northern swordfish.

Work on tropical tunas is still in the planning stages. The tropical tuna Working Group will have the first focused discussions on MSE at its early September intersessional meeting. There is an expectation, however, that an initial MSE framework for western skipjack will be presented at that meeting. Further progress also depends on the Commission providing guidance on management objectives, performance indicators and potential management procedures for tropical tunas. A particularly important guidance required from the Commission regards whether the management procedure should be developed and tested for each tropical tuna stock, or whether a single management procedure that integrates management for the complex of bigeye, yellowfin and eastern skipjack should be developed and tested through MSE.

Up until a time the Commission provides the feedback required on management objectives, performance indicators and potential management procedures for these stocks, the SCRS will use performance indicators and type of HCR evaluated for northern albacore to guide the development of the MSE framework for the other species. To the extent possible, however, the SCRS is developing the MSE framework in such a way that other performance indicators and types of HCR can be accommodated in future analyses.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4

Progress on the evaluation of Harvest Control Rules for North Atlantic albacore through Management Strategy Evaluation

Gorka Merino, Haritz Arrizabalaga, Josu Santiago, Rishi Sharma, Victoria Ortiz de Zarate, Paul De Bruyn, Laurence T. Kell and David J. Die

Summary

ICCAT’s management objective is to maintain high long-term catch with a high probability of stocks not being overfished nor overfishing occurring and a high probability of not being outside biological limits. To achieve this, Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) can be used to determine annual catch limits. HCRs need to be agreed by policymakers and understood and accepted by stakeholders, which is often difficult due to the many uncertainties inherent to fisheries. HCRs cannot be evaluated in isolation, and need to be linked to the data and assessment that will be needed to implement them. The combination of data, assessment method and HCR is known as Management Procedure (MP). MPs can then be tested by simulation through Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to estimate different levels of probability of achieving management objectives. Based on the feedback from ICCAT’s WGSAM, Panel 2, albacore WG and SCRS, improvements have been made to the MSE framework presented in 2016 to provide updated evaluations of MPs that differed only on the HCRs (**Figure 1**). Improvements on the MSE included (i) extended grid of Operating Models, (ii) a modified Observation Error Model to generate CPUE series, and (iii) bounds to the TAC changes through HCRs. Results indicate that all the HCRs evaluated would allow achieving the management objective of $p(\text{Green}) > 60\%$ but would perform differently for other indicators. Detailed results for performance statistics requested by the Commission are provided in SCRS/2017/093. These results were reviewed in early 2017 by the SCRS WGSAM and albacore WG which provided feedback for the improvement of the presentations of results to the Commission and additional requests for diagnostics. Results suggest that the main trade-offs is between the probability of being in the green zone and the long term yield (**Figure 1**). Additional work on diagnostics of the MSE continues and these results are still to be reviewed by the plenary of the SCRS in early October. In spite of these limitations the research completed is a significant improvement on the work presented in the past to the Commission and are presented to the SWGSM meeting where the potential adoption of an HCR for the northern albacore stock will be discussed.

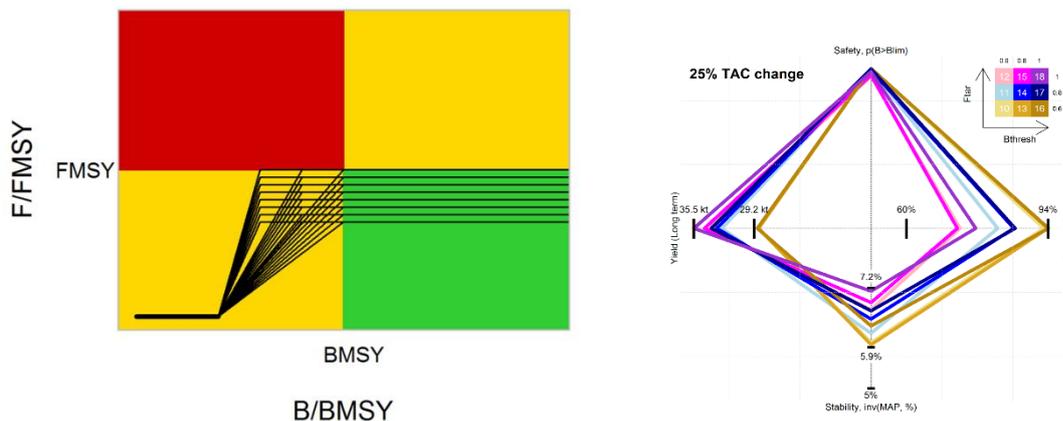


Figure 1. Type of harvest control rules evaluated for northern albacore (left panel) and example of graphical representation of trade-offs in performance indicators for a subset of the harvest control rules evaluated (right panel). Trade-offs are displayed in the main four axes of performance agreed by the Commission by using one indicator for each axis. Each line in the two panels correspond to a different HC

Recommendations relating to northern albacore (NALB)

Document presented by the Chair

The SWGSM considered the progress to-date by SCRS on analyzing a range of HCRs using MSE. SCRS developed a total of 45 potential HCRs in line with the management objectives identified by Panel 2. The SWGSM recognized that analyzing the trade-offs between all 45 HCRs would be a difficult undertaking and, after further considering potential management priorities, agreed to reduce the number of HCRs to be further analyzed by SCRS and referred to Panel 2 for consideration in 2017 (i.e., candidate HCRs), as follows:

1. TAC between management periods should be set according to F in the candidate HCR or be modified by a condition stating that the maximum change in TAC between management periods should be 20% to prioritize stability (eliminate 25, 30%);
2. F targets of $[.8F_{MSY}]$, $[F_{MSY}]$; and
3. B thresholds of $[.8B_{MSY}]$, $[B_{MSY}]$.
4. When SSB is assessed to be below Bthreshold, F should be reduced linearly towards zero at SSB equal to Blim. To take account of the need for rapid management measures when the stock is assessed to be below Bthreshold, the stability clause should not be applied.

Given the above, the SWGSM agreed that:

1. SCRS should refine the MSE according to the recommendations from the WGSAM and the albacore Working Group and provide advice at the 2017 annual Commission meeting on short term (2018-2020) and long term TACs. In addition, the SCRS should advise on short and long term consequences in terms of status, safety, stability and yield for each of the candidate HCRs identified above using the 2016 assessment methods;
2. Subject to that advice, the Commission should select an HCR in 2017 to be applied on an interim basis pending further review of the MSE process;
3. The SCRS should consider the issue of exceptional circumstances and provide advice to the Commission on what might constitute "exceptional circumstances" that would result in suspending the application of the HCR, and establish some guidance on the alternative management response in those circumstances;
4. The HCR should be reevaluated after a period determined by the Commission.

In addition, the SWGSM recommended that:

1. An external review of the northern albacore MSE should be considered by the Commission, taking into account the advice of the SCRS on this subject. If such a review is conducted, this would ideally be completed in time for presentation to the SCRS in 2018 as this is both a best practice and recognizes that 2017 is the first time ICCAT has attempted to base management on such a tool;
2. The SCRS provide updated advice to the Commission in 2018, and the Commission consider any necessary adjustments to the HCR in line with SCRS advice.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**Update on the work of the joint tuna RFMO Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
Technical Working Group***ICCAT Secretariat***Summary**

The Joint Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Technical Working Group (TWG) was created during the Third Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs (the "Kobe process") in 2011 to support the implementation of the Precautionary Approach for tuna fisheries management. The TWG has previously reviewed the Kobe Advice Framework and how the adoption of MSE would change the way that risk and uncertainty is communicated. The WG had its first official meeting in Madrid from 1-3 November 2016. The objectives of the meeting were to: i) review current MSE practice, successes, failures and potential areas for collaboration; ii) discuss progress on MSE; and iii) identify future actions focusing on areas for collaboration. The workshop was organised around five themes, namely: 1) The MSE process and stakeholder dialogue, 2) Conditioning operating models, 3) Albacore case study currently underway across t-RFMOs, 4) Computational aspects and 5) Dissemination of results.

The TWG has not conducted a comprehensive review of the approaches and processes used when developing MPs across but agreed these should be developed. However, an initiative is needed to identify additional key issues required to further facilitate adoption of Management Procedures in the t-RFMOs. The Group reviewed the operating models (OMs) currently being developed across the t-RFMOs and found that the range of OMs examined were primarily based on assessment models. In some cases these OMs were developed to contain peculiarities of the stock/species not considered in the current assessment models runs, e.g. including spatial structure, as in the case of Indian Ocean skipjack and Atlantic Ocean bluefin tuna. The current approach using an assessment model as the basis for OM design is a good starting point, though further processes (observation error and ecological processes with time dependence) should be accounted for in OM designs to ensure robustness.

The albacore case study takes advantage of the relative advancement of MSE for several of the albacore stocks across t-RFMOs, and of the relative simplicity of the operating models required. The case study will provide an opportunity to collaborate across RFMOs by conducting comparative studies on worldwide albacore stocks. The study will allow experiences to be shared, and provide a test bed for method development allowing rigorous, transparent, and replicable testing of methods and software. Expected outcomes are improved collaboration on developing a common dialogue, new models and software, and promoting interdisciplinary work.

The TWG has agreed that software validation is important, and should include tests across platforms, open code, and complete traceability. The user interface <http://www.stockassessment.org> and the use of "Makefiles" was highlighted as an example of such an open and transparent framework, which could be used for both stock assessments and development of MSE. The need for communication and visualisation tools, such as standardised "shiny apps", was highlighted. Support for the development of those tools may be available from partner institutions and/or other organizations. The TWG agreed to continue to work intersessionally on methods development and on case studies; in addition the TWG will investigate holding an MSE/CAPAM workshop followed by a special issue in Fisheries Research in 2019.

Joint meeting of tuna RFMOs on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management

ICCAT Secretariat

Summary

The Ecosystem Approach is a widely accepted concept for the management of living resources and its principles can be traced back to several international instruments. T-RFMOs are increasingly examining their governance systems to adopt EAF and EBFM related measures that enhance the management of their fisheries to be more compliant to mitigating impacts on target and bycatch species, their trophic relationships and habitat requirements. The Joint Meeting of tuna RFMOs on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, initiated by ICCAT and supported by the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project implemented by FAO and funded by the GEF, brought together scientists from the five t-RFMOs and national experts. The goals of the meeting were to (1) establish a sustained dialogue across t-RFMOs on the issues of EAF and its implementation, (2) understand common challenges in its implementation and (3) identify case specific solutions.

During the meeting, participants from each of the t-RFMOs presented a summary of the progress towards implementation of the EAF and EBFM and FAO presented the work of the organization on EAF. A comparative assessment of progress across the five t-RFMOs in implementing the ecological component of EBFM was also presented. In addition, Australian and US experiences in implementing the EAF and EBFM within their national jurisdictions were presented. It was noted that many of the elements necessary for an operational EAF or EBFM are already present in most t-RFMOs but challenges remain in implementing a holistic and integrative view of EAF and EBFM.

Key points discussed included (i) the common definition and understanding of how to operationalize EAF and EBFM in the context of tuna fisheries management and conservation, (ii) EAF and EBFM are management tools and can only be initiated at a Commission level not by the Scientific Committee or dedicated technical subcommittees or Working Groups, (iii) elements required for EAF and EBFM implementation are already in place, but may not be in line with a long-term vision of what needs to be achieved, (iv) implementation of EAF and EBFM will not involve a substantial amount of additional work and/or data, (v) the design and implementation of an EAF and EBFM plan is a participatory process involving managers, science and stakeholders and (vi) t-RFMOs will face some particular challenges due to their current structures, mandates and complexities.

Particular challenges relating to data, science and communications were also addressed by the Group which discussed some mechanisms and processes to move the implementation of ecosystem approaches in tuna-RFMOs forward. Of particular importance was the observation that bringing EAF and EBFM to the attention of decision makers in the respective Commissions and getting their commitment is considered crucial in moving forward towards EAF and EBFM implementation. Managers will need to be the drivers of the process. EAF and EBFM is first and foremost a management process. It was highlighted that science-management dialogues which are already established in t-RFMOs to convey scientific findings to managers could be used as a forum to discuss EAF and EBFM matters as is already happening in ICCAT.

Several thematic areas would benefit from collaboration among t-RFMOs. EAF and EBFM could be part of the agenda of a future Kobe meeting. A joint working group to deal with EAF and EBFM issues (similar to the ones on MSE, FADs, by-catch) could be a way to formalize collaboration between RFMOs to work on common elements.

Selecting ecosystem indicators for fisheries targeting highly migratory species

Maria José Juan-Jordá¹ on behalf of Consortium members^{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7}

Summary

Several international instruments have set the minimum standards and key principles to guide the implementation of an ecosystem approach for the management and conservation of marine living resources. The ICCAT resolution 15-11 and the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan have also established the main objective of advancing ecosystem based fisheries management to provide advice to the Commission. Yet these aspirations have not provided practical guidance on how to make operational an EAFM within ICCAT. The Specific Contract No. 2 under the Framework Contract EASME/EMFF/2016/008 provisions of Scientific Advice for Fisheries Beyond EU Waters addresses the current impediments and provides solutions that shall support the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) through collaboration and consultation with the key tuna RFMOs. This Specific Contract has three main objectives: (1) Provide a list of ecosystem indicators (and guidance for associated reference points) to monitor impacts of fisheries targeting Highly Migratory Species (HMS); (2) Provide criteria and guidelines to choose ecological regions with meaningful ecological boundaries for HMS and its fisheries in order to facilitate the operationalization an EAFM in marine pelagic ecosystems; and (3) Provide guidelines for an EAFM plan using two ecoregions as case studies within ICCAT and IOTC Convention areas. The results of this contract will be imbedded in the EAFM process that ICCAT is carrying out through a close collaboration and communication with ICCAT SCRS. Ultimately, the products created throughout this contract will aim to facilitate the linkage between ecosystem science and fisheries management to foster the operationalization of an EAFM.

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4.5 REPORT OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs (Madrid, Spain 11-12 September 2017)

1. Opening of the meeting

The ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, welcomed all the participants (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5**) and reminded them of the Commission's request for this Group to meet in 2017. The Executive Secretary then introduced the two co-chairs of the meeting. Mr. Shep Helguile and Dr. David Die, the co-Chairs of the FAD Working Group, opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

Dr. Die presented the final Agenda of the meeting which was adopted by the Working Group (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5**). The Executive Secretary of ICCAT provided the meeting arrangements. The Executive Secretary also listed the eight CPCs (Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal and the United States of America) and three Observers (International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Marine Stewardship Council and Pew Charitable Trusts) present. The co-Chairs reminded presenters that presentations must be kept short due to the rather ambitious agenda (to make time for all).

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

The Secretariat agreed to serve as rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Review of the information on FADs provided by CPCs

The Secretariat provided the data received so far from Form ST08 regarding FAD deployments. The Secretariat highlighted that very few CPCs (3) provided data using the recently modified ST08 forms. In addition, several problems with the received submissions were noted. In one case information had been provided by 5 x 5 rather than 1 x 1 degree squares. There was also an error in the EU. EU-France submission, that resulted in incorrect estimations of the number of FADs deployed with beacons. This error was subsequently clarified with the EU and the misunderstanding was corrected. The corrected data is provided in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**. The Group was made aware of the discussions during the Tropical Tunas Working Group in 2017 that agreed that CPCs will provide feedback on the problems they have encountered submitting the data using the ST08 forms to the Sub-Committee on Statistics in 2017. These problems relate to both the complexity of the forms, as well as uncertainty with regards to interpreting the requirements in Rec. [16-01], particularly with regards to which data is required at which resolution (1 x 1, monthly etc.). The Sub-committee will then review this feedback and provide a response to the Commission on how these problems can be resolved. In particular, CPCs who did not submit ST08 data were encouraged to participate and contribute to this response.

Document FAD_014/17 was a short note regarding Information on the Number and the Monitoring of Active GPS Buoys for the French Purse Seine Fleet in the Atlantic Ocean Over 2010-2017.

This presentation highlighted the need to clearly define what is meant by an Active Buoy. The Group acknowledged the importance of this definition as currently, ICCAT manages FAD deployments based on active FADs. The Group noted that several documents may provide guidance on this issue. Firstly, the author provided a suggestion in the document presented, but other possible definitions may come from document j-FAD_035 and/or the IOTC adopted resolution regarding FADs (IOTC-2017-S21-PropO adopted 26 May 2017). It was also recognised that the definition is complicated by the fact that even if the buoy attached to a FAD is not active, the FAD may continue to actively aggregate fish populations. This latter problem is very difficult to quantify.

The Group discussed the issues regarding the monitoring of active FADs. It was noted that a FAD should only be activated or deactivated when on a vessel, and not remotely as this would be almost impossible to monitor. Buoys should only be considered active if they are drifting as this implies that the buoy is not onboard a vessel. It was clarified that vessels are requesting increasingly detailed information from service providers. Previously data from beacons was requested on a quarterly or monthly basis, whereas at present information can and is often being supplied daily. This detailed information is crucial for monitoring FAD activity and determining whether they are active and drifting. The access to this detailed information is also crucial for understanding FAD activity.

5. Evaluate progress made based on the recommendations issued by the Working Group in 2016

Dr. Die, the Co-chair of the Group provided a brief review of the *Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs* (Anon., 2017) highlighting the recommendations that were made during that meeting. The recommendations from that meeting are contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.5**. Based on the Recommendations made during the past meeting, in 2016 the Commission agreed to extend the operation of this Working Group and modified the Terms of Reference for the Group accordingly. The modified Terms of Reference were used to develop the agenda of this Third meeting of the FAD Working Group. The Recommendations from the *Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs* were also used to initiate collaborations between RFMOs, which culminated in the *First Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group* in April 2017 under the Kobe process.

It was suggested that the SCRS could be tasked with developing a work plan with timeframes and responsibilities to address the recommendations that arose from the 2016 meeting. The Group generally agreed, however, that this could result in a delay in action on these issues, as the SCRS would not be able to address the work plan prior to 2018. As such the Group agreed to review these Recommendations during the meeting along with those arising from the Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group meeting (see **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5** and Item 6 below) and provide some feedback immediately. The Group then recommended that the SCRS develop a work plan on the remaining issues or clarify any issues that have already been addressed in 2018. It was agreed that further meetings of the ICCAT FAD Working Group will be needed to maintain and evaluate the progress made on FAD management thus far.

The Co-chairs clarified that these recommendations are addressed in Item 9 of this report.

6. Considerations from the *First Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group*

Mr. Shep Helguile, the co-Chair of the Working Group introduced the table of key areas for future action arising from the *First meeting of the Joint tRFMO FAD Working Group* that was held in April 2017 (FAD_003). These action items covered three key areas, namely (i) General, (ii) Gaps and requirements for data, (iii) Mitigation measures. For each area, the table contains there a list of actions proposed together with responsibilities. This table formed the basis for the final recommendations provided by this Group. The comments made to this table are provided in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**.

One of the first discussion points was whether another meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group is necessary. The Group was very supportive of the progress and discussions that had taken place during the first meeting, and agreed that much work is still required to harmonise data collection and submission on FADs across the oceans, and that several common issues still exist that can best be addressed in collaboration with other tuna RFMOs. The first meeting addressed very broad topics, whereas a future meeting could be devised to address more technical or detailed issues. As such the Group recommended that another meeting of this joint Group be held. It was also noted that the joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group called for the creation of a smaller technical working group to address these more detailed issues. The ICCAT FAD Working Group agreed that this recommendation should be followed and that the Commission should support participation of experts familiar with ICCAT fisheries. It was noted that the Joint tuna RFMO Working Group did not have the mandate to decide on management actions or make firm Recommendations and this was used as further justification that the ICCAT FAD Working Group should continue in able to translate the advice provided across RFMOs into operational management actions for ICCAT.

The importance of the timing of the next meeting was discussed and the Group agreed that the SCRS should be provided time to address the work plan and timetable as pointed out in Item 5 and detail any progress made. The Group also recognised that the final recommendations provided in Item 9 may also guide the planning of this next joint tuna RFMO FAD Working Group meeting.

The Group stressed that an important consideration for the future is to ensure that scientists have access to the detailed information from the beacons to facilitate the assessment and evaluation of FAD activity. Several presentations under items 7 and 8 provide examples of collaboration between scientists and industry and the Group strongly encouraged the continuation and expansion of these initiatives. The Group agreed that these collaborations should not only occur within CPCs, but also between CPCs to provide a better understanding of FAD dynamics across the Atlantic Ocean.

7. Assessment of developments in FAD-related technology

FAD_05 summarized the results of a project to test biodegradable ropes, to be used at FADs, in a controlled environment. While, FAD_06 summarized the results of a pilot project to test biodegradable ropes at FADs in real fishing conditions.

The Group was informed that not all biodegradable materials are of equal quality and this would affect the durability in the buoys. This led to further discussions as to what is the current life of a FAD, which is not easy to determine as some FADs are repaired when components fail. The general understanding from an ISSF skippers workshop held in 2016 is that FADs should last for a year although studies have shown this may be closer to 160 days with about 10% resulting in beaching. It was clarified that future studies will include more vessels in order to improve these estimates. The study indicated that the fishers are happy with the biodegradable FADs and they were designed in consultation with them. Additional research is required to modify the floating portion of the FAD as until now, the focus has been on the submerged portion, which constitutes the majority of the FAD material.

A short presentation was provided on a recently initiated EU funded project on biodegradable FADs. As the contract for the project had only recently been signed, no document was available for the presentation. The presentation provided an overview on the research the project consortium intends to conduct. The results will be provided to the SCRS as they are available.

8. Describe the effects of FAD use on the fishing mortality of stocks of tropical tuna

i. Assessment of the relative contribution of FADs to age/length specific fishing mortality of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack

FAD_07 provided information on the Evolution in Yield of the Spanish Fleet in the Purse Seine Fishery Directed at Tropical Tunas with a Comparison Between Sets on Objects and Free Schools.

The Group agreed that it is important to evaluate the time it takes for fish to accumulate on the FADs as well as if these rates differ by species and area. It is clear that FADs are being visited more regularly with less time between harvesting and this may result in a reduction in CPUE due to the shorter time for accumulation of biomass. This can only be analysed if the FADs do not change ownership. An increase number in FADs in the study area may also result in a dispersion of biomass between the FADs. In addition, the effect of the newly adopted FAD deployment limits will need to be monitored and evaluated. It was suggested that additional factors are required in the CPUE standardisation and error estimates around the figures will provide further insight into the catch rates around the FADs.

ii. Assess changes in bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack biomass and MSY estimates, associated to different selectivity patterns and juveniles fishing mortality levels

This particular item is the focus of an ongoing SCRS study, that was addressed during the *2017 Tropical Tuna Species Group Working Group* (Anon., in press) and a response to the Commission has been drafted by that Group. The Tropical Tuna Species Group has decided that further analysis is needed and the current study is not currently suitable for submission to the Commission. As such the Tropical Tuna Species Group recommended to the SCRS that these analyses be completed in 2018. The current draft response will be discussed by the SCRS in plenary.

Preliminary studies indicate that there are important impacts on the population when the ratios between different fishing strategies and gears are varied. It will be important to show the trade-offs between the levels of catches for different fleets fishing in the Atlantic. This study is also important for the planned Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) work to be done by the SCRS. For the MSE it is important to receive guidance from the Commission with regards to specific objectives regarding the desired mortality balance between gears.

iii. Possible ways of improving the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments

FAD_04 provided a study on the Fishing on Floating Objects (FOBs): How Tropical Tuna Purse Seiners Split Fishing Effort Between GPS-Monitored and Unmonitored FOBs.

The Group noted that this work has implications for management actions that require pre-set (before a purse seine fishing set) information about associated schools as only 1/5 of sets were on monitored FOBs. It was also highlighted that in the past the SCRS has attempted to split effort by free school and FAD sets, whereas the implications from this study are that the portion of effort dedicated to FAD sets should be further split into the proportion of sets made on FADs that the vessel has position information for versus those that it does not. This is important because there are different advantages gained from those two types of objects that affect fishing effort in dissimilar ways. In order to extend this study to other fleets, it is important to clearly associate each set with a buoy. However, this is not always possible because there may not be a buoy identifier to link the FAD to the set and because fishers not only fish on their own FADs but also on others they encounter and therefore will not appear in their country's data set.

FAD_09 provided information on the Colonization of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) in the Western Indian Ocean, Assessed by Fishers' Echo-Sounder Buoys.

The author noted that the pattern of accumulation of biomass around a FAD is highly variable and dependant on many factors (e.g. Trajectory of FAD, time of deployment, area of deployment) and that biomass may increase and decrease over time. Also, although the buoy is monitored for biomass accumulation, fishing activity from other vessels on the FAD is unknown. The Group also noted with interest that according to the study, tuna accumulate on the FAD before by-catch species. This finding is preliminary, however, as several characteristics of the data collection may under-estimate the by-catch, such as the fact that by-catch may accumulate initially in small volumes which would not be recorded by the echo-sounders that have a minimum 1t threshold before submitting information. This threshold level will need to be reduced in the future to further investigate this observation and suppliers of the buoy information will need to be requested to provide far more detailed information. In addition, the colonisation time appeared to be very rapid, but further factors are required in the analysis to further clarify this observation (such as deployment strategy).

FAD_010 presented a study Towards the Derivation of Fisheries-independent Abundance Indices for Tropical Tunas: Progress in the Echosounder Buoys Data Analysis.

The Group stressed that the results from this study are preliminary and it appears that the sudden switches have been negative and positive coefficient values indicate the algorithm is not adequately modelling the data. Different model types should be used to investigate this perceived problem. In addition, sensitivity analyses are needed to test the bounds set on some of the parameters. It was also noted that the tests were carried out on mono-specific catches. This will become significantly more complicated when multi-specific estimations are attempted. Additional research is required to enable the identification of species composition based purely on acoustic data, and not to rely on monospecific catches which are only possible to validate afterwards.

What FAD Research for the Sustainability of FAD Fisheries? Was presented in document FAD_011.

It was acknowledged that a shift from FAD sets to free school sets will also shift impacts on various by-catch species. Reductions in interactions with silky shark may occur, but there may be increases in interactions with other sensitive species such as manta rays. Any measures proposed regarding shifts in effort between fishing strategies must take these shifts in by-catch species interactions into account.

9. Consideration of recommendations to the Commission for possible additional actions on management of FADs

FAD_013 provided information on Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) Beaching in the Atlantic Ocean: an Estimate for the French Purse Seine Fleet (2007-2015).

The Group was informed that an extensive database of small ports on the African coast was used in conjunction with the FAD trajectory information to determine beaching events. It was necessary to separate beachings with trajectories that terminated on boats. It can be difficult to determine FAD fate as buoys may stop transmitting prior to an event, or may be deactivated before beaching. Deactivation often occurs when fishers can no longer use the FAD for a reason (e.g. within 100kms of shore), or if they are found by other vessels. The fate of these FADs with deactivated buoys is therefore largely unknown.

FAD_012 provided information on the Main Results of the Spanish Best Practices Program: Evolution of the Use of Non-Entangling FADs, Interaction with Entangled Animals, and Fauna Release Operations.

The Group were informed that this has been an inclusive project, with EU fishers having been involved. Basic documents regarding safe-handling techniques have been developed and distributed and ISSF skipper workshops have been utilised to inform and receive feedback. In addition, a Steering Committee has been formed to review and guide the work of the project.

FAD_016 demonstrated How Drifting Fish Aggregating Device Density Affects Bycatch in the Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The Group discussed the fact that the data available for this study needs to be made available at a finer-scale resolution as the distribution of FADs is not even across a 2 x 2 degree square so it is difficult to evaluate density dependence effects of FADs. In addition, data is not available for all fleets, so estimates are difficult to extrapolate for the entire region.

FAD_08 explained how FAD Management Objectives Should be Defined and Implemented at ICCAT.

The Group welcomed this presentation as it provided suggestions for specific objectives which are required by scientists to evaluate management options. It was again discussed that tuna RFMOs are making progress in managing FAD fishing. Much work remains, and to date, small steps have been taken. The Group highlighted the importance of need to continue to advance this work and to ensure that gear-specific objectives should be used to compliment species- or stock-specific objectives. The objectives should likely start with reducing the mortality on juvenile tropical tunas, but should become more refined as additional information becomes available. The Group stressed that these objectives should be based on scientific guidance and to achieve this, the sharing of detailed data with industry is fundamental, as is the guidance by the Commission on quantitative objectives (e.g. 60% probability of maintaining the stock in the green zone). The Group again welcomed the collaboration of industry, particularly within the EU purse seine fleet and expressed its hope that this be continued and extended to improve the work on FAD management issues. The Group strongly encouraged that this collaboration between industry and scientists extend to other CPCs.

Presentation j-FAD_035 entitled "What Does Well-Managed FAD use Look Like Within a Tropical Purse Seine Fishery?" was provided by the co-chair (Chair of SCRS). It was noted this presentation was previously provided at the joint TRFMO FAD meeting held in April 2017 and arises from the previously held Global FAD Science Symposium (20-23 March 2017). This document provides some useful objectives and examples of best practice. Especially of note is the Annex to the document containing a Glossary of Terms. The Group suggested that this glossary form the basis of discussions by the SCRS to define terms for use at ICCAT.

Based on the presentations provided, and the various recommendations developed in other meetings, the Group discussed and finalised a list of recommendations to be passed to the Commission for consideration at their 2017 meeting. These recommendations are provided in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**.

10. Other matters

FAD_015 provided information on the Management of Moored Fish Aggregation Devices (FADS) in the Caribbean.

Several of the participants shared their similar experiences with moored FAD management and welcomed this study that may provide useful insight as to how they may address the problem in their own countries. They noted that they require assistance and advice in dealing with FAD fishing in artisanal fisheries, which is a fairly new development. It was noted that the WECAFC Commission has established a FAD Working Group and that ICCAT should follow developments in that region which may be applicable to other areas in the Atlantic.

The Group also briefly discussed the issue of closed areas and hotspots. To this end the SCRS has conducted some work on this issue, but potential closure areas have been difficult to evaluate. Also, thus far, no study has clearly identified a hotspot that if managed will have a significant beneficial impact on the tropical tuna populations. It is unclear what effect the displacement of effort resulting from a closed area or time/area closure may have. Again, these studies are limited by the quality of the data available to make the evaluations.

11. Adoption of report and adjournment

The recommendations to the Commission (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**) were adopted at the meeting. The rest of the Report was adopted by correspondence after the meeting. Mr. Shep Helguile thanked all participants for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.

References

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Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Review of the information on FADs provided by CPCs
5. Evaluate progress made based on the recommendations issued by the Working Group in 2016
6. Considerations from the 1st joint t-RFMO FAD Working Group meeting
7. Assessment of developments in FAD-related technology
8. Describe the effects of FAD use on the fishing mortality of stocks of tropical tuna
9. Consideration of recommendations to the Commission for possible additional actions on management of FADs
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of Report and Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5

Information regarding FAD deployments provided to the Secretariat using the ST08-FadsDep forms

Type of beacon deployed	FAD type	Month	BLZ						FRA						GHA					
			No. Deployed with beacons	Average No. Active beacons followed per vessel	Average No. Deactivated beacons followed per vessel	No. Deployed without beacons	Average No. of active lost FADs	No. Of FADs deployed by support vessels	No. Deployed with beacons	Average No. Active beacons followed per vessel	Average No. Deactivated beacons followed per vessel	No. Deployed without beacons	Average No. of active lost FADs	No. Of FADs deployed by support vessels	No. Deployed with beacons	Average No. Active beacons followed per vessel	Average No. Deactivated beacons followed per vessel	No. Deployed without beacons	Average No. of active lost FADs	No. Of FADs deployed by support vessels
SAT	FADA	5	39		2	0	2	0												
RDFGPS	FADA	1													300	50				
		2													500	70				
		3													1500	100				
		4													2500	190				
		5													1600	120				
		6													3500	260				
		7													2000	150				
		8													3000	230				
		9													2000	150				
		10													2000	150				
		11													2000	150				
		12													1500	100				
SATES	FADA	1	126		7	0	7	0	162				0	0						
		2	98		11	0	11	0	83				0	11						
		3	102		9.3333333333	0	9.333333	0	144				0	32						
		4	158		7.2	0	7.2	0	202				0	0						
		5	8		1	0	1	0	248				0	51						
		6	141		6.25	0	6.25	0	169				0	0						
		7	71		4.3333333333	0	4.333333	0	274				0	0						
		8	117		7.3333333333	0	7.333333	0	255				0	0						
		9	213		3.8	0	3.8	0	298				0	16						
		10	33		3	0	3	0	416				0	152						
		11	52		6.5	0	6.5	0	407				0	168						
		12	133		3.6666666667	0	3.666667	0	187				0	7						
	FADN	9							4				0	0						

2016 Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs Meeting

Final Recommendations

e.1 Fishing capacity, including number of FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that relevant data are made available to accurately quantify the total effective effort and fishing capacity associated with this type of fishery, including the contribution of baitboat and support vessels. The FAD Working Group recommends that the SCRS review that information and provide advice on adapting the fishing capacity in all its components (number of FADs, number of fishing vessels and support vessels) to achieve the management objectives for tropical tuna species.

e.2 FAD management plans

Definitions of FAD activities

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that:

- By taking into account as baseline the outputs of the EU CECOFAD research project (SCRS/2016/30) the SCRS:
 - develops a set of definitions for floating objects and types of activities developed on them including “FAD sets” and “FAD fishing”. In particular, definitions and characteristics of non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs should be established;
 - reviews and recommends additional changes, as appropriate, to the minimum standard reporting requirements on data to be collected in FAD fisheries through logbooks;
 - establishes guidelines addressed to vessel masters detailing how data and more particularly qualitative information would have to be reported.

In light of the SCRS outcomes the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that:

- National FAD management plans include a specific chapter on vessel masters' training programmes aiming at standardizing data collection and reporting procedures.

Recovery of FADs

- The ICCAT FAD Working Group urges CPCs, in collaboration with the industry, to address issues related to impacts of FADs on sensitive coastal habitats, in particular to mitigate risks of beaching.
- As a first step the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to identify coastal areas, which would be likely impacted by possible beaching of FADs.

e.3 FAD data reporting and scientific collaborations related to reporting obligations

Data reporting

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends extending data requirements for CPCs laid down in Rec. 15-01 as follows:

- Report purse seine and baitboat catches and efforts including the number of sets in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month) and by distinguishing floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries;
- Report the number of floating objects equipped with active buoys observed per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, month and flag state;
- Report the number of FADs deployed by support vessels per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month.
- When the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

The ICCAT FAD Working Group also highlights the needs to address and monitor possible changes of fishing strategies, in particular fishing activities of purse seiners in association with baitboats and/or support vessels.

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that the ICCAT Secretariat develop a common format allowing CPCs to submit information and data required in Rec. 15-01 in a standardised way. The ICCAT Secretariat should also develop the related data base.

Scientific collaborations

The CPC FAD management plan should include a specific chapter describing how the national fishing sector and the national fisheries scientists collaborate to exchange information on fishing strategies and fisheries dynamics, by identifying in particular data and information to be gathered and provided beyond compulsory reporting provisions laid down in Rec. 15-01. Data recorded by echo-sounders should be made available to national scientists, as well as any quantitative and qualitative information allowing national scientists to better assess links and trends between nominal and effective fishing effort.

Recognizing that the full analysis of detailed information on FAD effort may be hampered by existing restrictions limiting access to data from CPC fleets to national scientists from the same CPC, it is recommended that approaches be considered (e.g. confidentiality agreements) to enable the analysis of more complete data sets reflecting the FAD activities of multiple fleets.

e.4 Provision of scientific advice on FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to develop fisheries indicators describing catch compositions, size structures and catch average sizes of the different métiers contributing to the tropical tunas' fishing mortality and in particular of purse seine fleets fishing on floating objects.

The FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to provide advice on possible modifications of fishing patterns affecting the catch-at-size composition and their impact on MSY and relative stock status.

e.5 Compliance

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that the Compliance Committee assesses the compliance of the concerned CPCs with the reporting obligations laid down in Rec. 15-01. To this end the ICCAT Secretariat should report on the information received to the Compliance Committee.

Concerning the number of FADs, the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends implementing and monitoring the limits in accordance with the Rec. 15-01 as well as ensuring compliance assessment by ICCAT on a regular basis.

e.6 Marking and identification of FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to consider that monitoring of active FADs is achieved by:

- using the identifying buoy-number provided by the buoy manufacturer;
- recording the identifying buoy-number associated with any newly deployed FAD and the identifying beacon-number associated with any recovered FAD; In cases where there is a change of buoy in a FAD, both the ID code of the buoy associated with the FAD and the ID code of the buoy that serves as a replacement need to be recorded.
- establishing a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets.

e.7 Observers

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to increase the observer coverage for large scale vessels with a view to collect more accurate data on catch composition and incidental by-catches. The FAD Working Group notes that the issue of by-catch in ICCAT fisheries should be addressed in a comprehensive way for all fleets.

e.8 Discards

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to develop, in line with the principles of the *FAO International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards*, an appropriate retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5

**Review of final Recommendations presented by FAD Working Group to the Commission in 2016, including the 2017 Recommendations to the Commission
(right column)**

	<i>Recommendation WG FAD 2016</i>	<i>SCRS progress/response</i>	<i>Commission Progress/response</i>	<i>Additional Recommendation needed?</i>
e.1	Fishing capacity, including number of FADs			
	Relevant data are made available to accurately quantify the total effective effort and fishing capacity associated with this type of fishery, including the contribution of baitboat and support vessels.	See section 4 of this report	[Rec. 16-01] requires submission of some of the necessary data	
	SCRS review that information and provide advice on adapting the fishing capacity in all its components (number of FADs, number of fishing vessels and support vessels) to achieve the management objectives for tropical tuna species.	No progress	n/a	SCRS Sub-com. Statistics should review during 2017 meeting
e.2	FAD management plans			
	SCRS develops a set of definitions types of activities developed on them including “FAD sets” and “FAD fishing”. In particular, definitions and characteristics of non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs should be established.	Some progress by Trop Tuna WG	n/a	The Group recommends that definitions in j-FAD-035 be referred to the SCRS to consider adjustments in the context of ICCAT fisheries, to be provided to the Commission. Pay attention to definition of FAD sets, active buoy and biodegradable FAD, from both a scientific and compliance aspect.
	SCRS reviews and recommends additional changes, as appropriate, to the minimum standard reporting requirements on data to be collected in FAD fisheries through logbooks.	See section 4 of report	n/a	SCRS Sub-com. Statistics should review during 2017 meeting
	SCRS establishes guidelines addressed to vessel masters detailing how data and more particularly qualitative information would have to be reported.	No progress	n/a	SCRS should develop after review by SCRS Sub-com. statistics

	National FAD management plans include a specific chapter on vessel masters' training programmes aiming at standardizing data collection and reporting procedures.	n/a	n/a	Continue recommending
	CPCs, in collaboration with the industry, to address issues related to impacts of FADs on sensitive coastal habitats, in particular to mitigate risks of beaching.	n/a	See section 9 of this report	Continue recommending
e.3	FAD data reporting and scientific collaborations related to reporting obligations			
	Extending data requirements for CPCs laid down in Rec. 15-01 as follows: 1. Report purse seine and baitboat catches and efforts including the number of sets in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month) and by distinguishing floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries; 2. Report the number of floating objects equipped with active buoys observed per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, month and flag state; 3. Report the number of FADs deployed by support vessels per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month. 4. When the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).	n/a	All requirements extended except for #4?	
	Address and monitor possible changes of fishing strategies, in particular fishing activities of purse seiners in association with baitboats and/or support vessels.	No progress	n/a	Continue recommending

	ICCAT Secretariat develop a common format allowing CPCs to submit information and data required in Rec. 15-01 in a standardised way. The ICCAT Secretariat should also develop the related database.	Format completed, database waiting for format to be accepted and complied with	n/a	Continue recommending completion of database when format has been finalized
	FAD management plan should include a specific chapter describing how the national fishing sector and the national fisheries scientists collaborate to exchange information on fishing strategies and fisheries dynamics, by identifying in particular data and information to be gathered and provided beyond compulsory reporting provisions laid down in Rec. 15-01.	n/a	n/a	Continue recommending
	Data recorded by echo-sounders should be made available to national scientists, as well as any quantitative and qualitative information allowing national scientists to better assess links and trends between nominal and effective fishing effort.	See section 7 of report	n/a	SCRS should review approaches used by national scientists that have conducted analyses on these data sets
	Approaches be considered (e.g. confidentiality agreements) to enable the analysis of more complete data sets reflecting the FAD activities of multiple fleets.	No progress on agreements but few analyses completed for EU- Spain/EU-France fleets	n/a	Continue recommending
e.4	Provision of scientific advice on FADs			
	SCRS to develop fisheries indicators describing catch compositions, size structures and catch average sizes of the different métiers contributing to the tropical tunas' fishing mortality and in particular of purse seine fleets fishing on floating objects.	Some progress by tropical tuna WG	n/a	Continue recommending
	SCRS to provide advice on possible modifications of fishing patterns affecting the catch-at-size composition and their impact on MSY and relative stock status.	See response to the Commission being prepared by tropical tuna WG	n/a	Continue recommending

e.5	Compliance			
	Compliance Committee assesses the compliance of the concerned CPCs with the reporting obligations laid down in Rec. 15-01. To this end the ICCAT Secretariat should report on the information received to the Compliance Committee.	n/a	Compliance Committee needs to assess	Continue recommending
	Implementing and monitoring the limits in accordance with the Rec. 15-01 as well as ensuring compliance assessment by ICCAT on a regular basis.	n/a	Compliance Committee needs to assess	Continue recommending
e.6	Marking and identification of FADs			
	Monitoring of active FADs is achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the identifying buoy-number provided by the buoy manufacturer; • recording the identifying buoy-number associated with any newly deployed FAD and the identifying beacon-number associated with any recovered FAD; In cases where there is a change of buoy in a FAD, both the ID code of the buoy associated with the FAD and the ID code of the buoy that serves as a replacement need to be recorded. • establishing a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets. 	n/a	No progress	Continue recommending
e.7	Observers			
	Commission to increase the observer coverage for large scale vessels with a view to collect more accurate data on catch composition and incidental by-catches.	n/a		Continue recommending
	By-catch in ICCAT fisheries should be addressed in a comprehensive way for all fleets.	SCRS has plans to organize regional workshops in 2018 to review catch and by-catch of artisanal gillnet fisheries		Continue recommending

e.8	Discards			
	Commission to develop, in line with the principles of the FAO International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards, an appropriate retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries.	See response to the Commission being prepared by tropical tuna WG	Discussed during tRFMO FAD WG	Continue recommending

Key areas for Future Action for the Joint T-RFMO FAD WG

KEY AREAS	SPECIFIC ACTIONS	KOBE	RFMO	CPC	Recommendations
GENERAL ISSUES	Legal aspects:				
	– Definition of a FAD	X	X		Comments on legal aspects are beyond the scope of this group.
	– Definition of ownership and responsibilities	X	X		The FAD Working Group should follow the FAO survey on definitions of ownership and track positions of FADs.
	Definitions and common indicators:				
	– Identify available sources for common definitions	X			
	– Harmonize definitions related to science and management of FADs: FAD set (associated vs non-associated), non-entangling, biodegradable, active buoy, type of operation at FADs etc. Prioritization should be given to those definitions with direct management implications and the science needed to guide that management	X	X		Refer definitions in j-FAD-035 to the SCRS to consider adjustments in the context of ICCAT fisheries, to be provided to the Commission. Pay attention to definition of FAD sets, active buoy and biodegradable FAD, from both a scientific and compliance aspect.
	– Need to develop harmonized FAD fishery indicators (e.g. number of FADs, FAD sets, ratio of FAD-associated sets to unassociated sets, numbers of vessels deploying FADs and supply vessels etc.) to estimate the contribution of FADs to the overall effective fishing effort and capacity in tropical tuna fisheries across ocean regions	X	X		Remains a priority to develop harmonized indicators and look at overall effective effort and how it affects stock status and MSY.

Enhanced cooperation:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collaboration between industry and scientists for the improvement of the collection of data, scientific research and to develop effective mitigation techniques 			X	Some of this work is already happening, but collaboration should be broader than just within CPCs. This should be done across all participants in FAD fishing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coordination and collaboration on research plans on FADs across t-RFMOs 	X	X		This relates to proposal of tRFMO FAD WG to establish a technical working group. The establishment of this WG is recommended to be for 2018. Priorities (TORs) should also be established for group, across RFMOs and oceans (eg. Harmonization of reporting formats and data collection, biodegradable FADs etc.). This group would be established under the existing Kobe FAD WG, as an advisory technical group and work electronically initially. It was agreed that ICCAT would nominate Josu Santiago to lead this group. This nomination would need to be approved by the Kobe steering Committee after approval by ICCAT Commission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Creation of a small technical working group of experts under the KOBE umbrella, with a focus on research and other technical aspects 	X	X		
Elaboration and implementation of appropriate management frameworks:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Define clear management objectives 	X	X		Presentation FAD-08 provides examples of clear management objectives. In order to proceed with establishing management objectives it may be necessary to see the current scientific understanding of the impact of FADs on biomass and MSY (due to impacts on juveniles) so as to determine what kind of objectives should be considered. It is necessary to make objectives operational. As TACs for BET and YFT were exceeded in 2016, Rec [16-01] will be reviewed by the Commission and this may be an opportunity to raise the FAD management objectives during the Panel 1

				meeting in 2017. The Panel 1 discussions this year are an opportunity to begin the process of setting management objectives for both tropical tuna species and FAD fisheries and can then feed into the scientific process, which in 2018 includes the assessment of BET. This assessment can be used to further evaluate the success of potential objectives, including the fishing of juveniles, which extends beyond simply FAD fishing.	
	– Review existing FADs management plans and explore potential for harmonization across t-RFMOs	X	X	In ICCAT, minimum requirements for FAD management plans are required but submission of this information is not standardised. Standardisation may be required within ICCAT before dialogue with other RFMOs, although minimum requirements could be harmonised.	
	– Assess the effectiveness of various management options for FADs within the framework of general tropical tuna fisheries management (e.g. overall fishing capacity)		X	Already some elements in Rec [16-01] deal with FAD management and the SCRS has started to address some of these issues already. This process must flow from short term work such as the establishment of management objectives and feedback from the SCRS regarding the impact of FADs.	
	– Address monitoring (e.g. 100% observer and VMS coverage) and compliance issues		X	X	There is strong scientific evidence that scientific observer coverage needs to be increased from the current requirement of 5%, for PS and Baitboats engaged in FAD fishing as directed by the SCRS. This should be standardized across gears and CPCs. The aim of 100% is ideal, but may be difficult to achieve although there is the possibility of combining human and electronic observers to achieve this level. It is noted that the EU large-scale PS fleet already has 100% coverage and this should serve to encourage other fleets and gears to achieve this level (e.g. Baitboat and longline or PS of other CPCs). It was stressed that scientific and compliance observer schemes should be kept separate.
	– Consider adaptive, precautionary, management with respect to emerging issues with FADs, taking into account the best available science		X	X	

DATA GAPS AND NEEDS	Data:				
	– Identify data gaps and needs		X		Agenda item 4 of the report has specifically addressed data gaps and issues. The access of scientists to the data is fundamental. CPC scientists should analyse their national fleets operational data, but there is also a need for collaborations between CPCs. Confidentiality protocols could be investigated for the latter option if necessary. However, collaboration already appears to have increased dramatically and this should be acknowledged and encouraged. Recovery of historical data is still an important need and this can be done in cooperation with industry. Recent history of FAD fishing is not well characterised, and data recovery would assist in this.
	– Optimize and harmonize the collection of data and develop common minimum standards and formats	X	X	X	
	– Improve data collection in FAD fisheries in general		X	X	
	– Establish comprehensive systems to accurately quantify numbers of FADs and active buoys	X	X		
	– Need for development of robust FAD marking and tracking systems	X	X		
	– Establish wide-scale collection of individual FAD deployment, tracking, and set-history data		X	X	
	– Collect new types of data on the operational and technical fleets' characteristics, including on supply vessels		X	X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access by scientists to acoustic records of the echosounder buoys as a potential source of fishery independent indices 		X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop appropriate framework of confidentiality 	X	X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure/facilitate access to data for scientists and managers 		X	X	
MITIGATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate the impact of FADs, consider establishing limits on the number of FADs deployed, and consider feasibility and cost-effectiveness of FAD recovery practices 	X	X	X	It is recommended that the SCRS evaluate the effect of the current limit on FADs on tropical tuna species.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate economic incentives and disincentives in all FAD management measures. 	X	X	X	
	Target species:				The SCRS is already responding to this issue as requested in Rec [16-01]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of hotspots for juvenile BET and YFT 		X		The SCRS has conducted some work on this issue, but closure areas have been difficult to evaluate. Also, thus far, no study has clearly identified a hotspot that if managed will have a significant beneficial impact on the tropical tuna populations. It is unclear what effect the displacement of effort resulting from a closed area or time/area closure may have. Again, these studies are limited by the quality of the data available to make the evaluations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate benefits of gear modifications: net changes, FADs designs, etc. 	X	X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage further research on pre-set echosounder discrimination of species, and size, at a FAD 	X	X	X	

	– Consider the regional effectiveness of time-area closures, including adaptive closures, and catch and/or FADs sets limits and allow this to inform future management		X		
	Non-target species:				
	– Improve information on the impacts of FAD fisheries on vulnerable elasmobranch and turtle species	X	X		
	– Identification of hot spots for vulnerable species		X		
	– Implement best practices for handling and safe release of by-catch species as appropriate			X	Scientific evidence suggests safe handling techniques adopted by EU PS fleets have been effective in reducing mortality for non-target species. It is recommended that these techniques be adopted across all PS fleets.
	– Introduction of non-entangling FADs designs			X	
	– Outreach and training of operators		X	X	
	– Promote full utilization of low value bony fish by-catch, as appropriate, and reduction of discards			X	
	Habitat:				
	– Mapping and recognition of sensitive areas using available information and identification of post-beaching impacts to inform mitigation initiatives		X		Much work is currently being conducted to monitor FAD drifting as well as assess their beaching rates/levels. Involving coastal communities in this issue is recommended. Combination of measures may be effective in reducing beaching and identifying areas at risk.
	– Tracking positions and trajectories of FADs		X	X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop innovative FAD designs to mitigate the habitat impact of FAD fisheries such as prevention of FADs sinking and beaching, recovery at sea, "smart FADs", biodegradable designs... 		X	X	Several presentations were made and studies are ongoing regarding the use and development of biodegradable FADs. It is recommended that there should be an increase in the research on biodegradable FADs so that CPCs can work towards the full use of biodegradable FADs as recommended in Rec [16-01].
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the effect of establishing limits on numbers of FADs deployed as well as on areas or periods of deployment 		X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote involvement of coastal communities in implementing actions or management measures 		X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider anchored and drifting FADs in the overall analysis of impacts 		X	X	The group acknowledges that anchored FADs should also be managed and many of the issues discussed for drifting FADs are applicable to anchored FADs. Rec [16-01] also references anchored FADs and the necessity to report activities regarding these FADs.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2017

17-01

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PROHIBITION ON DISCARDS
OF TROPICAL TUNAS CAUGHT BY PURSE SEINERS**

RECALLING the FAO International Guidelines on by-catch management and reduction of discards that aim to facilitate by-catch management and reduction of discards, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fishing;

NOTING that the Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas [Rec. 16-01] established a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas in the ICCAT Convention area;

RECOGNISING that Recommendation 16-01 envisages the adoption of provisions for better by-catch management and reduction of discards in the ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;

RECALLING that the second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs recommended development of an appropriate retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries, in accordance with the FAO guidelines;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the SCRS in 2017 on tropical tunas;

RECOGNISING that other tuna RFMOs have implemented similar conservation and management measures requiring purse seiners to implement full retention of tunas;

CONCERNED by the loss of data due to discards of tuna and other species in the ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the considerable volume of tunas caught in the purse seine fishery targeting tropical tunas in the Atlantic Ocean;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Objective

The objective of this recommendation is to achieve a substantial reduction in discards of tropical tunas by 2020.

Retention of tuna species

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose purse seiners are authorised to fish for bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tuna in the Convention area, pursuant to paragraph 25 of Recommendation 16-01, must require these vessels to retain on board then land or tranship to port all bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tunas caught, except in the cases described in paragraph 2b.
2. The procedures for implementation of full retention requirements comprise:
 - a) No bigeye, skipjack and/or yellowfin tuna caught by a purse seiner may be discarded during the set once the net is completely closed and when more than half of the net has been retrieved. If there is a technical problem with the closing or retrieval procedure of the net such that this rule cannot be applied, the crew shall make every effort to release the tunas into the water as quickly as possible.

b) The following two exceptions apply to this rule:

- i. When the vessel master determines that the tunas caught (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) are not fit for human consumption, the following definitions shall apply:
 - “unfit for human consumption” refers to fish that:
 - are meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
 - are damaged due to depredation; or
 - have died and decomposed in the net due to a gear failure that has prevented the normal activities of retrieval of the net and fishing and efforts to release the fish alive;
 - “unfit for human consumption” does not include fish that:
 - are considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or
 - have decomposed or are contaminated as a result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.
- ii. When the vessel master determines that the tunas (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) have been caught during the last set of a trip and there is not enough storage capacity to store the tunas (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) caught during this set, these fish may only be discarded if:
 - the master or the crew attempt to release the tuna alive (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) as quickly as possible; and
 - no other fishing operation is conducted following the discarding, until such time as the tunas (bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna) onboard the vessel are landed or transhipped.

The CPC shall report all discards observed.

3. CPCs shall encourage their vessels using other gear types (i.e., longline, baitboat and gillnets) to retain onboard and land or, to the extent possible and in compliance with Recommendation 16-15, tranship at port all bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna caught except in the cases where ICCAT measures in force or national regulations prohibit their retention or encourage their release.

Implementation and review

4. In 2020, the SCRS shall assess the effectiveness of this Recommendation and submit recommendations to the Commission regarding potential improvements.
5. In 2020, the SCRS shall also undertake work to examine the benefits according to the objectives defined above of retaining non-targeted species catches and present its recommendations to the Commission. The work should take into account all species that are usually discarded on all major gears (i.e., purse-seines, longlines and gillnets), and should look at fisheries that take place both on the high seas and in waters under national jurisdiction and the feasibility of both retaining on-board and processing of the associated landings.

17-02

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE
RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH, REC. 16-03**

RECALLING the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02], and the *Recommendations by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Recs. 10-02, Rec. 11-02, and Rec. 16-03];

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07];

CONSIDERING that following both the 2013 and 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS indicated that the stock was not overfished and that overfishing was not occurring, as initially determined in a 2009 stock assessment;

RECOGNIZING that based on the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS advised that a TAC of 13,700 t has only a 36% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in a rebuilt condition by 2028, whereas a TAC of 13,200 t would increase this probability to 50%, consistent with Recommendation 16-03;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the total allocation of fishing opportunities for North Atlantic swordfish is superior to the TAC;

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the 2017 stock assessment the SCRS indicated that the biomass for North Atlantic swordfish is close to B_{MSY} ;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries* [Rec. 96-14];

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concerns expressed by the Panel of the second ICCAT performance review regarding the possibility to transfer high underage from year to year and that this practice is inconsistent with sound management of the stock;

TAKING NOTE OF the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13];

SEEKING to ensure that the total catch does not exceed the annual Total Allowable Catch;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take the following measures to ensure the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish with the goal of maintaining B_{MSY} , with greater than 50% probability.
2. TAC and catch limits
 - a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,200 t for North Atlantic swordfish for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021:
 - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021:

	<i>Catch limit**</i> <i>13,200 (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	100
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02].

** The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

From Japan to Morocco: 100 t

From Japan to Canada: 35 t

From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

From Venezuela to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 12.75 t

From Senegal to Canada: 125 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t

From Brazil, Japan, and Senegal, to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 75 t for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

*** Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.

- c) If the annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,200 t, CPCs that have exceeded their individual catch limits shall pay back their overharvest in accordance with paragraph 3 of this recommendation. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table 2 (b) above.

3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, as follows:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2.b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.

4. If Japan's landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the four-year period commencing in 2018. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same four-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2021 management period shall be applied to the four-year management period specified herein.
5. The Commission shall establish at its 2021 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the latest stock assessment as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures, as appropriate. In the event of the modification of its fishing/management plan, each CPC shall submit the updated version of its fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15.
6. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.
7. In line with the provisions of *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07], paragraph 3, the SCRS and the Commission shall continue its dialogue to allow for the development of harvest control rules (HCRs) for consideration in any subsequent recommendations. Further, while the HCRs are being developed, should the biomass approach the level which triggered the establishment of the previous rebuilding plan [Rec. 99-02], then the Commission shall adopt a rebuilding plan, with harvest levels, as recommended by the SCRS, that will meet the Commission's objectives of maintaining or rebuilding stocks to B_{MSY} within the defined time period.
8. All CPCs catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.
9. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in the alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

10. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 9, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63 cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.
11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual individual catch limits established above, the CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each CPC.
12. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation of North Atlantic swordfish, as per paragraph 2.b), may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligations and conservation considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover overharvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limit transfer may not retransfer that catch limit.
13. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for North Atlantic swordfish is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic swordfish.
14. CPCs may allow bycatch of North Atlantic swordfish by vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish pursuant to paragraph 13, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
15. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 16-03].

17-03

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH, REC. 16-04**

CONSIDERING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that substantial unquantified uncertainties affect this stock, in particular due to lack or inconsistencies of available data;

CONSCIOUS that the SCRS underlined that due to the existing uncertainties there is no room to increase the existing TAC;

RECOGNIZING that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13], adopted by the Commission in 2015, for the period concerned;

RECOGNISING that it would be appropriate, as already applicable to other stocks under the purview of ICCAT, to establish an ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish South Atlantic swordfish;

ACKNOWLEDGING that based on the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS advised that the current TAC of 15,000 t has only a 26% probability of rebuilding the South Atlantic swordfish stock to within MSY reference levels by 2028, whereas a TAC of 14,000 t would have a 50% probability of rebuilding the stock;

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the 2017 stock assessment the SCRS confirmed that the stock of South Atlantic swordfish is overfished;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concerns expressed by the Panel of the second ICCAT performance review regarding the possibility to transfer high underage from year to year and that this practice is inconsistent with sound management of the stocks;

SEEKING to ensure that the total catch does not exceed the annual Total Allowable Catch;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

TAC and catch limits

- For 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

	<i>Catch Limit (Unit: t)</i>
TAC ⁽¹⁾	14,000
Brazil ⁽²⁾	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States ⁽³⁾	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei ⁽³⁾	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan ⁽³⁾	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417
Korea	50
Belize	125

- (1) The total catch for the four-year management period of 2018-2021 shall not exceed 56,000 t (14,000 t x4). If the yearly total catch of any of the four years exceeds 14,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the four-year total will not exceed 56,000 t. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorated reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).
- (2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.
- (3) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2016 may be carried over to 2018 up to 600 t, 100 t and 300 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2017-2021 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

Transfers shall be authorized in accordance with paragraph 5.

Underage or overage of catch

2. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for South Atlantic swordfish:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 20% of the quota of the previous year.

Transfers

3. Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
4. The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the North Atlantic management area against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
5. The 50 t quota transfers from South Africa, Japan and United States to Namibia (total: 150 t), the 25 t quota transfers from United States to Côte d'Ivoire, the 25 t quota transfer from United States and the 50 t quota transfers from Brazil and Uruguay to Belize (total: 125 t), and the 50 t quota transfer from Brazil to Equatorial Guinea shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.

Minimum size

6. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in the alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63 cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish South Atlantic swordfish

8. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish for South Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for South Atlantic swordfish is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land South Atlantic swordfish.
9. CPCs may allow bycatch of South Atlantic swordfish by vessels not authorized to fish for South Atlantic swordfish pursuant to paragraph 8, if the CPC establishes a maximum on board bycatch limit for such vessels and that the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

Availability of data to SCRS

10. CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2015, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible. From 2017 onwards, CPCs shall ensure accurate and timely data submission to the SCRS.
11. All CPCs catching swordfish in the South Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.
12. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2021, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.

Final provisions

13. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.
14. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 16-04] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

17-04

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A HARVEST CONTROL RULE
FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE SUPPLEMENTING THE MULTIANNUAL
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME, REC. 16-06**

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 16-06] and, namely, the request to the SCRS to refine the testing of candidate reference points and associated harvest control rules (HCRs) to support the management objectives for North Atlantic albacore established therein;

CONSIDERING that the 2016 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the relative abundance of North Atlantic albacore has continued to increase over the last years and is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, and as a result the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

RECOGNIZING that the simulations conducted in 2017 using Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) allow the SCRS to provide advice that is robust to a wide range of uncertainties, including those affecting the 2016 assessment and that, although further work in reviewing and improving the MSE is advisable, none of the concerns is sufficient to preclude the interim implementation of any of the HCRs proposed by the SCRS to establish short-term 3-year constant annual TACs;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that an external review of the North Atlantic Albacore MSE should be considered by the Commission, ideally in 2018;

ACKNOWLEDGING the SCRS work in 2017 to test, through MSE simulations, a large set of HCRs out of which, as advised by the SWGSM, a reduced number of robust HCRs was finally considered. All the selected HCRs are predicted to meet the objectives to be in the green area of the Kobe plot with a probability higher than 60%. Moreover, 96% of the Operating Models have shown biomass above B_{MSY} with at least 60% probability between 2020-2045;

NOTING that the HCRs with the highest target fishing mortalities ($F_{TAR}=F_{MSY}$) were associated with lower probabilities, although higher than 60%, of being in the Kobe green quadrant, higher probabilities of the stock being between B_{LIM} and B_{THRESH} with only slightly higher long-term yields;

FURTHER NOTING the desire for stability in the fishery;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS tested a minimum fishing mortality (F_{MIN}) that needs to be established in order to ensure a scientific monitoring of the status of the stock should the stock status fall below safe biological limits;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that if the Commission adopts an HCR then the TAC established via Rec. 16-06 shall be re-established according to the adopted HCR;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS' intention to further explore and to consolidate the MSE framework in the future is without prejudice to the interim adoption of an HCR subject to possible future advice of the SCRS;

NOTING the importance of identifying exceptional circumstances that would result in suspending or modifying the application of the HCR;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Management objectives

1. The management objectives of the multiannual management and conservation programme for North Atlantic albacore are those set out in paragraph 2 of Rec. 16-06.

**PART II
BIOLOGICAL REFERENCE POINTS AND HARVEST CONTROL RULES**

2. For the purpose of the multiannual management and conservation programme for the North Atlantic albacore, the following interim reference points¹ are established:
 - a) $B_{\text{THRESH}} = B_{\text{MSY}}$
 - b) $B_{\text{LIM}} = 0.4 * B_{\text{MSY}}$
 - c) $F_{\text{TAR}} = 0.8 * F_{\text{MSY}}$
 - d) $F_{\text{MIN}} = 0.1 * F_{\text{MSY}}$
3. The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment shall be conducted every three (3) years, with the next stock assessment to occur in 2020.
4. The harvest control rule (HCR) sets a 3-year constant annual total allowable catch (TAC) using the following three values estimated from each stock assessment. For each value the median values as reported in the summary table of the SCRS report shall be used:
 - a) The estimate of current stock biomass (B_{curr}) with respect to B_{MSY} .
 - b) The estimate of the stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield (B_{MSY}).
 - c) The estimate of the fishing mortality at MSY (F_{MSY}).
5. The HCR shall have the form shown in **Annex 1** and the following control parameters set as per below:
 - a) The biomass threshold level (B_{THRESH}) is equal to the biomass able to deliver the maximum sustainable yield ($B_{\text{THRESH}} = B_{\text{MSY}}$).
 - b) A fishing mortality target corresponding to 80% of F_{MSY} ($F_{\text{TAR}} = 0.8 * F_{\text{MSY}}$) will be applied when the stock status is at, or above, the threshold level (B_{THRESH}).

¹ For the purposes of this Recommendation, the definitions of Harvest Control Rules and Reference Points adopted in ICCAT Recommendation 15-07 will apply.

- c) If the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold level (B_{THRESH}) and higher than B_{LIM} , then fishing mortality will be reduced linearly for the next multiannual management period (F_{NEXT}) on the following basis:

$$\frac{F_{NEXT}}{F_{MSY}} = a + b * \frac{B_{curr}}{B_{MSY}} = -0.367 + 1.167 \frac{B_{curr}}{B_{MSY}}$$

where $a = \left[\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} \right] - \left[\frac{\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} \cdot \frac{F_{min}}{F_{MSY}}}{\frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} \cdot \frac{B_{lim}}{B_{MSY}}} \right] * \frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} = -0.367$

$$b = \left[\frac{\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} \cdot \frac{F_{min}}{F_{MSY}}}{\frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} \cdot \frac{B_{lim}}{B_{MSY}}} \right] = 1.167$$

- d) If the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be at, or below, B_{LIM} , then the fishing mortality shall be set at F_{MIN} with a view to ensure a level of catch for scientific monitoring.
- e) The Maximum catch limits (Cmax) recommended are 50,000 t to avoid adverse effects of potentially inaccurate stock assessments.
- f) The maximum change in the catch limit (Dmax) shall not exceed 20% of the previous recommended catch limit when $B_{CURR} \geq B_{THRESH}$.
6. The HCR described in paragraph 5 (a-d) produces a relationship between stock status and fishing mortality as shown in the graph of **Annex 1**. The table of **Annex 2** reports the values of relative fishing mortality to be applied (F_{NEXT}/F_{MSY}) for specific values of relative biomass (B_{CURR}/B_{MSY}).

PART III CATCH LIMITS

TAC and catch limits

7. The 3-year constant annual TAC shall be set as follows:

- a) if the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be at, or above, the threshold biomass (i.e., $B_{CURR} \geq B_{MSY}$), then the catch limit shall be set at

$$1. \quad TAC = F_{TAR} * B_{CURR}$$

- b) if the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold biomass (i.e., $B_{CURR} < B_{MSY}$) but greater than B_{LIM} (i.e., $B_{CURR} > 0.4 * B_{MSY}$), then the catch limit shall be set at

$$1. \quad TAC = F_{NEXT} * B_{CURR}$$

where a series of indicative values for F_{NEXT} are reported in the table of **Annex 2** or can be calculated through the formula reported in paragraph 5.c above.

- c) if the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be at, or below, the B_{LIM} (i.e., $B_{CURR} \leq 0.4 * B_{MSY}$), then the catch limit shall be set at

$$1. \quad TAC = F_{MIN} * B_{CURR}$$

with a view to ensure a level of catch for scientific monitoring.

- d) the catch limit resulting from the above calculations will be below the maximum catch limit (Cmax) as reported in paragraph 5e above and shall not increase or decrease by more than 20% from the previous catch limit except when $B_{CURR} < B_{THRESH}$ or unless otherwise required pursuant to an agreed management response when exceptional circumstances are determined to have occurred by the SCRS.

- e) in the case of 7c, the catch limit could be set at a level lower than $F_{\text{MIN}} * B_{\text{CURR}}$ if the SCRS considers it sufficient to ensure a level of catch proper for scientific monitoring.
8. Pursuant to paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, a 3-year constant annual TAC of 33,600 t is established for the period 2018-2020. Consistent with the TAC allocations set out in Rec. 16-06, this TAC is allocated among the CPCs as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for the period 2018-2020</i>
European Union	25,861.6
Chinese Taipei	3,926.0
United States	632.4
Venezuela	300.0

9. Provisions established by paragraph 8 above are without prejudice to the transfers stipulated by paragraph 4 of Rec. 16-06.
10. Provisions established by paragraph 8 above are without prejudice to the annual catch limit stipulated by paragraph 5 of Rec. 16-06.
11. Provisions established by paragraph 8 above are without prejudice to the derogation stipulated by paragraph 6 of Rec. 16-06.

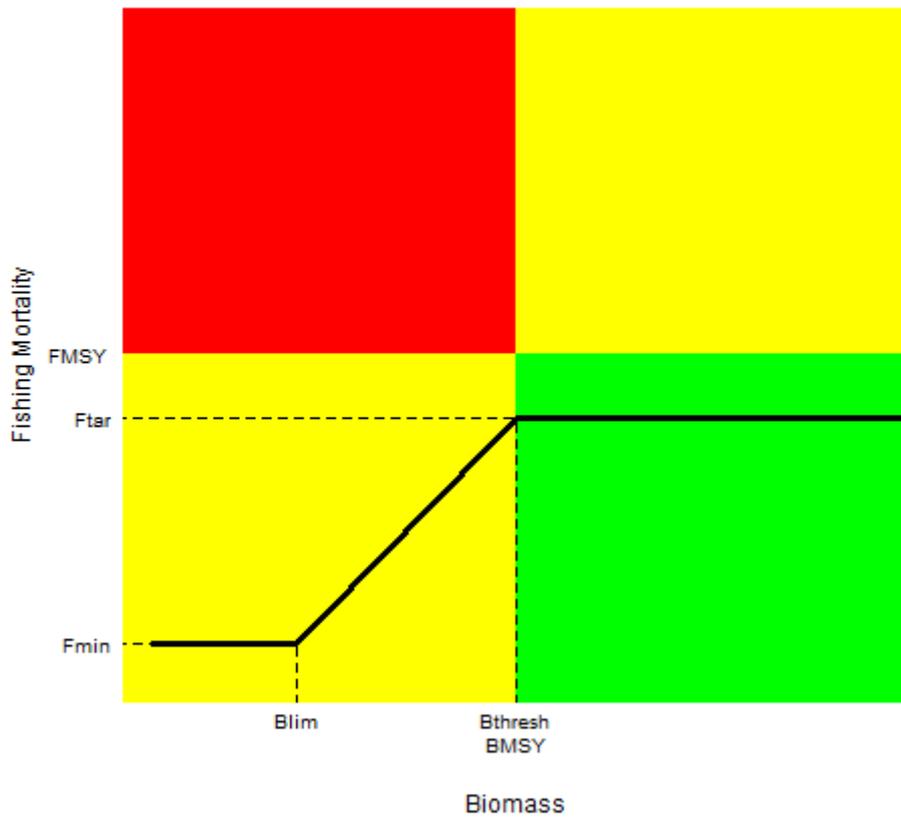
PART IV FINAL PROVISIONS

Review and exceptional circumstances

12. The SCRS is requested to develop in 2018 criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances, taking into account, *inter alia*, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary.
13. The Commission, through the Standing Working Group of Scientists and Managers, shall develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should those exceptional circumstances be found to occur.
14. If exceptional circumstances occur (such as stock trajectories out of the ranges tested by the MSE, extreme environmental regime shift, inability to update the stock status, etc.), the Commission shall review and consider possible revision of the HCR. The SCRS is requested to incorporate these exceptional circumstances in future developments of the MSE framework in order to provide further advice to the Commission.
15. The SCRS shall initiate a peer-review, in time for the 2018 Commission meeting, of the northern albacore MSE, including the operating models, management procedures, calculations of the performance indicators and code. Based on this review and potential refinement of the MSE to be described in a single consolidated report, the Commission may consider additional refinements of the interim HCR in 2018.
16. During 2018-2020, the SCRS shall continue the development of the MSE framework by conducting additional diagnostic checks, exploring additional management procedures including the carry over, and identifying the Operating Models (OMs) that might not be meeting the objectives under a certain HCR. The SCRS shall also indicate the percent of OMs that meet the management objective under each HCR. The SCRS is specifically requested to test, *inter alia*, some variants of the HCR adopted in this recommendation, such as:

- a) Setting a lower TAC limit
 - b) Applying the restriction of 20% maximum TAC change when the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold level (B_{THRESH}) and higher than B_{LIM}
 - c) Applying the restriction of 20% maximum TAC reduction or 25% maximum TAC increase when the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold level (B_{THRESH}) and higher than B_{LIM}
17. The Commission shall review the interim HCR in 2020 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure.
18. This Recommendation amends paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rec. 16-06 and does not set a precedent for future implementation of HCRs. The Commission shall consolidate this Recommendation and Recommendation 16-06 into a single Recommendation at its 2018 Commission meeting.

Graphic form of the Harvest Control Rule



Values of relative biomass and corresponding relative fishing mortality based on a sliding linear relationship between B_{LIM} and B_{THRESH} as produced by the HCR

B_{CURR}/B_{MSY}	F_{NEXT}/F_{MSY}
1 or above	0.80
0.98	0.78
0.96	0.75
0.94	0.73
0.92	0.71
0.90	0.68
0.88	0.66
0.86	0.64
0.84	0.61
0.82	0.59
0.80	0.57
0.78	0.54
0.76	0.52
0.74	0.50
0.72	0.47
0.70	0.45
0.68	0.43
0.66	0.40
0.64	0.38
0.62	0.36
0.60	0.33
0.58	0.31
0.56	0.29
0.54	0.26
0.52	0.24
0.50	0.22
0.48	0.19
0.46	0.17
0.44	0.15
0.42	0.12
0.40	0.10

17-05

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING MANAGEMENT MEASURES
FOR THE STOCK OF MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE**

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore in 2017, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its advice that there is high uncertainty regarding the recent abundance trends;

HIGHLIGHTING that, according to the latest scientific advice, and consistent with the precautionary approach, the SCRS recommends to prevent an increase of the fishing effort and to maintain catches below MSY at least until abundance trends can be verified;

CONSIDERING that to prevent an increase of fishing effort and of the catches it is important to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase;

ACKNOWLEDGING the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 introducing a closure period for the longline fishery targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), with the aim of protecting juveniles of Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels are actively fishing for albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean shall implement management measures for Mediterranean albacore starting in 2018 with the objective of preventing an increase of the fishing effort and of the catch level until the SCRS can deliver more accurate advice.
2. Each CPC shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of vessels that were authorized in 2017 under article 28 of Recommendation 16-05. CPCs may apply a tolerance of 10% to this capacity limit.
3. Each year, fishing for Mediterranean albacore shall not be permitted from 1 October to 30 November inclusive, as long as the closure period defined in paragraph 12 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 remains in force.

17-06

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR AN INTERIM CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 98-07), the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 02-07), the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Rec. 04-05), and the Supplemental Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program (Recs. 06-06, 08-04, 10-03, 12-02, 13-09, 14-05, and 16-08);

FURTHER RECALLING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY);

NOTING the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) conducted a stock assessment in 2017, and estimated that the biomass of the western stock of bluefin tuna has been increasing since about 2004, after two decades of stability, and in 2015 was at 69% of the 1974 biomass level under one model and 45% of the 1974 level under another;

RECOGNIZING, however, that the SCRS was unable to provide reliable biomass reference points in line with the provisions of Rec. 16-08 and could not evaluate if the stock is rebuilt to B_{MSY} under the 20-year rebuilding program that ends in 2018, because it has been unable to resolve the long-term recruitment potential;

NOTING that, in light of the longstanding uncertainty in estimating future recruitment, the SCRS in the 2017 stock assessment has provided short-term management advice based on a fishing mortality rate (i.e. $F_{0.1}$) that the SCRS considers to be a reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} ;

ALSO NOTING that the $F_{0.1}$ strategy accounts for the effect of recruitment changes on stock biomass;

RECOGNIZING that although the SCRS provided advice for the 2018-2020 management period based on an $F_{0.1}$ strategy, the SCRS indicated that fishing consistently at $F_{0.1}$ would, over the long-term, cause the stock to fluctuate around a biomass level associated with that fishing mortality rate (i.e., $B_{0.1}$), whatever the future recruitment potential;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the value of $F_{0.1}$ can be higher or lower than F_{MSY} depending on the stock-recruitment relationship and, consequently, the yields associated with $F_{0.1}$ can be higher or lower than MSY-based yields;

NOTING that the SCRS has advised that constant annual catches during 2018-2020 should not be greater than 2,500 t to have a 50% or greater chance of avoiding overfishing and would need to be 1,000 t or less to allow the stock biomass to continue to grow, and also aware that the Kobe matrix shows that 2,500 t has a 65% probability of avoiding overfishing in 2020;

UNDERSCORING that the results of the 2017 stock assessment and projections, including the Kobe matrix, do not capture the full degree of uncertainty with regard to the spawner-recruit relationship as well as other aspects, including the effects of stock mixing;

AWARE that the effects of stock mixing and the management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to affect the western Atlantic stock, given that the productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries is linked to the much larger eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock;

CONCERNED as well that the SCRS has indicated that recruitment has been declining for a number of years, and there are no signs of a strong year class coming into the fishery;

DESIRING, in light of the identified unquantified uncertainties, to ensure high probability of avoiding overfishing;

ALSO DESIRING to avoid large fluctuations in catches into the future to the extent possible;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommended that the next stock assessment be conducted in 2020;

HIGHLIGHTING the value of research on the stock, including increased biological sampling, to provide additional support toward addressing some key stock assessment uncertainties;

UNDERSTANDING that the Commission intends to complete a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for western Atlantic bluefin tuna by 2020;

ANTICIPATING a transition to the use of management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for bluefin tuna and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, and the need to identify management objectives consistent with the Convention and Recs. 11-13 and 15-07;

NEEDING, therefore, to implement an interim conservation and management plan that takes into account the recent SCRS advice as a means to support such a transition to a management approach based on management procedures and incorporating the relevant provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* (Rec. 16-08);

RECOGNIZING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13);

RENEWING the commitment to the full implementation of existing mandatory reporting obligations including those in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 03-13);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement the following interim conservation and management plan for the 2018-2020 period, when a management procedure tested through MSE is to be adopted.

Effort and capacity limits

2. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, CPCs will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to the western Atlantic.

TACs, TAC allocations, and catch limits

3. Pending the results of the next (i.e., 2020) stock assessment and/or SCRS recommendations based on the MSE process, the following annual total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2,350 t is established for each of 2018, 2019, and 2020.
4. The annual TACs in Paragraph 3 shall be reviewed annually by the Commission on the advice of the SCRS, which would include the review of updated fishery indicators. In support of this work, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them to the SCRS.
5. If the SCRS detects a serious threat of stock collapse, the Commission shall suspend all bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year. The Commission will review this provision in light of the development of management procedures (as described in Paragraphs 14 through 16) for this stock.
6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:

(a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<2,413 t (A)	2,413 t (B)	>2,413-2,660 t (C)	>2,660 t (D)
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1,303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

(c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 6(b), the TACs for 2018, 2019, and 2020 result in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

TAC for each of 2018, 2019, and 2020: 2,350 t

United States	1,247.86 t
Canada	515.59 t
Japan	407.48 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	5.31 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	5.31 t
Mexico	128.44 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) be less than 4 t each in any single year unless the fishery is closed.

- (d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to 128.44 t of its adjusted quota in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.

- (g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e), and 6(f) above shall: notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence, and present the results of the research to the SCRS.
7. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 6, adjusted for underharvest or overharvest consistent with the remainder of this paragraph. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the remainder of this paragraph.
- (a) Any underharvest of a CPC's total quota in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. However, in no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 10% of the CPC's initial quota allocation under paragraph 6, with the exception of UK (in respect of Bermuda), France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), and Mexico (i.e., those with initial allocations of 130 t or less), for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 6 (i.e., the total quota for such CPC shall not exceed twice its annual quota in any given year).
- (b) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its total quota, its initial quota for the next subsequent management period will be reduced by 100% of the excess of such total quota, and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph 7(b), if a CPC has an overharvest of its total quota during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's total quota equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish

8. CPCs will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
9. Notwithstanding the above measures, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota for each CPC, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish. Any overharvest of such tolerance limit from one year must be subtracted from the tolerance limit applicable in the next year or the year after that. CPCs granting such a tolerance will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna having a fork length of less than 67 cm, except as the subject of a research project notified to the SCRS, developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS, and conducted by individuals duly permitted by the CPC to undertake such research.
10. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size.
11. CPCs will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length less than 115 cm and report on steps taken in this regard in their Annual Report.

Area and time restrictions

12. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico). In light of advice received from the SCRS pursuant to paragraph 23, the Commission shall consider revising this measure and the need for alternative management actions, taking into account the efforts of Mexico and other CPCs to conserve western Atlantic bluefin tuna, including reducing bycatch.

Transshipment

13. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

Development of Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

14. Through the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and Panel 2 dialogue process, management objectives and associated performance statistics that reflect the Convention objectives shall be developed for use in a MSE by the SCRS.
15. In 2018, the SCRS shall identify candidate harvest control rules (HCR) (including biomass and fishing mortality-based reference points), and initiate testing of the associated management procedures with respect to the management objectives identified pursuant to Paragraph 14. The results of these analyses shall be discussed intersessionally in 2018 and 2019 through the SWGSM and Panel 2, in order to identify the candidate management procedures for further analysis.
16. In 2019, the SCRS shall refine the MSE and continue testing the candidate management procedures. On this basis, in 2020, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures and select one for adoption and implementation, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirements

17. In 2020, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.
18. By 2020, the SCRS shall provide the Commission with advice on any potential impacts due to uncertainties (including regarding the spawner-recruit relationship) of implementing an $F_{0.1}$ strategy, and, for any identified risks, advise how they could be addressed in future management decisions.-
19. Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico, and, as appropriate, other CPCs harvesting western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall continue to collaborate in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices.
20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research, including that being undertaken through ICCAT's GBYP. CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance the collection and analysis of biological samples from Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries, such as through sample contributions to the coordinated sampling plan recommended by the SCRS. The SCRS will report to the Commission by 2020 on these efforts. In addition, it is important to continue to explore sampling and/or other approaches for enhancing, and where needed developing, accurate abundance indices for juvenile bluefin tuna. CPCs should also make special efforts to ensure complete and timely submission of any collected data to the SCRS.
21. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
22. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels landing bluefin tuna are subject to a data recording system, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 03-13).
23. Further to Paragraph 12, the SCRS shall review any new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, including from those CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and advise the Commission on the results of this review for its consideration. Concerned CPCs are encouraged to work through the SCRS to develop advice for managing any identified times and specific areas under a precautionary approach. In addition, the SCRS shall advise on the efficacy of the Gulf of Mexico directed fishery restriction to reduce mortality of spawning age bluefin tuna.

24. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
25. The ICCAT Secretariat shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
26. All CPCs shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by the SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of all age classes encountered in their fisheries, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
27. SCRS should provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.
28. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* (Rec. 16-08).

17-07

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 14-04 ON
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to rationalize some of the existing provisions of the Recovery plan;

CONFIRMING the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2014 advice that maintaining the Total Admissible Catch (TAC) or moderately and gradually increasing over recent TACs under the current management scheme should not undermine the success of the rebuilding plan;

HIGHLIGHTING that, according the last SCRS scientific advice and even if uncertainties remain in assessment results, the goal of the recovery plan might already have been, or will soon be reached;

CONSIDERING therefore that a new phase to the recovery plan will have to be implemented following the 2014 SCRS management recommendation;

NOTING that managing fishing activities by maintaining catches at or below the MSY estimate shall also be supported by a Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) maintained over or at a level of the corresponding SSB_{MSY} ;

RECALLING that the SCRS indicated that the most precautionary MSY estimate would amount to 23,256 t and that a gradual increase of the catch level to that MSY would allow the population to increase even in the most conservative scenario;

FURTHER NOTING that annual increases of 20% of the TAC over three years would correspond to a moderate and gradual increase of the catch level to the most precautionary MSY estimate of the SCRS;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**Part I
General Provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} with at least 60% probability.

Definitions

2. For purposes of this Plan:

- a) "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
- b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
- c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
- d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine net or a tuna trap to a designated port and / or to a processing vessel.
- e) "Towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages.
"Support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 2a).

- f) "Fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
- g) "Joint fishing operation" means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with the allocation key.
- h) "Transfer operations" means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
- i) "Control Transfer" means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- j) "Trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting.
- k) "Caging" means the transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming cages.
- l) "Farm" means installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners.
- m) "Harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- n) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. Transfer operations of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seiner net or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as a transshipment.
- o) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- p) "Recreational fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- q) "BCD or electronic BCD" is a Bluefin Catch Document for bluefin tuna. As appropriate, the reference to BCD shall be replaced by eBCD.
- r) "Control cameras" means Stereoscopic Cameras and/or conventional video cameras for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- s) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.

Length of vessels

3. All lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as length overall.

Part II Management measures

TAC and quotas

4. The Commission shall establish the management plan for the stock in 2018.
- 5 (a) The total allowable catches (TACs) for the years 2018-2020 shall be set at: 28,200 t for 2018; 32,240 t for 2019; and 36,000 t for 2020, in accordance with the following quota scheme:

CPC	Quota 2018 (t)	Quota 2019 (t)	Quota 2020 (t)
Albania	100	130	140
Algeria	1,260	1,398	1,600
China	79	89	100
Egypt	181	240	300
European Union	15,850	17,536	19,360
Iceland*	84	112	140
Japan	2,279	2,528	2,801
Korea	160	167	180
Libya	1,846	2,021	2,210
Morocco	2,578	2,892	3,219
Norway	104	152	200
Syria	66	73	80
Tunisia	2,115	2,344	2,590
Turkey	1,414	1,824	2,240
Chinese Taipei	79	84	90
Subtotal	28,195	31,590	35,250
Unallocated Reserves	5	650	750
TOTAL	28,200	32,240	36,000

*Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, and 2020 shall not exceed 336 t (84 t + 112 t + 140 t).

In 2018 and 2019, the Commission may distribute the unallocated reserves for 2019 and 2020 in consideration of the stock status updated by SCRS and the needs of CPCs, in particular the needs of coastal developing CPCs in their artisanal fisheries.

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

These TACs shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

(b) Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t, 50 t and 50 t of its quotas to Korea in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Depending on availability, Libya may transfer up to 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

6. If the SCRS detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in the following year. CPCs shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.
7. In 2016 the SCRS will conduct a full stock assessment employing new modelling approaches and new information. Based on such assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise, the Commission may decide by the end of 2017 on advisable changes of the management framework for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.
8. With a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. For the fisheries concerned by paragraph 20 of this Recommendation, when submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT, CPCs shall specify if the starting dates have been modified, as well as the coordinates of the areas concerned. If prior to 31 March the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC by mail vote.

Non-submission of the plans referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

Associated conditions to TAC and quotas

9. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 51.a).
10. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group referred to paragraphs 18 to 23, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.
11. Each CPC may also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries as defined in paragraphs 2.o) and 2.p).
12. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or the individual quotas allocated for catching vessels over 24 m and included in the lists referred to in paragraph 51.a), shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
13. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
14. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
15. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
16. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
17. No JFOs between different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Any CPC joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPC if the vessel is equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has an individual quota, and in accordance with the following requirements.

At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- duration,
- identity of the operators involved,
- individual vessels' quotas,
- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
- the information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation. In presence of force majeure, the notification of changes regarding the farm of destination is not required 10 days before the operation, but shall be provided as soon as possible and the farm State authorities shall provide the ICCAT Secretariat with the description of the events constituting a force majeure.

The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Open fishing seasons

18. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
19. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June, with the exception of the Norwegian Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October.
20. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October. CPCs may specify a different starting date for the fishing seasons for these vessels operating in the eastern Atlantic, since it does not affect the protection of spawning grounds, while keeping at four months the total duration of the open season for these fisheries.
21. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October.
22. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 16 June to 14 October.
23. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraphs 18 to 22 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

Spawning grounds

24. The SCRS shall continue working on the identification, as precisely as possible, of spawning grounds, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. It shall advise the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries.

Use of aerial means

25. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

Minimum size

26. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm.
27. By derogation of paragraph 26, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
 - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.
28. For catching vessels and traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized.

This percentage is calculated on the total catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories.

By-catch

29. Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time, bluefin tuna exceeding more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT as provided in the 2014 SCRS report.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed. All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however such bluefin tuna dies it must be landed, whole and unprocessed, where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65 and 94 shall apply to by-catch.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

30. Recreational and sport fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
31. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries and sport fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

32. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
33. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight and length overall of each bluefin tuna from recreational and sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Dead catches of recreational and sport fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 11.
34. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole or gilled and/or gutted.

Part III**Capacity management measures****Adjustment of fishing capacity**

35. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.
36. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 35 to 45a, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping when capacity reduction is required.
37. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels.
38. Paragraph 37 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.

39. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
40. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
41. Without prejudice to paragraph 40, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting.
42. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account, *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear to be estimated by SCRS.
43. The SCRS shall update the Commission annually and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated catch rates.
44. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.
45. For 2018, 2019, and 2020, when submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT, CPCs shall limit the numbers of their purse seiners to the numbers of purse seiners authorised in 2013 or 2014. This shall not apply to PS operating in the context of the activities referred to in paragraph 27b or to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota.
 - a) By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 37 and 39, for 2018, 2019 and 2020, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraphs 36 and 45, a higher number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such increase shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 42.

Adjustment of farming capacity

46. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan in case of modification of the plan approved in 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 47 to 49. Modifications of the farming management plan shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the 1 May each year.
47. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.
48. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
49. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 48, each CPC shall allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
50. The plans referred to in paragraphs 35 to 49 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraph 8 of this recommendation.

Part IV

Control measures

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

51. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel may be registered in any of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b) as long as such registration is not in both lists at the same time. Without prejudice to paragraph 29, for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

52. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23, when applicable, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.a). For those catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna and not affected by a fishing season, record on the list shall be permitted at the latest 15 days before such authorization enters into force.

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.b) shall be submitted 15 days before the start of their period of authorisation.

Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or force majeure. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 51;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases to the Compliance Committee not sufficiently justified or incomplete as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original change request.

53. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

54. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.

55. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 April each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 54.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

56. By 1 April each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year. This information should include:

- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
- b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
- c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);
- d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
- e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
- b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.

57. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 56 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Transshipment

58. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.

59. Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted transshipping times and places.

The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all transshipping times and at all transshipping places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

60. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival;
 - b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
 - c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
 - d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
 - e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved;
- b) the date and port of the transshipment;
- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
- d) the geographical area of the catch of bluefin tuna.

The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.

Recording requirements

61. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
62. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
63. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year. For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.
64. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival;
 - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
 - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 8 of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

All caging operations and transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the farming and designated port CPC authorities.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

65. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port.

Communication of catches

66. a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area.

For purse seiners such daily report shall be on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis including those where the catch was zero.

Such reports shall be transmitted on a daily basis for purse seiners and vessels over 24 meters, and for other catching vessels by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate a daily catch report (weight and number of fish), within 48 hours by electronic or other means to their competent authorities including zero catches during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels and traps to the ICCAT Secretariat. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

Reporting of catches

67. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches by gear type of bluefin tuna including by-catch and from sport and recreational fisheries and nil returns to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.

68. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.

69. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when they have closed the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23 as well as when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

70. CPCs shall verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transfer operations

71. Before any transfer operation, as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag State or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:
- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
 - estimated time of transfer,
 - estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
 - information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
 - name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
 - port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. Numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

72. The flag State shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the CPC flag State authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap. Information regarding dead fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 11**.

If the flag State of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or a trap or had not been authorized to be caged and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 51.b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the captain of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in **Annex 10** and this paragraph.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be performed in accordance with **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

73. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC- 20**/xxx/ITD).
- b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
- c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.

74. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.

75. For transfers of live bluefin tuna as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 8**.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

76. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 6**) and paragraphs 89 and 90, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 72 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 73.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, or when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag State of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated. However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel to conduct a new transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the Regional Observer.

77. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 75 and 76. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

Caging operations

78. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical mile of farming facilities, shall be prohibited.
79. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours / 1 working day of the request, of the catching vessel's or trap flag State, or of the CPC authorities of the farm if agreed with the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap. If no response is received within 24 hours / 1 working day from the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, the CPC authorities of the farm may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farm CPC.

Fish shall be caged before the 15 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including force majeure, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted.

80. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall prohibit placing bluefin tuna in cages for farming bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.
81. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 8**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with the flag State of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 83 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques.

82. CPCs shall take the necessary measures and actions to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging and report the results to the SCRS.

SCRS shall continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and report to the Commission at the Annual meetings.

83. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 9**.

The results of this programme shall be communicated by the flag State of the farm CPC to the catching CPC and to the Regional Observer. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and transferred, an investigation shall be launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in **Annex 9**, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all cagings from a JFO, or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and/or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the deployment of a Regional Observer.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting in accordance with **Annex 9**.

84. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm State control authorities.
85. A difference superior or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned.
86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation of ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.

VMS

87. Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09].

Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, with effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied for their fishing vessels over 15 m.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 97 and 99 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels over 15 m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorisation unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

CPC Observer Programme

88. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
- 100% of towing vessels,
- 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessel and trap compliance with the present Recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, inter alia, the following:
 - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears,
 - date of catch.
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2009 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC observer programmes.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

89. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100%:

- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- during all transfers from one farm to another;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms.

Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

90. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations,
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

Enforcement

91. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 18 to 23, 26 to 28 and 61 to 65 (fishing seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
- sequestration of the vessel,
- suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish,
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

92. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 78 to 86 and 93 (caging operations and observers) and with Recommendation 06-07.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

Access to and requirements for video records

93. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraph 81 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

Market measures

94. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels or traps whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 10 are exhausted;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation 06-07.

Conversion factors

95. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

Growth factors

96. The SCRS shall review information from BCDs and other submitted data and further study growth rates so as to provide updated growth tables to the Commission by the 2016 Annual meeting.

Part V

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

97. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.

98. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 97 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].

99. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.

Part VI

Final provisions

100. Availability of data to the SCRS

The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present recommendation.

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

101. Evaluation

All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation.

102. Cooperation

All the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain are encouraged to enter into bilateral arrangements in order to improve the compliance with the provisions of this recommendation. These arrangements could notably cover exchanges of inspectors, joint inspections and data sharing.

103. Repeals

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04].

ANNEXES

Annex 1

Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 27

1. CPCs shall limit:

- The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
- The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
- The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 52 of this recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg or 70 cm fork length caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 27 of this recommendation.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean under the conditions of this Annex shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Logbook requirements

A – Catching Vessels

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address.
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival.
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available).
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.

6. Master signature.
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting.
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transhipment:

1. Dates and port of landing /transhipment
2. Products
 - a) species and presentation by FAO code
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transhipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude / longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
 - a) Species identification by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their log book:
 - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - amount of catches taken on board,
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,

- the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO.
- b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
- the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

B – Towing Vessels

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessel shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

C – Auxiliary Vessels

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

D – Processing Vessels

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transshipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

No. of document

ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

<p>Carrier vessel</p> <p>Name of vessel and radio call sign: Flag: Flag State authorization No. National Register No. ICCAT Register No. IMO No.</p>	<p>Fishing Vessel</p> <p>Name of the vessel and radio call sign: Flag: Flag State authorization No. National register No. ICCAT Register No. External identification: Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>	<p>Final destination: Port: Country: State:</p>
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Departure	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	From:	_ _ _	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	_ _	_ _	_ _	To:	_ _ _		

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |_|_| kilograms.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea Lat. Long.	Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product guttled	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
										Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
										Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
										Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
										Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transshipment:

1. The original of the transshipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transshipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transshipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Annex 4

Document No.	ICCAT Transfer Declaration		
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no. eBCD nbr.	Trap name: ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Name of destination farm: ICCAT Register no:
			Cage Number:
2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:	Species:		
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:	Observer Names, ICCAT No. and signature:	
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 89 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm or trap observed.

Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State, trap State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag State authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
 - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
 - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;

- vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
 - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
 - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
 - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
 - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
 - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
 - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 75 and 76;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
 - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and traps and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

Obligations of the flag States of purse seine vessels and farm and trap States

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;

- ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
- iii) electronic means of communication;
- c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
- e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State, trap State or flag State of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Observer fees and organization

- 12.a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
 - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c) fishing in a closed area;
 - d) fishing during a closed season;
 - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n) fishing with assistance of spotter planes;
 - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
 - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
 - q) transshipment at sea.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag State of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag State of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag State CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag State CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag State, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 21 of this Annex.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag State of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.

* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector’s own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
- 16.a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
- b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
- 17.a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
- b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
18. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission’s recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.
19. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State.
20. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
21. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ICCAT</p> <p>Inspector Identity Card</p> </div> </div> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 100px; height: 80px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card n°:</p> <p>Issue Date: Valid five years</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ICCAT</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>..... Issuing Authority</p> <p>..... Inspector</p> </div>
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Minimum standards for video recording procedures**Transfers**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT caging authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.

- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

Annex 9**Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations****Use of stereoscopic cameras systems**

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 83 of this Recommendation, shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 10 meters and maximum height of 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, or the flag CPC authorities of the farm.

Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. The farm CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
 - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
 - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
 - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.
 - ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.
 - ii.3 Caging report including:

- general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, BCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage file name;
 - algorithm used to convert length into weight;
 - comparison between the amounts declared in the BCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: $(\text{Stereoscopic System}-\text{BCD}) / \text{Stereoscopic System} * 100$);
 - margin of error of the system;
 - for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.
- iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.
- iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
 - the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**;
 - after the release operations took place, the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the BCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.
- iv. For any relevant modification of the BCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall be not higher those in Section 2.
- v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant BCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The BCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The BCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The BCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Annex 10**Release Protocol**

The release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT Regional Observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from transport cages or traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer of the traps CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to its CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 72.

Treatment of dead fish

During fishing operations by purse seiners, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the Flag CPCs quota.

Recording/treating of dead fish during 1st transfer

- a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer – including “dead” fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD.

- b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead BFT to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.

17-08

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK
OF SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

CONSIDERING that shortfin mako is caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

CONCERNED by the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that there will be a need for CPCs to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to monitor the future status of this stock, including total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

KNOWING that the result of the SCRS indicates that shortfin mako shark catches should be at 1000 t or below to prevent the population from decreasing further and that catches of 500 t or less would stop overfishing and begin to rebuild the stock;

COMMITTED to immediately taking actions to end overfishing of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock with a high probability, as the first step in the development of a rebuilding plan;

CONSIDERING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) calls for the Commission to immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Rec. 11-13 calls for the Commission to adopt a plan to rebuild stocks in the red zone of the Kobe plot, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

ACKNOWLEDGING that according to SCRS studies, the survival rate after release of shortfin mako shark is around 70%;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release North Atlantic shortfin mako in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - (1) For vessels whose length is greater than 12 m,
 - a) the vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which can identify whether the fish is dead or alive;
 - b) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
 - c) the observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant and its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort; and
 - d) when shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases shall be recorded by the observer or estimated from the records of the electronic monitoring system.
 - (2) For vessels whose length is equal or smaller than 12 m,
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako provided that:

- a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel; and
 - b) the retention of shortfin mako does not exceed the fishing vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer is on board and this is verified by mandatory logbooks and landing inspection conducted on the basis of risk assessment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive, when a CPC's domestic law requires a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and of at least 210 cm fork length for females.
 5. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the fishermen may not draw any profit from such fish, may retain on board and land incidental by-catch of North Atlantic shortfin mako.
 6. The observer is also encouraged to collect biological samples such as muscular tissues (for stock identification), reproductive organ with embryo (for identification of pregnancy cycle and reproductive output) and vertebrae (for estimation of growth curve). The biological samples collected by the observer should be analyzed by CPCs concerned and the result should be submitted to the SCRS by CPCs concerned.
 7. The measures contained in this recommendation are expected to prevent the population from decreasing further, stop overfishing and begin to rebuild the stock.
 8. CPCs that authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall provide to the Secretariat the amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards during the first six months in 2018 by one month prior to the 2018 Commission annual meeting. The Commission at its 2018 annual meeting shall review these figures and decide whether the measures contained in this recommendation shall be modified.
 9. CPCs shall also report the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako estimated based on the total fishing effort of their relevant fleets using data collected through observer programs or other relevant data collection programs. CPCs that do not authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall also record through their observer programs the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako and report it to SCRS.
 10. In 2019, the SCRS shall review the effectiveness of the measures contained in this recommendation and provide the Commission with additional scientific advice on conservation and management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, which shall include:
 - a) an evaluation of whether the measures contained in this recommendation have prevented the population from decreasing further, stopped overfishing and begun to rebuild the stock, and whether or not, the probability of ending overfishing and rebuilding that would be associated with annual catch limits at 100 t increments.
 - b) a Kobe II strategy matrix that reflects timeframe(s) for rebuilding of at least two mean generation times; and

In conducting such review and providing advice to the Commission, the SCRS shall take into account:

- a) a spatial/temporal analysis of North Atlantic shortfin mako catches in order to identify areas with high interactions;
 - b) available information on growth and size at maturity by sex as well as any biologically important areas (e.g. pupping grounds); and
 - c) the effectiveness of the use of circle hooks as a mitigation measure to reduce mortality.
11. This Recommendation expires on 31 December 2019. The Commission, at its 2019 annual meeting, shall develop new management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the new scientific advice from the SCRS, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to B_{MSY} within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.
 12. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with their regulatory procedures.

17-09

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 15-10 ON THE APPLICATION OF THE EBCD SYSTEM**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) system;

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

NOTING the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to implement the eBCD system to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program;

FOLLOWING the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

CONSIDERING the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* [Rec. 13-17] and the decision made at the 19th Special Meeting regarding the status of program implementation;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

ACKNOWLEDGING the full implementation of the eBCD system since 2016;

NOTING the necessity to review in 2017 the relevance of specific derogations and their associated deadlines;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for eBCD system implementation, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the eBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide and maintain the data required by the eBCD system.
2. Use of the eBCD system is mandatory for all CPCs and paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted, except in the limited circumstances specified in paragraph 6 below.
3. CPCs may communicate to the Secretariat and the TWG their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation including any difficulties experienced and identification of improvements to functionalities to enhance eBCD implementation and performance. The Commission may consider these recommendations and financial support to further develop the system.
4. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs (eBCDs).
5. Notwithstanding paragraph 4 of this recommendation, the following provisions shall be applied with respect to the BCD program and its implementation through the eBCD system:

- a) Following the recording and validation of catch and first trade in the eBCD system in accordance with part II of Recommendation 11-20, the recording of information on internal sales of bluefin tuna in the eBCD (i.e. sales occurring within one Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) or, in the case of the European Union, within one of its Member States) is not required.
- b) Following the recording and validation of catch and first trade in the eBCD, the domestic trade between Member States of the European Union shall be completed in the eBCD system by the seller consistent with paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20; however, in derogation to Recommendation 11-20, where such trade is of bluefin tuna that is in the following product forms listed on the eBCD, validation shall not be required: “fillets” (FL) or “other, specified” (OT). “Gilled and gutted” (GG), “dressed” (DR), and “Round” (RD) product forms will require validation. When such product (FL and OT) is packaged for transport, however, the associated eBCD number must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing any part of the tuna except for exempted products specified in paragraph 10 of Recommendation 11-20.

For such product (FL and OT), in addition to the requirements in the above paragraph, subsequent domestic trade to another Member State shall only take place when the trade information from the previous Member State has been recorded in eBCD system. Export from the European Union shall take place only if the previous trade between Member States has been properly recorded, and such export shall continue to require validation in the eBCD system consistent with paragraph 13 of Rec. 11-20.

The derogation in this paragraph expires on 31 December 2020. The European Union shall report to the Commission on the implementation of this derogation by 1 October each year of the derogation. This report shall include information on its process for verification and the outcomes of that process and data about these trade events, including relevant statistical information. Based on these reports and any other relevant information brought to the Commission, the Commission shall review the validation derogation at its 2020 annual meeting for decision on its possible extension.

The trade of live bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 11-20 unless otherwise specified in this recommendation. The validation of sections 2 (catch) and 3 (live trade) in the eBCD may be completed simultaneously in derogation to paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-20. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by Paragraph 83 of Recommendation 17-07 may be completed following caging operation.

- c) Bluefin tuna harvested in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited is not subject to the terms of Recommendation 11-20 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
- d) The provisions of paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programs of the flag CPC for the vessel or trap that harvested the bluefin tuna under which the fish are tagged are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 21 of that recommendation and meet the following criteria:
 - i) All bluefin tuna in the eBCD concerned are individually tagged;
 - ii) Minimum information associated with the tag includes:
 - Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap;
 - Date of capture or landing;
 - The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment;
 - The gear utilized to catch the fish;
 - The type of product and individual weight of the tagged bluefin tuna, which may be done through the appending of an Annex. Alternatively for those fisheries concerned by the derogations to minimum size under the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 17-07) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, CPCs may instead provide the approximate weight of individual fish within the catch upon offloading, which is determined through representative sampling. This alternative approach shall apply through 2020 unless extended by the Commission after considering CPC reports on its implementation;

- Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
- The point of export (where applicable).

iii) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.

- e) Bluefin tuna that die during the transfer, towing, or caging operations foreseen by paragraphs 71 to 86 of Recommendation 17-07 prior to harvesting may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s), and/or farm representatives, where applicable.
 - f) Bluefin tuna that are caught as by-catch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 17-07 may be traded. In order to improve the functioning of the eBCD system access to the system by CPC authorities, port authorities and/or through authorised self-registration shall be facilitated, including by way of their national registration number. Such registration only permits access to the eBCD system and does not represent an authorisation by ICCAT; hence no ICCAT number will be issued. Flag CPCs of the vessels concerned are not required to submit a list of such vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat.
 - g) Paper BCDs shall continue to be used for the trade of Pacific bluefin tuna until such time as the functionality for such tracking is developed within the eBCD system. Such functionality will include the data elements listed in **Annex 1 and 2** unless otherwise decided to address future data collection needs.
 - h) The trade section of an eBCD shall be validated prior to export. The buyer information in the trade section must be entered into the eBCD system as soon as available and prior to re-export.
 - i) Access to the eBCD system shall be granted to ICCAT non-CPCs to facilitate trade of bluefin tuna. Until such time as the functionality is developed that allows non-CPC access to the system, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD program documents consistent with the terms of paragraph 6 and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system. The Secretariat shall communicate without delay to those non-CPCs known to trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna to make them aware of the eBCD system and the provisions of the BCD program applicable to them.
 - j) To the extent possible, reports generated from the eBCD system, shall fulfill the annual reporting requirements in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20. CPCs shall also continue to provide those elements of the annual report that cannot be produced from the eBCD system. The reporting period for such annual reports shall be 1 January to 31 December. The format and content of any additional reports will be determined by the Commission taking into account appropriate confidentiality rules and considerations. At a minimum, reports shall include catch and trade data by the CPCs that are appropriately aggregated. CPCs shall continue to report on their implementation of the eBCD system in their Annual Reports.
6. Paper BCD documents (issued pursuant to Recommendation 11-20) or printed eBCDs may be used in the following cases:
- a) Landings of quantities of bluefin tuna less than one metric ton or three fish. Such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught prior to the full implementation of the eBCD system as specified in paragraph 2.
 - c) Notwithstanding the requirement to use the eBCD system in paragraph 2, paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may be used as a back-up in the limited event that technical difficulties with the system arise that preclude a CPC from using the eBCD system, following the procedures as set forth in **Annex 3**. Delays by CPCs in taking necessary actions, such as providing the data necessary to ensure the registration of users in the eBCD system or other avoidable situations, do not constitute an acceptable technical difficulty.
 - d) In the case of trade of Pacific bluefin tuna as specified in paragraph 5g.

- e) In the case of trade between ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs where access to the eBCD system through the Secretariat (pursuant to paragraph 5(i) above) is not possible or is not timely enough to ensure the trade is not unduly delayed or disrupted.

The use of a paper BCD document in the cases specified in sub-paragraphs a) through e) shall not be cited by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment provided it complies with the existing provisions of Recommendation 11-20 and relevant provisions of this recommendation. Printed eBCDs that are validated in the eBCD system satisfy the validation requirement stipulated in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-20.

Where requested by a CPC, conversion of paper BCDs to eBCDs shall be facilitated by the ICCAT Secretariat or through the creation in the eBCD system of user profiles for CPC authorities at their request for this purpose, as appropriate.

- 7. The Technical Working Group shall continue its work and, through the ICCAT Secretariat, inform the developing consortium of the specifications on required system developments and adjustments and steer their implementation.
- 8. This recommendation clarifies Recommendation 17-07 and clarifies and amends Recommendation 11-20.
- 9. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and amend aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin tuna Catch Documentation program to facilitate the application of the eBCD system* [Rec. 15-10].

Annex 1**Data requirement for the Trade of Pacific Bluefin Tuna under the BCD program**

Section 1: Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Number

Section 2: Catch information

Name of catching vessel/trap

Flag/CPC

Area

Total weight (kg)

Section 8: Trade information

Product description

- (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

- Total weight (NET)

Exporter/seller information

- Company name

- Point of export/departure

- State of destination

Transportation description

Government validation

Importer/buyer

- Company name, license number

- Point of import or destination

Annex 2**ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate**

Section 1. Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate Number

Section 2: Re-export section

Re-export country/entity/fishing entity

Point of re-export

Section 3: Description of imported bluefin tuna

Net weight (kg)

BCD (or eBCD) number and date(s) of importation

Section 4: Description of bluefin tuna for re-export

Net weight (kg)

Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number

State of destination

Section 6: Government validation

**Procedures to allow the issuance of paper BCDs or printed eBCDs
due to technical difficulties with the eBCD system**

A. If the technical difficulty occurs during working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. As an initial step, the CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall contact the implementing consortium to confirm and try to resolve the technical difficulty and also include the Secretariat in these communications. The implementing consortium shall provide an acknowledgement of the technical difficulty to the CPC.
2. In the case where a technical difficulty that has been confirmed by the implementing consortium cannot be resolved before a trade event must occur, the CPC shall inform the Secretariat of the nature of the technical difficulty and provide it with the information set out in the attached Appendix as well as a copy of the confirmation of the technical difficulty from the implementing consortium.
3. The Secretariat shall notify other CPCs that paper BCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC encountering the technical difficulty by posting the information provided in paragraph 2 above on the public part of the ICCAT website without delay. The CPC may then use a paper BCD or a printed eBCD for the trade event.
4. A CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall continue to work with the implementing consortium and, as appropriate, the Secretariat to resolve the issue.
5. The CPC shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the eBCD system self-reporting incident site or to the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website. The CPC will then follow the procedures in Section C, below.

B. If the technical difficulty occurs outside working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. The CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall immediately communicate to the Secretariat and the implementing consortium via email that it is unable to use the eBCD system with an explanation of the technical difficulty encountered. To proceed with a trade, the CPC must then access the self-reporting incident site to enter the required information specified in the attached **Appendix**. Through the site, this information will be automatically uploaded to the ICCAT website to notify other CPCs that paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC encountering the technical difficulty. The CPC may then use a paper BCD or a printed eBCD for the trade event.
2. If the technical difficulty is not resolved before the start of the next business day of the Secretariat and the implementing consortium, the CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall contact the implementing consortium and, as needed, the Secretariat, as soon as possible during that next business day in order to resolve the technical difficulty.
3. The CPC shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website. The CPC will then follow the procedures in Section C, below.

C. In all cases where a paper BCD or printed eBCD has been used in accordance with the procedures specified in sections A or B above, the following also applies:

1. The CPC shall resume use of the eBCD system as soon as the technical difficulty is resolved.
2. Paper BCDs shall be converted into an eBCD by the CPC that used the paper BCD or by the ICCAT Secretariat if the CPC requests it to do so, as soon as possible following resolution of the technical difficulty. In case that conversion cannot be fully completed by the CPC that used the paper BCD, it shall contact those CPCs which received the paper BCD and request its cooperation to complete the

conversion for the e-BCD sections directly under the responsibility of the CPC which received a paper BCD. Such CPC that carried out or requested the conversion of the paper BCD shall be responsible for reporting to the Secretariat that the technical difficulty has been resolved, and, where appropriate, uploading relevant information to the self-reporting incident site. As soon as possible after resolution of the technical difficulty, a CPC that has received a paper BCD shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the paper BCD is not used for subsequent trade events.

3. Where a printed eBCD has been used, CPCs shall ensure that any missing data from the eBCD record is uploaded into the eBCD system as soon as the technical difficulty is resolved for the sections under their direct responsibility.
 4. Paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may continue to be used until such time as the technical difficulty is resolved and the paper BCDs concerned are converted into eBCDs in accordance with the procedure above.
 5. Once a paper BCD has been converted to an eBCD, all subsequent trade events of product associated with that paper BCD shall be carried out only in the eBCD system.
- D. In the case of technical difficulties experienced by importing CPCs, the importing CPC may request the exporting CPC concerned to issue a paper BCD or printed eBCD to support trade after notice of the technical difficulty has been posted on the ICCAT website in accordance with the procedures specified in sections A or B above. The exporting CPC shall verify that the notification of the technical difficulty is posted on the ICCAT website before issuing the paper BCD or printed eBCD. Importing CPCs shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website.
- E. Throughout the year, the Secretariat shall compile information on cases where a CPC reported a technical difficulty and/or paper documents were issued, for review by the PWG at the subsequent ICCAT Annual meeting. If the PWG determines that the reporting procedures set forth above were not followed or that the use of paper was not otherwise consistent with the provisions of this Recommendation, the PWG will consider appropriate actions, including possible referral to the Compliance Committee, if appropriate.
- F. The procedures set forth above will be reviewed in 2019 and revised, as appropriate.

Appendix

- Date
- CPC
- BCD(s) concerned
- Summary of Issue
- Date of resolution
- Incidence Number (if available)

OTHER DOCUMENTS

6.1 GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (ADOPTED)

1 Title of the proposal

(a) When a CPC submits a proposal that is not based on existing Recommendations, or any other type of document, it should indicate “(a new proposal)” at the end of the title.

e.g., Draft Recommendation on Deployment of Robot Observers on board Fishing Vessels (a new proposal)

(b) When a CPC submits a proposal to amend an existing Recommendation, or any other type of document, it should indicate in the title which existing document it proposes to amend.

e.g., Draft Recommendation to Amend Rec. 17-01 on Deployment of Robot Observers on board Fishing Vessels

(c) A proposal that was presented at a previous meeting but not adopted should indicate “previously discussed but not adopted” in addition to either “a new proposal” or “amendment”.

e.g., Draft Recommendation to Amend Rec. 17-01 on Deployment of Robot Observers on board Fishing Vessels (a new proposal, previously discussed but not adopted as PWG-101A/2018)

2 Addition of new co-sponsors

When a proposal is amended only to add new co-sponsors, the Secretariat should upload the revised version on the server, while retaining any amendments to the text that have been proposed but not yet agreed. The Secretariat should announce the availability of the revised proposal to the meeting participants, but not print it out for distribution unless there is no Wi-Fi access at the meeting location.

3 Upload of MS Word file

To facilitate understanding of the changes that have been made from the previous version(s) of the circulated proposal, an MS Word file of the corresponding version should also be uploaded on the meeting document server indicating the proposed amendments using track changes, if possible.¹

¹ Japan was originally planning to propose that track changes (i.e., use of underlines for addition and strike-through lines for deletion) be used for any new version to indicate proposed changes. However, it was pointed out that this would cause great difficulties for translators for their translation as the syntax of three official languages may not necessarily be the same. Accordingly, as the second best solution, Japan proposes that MS Word files be uploaded. If the proposal is originally written in English, it would be possible to upload a file showing all the track changes, but may not be possible in its French and Spanish versions. In this case, a clean version can be uploaded for French and Spanish and readers may want to use the compare function of MS Word if they want to know differences between the two different versions.

6.2 CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (NOT ADOPTED)

*Prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment
Without Prejudice*

Preamble

The Governments whose duly authorized representatives have subscribed hereto, considering their mutual interest in the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory found in the Atlantic Ocean, and desiring to co-operate in maintaining the populations of these fishes at levels which will permit their long term conservation and sustainable use ~~maximum sustainable catch~~ for food and other purposes, resolve to conclude a Convention for the conservation of these resources of tuna and tuna-like fishes of the Atlantic Ocean, and to that end agree as follows:

Article I

The area to which this Convention shall apply, hereinafter referred to as the "Convention area", shall be all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent Seas.

Article II

Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under international law. This Convention shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with international law. ~~be considered as affecting the rights, claims or views of any Contracting Party in regard to the limits of territorial waters or the extent of jurisdiction over fisheries under international law.~~

Article III

1. The Contracting Parties hereby agree to establish and maintain a Commission to be known as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", which shall carry out the objectives set forth in this Convention. Each Contracting Party shall be a Member of the Commission.

2. Each of the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission shall be represented on the Commission by not more than three Delegates. Such Delegates may be assisted by experts and advisors.

3. ~~Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention~~ Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus as a general rule. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, if consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties ~~Members of the Commission present and casting affirmative or negative votes, each Contracting Party~~ Member of the Commission having one vote. Two-thirds of the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

4. The Commission shall hold a regular meeting once every two years. A special meeting may be called at any time at the request of a majority of the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission or by decision of the Council as constituted in Article V.

5. At its first meeting, and thereafter at each regular meeting, the Commission shall elect from among its ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman who shall not be re-elected for more than one term.

6. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the Commission otherwise decides.

7. The official languages of the Commission shall be English, French and Spanish.

8. The Commission shall have authority to adopt such rules of procedure and financial regulations as are necessary to carry out its functions.

9. The Commission shall submit a report to the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission every two years on its work and findings and shall also inform any ~~Contracting Party~~ Member of the Commission, whenever requested, on any matter relating to the objectives of the Convention.

Article III bis

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under the Convention, shall act to:

- (a) apply the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards and, as appropriate, recommended practices and procedures;
- (b) use the best scientific evidence available;
- (c) protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- (d) ensure fairness and transparency in decision making processes, including with respect to the allocation of fishing possibilities, and other activities; and
- (e) give full recognition to the special requirements of developing Members of the Commission, including the need for their capacity building, in accordance with international law, to implement their obligations under this Convention and to develop their fisheries.

Article IV

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes (~~the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*~~) and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory (hereinafter "ICCAT species"), and such other species of fishes exploited ~~caught~~ in tuna fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area, as are not under investigation by another taking into account the work of other relevant international fishery-related organizations or arrangements. Such study shall include research on ~~the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes~~ these species; the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission may also study species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent or associated with the ICCAT species. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any public or private institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget with the cooperation of concerned Contracting Parties Members of the Commission, independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations. The Commission shall ensure that any information received from such institution, organization, or individual is consistent with established scientific standards regarding quality and objectivity.

2. The carrying out of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include:
- (a) collecting and analysing statistical information relating to the current conditions and trends of ~~the tuna fishery resources of ICCAT species in~~ the Convention area;
 - (b) studying and appraising information concerning measures and methods to ensure maintenance of the populations of ICCAT species ~~tuna and tuna-like fishes~~ in the Convention area at or above levels ~~which will permit the~~ capable of producing maximum sustainable catch yield and which will ensure the effective exploitation of these ~~species~~ fishes in a manner consistent with this yield catch;
 - (c) recommending studies and investigations to the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission;
 - (d) publishing and otherwise disseminating reports of its findings and statistical, biological and other scientific information relative to ~~the tuna fisheries of ICCAT species in~~ the Convention area.

Article V

1. There is established within the Commission a Council which shall consist of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties represented on the Council shall be elected at each regular meeting of the Commission. However, if at any time the number of the Contracting Parties exceeds forty, the Commission may elect an additional two Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council. The Contracting Parties of which the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are nationals shall not be elected to the Council. In elections to the Council the Commission shall give due consideration to the geographic, tuna fishing and tuna processing interests of the Contracting Parties, as well as to the equal right of the Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council.
2. The Council shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by this Convention or are designated by the Commission, and shall meet at least once in the interim between regular meetings of the Commission. Between meetings of the Commission the Council shall make necessary decisions on the duties to be carried out by the staff and shall issue necessary instructions to the Executive Secretary. Decisions of the Council shall be made in accordance with rules to be established by the Commission.

Article VI

To carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission may establish Panels on the basis of species, group of species, or of geographic areas. Each Panel in such case:

- (a) shall be responsible for keeping under review the species, group of species, or geographic area under its purview, and for collecting scientific and other information relating thereto;
- (b) may propose to the Commission, upon the basis of scientific investigations, recommendations for joint action by the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission;
- (c) may recommend to the Commission studies and investigations necessary for obtaining information relating to its species, group of species, or geographic area, as well as the co-ordination of programmes of investigation by the ~~Contracting Parties~~ Members of the Commission.

Article VII

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Secretary who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, subject to such rules and procedures as may be determined by the Commission, shall have authority with respect to the selection and administration of the staff of the Commission. He shall also perform, *inter alia*, the following functions as the Commission may prescribe:

- (a) coordinating the programmes of investigation ~~by the Contracting Parties~~ carried out pursuant to Articles IV and VI;
- (b) preparing budget estimates for review by the Commission;
- (c) authorising the disbursement of funds in accordance with the Commission's budget;
- (d) accounting for the funds of the Commission;
- (e) arranging for co-operation with the organizations referred to in Article XI of this Convention;
- (f) preparing the collection and analysis of data necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Convention particularly those data relating to the current and maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield of ~~tuna~~ stocks of ICCAT species;
- (g) preparing for approval by the Commission scientific, administrative and other reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Article VIII

1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to ~~maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch.~~

(i) ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species by maintaining or restoring the abundance of the stocks of those species at or above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield; and
 (ii) promote where necessary the conservation of other species that are dependent on or associated with ICCAT species, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.
 These recommendations shall be applicable to the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

(b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:
 (i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established; or
 (ii) at the initiative of the Commission with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has been established but a proposal has not been approved;
 (iii) on a proposal that has been approved by an appropriate Panel ~~if such a Panel has been established;~~
 (iv) ~~on a proposal that has been approved by~~ the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.

2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission ~~six~~ four months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commission at the time a recommendation is adopted and except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article. However, under no circumstances shall a recommendation become effective in less than three months.

3. (a) If any ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) or (ii) above, or any ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission which is also a member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(iii) or (iv) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six~~ months period established pursuant to ~~provided for in~~ paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for ~~an additional sixty days~~ the Contracting PartiesMembers of the Commission concerned.
 (b) ~~Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional sixty days period, or within forty five days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional sixty days, whichever date shall be the later.~~
 (c) ~~The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.~~
 (d) ~~However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.~~
 (e) ~~In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of sixty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.~~
 (f) ~~If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the Contracting Parties that have not presented an objection thereto.~~
 (g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting PartiesMembers of the Commission within the period established pursuant to paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for any Contracting PartyMember of the Commission.

(ch) A Contracting Party Member of the Commission presenting an objection in accordance with subparagraph (a) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, the reason for its objection, which shall be based on one or more of the following grounds:

- (i) The recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or other relevant provisions of international law; or
- (ii) The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting Contracting Party Member of the Commission.
- (iii) The Contracting Party Member of the Commission cannot practicably comply with the measure because it has adopted a different approach to conservation and sustainable management or because it does not have the technical capabilities to implement the recommendation.
- (iv) Security constraints as a result of which the objecting Contracting Party Member of the Commission is not in a position to implement or comply with the measure.

(di) Each Contracting Party Member of the Commission that presents an objection pursuant to this Article shall also provide to the Commission, to the extent practicable, a description of any alternative conservation and management ~~and conservation~~ measures, which shall be at least equally effective as the measure to which it is objecting.

4. Any ~~Contracting Party Member of the Commission~~ objecting to a recommendation may at any time withdraw that objection, and the recommendation shall become effective with respect to such ~~Contracting Party Member of the Commission~~ immediately if the recommendation is already in effect, or at such time as it may become effective under the terms of this Article.

5. The ~~Commission Executive Secretary~~ shall promptly circulate to all Contracting Parties Members of the Commission the details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this Article ~~notify each Contracting Party immediately upon receipt of each objection and of each withdrawal of such an objection, and shall notify all Contracting Parties Members of the Commission of the entry into force of any recommendation.~~

Article VIII bis

1. Every effort shall be made within the Commission in order to prevent disputes, and the parties to any dispute shall consult each other in order to settle disputes concerning this Convention by amicable means and as quickly as possible.

2. Where a dispute concerns a matter of a technical nature, the parties to the dispute may jointly refer the dispute to an *ad hoc* expert panel established in accordance with the procedures that the Commission adopts for this purpose. The panel shall confer with the parties to the dispute and shall endeavour to expeditiously resolve the dispute without recourse to binding procedures.

3. If any dispute arises between two or more of the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, those Contracting Parties shall make best efforts to have the dispute resolved by negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement or other peaceful means of their own choice.

4. Any such dispute that is not resolved through means set out in in the paragraphs above, may be submitted to final and binding arbitration for settlement, at the joint request of the parties to the dispute. Prior to jointly requesting arbitration, the parties to the dispute should agree on the scope of the dispute and the jurisdiction of any such arbitral tribunal. Any such arbitral tribunal may be constituted and conducted in accordance with Annex 1 of this Convention or in accordance with any other procedures that the parties to the dispute may decide to apply by mutual agreement. Any such arbitral Tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with this Convention, international law and generally accepted standards for the conservation of living marine resources. The failure to reach agreement on reference to arbitration shall not prevent parties to the dispute from continuing to seek to resolve it by any of the various peaceful means referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 above.

5. The dispute settlement mechanisms set out in this Article are not applied to disputes that relate to any act or fact which took place or any situation which ceased to exist before the date of the entry into force of this Article.

6. Nothing in this Article shall prejudice the ability of parties to any dispute to pursue dispute settlement under other treaties or international agreements to which they are parties, in lieu of dispute settlement as provided for in this Article, in accordance with the requirements of that treaty or international agreement.

Article IX

1. The ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission agree to take all action necessary to ensure the enforcement of this Convention. Each ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission shall transmit to the Commission, biennially or at such other times as may be required by the Commission, a statement of the action taken by it for these purposes.

2. The ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission agree:
(a) to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need for the purposes of this Convention;
(b) when their official agencies are unable to obtain and furnish the said information, to allow the Commission, through the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission, to obtain it on a voluntary basis direct from companies and individual fishermen.

3. The ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission undertake to collaborate with each other with a view to the adoption of suitable effective measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention[.].

4. ~~Contracting Parties undertake and in particular~~ to set up a system of international enforcement to be applied to the Convention area except the territorial sea and other waters, if any, in which a ~~s~~State is entitled under international law to exercise jurisdiction over fisheries.

Article X*

1. The Commission shall adopt a budget for the joint expenses of the Commission for the biennium following each regular meeting.

2. Each ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission shall contribute annually to the budget of the Commission an amount calculated in accordance with a scheme provided for in the Financial Regulations, as adopted by the Commission. The Commission, in adopting this scheme, should consider *inter alia* each ~~Contracting Party's~~Member of the Commission's fixed basic fees for Commission and Panel membership, the total round weight of catch and net weight of canned products of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fishes and the degree of economic development of the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission.

The scheme of annual contributions in the Financial Regulations shall be established or modified only through the agreement of all the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission present and voting. The ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission shall be informed of this ninety days in advance.

3. The Council shall review the second half of the biennial budget at its regular meeting between Commission meetings and, on the basis of current and anticipated developments, may authorise reapportionment of amounts in the Commission budget for the second year within the total budget approved by the Commission.

* As modified by the Madrid Protocol, which entered into force on March 10, 2005.

4. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall notify each ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission of its yearly assessment. The contributions shall be payable on January first of the year for which the assessment was levied. Contributions not received before January first of the succeeding year shall be considered as in arrears.

5. Contributions to the biennial budget shall be payable in such currencies as the Commission may decide.

6. At its first meeting the Commission shall approve a budget for the balance of the first year the Commission functions and for the following biennium. It shall immediately transmit to the ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission copies of these budgets together with notices of the respective assessments for the first annual contribution.

7. Thereafter, within a period not less than sixty days before the regular meeting of the Commission which precedes the biennium, the Executive Secretary shall submit to each ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission a draft biennial budget together with a schedule of proposed assessments.

8. The Commission may suspend the voting rights of any ~~Contracting Party~~Member of the Commission when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years.

9. The Commission shall establish a Working Capital fund to finance operations of the Commission prior to receiving annual contributions, and for such other purposes as the Commission may determine. The Commission shall determine the level of the Fund, assess advances necessary for its establishment, and adopt regulations governing the use of the Fund.

10. The Commission shall arrange an annual independent audit of the Commission's accounts. The reports of such audits shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission or by the Council in years when there is no regular Commission meeting.

11. The Commission may accept contributions, other than provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article, for the prosecution of its work.

Article XI

1. The Contracting Parties agree that there should be a working relationship between the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. To this end the Commission shall enter into negotiations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with a view to concluding an agreement pursuant to Article XIII of the Organization's Constitution**. Such agreement should provide, *inter alia*, for the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to appoint a Representative who would participate in all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, but without the right to vote.

2. The ~~Contracting Parties~~Members of the Commission agree that there should be co-operation between the Commission and other international fisheries commissions and scientific organizations which might contribute to the work of the Commission. The Commission may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations.

3. The Commission may invite any appropriate international organization and any Government which is a member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations and which is not a member of the Commission, to send observers to meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

** See FAO Agreement.

Article XII

1. This Convention shall remain in force for ten years and thereafter until a majority of the Contracting Parties agree to terminate it.
2. At any time after ten years from the date of entry into force of this Convention, any Contracting Party may withdraw from the Convention on December thirty-first of any year including the tenth year by written notification of withdrawal given on or before December thirty-first of the preceding year to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
3. Any other Contracting Party may thereupon withdraw from this Convention with effect from the same December thirty-first by giving written notification of withdrawal to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations not later than one month from the date of receipt of information from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning any withdrawal, but not later than April first of that year.

Article XIII

1. Any Contracting Party or the Commission may propose amendments to this Convention. Notwithstanding, only the Commission may propose amendments to Annex 2. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy of the text of any proposed amendment to all the Contracting Parties. Any amendment not involving new obligations shall take effect for all Contracting Parties on the thirtieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties. Any amendment involving new obligations shall take effect for each Contracting Party accepting the amendment on the ninetieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon acceptance by it. Any amendment considered by one or more Contracting Parties to involve new obligations shall be deemed to involve new obligations and shall take effect accordingly. A government which becomes a Contracting Party after an amendment to this Convention has been opened for acceptance pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be bound by the Convention as amended when the said amendment comes into force.
2. Proposed amendments shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Notifications of acceptance of amendments shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Article XIII bis

The Annexes form an integral part of this Convention and a reference to this Convention includes a reference to the Annexes.

Article XIV***

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Government of any State which is a Member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Any such Government which does not sign this Convention may adhere to it at any time.
2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval by signatory countries in accordance with their constitutions. Instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
3. This Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence by seven Governments and shall enter into force with respect to each Government which subsequently deposits an instrument of ratification, approval, or adherence on the date of such deposit.

*** As modified by the Paris Protocol, which entered into force on December 14, 1997.

4. This Convention shall be open for signature or adherence by any inter-governmental economic integration organization constituted by States that have transferred to it competence over the matters governed by this Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of those matters.
5. Upon the deposit of its instrument of formal confirmation or adherence, any organization referred to in paragraph 4 shall be a Contracting Party having the same rights and obligations in respect of the provisions of the Convention as the other Contracting Parties. Reference in the text of the Convention to the term "State" in Article IX, paragraph [3][4], and to the term "government" in the Preamble and in Article XIII, paragraph 1, shall be interpreted in this manner.
6. When an organization referred to in paragraph 4 becomes a Contracting Party to this Convention, the member states of that organization and those which adhere to it in the future shall cease to be parties to the Convention; they shall transmit a written notification to this effect to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Article XV***

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall inform all Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of Article XIV and all the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article of deposits of instruments of ratification, approval, formal confirmation on adherence, the entry into force of this Convention, proposals for amendment, notifications of acceptance of amendments, entry into force of amendments, and notifications of withdrawal.

Article XVI***

The original of this Convention shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations who shall send certified copies of it to the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of Article XIV and to the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives duly authorized by their respective Governments have signed the present Convention. Done at Rio de Janeiro this fourteenth day of May 1966 in a single copy in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally authoritative.

*** As modified by the Paris Protocol, which entered into force on December 14, 1997.

ANNEX 1

PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

[...]

1. The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph 4 of Article VIII bis should be composed, as appropriate, of three arbitrators who may be appointed as follows:

(a) One of the parties to the dispute should communicate the name of an arbitrator to the other party to the dispute that should, in turn, within a period of forty days following that notification, communicate the name of the second arbitrator. In disputes between more than two Members of the Commission, parties that have the same interest should jointly appoint one arbitrator. The parties to the dispute should, within a period of sixty days following the appointment of the second arbitrator, appoint the third arbitrator, who is not a national of either Member of the Commission and is not of the same nationality as either of the first two arbitrators. The third arbitrator should preside over the tribunal;

(b) If the second arbitrator is not appointed within the prescribed period, or if the parties are not able to concur within the prescribed period on the appointment of the third arbitrator, that arbitrator may be appointed, at the request of the parties to the dispute, by the Chair of the Commission within two months from the date of receipt of the request.

2. The decision of the arbitral tribunal should be made by a majority of its members, which should not abstain from voting.

3. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute. The parties to the dispute should comply with the decision without delay. The arbitral tribunal may interpret the decision at the request of one of the parties to the dispute.

[...]

ANNEX 2**FISHING ENTITIES**

1. After the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention adopted on <date of adoption>, the sole fishing entity that had attained by 10 July 2013 Cooperating Status in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission, may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. The Commission will specify which fishing entity has met the qualifications set out above in a resolution, to be adopted pursuant to the consensus of the Contracting Parties. Such commitment shall become effective 30 days from the date of receipt of the instrument. Such fishing entity may withdraw such commitment by a written notification addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Commission. The withdrawal shall become effective 1 year after the date of its receipt, unless the notification specifies a later date.
2. In case of any further amendment made to the Convention pursuant to Article XIII, the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of the amended Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. This commitment of a fishing entity shall be effective from the dates referred to in Article XIII or on the date of receipt of the written communication referred to in this paragraph, whichever is later.
- 2bis. The Executive Secretary shall notify the Contracting Parties of its receipt of such commitments or notifications and make such notifications available to the Contracting Parties; provide notifications from the Contracting Parties to the fishing entity, including notifications of ratification and entry into force of the Convention and its amendments; and keep safe custody of any such documents transmitted between the fishing entity and the Executive Secretary.
3. The fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 may participate in the relevant work, including decision making, of the Commission, and shall, mutatis mutandis, enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, IV, VI, VIII, IX, X, and XI of the Convention.
4. If a dispute involves the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed its commitment to be bound by the terms of this Convention in accordance with this Annex and cannot be settled by amicable means, the dispute may, with the mutual agreement of the parties to the dispute, be resolved pursuant to the relevant rules of this Commission.
5. The provisions of this Annex relating to the participation of the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 are only for the purposes of this Convention.
6. Any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for purposes of this Annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, IV, VI, VIII, IX, X, XI of the Convention.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Thursday 16 November 2017 by its Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**).

4 Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair reviewed the recommendations made by the Working Group in connection with STACFAD and requested that the Committee advise the Commission and the Secretariat on next steps in this regard. She emphasized that Contracting Parties should note work that could begin right away to address the short-term recommendations with a one or two year deadline, and that the follow-up action for many of these items largely fell with the Secretariat. The United States delegation noted that electronic publishing should make it possible in the future to revise the Basic Texts as new amendments are adopted, and highlighted another action that STACFAD could recommend right away in regard to recommendation 86, which recommended that prior to adoption of each new proposal, an assessment be carried out of the impact that its implementation implied for the Secretariat's workload. It pointed out that some recommendations did not necessarily require any follow-up action, and that these could be identified by highlighting in a different colour. The Chair suggested reviewing the recommendations as a priority next year.

5 Secretariat reports

5.1 2017 Administrative Report

The 2017 Administrative Report, which summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2017, was presented by the Chair, who highlighted the considerable workload experienced during the year. She indicated that the ICCAT recommendations and resolutions had been circulated by the dates provided in Article VIII.2 of the Convention, and made reference to the numerous intersessional meetings, ICCAT working groups and meetings at which ICCAT was represented, a summary of which is contained in Appendix 1 to the Administrative Report. She referred to the fact that the Secretariat continues to send annually two letters of reminder regarding compliance with budgetary obligations. She informed that Dr. Miguel Neves dos Santos had been appointed Assistant Executive Secretary in May, that Mr. Carlos Mayor had been hired to carry out tasks related to programming and development of the databases and that Mr. Jesús García had been hired as the database and website specialist of the AOTTP programme. She highlighted that a proposed revision to Article 33 of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules, Separation from Service due to retirement, had been submitted for approval to the Commission under item 10.1 for the purposes of adaptation to the Staff Regulations and Rules in force of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as the current national regulation for permanent staff members in the General Services category who are included in the public Social Security system of the country of destination (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**). Finally, she indicated that a small number of auditing firms would be presented to the Commission in 2018 so that a firm can be selected to perform the audit for the next five years (2018-2022).

The administrative report was adopted.

5.2 Financial report 2017

The Head of the Administration and Finance Department presented the Secretariat's Financial Report. He indicated that the 2016 auditor's report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2017, and that the financial report presented the situation of the budgetary statements of the Commission at 20 October 2017, as well as the trust funds managed by the Secretariat. He also pointed out that the Working Capital Fund reaches 46.68% of the total budget. He indicated that it had been stressed in both the auditor's report and the performance review that the minimum percentage that the Working Capital Fund should reach should be reviewed by the Commission. He explained the most relevant aspects of the financial statements and informed that 62.78% of the budget approved for 2017 had been spent and that 73.45% of the revenue had been received. In relation to extra-budgetary expenses, he highlighted the meetings financed through the Working Capital Fund (€624,792.50), the financing of the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) (€200,000.00), the financing of the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) (€345,578.99), expenses for travel by ICCAT Chairs (€57,977.17), as well as the expenses incurred as a result of the recommendations of the SCRS approved for 2017 (€71,205.82), among others.

With regard to extra-budgetary revenue, he informed about the voluntary contribution received from Morocco to finance the 2017 Commission meeting (€680,000.00), as well as the carry-over from the 2016 meeting pending receipt from the European Union (€161,649.13), the contribution from the FAO for the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity and Assistance (€16,194.00), the special contribution from Chinese Taipei (€100,000.00), observer fees (€20,130.64), bank interest (€72.27), VAT refund (€22,410.69) and the overhead received from the ICCAT Programmes (€268,181.97). Contributions to previous budgets have also been received (€488,351.24).

He also highlighted that, after the date of the report, 20 October 2017, contributions were received from Ghana (€259,430.00), Sao Tomé & Príncipe (€30,000.00), and Senegal (€53,357.16).

Finally, he indicated that the costs estimated by the Secretary to year-end amounted to €1,446,756.92 and that once the revenue described above has been received and provided that no new revenue is received before year-end, the Working Capital Fund would reach 16.32% of the budget (€593,272.90).

The financial report was adopted.

5.3 Review of progress in payment of arrears and voting rights

The Chair presented the document "Review of progress in payment of arrears and voting rights" which reflected the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties by year at 10 November 2017. She indicated that there were five Contracting Parties whose voting rights may be suspended (Article X of the ICCAT Convention). She requested that the CPCs highlighted in the document contact the Secretariat to regularise their situation and provide payment plans.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the document contained the total debt of the Contracting Parties which amounted to almost €2 million. He stressed that several letters had been sent to highlight the situation and the implications of non-payment. He commented that the situation had a direct effect on the Working Capital Fund and directly affected the Secretariat. He therefore requested that Contracting Parties take all the necessary action to settle their debts.

The Cabo Verde delegation commented that its government accorded special importance to ICCAT and that it would contact the Secretariat to submit a payment plan for settlement of its debt.

The Honduran delegation indicated that the country was taking all the necessary action to settle its debt as from 2018.

6 Consideration of the financial implications of the measures proposed and SCRS requests

The SCRS Chair explained that in previous years the Committee has submitted to the Commission for approval the activities that required financing, in order of priority. Most of these activities were financed through the Working Capital Fund, except the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research which was financed from the regular budget.

He reminded that in the previous two years it had been requested that the activities be included in the regular budget. For this reason, he had worked with the Secretariat and the necessary financing was reflected in the draft budget. He indicated that if the previous formula were reapplied, the activities that have to be carried out over the next biennial period could be included under item 19.1 of the SCRS Report. He also indicated that Appendix 13 to the report included the activities of the MSE Technical Working Group from 2018 to 2021, with the associated annual budget, and that this amount was not included in the budget presented.

The STACFAD Chair highlighted the request from previous years to include SCRS activities in the regular budget.

The Japanese delegation requested the list of activities that were included for the next two years.

Dr Die indicated that this information was contained in page 2 of the “Explanatory note on the ICCAT budget for financial years 2018 and 2019”. He clarified that specific details of the work to be carried out in 2018 could be found in the work plans of the SCRS Groups and Sub-Committees.

The STACFAD Chair stated that this item would be reviewed under item 13 of the Agenda.

Dr Die indicated that the SCRS had followed the advice of the Commission to prioritise the work in accordance with the funds and he was delighted to hear that the financing of the Committee was included in the regularization process of the Commission’s budget.

7 Assistance for developing CPCs and identification of the mechanism to fund the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities

7.1 Meeting Participation Fund

The Executive Secretary presented the document “Meeting Participation Fund”, which informed of the financial situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). He highlighted that in addition to the initial balance of €67,853.42, €200,000.00 had been allocated to the fund from the Working Capital Fund, and voluntary contributions were made by the United States (€12,630.00), Norway (€22,153.11) and two from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building (one from 2017 (€52,500.00) and another from the carry-over of the same fund from 2016 (€16,206.35)). He mentioned that at 6 November 2017, travel arrangements had been made for participation of 92 people from 28 CPCs. Finally, he indicated that it had been estimated that an allocation of €100,000.00 would be required to cover the 2018 requests. He also stressed how important it is for applicants to follow the procedure protocols approved by the fund, for the purpose of optimal use of the economic and human resources of the Secretariat.

The STACFAD Chair signalled that the revision to the budget included an allocation of €50,000.00 from the budget to the new Chapter 13, and that it would attempt to cover the remainder of the amount through voluntary contributions from CPCs.

7.2 Mechanisms to finance the special Fund for Scientific Capacity Building

The Executive Secretary presented the document “Special Fund for Scientific Capacity Building” which reflected the financial situation of the fund in 2017. He signalled that assistance had not been requested for any training day, and as a result the balance of the fund continued to be €65,898.33.

The United States delegation signalled that this measure should be reviewed as the fund had hardly been used. It proposed leaving this item open so that it could be reviewed together with the budget. It signalled that this Recommendation needed to be reviewed in 2017.

The Head of Administration and Finance signalled that in the document the Secretariat proposed using the balance of this programme to increase financing of SCRS activities.

The STACFAD Chair summarised this point by stating that there were two issues, firstly, transfer of the balance of the programme to cover other SCRS activities, and secondly, assessment as to whether or not to continue with this fund.

The Uruguayan delegation indicated that the objective of the fund was a very positive and valid one and that it may not have been used by scientists due to some communication issue. In its opinion, the balance of the fund should be transferred to the new fund for science, however, the fund should not be closed but remain open with a zero balance should any voluntary contributions be received.

The Executive Secretary stated that with the revision to the budget, there was only €50,000.00 for SCRS activities in 2018 and that it would be very important to be able to use this balance to increase financing, since the Working Capital Fund lacked funds and could not be drawn on. He reminded that the budget initially presented proposed a 15% increase so as to cover many more activities.

The delegations of Tunisia, Nicaragua, Libya, and Guinea (Rep.) requested that the fund be maintained.

The SCRS Chair reminded that the Strategic Research Programme not only covers collaboration of researchers from other countries but also capacity building, and considered therefore that it was logical to destine these funds to the new programme.

The Committee agreed to re-allocate the funds currently within this account to SCRS activities, but to maintain the Scientific Capacity Building Fund in existence, so that it could be replenished through voluntary contributions.

8 Consideration of the programmes/activities which could require extra-budgetary financing

8.1 Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

It was reminded that the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme had a budget of €15,000,000.00; the European Union provided a maximum contribution of €13,480,000.00 (90%) and that the remaining 10% is to be financed by ICCAT or ICCAT Contracting Parties. It was informed that in 2016, €194,397.00 had been transferred from the Working Capital Fund to this programme, in 2017, €345,578.99 was transferred, and in 2018 if there are no contributions from CPCs, €467,544.32 must be transferred.

8.2 The Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD)

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) reminded that implementation of the eBCD had been financed through the Working Capital Fund and that in 2016 the Commission called on the group to suggest ways to ensure financing and to estimate the costs foreseen for maintenance, support and improvements identified by the TWG. He indicated that the group had carried out work in this regard and that an initial proposal had been presented, which was contained in the document "Draft proposed addition to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 for an eBCD system funding scheme". He explained that the proposal had taken into account the Madrid Protocol to provide a fair and equitable solution based on the weighting of three elements: catches, number of transactions and amounts traded. He explained that a basic rate had been envisaged that would be independent from the previous calculations and that the weighting had not yet been determined. He explained that the proposal would be included in Regulation 4 of the Financial Regulations, but that it was not ready yet and would be presented in the future.

The U.S. delegation indicated the need for adoption in 2018 of a new financial regulation to fund the eBCD system so that it could be implemented for the next biennial period, i.e., 2020/2021. The United States further noted the importance of supplying funding to sufficiently support the eBCD within the 2018/2019 biennial budget.

8.3 Financial implications of the new recommendations and resolutions proposed

The U.S. delegation highlighted that recommendation 86 made by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review, indicated that prior to the adoption of each new recommendation, an assessment would be carried out on the likely impact of its implementation on the Secretariat's workload, and that this was one of the first recommendations to be addressed by STACFAD.

9 Review of the conclusions of the Virtual Working Group on Communications Policy and action required

The STACFAD Chair indicated that in 2017 the working group had not met and that there was not much interest in this regard. She explained that in 2016 the document "Elements of an ICCAT communication policy" was presented, which summarised the work carried out by the virtual working group created to establish an ICCAT communications policy. The document was divided into three blocks: "target audience", "objectives" and "next steps to implement the policy: review and recommendations of the virtual working group". The STACFAD Chair encouraged CPCs to develop a proposal based on the most recent work. STACFAD agreed that this should not be carried forward as a standing agenda item for future STACFAD meetings.

10 Selection and appointment of the ICCAT Executive Secretary

The Chair stated that during the first few days of the meeting, the new Executive Secretary had been selected. She informed that Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel had been selected and that the Commission Chair was currently finalizing his start date at the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary congratulated Mr. Manel and wished him every success as the new Executive Secretary. He thanked the organisation for the support and assistance provided throughout his mandate.

11 Procedures for selection at the 2018 meeting of the auditor for the next five years

The Executive Secretary indicated that the 2017 audit would be the last performed by the current firm, Grant Thornton, S.L.P. In 2018, the Secretariat will therefore contact new firms and develop a shortlist which will be presented to the Commission at its next meeting, for the purpose of selecting an auditing firm for the next five years.

12 Update and publication of the Rules of Procedure, which include the voting by correspondence procedure agreed in 2012

The STACFAD Chair presented the document "Update to ICCAT Basic Texts" which included the changes which have been approved since 2007 to the Basic Texts but had not been published. She indicated that the document was merely informative and contained the final text to be published in 2018.

The United States delegation reminded that the Commission normally published a book of the Basic Texts when an amendment was made, and proposed that, from this time onwards, publication take place on the ICCAT web site immediately after a change has occurred. It signalled that this was one of the recommendations that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review had made.

13 Budget and CPC contributions for 2018 and 2019

The revised draft budget for 2018 and 2019 was circulated in July 2017. A 15% increase for 2018 with respect to 2017 was presented. The most significant change was the increase in Chapter 3 to include in the budget the financing of the intersessional meetings and interpretation into Arabic during the Annual meeting. Also Chapter 11 changed name, now known as the "Strategic Research Programme". This

programme would include all the SCRS activities that would require financing. Chapter 11 would also include the necessary expenses to update the VMS system and to further adjust the budget to the actual expenditure on the compliance databases. Finally, the creation of a chapter for travel was requested which would contain on one hand travel by the ICCAT Chairs which, since 2010, has been financed through the Working Capital Fund, and on the other, financing to fund the Meeting Participation Fund.

During the discussions, several delegations expressed their difficulty with an increase in the budget and requested that the Secretariat contact CPCs with outstanding debt for the purpose of settlement.

In the second session, a new version of the budget was presented which contained the update of the exchange rate published by the United Nations to November 2017, changes in CPC membership of the different panels, the inclusion of new data received on catch and canning, and the inclusion of Grenada as a new ICCAT Contracting Party. In addition, a revision to the increase in the budget was presented, bringing it to 5% with respect to 2017.

The STACFAD Chair explained that the new draft budget maintained the inclusion of the funds allocated for SCRS activities and of other expenses that had been financed through the Working Capital Fund, and reflected the request by delegations to carry out a more gradual regularisation, i.e. by incorporating all the activities and needs into four years instead of two, as initially presented.

The Japanese delegation welcomed the new version and supported the budget. It indicated that other solutions should be explored to cover the expenses with the CPCs.

The Uruguayan delegation expressed its concern over the significant reduction that had been presented in the revision for SCRS activities. It reminded that the scientific committee was the cornerstone of the Commission and to which all CPCs had recourse. It signalled that this reduction would greatly undermine the productivity of the SCRS.

The Turkish delegation welcomed the new version of the budget and indicated that regularisation over four years was much more feasible than over two. It asked about the situation with the eBCD.

The Executive Secretary indicated that Chapter 12 of the budget contained a heading to cover minimum maintenance of the eBCD and that the Technical Working Group were looking at ways of financing the heading related to development of the eBCD.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that the idea was that only the participants in the bluefin tuna fishery finance the eBCD.

The delegation of the European Union supported the revised proposal and indicated that in addition to seeking to reduce the debt of Contracting Parties, the Commission should ensure that financing is not so reliant on voluntary contributions, and is more foreseeable and sustainable.

The United States delegation welcomed the revision presented, and stressed that, as had been discussed, it is not possible to continue to rely on the Working Capital Fund to carry out the regular activities of the Commission. It indicated that other channels would have to be sought and costs contained for 2018. It indicated to the Uruguayan delegation that the funds destined to the SCRS for 2018 had been reduced, but that those for 2019 had increased considerably.

The budget for 2018 and 2019 was approved (**Tables 1-7 to ANNEX 7**).

14 Election of Chair

The European Union delegation proposed that Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey) be appointed STACFAD Chair. This proposal was seconded by France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, and he was therefore elected as Chair for the next two years.

The STACFAD Chair thanked the Secretariat and all the members of STACFAD for the work carried while she was Chair.

The Executive Secretary thanked Ms. Sylvie Lapointe for the work that she has undertaken with such professionalism, transparency and clarity. He wished her every success with her new career path and said that she would be missed.

15 Other matters

There were no other matters.

16 Adoption of the Report and adjournment

It was agreed that the STACFAD report would be adopted by correspondence. The STACFAD meeting was adjourned by its Chair, Ms. Lapointe.

Table 1. 2018-2019 Commission Budget (Euros).					
Chapters	2017	Increase	2018	Increase	2019
1. Salaries	1,730,417.47	-2.10%	1,694,148.36	2.00%	1,728,031.33
2. Travel	26,010.00	-0.04%	26,000.00	2.00%	26,520.00
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	159,120.00	0.55%	160,000.00	2.00%	163,200.00
4. Publications	26,520.00	3.70%	27,500.00	2.00%	28,050.00
5. Office Equipment	15,000.00	0.00%	15,000.00	2.00%	15,300.00
6. Operating Expenses	135,000.00	3.70%	140,000.00	2.00%	142,800.00
7. Miscellaneous	7,548.00	0.69%	7,600.00	2.00%	7,752.00
8. Coordination of Research					
a) Salaries	1,041,056.68	5.93%	1,102,825.15	2.00%	1,124,881.65
b) Travel to improve statistics	25,500.00	1.96%	26,000.00	2.00%	26,520.00
c) Statistics-Biology	17,340.00	0.92%	17,500.00	2.00%	17,850.00
d) Computer-related items	38,760.00	0.62%	39,000.00	2.00%	39,780.00
e) Database maintenance	25,500.00	0.00%	25,500.00	2.00%	26,010.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	25,500.00	1.96%	26,000.00	2.00%	26,520.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	76,500.00	0.00%	76,500.00	2.00%	78,030.00
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,250,156.68</i>	<i>5.05%</i>	<i>1,313,325.15</i>	<i>2.00%</i>	<i>1,339,591.65</i>
9. Contingencies	5,000.00	0.00%	5,000.00	2.00%	5,100.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	60,500.00	0.00%	60,500.00	2.00%	61,710.00
11. Strategic Research Programme					
a) ICCAT Billfish Research Program	20,400.00		-		-
b) Strategic Research Programme			50,000.00	200.00%	150,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>20,400.00</i>	<i>145.10%</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>	<i>200.00%</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>
12. Compliance					
a) Compliance database maintenance	200,000.00	25.00%	250,000.00	0.00%	250,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>200,000.00</i>	<i>25.00%</i>	<i>250,000.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>250,000.00</i>
13. Travel					
a) Travel by ICCAT Chairs			18,500.00	0.00%	18,500.00
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund			50,000.00	44.00%	72,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>			<i>68,500.00</i>	<i>32.12%</i>	<i>90,500.00</i>
TOTAL BUDGET	3,635,672.15	5.00%	3,817,573.51	5.00%	4,008,554.98

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2018-2019.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2014	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
Albania	D	4,642	2,731	28	0	28	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	5,484	3,226	2,866	1,770	4,636	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	6,054	3,561	3,005	0	3,005	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	15,360	9,035	387	0	387	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,831	2,842	8,552	0	8,552	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	11,387	6,698	36,937	13,141	50,078	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	50,169	29,511	2,460	0	2,460	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,609	2,123	28,734	1,825	30,559	X	-	-	X	2	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	7,617	4,481	4,052	0	4,052	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,546	909	7,011	0	7,011	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curacao	A	52,129	30,664	26,875	0	26,875	X	-	-	-	1	Curacao
Egypt	D	3,151	1,854	1,002	0	1,002	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,120	2,424	11,263	5,580	16,843	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	42,733	25,137	12	0	12	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	10,317	6,069	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	1,388	816	78,232	20,000	98,232	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	8,313	4,890	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	3,673	2,161	10,637	0	10,637	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	20,382	11,989	75	0	75	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	536	315	8,555	0	8,555	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	672	395	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,449	1,441	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	52,048	30,616	24	0	24	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	36,298	21,352	30,001	0	30,001	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	28,166	16,568	1,682	0	1,682	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	483	284	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	D	6,602	3,884	1,008	160	1,168	X	X	-	X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,243	1,908	7,395	957	8,352	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,283	755	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	10,326	6,074	1,502	0	1,502	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	D	5,589	3,288	3,739	0	3,739	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,963	1,155	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	3,203	1,884	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	97,226	57,192	3	0	3	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	12,712	7,478	20,888	0	20,888	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,871	1,689	2,068	0	2,068	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	12,898	7,587	1,217	0	1,217	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	6,669	3,923	1,403	0	1,403	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,811	1,065	2,783	0	2,783	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,067	628	17,571	199	17,770	X	-	X	X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	775	456	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	6,482	3,813	6,062	0	6,062	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1,821	1,071	34	0	34	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	20,723	12,190	2,642	0	2,642	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	4,261	2,506	6,615	2,190	8,805	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,299	6,058	13,789	0	13,789	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	37,939	22,317	234,544	268,721	503,265	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	46,281	27,224	187	0	187	X	-	-	-	1	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	53,990	31,759	19,071	10,803	29,874	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	16,807	9,886	480	0	480	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	3,138	1,846	185	0	185	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	16,615	9,774	6,606	1,076	7,682	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2018 (Euros).

							Exchange rate: 1 € = 1.161 US\$ (11/2017)				
Contracting Party	Group ^a	Catch + Canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + Canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel Membership ^e	Variable fees for Member ^f	Variables fees Catch-Canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party
Albania	D	28	1	0.14%	4.08%	861.00	861.00	1,763.29	120.65	3,605.94	Albania
Algérie	D	4,636	2	23.12%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	19,976.86	25,204.79	Algérie
Angola	D	3,005	2	14.99%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	12,948.76	18,176.70	Angola
Barbados	C	387	0	0.17%	1.47%	861.00	0.00	3,642.86	821.42	5,325.27	Barbados
Belize	C	8,552	4	3.66%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	18,214.28	18,151.80	40,671.08	Belize
Brazil	B	50,078	4	54.18%	26.32%	861.00	3,444.00	38,749.98	159,546.12	202,601.11	Brazil
Canada	A	2,460	3	0.42%	12.50%	861.00	2,583.00	98,267.98	6,525.77	108,237.74	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	30,559	2	13.09%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	64,862.13	78,373.69	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	4,052	4	1.74%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	18,214.28	8,600.46	31,119.73	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	7,011	2	3.00%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	14,881.00	28,392.56	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	26,875	1	4.53%	6.25%	861.00	861.00	49,133.99	71,292.66	122,148.65	Curaçao
Egypt	D	1,002	2	5.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	4,317.69	9,545.63	Egypt
El Salvador	C	16,843	1	7.22%	2.94%	861.00	861.00	7,285.71	35,749.62	44,757.34	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	12	3	0.00%	12.50%	861.00	2,583.00	98,267.98	31.83	101,743.81	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	0.00	13,511.57	Gabon
Ghana	C	98,232	1	42.08%	2.94%	861.00	861.00	7,285.71	208,499.50	217,507.22	Ghana
Grenada	C	0	0	0.00%	1.47%	861.00	0.00	3,642.86	0.00	4,503.86	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,637	2	4.56%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	22,577.26	36,088.82	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	75	2	0.03%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	159.19	13,670.75	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	8,555	2	3.67%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	18,158.17	31,669.73	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	0	0.00%	2.04%	861.00	0.00	881.64	0.00	1,742.64	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	0.00	5,227.93	Honduras
Iceland	A	24	1	0.00%	6.25%	861.00	861.00	49,133.99	63.67	50,919.65	Iceland
Japan	A	30,001	4	5.06%	15.63%	861.00	3,444.00	122,834.97	79,585.16	206,725.13	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	1,682	4	0.72%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	18,214.28	3,570.08	26,089.36	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	0	2	0.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	0.00	5,227.93	Liberia
Libya	D	1,168	3	5.83%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,526.58	5,033.00	12,003.58	Libya
Maroc	C	8,352	3	3.58%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	14,571.42	17,727.30	35,742.72	Maroc
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,526.58	0.00	6,970.58	Mauritania
Mexico	C	1,502	4	0.64%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	18,214.28	3,188.03	25,707.30	Mexico
Namibia	D	3,739	3	18.65%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,526.58	16,111.62	23,082.20	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.04%	861.00	0.00	881.64	0.00	1,742.64	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	0.00	5,227.93	Nigeria
Norway	A	3	2	0.00%	9.38%	861.00	1,722.00	73,700.98	7.96	76,291.94	Norway
Panama	B	20,888	4	22.60%	26.32%	861.00	3,444.00	38,749.98	66,548.17	109,603.16	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,068	2	10.31%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	8,911.16	14,139.10	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	1,217	1	0.52%	2.94%	861.00	861.00	7,285.71	2,583.11	11,590.82	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	1,403	3	7.00%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,526.58	6,045.63	13,016.21	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,783	2	13.88%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,644.93	11,992.15	17,220.08	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	17,770	3	7.61%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	14,571.42	37,717.20	55,732.62	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	4.08%	861.00	861.00	1,763.29	0.00	3,485.29	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	6,062	3	2.60%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	14,571.42	12,866.72	30,882.14	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.17%	4.08%	861.00	861.00	1,763.29	146.51	3,631.80	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,642	2	1.13%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	5,607.70	19,119.27	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	8,805	2	3.77%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	10,928.57	18,688.80	32,200.36	Tunisie
Turkey	B	13,789	4	14.92%	26.32%	861.00	3,444.00	38,749.98	43,931.10	86,986.08	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	503,265	4	84.91%	15.63%	861.00	3,444.00	122,834.97	1,335,036.27	#####	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	187	1	0.03%	6.25%	861.00	861.00	49,133.99	496.06	51,352.05	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	29,874	4	5.04%	15.63%	861.00	3,444.00	122,834.97	79,248.26	206,388.23	United States
Uruguay	C	480	3	0.21%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	14,571.42	1,018.81	19,034.23	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	185	0	0.92%	2.04%	861.00	0.00	881.64	797.18	2,539.82	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	7,682	3	8.31%	21.05%	861.00	2,583.00	30,999.99	24,474.49	58,918.47	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 4. Contributions by group 2018. Fees Expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Panels^b	Catch + Canning^c	% of each Party^d	% of the Budget^e	Fees^f	Panels fees^g	Other fees^h	Total feesⁱ
A	9	23	592,701	---	62.50%	7,749.00	19,803.00	2,358,431.44	2,385,983.44
B	4	15	92,437	3.00%	12.00%	3,444.00	12,915.00	441,749.82	458,108.82
C	21	47	233,415	1.00%	21.00%	18,081.00	40,467.00	743,142.44	801,690.44
D	18	31	20,051	0.25%	4.50%	15,498.00	26,691.00	129,601.81	171,790.81
TOTAL	52	116	938,604		100.00%	44,772.00	99,876.00	3,672,925.51	3,817,573.51
a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the Annex .									

Table 5. Contracting Party Contributions 2019 (Euros).

							Exchange rate: 1 €=		1.161 US\$ (11/2017)			
Contracting Party	Group ^a	Catch + Canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + Canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel Membership ^e	Variable fees for Member ^f	Variables fees Catch-Canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party	
Albania	D	28	1	0.14%	4.08%	861.00	861.00	1,880.22	128.65	3,730.87	Albania	
Algérie	D	4,636	2	23.12%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	21,301.57	26,704.89	Algérie	
Angola	D	3,005	2	14.99%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	13,807.42	19,210.75	Angola	
Barbados	C	387	0	0.17%	1.47%	861.00	0.00	3,839.45	865.75	5,566.20	Barbados	
Belize	C	8,552	4	3.66%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	19,197.27	19,131.42	42,633.69	Belize	
Brazil	B	50,078	4	54.18%	26.32%	861.00	3,444.00	40,760.32	167,823.30	212,888.62	Brazil	
Canada	A	2,460	3	0.42%	12.50%	861.00	2,583.00	103,241.45	6,856.04	113,541.50	Canada	
Cabo Verde	C	30,559	2	13.09%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	68,362.62	82,463.98	Cabo Verde	
China, People's Rep. of	C	4,052	4	1.74%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	19,197.27	9,064.61	32,566.88	China, People's Rep. of	
Côte d'Ivoire	C	7,011	2	3.00%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	15,684.10	29,785.46	Côte d'Ivoire	
Curaçao	A	26,875	1	4.53%	6.25%	861.00	861.00	51,620.73	74,900.88	128,243.60	Curaçao	
Egypt	D	1,002	2	5.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	4,604.01	10,007.33	Egypt	
El Salvador	C	16,843	1	7.22%	2.94%	861.00	861.00	7,678.91	37,678.97	47,079.88	El Salvador	
France (St. P. & M.)	A	12	3	0.00%	12.50%	861.00	2,583.00	103,241.45	33.44	106,718.90	France (St. P. & M.)	
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	0.00	14,101.36	Gabon	
Ghana	C	98,232	1	42.08%	2.94%	861.00	861.00	7,678.91	219,751.86	229,152.77	Ghana	
Grenada	C	0	0	0.00%	1.47%	861.00	0.00	3,839.45	0.00	4,700.45	Grenada	
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,637	2	4.56%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	23,795.71	37,897.07	Guatemala, Rep. de	
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	75	2	0.03%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	167.78	14,269.14	Guinea Ecuatorial	
Guinea, Rep. of	C	8,555	2	3.67%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	19,138.13	33,239.49	Guinea, Rep. of	
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	0	0.00%	2.04%	861.00	0.00	940.11	0.00	1,801.11	Guinée-Bissau	
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	0.00	5,403.33	Honduras	
Iceland	A	24	1	0.00%	6.25%	861.00	861.00	51,620.73	66.89	53,409.61	Iceland	
Japan	A	30,001	4	5.06%	15.63%	861.00	3,444.00	129,051.82	83,613.07	216,969.88	Japan	
Korea, Rep. of	C	1,682	4	0.72%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	19,197.27	3,762.75	27,265.02	Korea, Rep. of	
Liberia	D	0	2	0.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	0.00	5,403.33	Liberia	
Libya	D	1,168	3	5.83%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,760.43	5,366.74	12,571.18	Libya	
Maroc	C	8,352	3	3.58%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	15,357.81	18,684.01	37,485.82	Maroc	
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,760.43	0.00	7,204.43	Mauritania	
Mexico	C	1,502	4	0.64%	7.35%	861.00	3,444.00	19,197.27	3,360.08	26,862.35	Mexico	
Namibia	D	3,739	3	18.65%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,760.43	17,180.02	24,384.45	Namibia	
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.04%	861.00	0.00	940.11	0.00	1,801.11	Nicaragua, Rep. de	
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	0.00	5,403.33	Nigeria	
Norway	A	3	2	0.00%	9.38%	861.00	1,722.00	77,431.09	8.36	80,022.45	Norway	
Panama	B	20,888	4	22.60%	26.32%	861.00	3,444.00	40,760.32	70,000.66	115,065.98	Panama	
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,068	2	10.31%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	9,502.08	14,905.40	Philippines, Rep. of	
Russia	C	1,217	1	0.52%	2.94%	861.00	861.00	7,678.91	2,722.51	12,123.42	Russia	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	1,403	3	7.00%	8.16%	861.00	2,583.00	3,760.43	6,446.53	13,650.96	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,783	2	13.88%	6.12%	861.00	1,722.00	2,820.33	12,787.37	18,190.70	São Tomé e Príncipe	
Senegal	C	17,770	3	7.61%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	15,357.81	39,752.73	58,554.55	Senegal	
Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	4.08%	861.00	861.00	1,880.22	0.00	3,602.22	Sierra Leone	
South Africa	C	6,062	3	2.60%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	15,357.81	13,561.12	32,362.93	South Africa	
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.17%	4.08%	861.00	861.00	1,880.22	156.22	3,758.44	Syrian Arab Republic	
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,642	2	1.13%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	5,910.34	20,011.70	Trinidad & Tobago	
Tunisie	C	8,805	2	3.77%	4.41%	861.00	1,722.00	11,518.36	19,697.40	33,798.76	Tunisie	
Turkey	B	13,789	4	14.92%	26.32%	861.00	3,444.00	40,760.32	46,210.22	91,275.54	Turkey	
Union Européenne	A	503,265	4	84.91%	15.63%	861.00	3,444.00	129,051.82	1,402,604.27	#####	Union Européenne	
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	187	1	0.03%	6.25%	861.00	861.00	51,620.73	521.17	53,863.90	United Kingdom (O.T.)	
United States	A	29,874	4	5.04%	15.63%	861.00	3,444.00	129,051.82	83,259.12	216,615.93	United States	
Uruguay	C	480	3	0.21%	5.88%	861.00	2,583.00	15,357.81	1,073.79	19,875.61	Uruguay	
Vanuatu	D	185	0	0.92%	2.04%	861.00	0.00	940.11	850.04	2,651.15	Vanuatu	
Venezuela	B	7,682	3	8.31%	21.05%	861.00	2,583.00	32,608.25	25,744.21	61,796.46	Venezuela	

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 6. Contributions by group 2019. Fees Expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Panels^b	Catch + Canning^c	% of each Party^d	% of the Budget^e	Fees^f	Panels fees^g	Other fees^h	Total feesⁱ
A	9	23	592,701	---	62.50%	7,749.00	19,803.00	2,477,794.86	2,505,346.86
B	4	15	92,437	3.00%	12.00%	3,444.00	12,915.00	464,667.60	481,026.60
C	21	47	233,415	1.00%	21.00%	18,081.00	40,467.00	783,248.55	841,796.55
D	18	31	20,051	0.25%	4.50%	15,498.00	26,691.00	138,195.97	180,384.97
TOTAL	52	116	938,604		100.00%	44,772.00	99,876.00	3,863,906.98	4,008,554.98
a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the Annex .									

Table 7. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

Parties	2013			2014			2015			Parties
	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	
Albania	9 t		9	34 t		34	40 t		40	Albania
Algérie	2,320	1,573	3,893	2,434	1,980	4,414	3,844	1,758	5,602	Algérie
Angola	6,429 t		6,429	2,551 t		2,551	35 t		35	Angola
Barbados	323 t		323	369 t		369	469 t		469	Barbados
Belize	2,423 t		2,423	1,116 t		1,116	22,117 t		22,117	Belize
Brazil	38,727 co	13,141 co	51,868	39,296 t	13,141 coo	52,437	32,787 t	13,141 coo	45,928	Brazil
Canada	2,345 co	0	2,345	2,449 t	0	2,449	2,585 t	0	2,585	Canada
Cabo Verde	18,697	1,726	20,423	29,168	1,856	31,024	38,337	1,892	40,229	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	3,518		3,518	2,796		2,796	5,842		5,842	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	15,548 t		15,548	4,211 t		4,211	1,274 t		1,274	Côte d'Ivoire
Curacao	23,964 co	0 co	23,964	27,009 t		27,009	29,653 t		29,653	Curacao
Egypt	1,405 co	0 co	1,405	1,447 t		1,447	155 t		155	Egypt
El Salvador	11,263 coo	7,217	18,480	11,263 coo	4,237	15,500	11,263	5,287	16,550	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	23 co		23	4 t		4	9 t		9	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon
Ghana	67,454 t	20,000 coo	87,454	76,679 t	20,000 coo	96,679	90,564 t	20,000 coo	110,564	Ghana
Grenada			0			0			0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	9,108		9,108	10,184		10,184	12,619		12,619	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	46	0	46	46	0	46	132	0	132	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	10,778 t		10,778	7,444 t		7,444	7,444 coo		7,444	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau			0			0			0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Honduras
Iceland	4		4	30		30	37		37	Iceland
Japan	30,871		30,871	29,848		29,848	29,285		29,285	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	2,642 t		2,642	1,552 t		1,552	851 t		851	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia			0			0			0	Liberia
Libya	933	200	1,133	935	160	1,095	1,155	120	1,275	Libya
Maroc	7,324 t	957 coo	8,281	5,577 t	957 coo	6,534	9,285 t	957 coo	10,242	Maroc
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania
Mexico	1,401	0	1,401	1,585	0	1,585	1,521	0	1,521	Mexico
Namibia	2,451	0	2,451	4,134	0	4,134	4,633	0	4,633	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	0		0	0		0	8		8	Norway
Panama	25,224 t		25,224	23,805 t		23,805	13,634 t		13,634	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	1,944 co		1,944	2,130 t		2,130	2,130 coo		2,130	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,443 co		1,443	1,168 t		1,168	1,039 t		1,039	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	851	0	851	2,229	0	2,229	1,130	0	1,130	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	2,359 co	0 co	2,359	2,512 t		2,512	3,479 t		3,479	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	21,693 t	199 coo	21,892	12,487 t	199 coo	12,686	18,532 t	199 coo	18,731	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	5,008 t		5,008	6,754 t		6,754	6,423 t		6,423	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	22 t		22	40 coo		40	40 t		40	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	2,928 co	0 co	2,928	3,471 t		3,471	1,528 t		1,528	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	5,235 co	2,190 co	7,425	5,214 t	2,190 coo	7,404	9,395 t	2,190 coo	11,585	Tunisie
Turkey	15,574		15,574	20,331		20,331	5,463		5,463	Turkey
Union Européenne	241,611	270,194	511,805	229,737	267,442	497,179	232,284	268,527	500,811	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	104	0	104	215	0	215	241	0	241	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	20,369	12,949	33,318	18,331	10,045	28,376	18,512	9,415	27,927	United States
Uruguay	480 t		480	480 coo		480	480 coo		480	Uruguay
Vanuatu	369		369	106		106	81		81	Vanuatu
Venezuela	7,206	685	7,891	6,245	1,175	7,420	6,367	1,367	7,734	Venezuela
TOTAL	612,426	331,031	943,457	597,416	323,382	920,798	626,702	324,853	951,555	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (S 15-01519).

coo = Transfer of the latest data received obtained from the database.

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication.

(Data updated until 6 June 2017)

ANNEX: Legends

Table 2

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t.
b	GNP: Gross National Product per capita in US\$. Source: UNCTAD / GNP with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1,70 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2013-2014-2015 Catches (t)
d	Average 2013-2014-2015 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

Table 3 and 5

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of catch and canning within the group in which the member is a part
c	Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the group in which the member is a part
d	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership
e	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in which the member belongs
f	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage as a member of the Commission and Panels
g	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage according to catch and canning
h	Total contribution

Table 4 and 6

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Number of Panels within each Group
c	Total catch and canning, in t, of each Group
d	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group according to the Madrid Protocol
e	Percentage of the budget financed for each Group
f	Commission membership fees within each Group
g	Panel membership within each Group
h	Other fees: 1/3 for Commission and Panel membership and 2/3 for catch and canning
i	Total contribution

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
5. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 5.1 2017 Administrative Report
 - 5.2 2017 Financial Report
 - 5.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
6. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests
7. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
8. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding
9. Review of findings of Virtual Working Group on Communications Policy and actions required
10. Selection and nomination of the Executive Secretary
11. Procedures for the selection at the 2018 meeting of the auditor for the next five year period
12. Update and publication of Rules of Procedures, including mail voting procedure agreed in 2012
13. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2018/19
14. Election of Chair
15. Other matters
16. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7

**Amendment to Article 33 of the Staff Regulations and Rules
Separation from Service due to Retirement**

- 33.1 *“Staff members shall not be retained in active service beyond the age of 65 years, unless the Executive Secretary, and in his case, the Commission, in the interests of the Organization, extends this age limit in exceptional cases. Normally, such extension will be one year at a time. Staff members may, however, elect to retire from the age of 60 years. Notwithstanding, staff members included in the Spanish Public Social Security System may extend the age of retirement in accordance with the rules in force of the Spanish Public Social Security System.”*

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1****1 Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Helguilè Shep (Côte d'Ivoire).

2 Appointment of rapporteur

Mr. Antoine Rivierre (Canada) was appointed rapporteur of Panel 1.

3 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4 Membership of Panel 1

Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary, presented the list of members of Panel 1 which is currently comprised of the following 39 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China (Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.) Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines (Rep.), Russia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Panel 1 has recorded the accession of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) as a new member.

5 Review of results of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT

In accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to Follow Up on the Second ICCAT Performance Review* (Res. 16-20), the Chair of the working group presented to Panel 1 the outcome of its discussions as well as the recommendations that require follow-up. In total, twenty (20) recommendations on conservation, control measures, governance and scientific advice were addressed to Panel 1. Six of these recommendations regarded exclusively Panel 1, namely recommendations 13, 14, 15, 16, 19 and 22. All the recommendations are contained in Appendix 3 to the Report of the Working Group to Follow Up on the Second ICCAT Performance Review. Looking forward, Panel 1 must take these recommendations into account when drafting future recommendations.

6 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

Dr David Die, SCRS Chair, presented the detailed report on bigeye (BET), yellowfin (YFT) and skipjack (SKJ) tuna stocks. No assessment for these species has been carried out this year. The skipjack tuna assessment dates back to 2014 while bigeye tuna was assessed in 2015 and yellowfin tuna in 2016.

The three tropical tuna species are present in the same ocean areas. They are therefore fished together by the same fleets and the same gears. However, the status of the different stocks are not the same.

6.1 Yellowfin tuna

With regard to the yellowfin tuna stock, catches have decreased over recent years, falling from 194,000 t in the 1990s to 109,000 t in 2015. Preliminary data indicate that 127,800 t were caught in 2016, which is above the TAC of 110,000 t put in place in 2010. The median B/B_{MSY} ratio is 0.95 and the F/F_{MSY} ratio is 0.77, which indicates that the yellowfin tuna stock is overfished but that overfishing is not occurring. If the TAC is maintained at the current level there is a 97% probability of maintaining the stock in the healthy zone by 2024. However, given that the catch level exceeds the TAC in 2016, this forecast is considered optimistic. Therefore, the SCRS maintains its recommendations to identify measures to reduce juvenile mortality in fisheries using FADs. Assessment of the efficiency of the time/area closures has been postponed to 2018.

6.2 Bigeye tuna

Preliminary catch data indicate that 72,375 t of bigeye tuna were caught in 2016. This represents an overrun of 11% of the TAC fixed at 65,000 t. The assessment carried out in 2015 with fishing data until 2014 indicates that the bigeye tuna stock is overfished and that overfishing is occurring. If the catch level is maintained at the current TAC level, there is a 49% probability of maintaining the stock in the healthy zone and of the Convention objectives being achieved. This probability could increase if additional management measures are taken (for example, moratorium on FADs). However, if catches are maintained at the current level, there would only be a 40% probability of the Convention objectives being achieved for bigeye tuna. The SCRS recommendations are therefore identical to those in 2016. The Commission must consider that an increase in catches under FADs could have negative consequences on the productivity of fisheries targeting bigeye tuna. Therefore, if the Commission wishes to increase long-term sustainable yields, the SCRS maintains the recommendation to identify efficient measures to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile individuals. The Commission must also be aware that an increase in catches under FADs could have negative consequences on yellowfin and bigeye stocks as well as on other by-catch species.

6.3 Skipjack tuna

Preliminary data indicate that in total 245,933 t of skipjack tuna were caught in 2016. The majority of the catches (217,363 t) were taken in the East Atlantic under FADs. In the past 10 years, the spatial distribution of fishing effort has changed. Skipjack catches in areas far from the equator (Angola, Mauritania) have increased. The western skipjack tuna stock is in a healthy state; it is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The eastern stock has not been quantified, but it is likely that it is not overexploited. Therefore, the SCRS maintains its recommendations. An increase in skipjack catches in the eastern Atlantic Ocean could be problematic for other species, in particular, for individuals of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna. With regard to the western stock, the Commission must ensure that the catch level does not exceed the MSY.

6.4 Data improvement for tropical tunas assessment

Progress has been made in terms of knowledge of the tropical tuna stocks in 2017. A new abundance index for yellowfin tuna has been developed based on catches by South African tuna baitboats. Progress has also been made within the framework of the AOTTP tagging programme. These data have provided new insight into growth, migration patterns, habitat use and mortality. In total, more than 57,000 fish have been tagged in the main fishing areas. These data have enabled determination of bigeye tuna migration patterns along the African and Brazilian coasts as well as migration patterns of yellowfin tuna off South Africa. Tagging data have also provided fresh insight into fish movements for assessment of the effectiveness of the area of the FAD moratorium. Acquired growth data and calculation of growth rates have shown that yellowfin tuna specimens grow more quickly than bigeye tuna individuals.

Under the AOTTP, scientists from developing States can also receive training. Much effort has been made so that developing nations are involved in and take responsibility for monitoring recoveries and participate in the analysis of biological samples.

6.5 Responses of the SCRS to Commission requests

The SCRS Chair addressed the responses of the SCRS to the following 8 requests made by the Commission:

1. Study of the potential impact of Ghana's comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan on catch level.
2. Assess the effectiveness of a possible alternative area/time closure on fishing activities under FADS to reduce catches of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna on several levels.
3. Review the 2016 recommendation on observer coverage and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate levels of coverage.
4. Follow through with the recommendations issued by the Working Group on FADs in 2016 and prepare a work plan.
5. Provide performance indicators for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna, with a view to developing management strategy evaluations (MSEs) for tropical tunas.
6. Develop a table which quantifies the expected impact on MSY, B_{MSY} and the relative stock status for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, as a result of reductions in individual proportional contributions of the longline fishery, the FAD purse seine fishery, the free school purse seine fishery and baitboat fishery in relation to total catch.
7. Assess the contribution of by-catch and discards to total catches in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries for each individual fishery.
8. Provide advice on possible measures to reduce discards of by-catch and to mitigate loss after capture in the ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries.

All responses of the committee are contained in section 20 of the 2017 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

6.6 Comments on the SCRS presentation

Japan stated that the outcome clearly indicates that catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna are too high. This situation reduces the long-term MSY and Japan has invited the Commission to take action to address the problem. Considering that the assessment of the SCRS indicates that spatial closures are not very effective, Japan would suggest that other measures such as a temporary closure, or limitation of the number of FADs should be envisaged. Japan also enquired as to how long the closure would need to be and what surface area would be required to be effective and whether limitation of the number of sets under FADs would be as effective. The SCRS Chair responded that effectiveness of closure areas is low, because these are limited in time and space. Limitation of the number of sets under FADs has not been assessed because historical data are needed and a definition for FAD set would need to be provided in advance.

China expressed their agreement with the Japan's remarks. China also wished to know whether the next bigeye assessment would be carried out in 2018. The SCRS Chair confirmed this date.

South Africa requested further details on the size of catches by gear type to identify the actual causes of the problems and also enquired as to whether ICCAT had information on the number of FADs that had been deployed in the tropical fisheries in recent years. The SCRS Chair responded that the vast majority of skipjack catches are taken by purse seine. With regard to bigeye tuna, changes in fishing technique have been observed. Longline catches were very significant in the 1980s; today, purse seine is the dominant technique. Tuna catches by baitboat are stable over time. As to yellowfin tuna, purse seine is the dominant technique and there is less change over time. A comparison has not been made between purse seine under FADs and purse seine on free schools. The SCRS Chair stated that he did know whether there were data available on number of FAD sets. The SCRS has data on European fleets, but not for the other fleets.

The European Union has recognised that there was a problem with FADs. The European Union stated that management objectives must first be defined so as to respond to Japan's question on new management measures. The SCRS Chair expressed his agreement with the European Union. Management objectives are essential. At present, the SCRS can only make recommendations by individual stock. As the three species are caught together, if the Commission decides to introduce management measures it is possible that some stocks make more sacrifices to ensure that the bigeye stock is sustainably recovered. If multi-species management objectives are defined for tropical tunas, it will be easier for the SCRS to issue advice.

The European Union asked the SCRS whether action was envisaged to improve the quality and quantity of data, because that had a real impact on stock assessments and on assessment of the effectiveness of time and area closures. The European Union also enquired about the poor state of the bigeye stock while average weight increases. The SCRS Chair responded that the average size of bigeye tuna caught by longline has been included in the assessment. These data were used in some models and were taken into consideration.

The SCRS still wishes to improve the quality and quantity of data and the AOTTP is how best to achieve this.

Namibia asked the SCRS about the impact of the increase in juvenile mortality and other sections of the stock on aggregate MSY. The SCRS Chair responded that adult mortality was detailed in the SCRS report and that the committee was going to attempt to finish the MSY analyses. Namibia also wished to know the percentage of observer coverage on purse seiners and whether observers reported routinely their observations to the ICCAT Secretariat. The SCRS Chair responded that these data were contained in Appendix 3 to the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2017. **Appendix 2** of this report also provided information on FAD deployment.

Ghana supported the above interventions and recognised that bigeye and yellowfin tuna are overexploited. According to Ghana, a collective effort is necessary to reduce the fishing effort. Ghana wished to know what data processing tools were available. The ICCAT Executive Secretary responded that a call for tenders has been released to develop software for processing Ghana's statistical data, but has not yet been concluded.

The United States supported the above proposals regarding the need to envisage other methods for FAD management and the need to define management objectives. The United States voiced concerns regarding juvenile catches and encouraged the SCRS to undertake the catch-at-size analysis requested in paragraphs 15 and 49(c) of Recommendation 16-01.

Senegal wished to know what supplementary data would be useful so that all data may be considered in the next assessment. The SCRS Chair responded that all analyses used data from Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and France (SPM) and that these data were valid. Senegal highlighted that useful recommendations had been put forward for reducing catches of juvenile individuals but stated that retention and trade of by-catch would be justified by market demand, and consequently, discards into the sea would decrease.

Cabo Verde highlighted that stocks were not in a healthy state and that it was necessary to improve fishing data as well as biological and oceanographic data. Cabo Verde pointed out the ecosystems were not in a sound state and that these data were necessary to ensure sustainable management of resources. The SCRS Chair responded that the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) was working to incorporate environmental data so as to reduce uncertainty.

Cabo Verde shares Japan's opinion with regard to the Gulf of Guinea. It is a specific area, where fishing capacity is developing very quickly. Stocks cannot grow at the same speed. A decrease in fishing effort is therefore necessary.

7 Stock conservation measures and implementation of ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities

The Chair identified three proposals submitted to the Panel for review, which were presented by their authors.

The European Union proposed the "Draft Recommendation for a recommendation by ICCAT to supplement Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tuna". This recommendation aims to adjust the total allowable catch (TAC) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in accordance with Recommendation 16-01, paragraph 2.a, and to end the carry-over of underages. Japan indicated that the decrease in the bigeye tuna TAC, as proposed, was not equitable for CPCs that have complied with their catch limit and therefore could not accept paragraph 1, as drafted. China proposed that a holistic approach be used so that all catch limits are reduced. With regard to the TAC for 2018, several CPCs expressed concerns with this approach. In particular, some CPCs noted that without additional, effective control measures on bigeye tuna, there would be nothing to prevent future overruns of the TAC, whether or not it is reduced.

Regarding the elimination of carry-over of underages, Japan and other CPCs considered that this proposal was too extreme and proposed to decrease carry-over to 10%. South Africa stated that bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries were essential for the country and that the recommendation of the European Union does not enable resolution of the FAD-related issues. South Africa mentioned that global solutions should quickly be envisaged to control FAD deployment and to reduce catches of juvenile individuals.

The European Union indicated that it was in favour of a proportional reduction of bigeye tuna catch limits for each CPC, but considers that changes in relation to carry-over of underages must occur as from 2017. The European Union removed the conflictive elements in the subsequent version. The European Union proposed a decrease in the carry-overs of 15% authorised for 2018 and 10% for 2019. The European Union

also proposes that an inter-sessional meeting be held to define tropical tuna management objectives and noted the absence of a precise definition for FADs significantly complicates implementation of management measures.

A discussion was held to confirm whether the compliance tables or SCRS catch tables would be used to calculate the level of the bigeye tuna overage. The Secretariat noted that quota overharvest calculations are generally based on data provided in the compliance tables and some CPCs supported using that approach in this case. The United States acknowledged that this was a common approach when assessing CPC specific quota overharvests. The U.S. stressed, however, that the requirement of Rec. 16-01, paragraph 2(a), was intended to provide a payback mechanism to ensure the TAC as a whole, which was set at a level higher than that recommended by SCRS, would not be exceeded on average over the three-year period covered by the recommendation. While the United States did not block consensus on the issue, the U.S. expressed serious concern that the approach being applied was not consistent with the terms of Rec. 16-01 para 2(a), the result of which meant that the level of quota payback was substantially lower than if the more accurate SCRS data had been used.

Many CPCs expressed their disappointment regarding the fact that the European Union did not wish to include specific management measures for FADs in their draft recommendation to amend Rec. 16-01. Other CPCs also criticized the objectives of the proposed Panel 1 inter-sessional meeting that were, as they considered them to be too numerous. China stated that it did not wish to discuss at-sea transshipments. Given the absence of consensus, the Panel did not approve the “Draft Recommendation for a Recommendation by ICCAT to supplement Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tuna”.

Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire jointly presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on prohibition on discards of tropical tunas caught by purse seiners” whose objective was to achieve a substantial reduction in discards of tropical tunas by 2020. The proposal also encourages retention and landing of other species which are of commercial value and/or which can contribute to countries’ food security. This proposal and the underlying ideas are supported by several CPCs.

The European Union expressed its wish that the proposal not be limited to purse seiners. It was suggested by some CPCs that if the measure were applied to additional gear types that ICCAT take inspiration from the provisions implemented by the IOTC, in which such prohibition is applied to fishing gears other than purse seine on a voluntary basis. The European Union also stated that it is necessary to properly assess in advance the feasibility of this proposal and the responsibilities of coastal States.

The United States supported this proposal, noting that similar measures in other RFMOs are also coupled with additional control measures, such as 100% observer coverage. The United States also reminded the members of Panel 1 that Rec. 16-01, paragraph 52, requires that CPCs must encourage masters to implement good practices to better manage by-catch and to reduce discards. The United States stated that while the prohibition on discards can be effective for some fisheries, it can lead to an increase in mortality for species for which survival after release in certain fisheries is high. Nigeria added that indiscriminate use of FADs, some of which are not biodegradable, has negative effects on the environment and that it would be necessary to limit their deployment. In 2020, the SCRS must look into the effectiveness of this recommendation and submit recommendations to the Commission regarding potential improvements. In the subsequent discussions, Mexico mentioned that the observers did not have a mandate to report cases of non-compliance. It has therefore been suggested that they report all discards observed. With that amendment, the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on prohibition on discards of tropical tunas caught by purse seiners” was approved by consensus and submitted to the Commission for adoption.

South Africa, Brazil, Japan, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Uruguay proposed the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to supplement Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas”. The recommendation aims to reduce tropical tuna catches, to limit carry-over of underages to 10% and to control fishing effort by fixing the number of purse seiners authorised at the 2017 level and the number of operations at the 2015 level. An observer or an electronic surveillance system would also be mandatory so that purse seiners can operate under FADs. Many CPCs voiced support for the proposal. While recognizing that action needs urgently to be taken to reduce juvenile mortality, several CPCs stated that the impact of shift in fishing effort and the significance of longline fishing had not been considered. They considered this proposal to be premature and it was proposed to wait until the next bigeye tuna assessment and analysis of robust data before implementing new management measures. Give the absence of consensus, the Panel did not approve this proposal.

8 Research

Dr Die, SCRS Chair, presented the bulk of the work foreseen for 2018 in relation to tropical tunas. The bigeye tuna assessment will be carried out with several data preparatory meetings. The responses to the Commission regarding the moratoria on FADs in the equatorial zone will be finalised. The United States requested that the SCRS support the work of the mixed technical working group on FADs envisaged within the FAO/ABNJ joint tuna RFMO Working Group on FADs and that it work towards harmonization of the research plans through this group. The study of historical MSYs and the impact of the different fleets on the evolution of the MSY will be finalised. The SCRS will work on the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) approach by reviewing appropriate performance measures for tropical tunas and by developing operating models. The Secretariat reminded that the financing of the AOTTP programme is largely provided by the European Union and by the ICCAT Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat encouraged CPCs to contribute to the financing of the programme.

9 Election of Chair

Uruguay proposed the re-election of the Panel 1 Chair. This proposal was acceptable to the other Panel members and Côte d'Ivoire was re-elected as Chair of Panel 1 for a further two years.

10 Other matters

No other matters were raised. Pew Charitable Trusts made a statement relating to various items which is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

11 Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 1 by correspondence. The meeting of Panel 1 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Melissa Karp (United States) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4 Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary reported that Panel 2 was comprised of the following 24 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, and Venezuela. Syria was not present in 2017.

5 Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Panel 2 Chair briefly reviewed the two recommendations from the Ad Hoc Working Group and stated that the recommendations would be addressed through discussions during the course of this and future meetings of Panel 2.

6 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

Dr David Die, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), presented the Executive Summaries on the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of albacore and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic stocks of bluefin tuna. Dr Die also provided a short summary of the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP) and progress on the bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation (MSE). These summaries can be found in Sections 8.4 and 8.5, 10.1, and 16.2, of the 2017 SCRS Report, respectively.

6.1 Albacore

6.1.1 Northern albacore

The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment was conducted in May 2016 using a production model with data through 2014. This assessment found that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the MSE testing that was requested in Rec. 16-06 and conducted during 2017. All eight candidate harvest control rules (HCR) met the objective of maintaining the stock in the green zone at > 60% probability; therefore, the SCRS Chair suggested that the choice of HCR would relate to the other two indicators, safety and stability. The SCRS concluded that the Commission could select an HCR based on the MSE results, and that it would be appropriate to apply it to select a TAC for the short-term (2018-2020). However, due to remaining uncertainties, the SCRS Chair emphasized that the HCR should only be adopted on an interim basis contingent on future advice by the SCRS through further evaluation and review. Whichever HCR is selected would result in a short-term TAC of 33,600 t over the next three years. Dr Die also indicated that ICCAT could choose to change how stock status should be assessed, thus changing the management procedures (MP), and this would require testing with a new MSE by the SCRS. He further indicated that consideration of exceptional circumstances would be important to the HCR process.

6.1.2 Mediterranean albacore

The SCRS Chair highlighted that important improvements from previous assessments of this stock had been made for the 2017 assessment, in particular in relation to Task I data and abundance indices; however, high uncertainty remains. The 2017 assessment was conducted using a production model. The assessment remains data limited; however, the SCRS believes that F is likely $< F_{MSY}$, and that the high catches in 2006-2007 are likely to be unsustainable with recent catches being much closer to F_{MSY} . As indicated in the Kobe plot, there is a 48% probability of the stock being in the green zone, 36% probability of it being in the red zone, and 16% probability of it being in the yellow zone. The SCRS recommends that management measures should be designed to avoid any increase in catch and effort, and catches should be maintained below MSY at least until additional confirmation of changes in abundance is obtained from relative abundance indices and larval surveys.

6.2 Bluefin tuna

6.2.1 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The SCRS Chair presented the results of the 2017 stock assessment, noting that there have been improvements in data quality and quantity, in part as a result of the data inputs from the GBYP, but that important uncertainties remain. According to the SCRS report, the Committee agreed to base its advice exclusively on the Virtual Population Analysis (VPA), because only the results of the VPA have been considered sufficiently advanced to provide management advice. However, due to uncertainties in the stock-recruitment relationship and recent recruitment, the Committee was not able to predict future recruitment or provide estimates of biomass reference points. Instead, the SCRS considered $F_{0.1}$ as a reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} and found that overfishing was not occurring. Although the SCRS could not provide advice on stock status relative to biomass reference points, the SCRS Chair noted that, compared with the 2014 assessment, the additional data available for the 2017 assessment provided better confirmation of the recent estimated increases in stock growth. However, the level of increase remains difficult to quantify. Therefore, the outlook presented in the SCRS report was exclusively in terms of fishing mortality ($F_{0.1}$) and the probability of not overfishing for a given TAC, and included only 5-year projections due to uncertainty in recruitment beyond that time. The SCRS indicated that a TAC of up to 36,000 t would have a greater than 60% probability of F remaining below $F_{0.1}$ through 2022, and noted that catches of 28,000 t or less have a higher than 50% probability of allowing a continual increase in the stock. The SCRS advised that catches and TAC could be gradually increased in a step-wise approach up to 36,000 t in 2020, and that a full assessment of the stock should be conducted in 2020. Based on the evident increase in abundance, the SCRS also advised that the Commission should consider moving from a rebuilding to a management plan.

6.2.2 Western Atlantic

The SCRS Chair emphasized that significant improvements in data quality and quantity had been made for the 2017 assessment. The assessment was conducted through a combination of VPA and Stock Synthesis (SS) models, and advice provided to the Commission is based on both types of models. Both models estimated that there was a high probability that overfishing is not occurring, and that the biomass since 2004 has been increasing. As with the eastern and Mediterranean stock, the SCRS was unable to provide estimates of biomass reference points or projections. The SCRS instead chose to provide advice on fishing mortality alone, using $F_{0.1}$ as proxy of F_{MSY} , and based on average recruitment over the last 6 years for which reliable recruitment estimates are available. The results of the assessment showed that overfishing is not occurring, but the SCRS could not determine whether the stock is in an overfished status. Nearly all constant catch options above 1,000 t would lead to decreases in biomass over the period 2018-2020, but the SCRS advised that a constant catch not exceeding 2,500 t over the 2018-2020 period would avoid overfishing during that time period.

6.3 Responses of the SCRS to the Commission requests

The SCRS Chair addressed the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission.

1. *Provide information and guidance on enhancing efforts to address any deficiencies identified regarding fisheries for which biological sampling rates that should be increased and fisheries for which improvements in the collection and/or provision of statistical data are necessary to support the stock assessment. SCRS to report efforts made to enhance biological sampling activities. Rec. 16-08, paragraph 20.*

This response is presented in point 20.9 of the 2017 SCRS report.

2. *The SCRS shall review new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, and advise the Commission on the results for its consideration. Rec. 16-08, paragraph 23.*

This response is presented in point 20.10 of the 2017 SCRS report.

3. *Provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. To comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status. Rec 16-08, paragraph 27.*

This response is presented in point 20.11 of the 2017 SCRS report.

4. *Mauritania will conduct research activities in cooperation with an ICCAT CPC of its choice, and will be subject to the presentation of a specific program to the SCRS. The results will be made available to the Commission. Rec 14-04, paragraph 5.*

This response is presented in point 20.12 of the 2017 SCRS report.

5. *Refine the testing of candidate reference points (e.g. $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$, SSB_{LIM} , and F_{TARGET}) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs) that would support the management objective expressed in paragraph 2 of Rec. 16-06. The SCRS shall also provide statistics to support decision-making in accordance with the performance indicators in Annex 2. Rec 16-06, paragraph 11.*

This response is presented in point 20.16 of the 2017 SCRS report.

6. *The HCRs referred to in paragraph 15 of Rec. 16-06 should be evaluated by the SCRS through the management strategy evaluation process, including in light of new assessments of the stock. Rec. 16-06, paragraph 14.*

This response is presented in point 20.17 of the 2017 SCRS report.

7. *Conversion algorithm for the caging operations. Rec. 14-04, Annex 9, item iii.*

This response is presented in point 20.22 of the 2017 SCRS report.

6.4 Comments on the SCRS Presentation

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

Two CPCs requested clarification from the SCRS Chair regarding the status of the stock relative to rebuilding targets and the SCRS recommendation that the Commission could consider moving from a rebuilding plan to a management plan. The SCRS Chair explained that although the SCRS could not provide biomass reference points to assess whether the stock was rebuilt or not, maintaining a rebuilding plan might not be appropriate, considering the increase in abundance witnessed for this stock.

One CPC requested clarification from the SCRS Chair on why the time series data went back only to 1968 and not to the 1950s and suggested that by expanding the time series to include the 1950s onward, this could have provided the SCRS the contrast needed to estimate the long-term stock-recruit relationship. The SCRS Chair explained that the time series data going back to the 1950s were not used in the VPA but were in other models that were not reported on, and the earlier data were used to evaluate whether including them would or would not affect the model estimates. He further explained that the difficulties for the SCRS to predict recruitment are not due to the absence of contrast and that including the earlier data would not necessarily enable the SCRS to infer the long-term stock-recruit relationship, but agreed it was a good suggestion for the SCRS to consider.

The SCRS Chair was asked why the Spanish trap CPUE time series was not used after 2012. He clarified that this was because EU-Spain have not been able to provide CPUE indices since 2012 due to difficulties for the scientific observers to access the traps.

Regarding the SCRS response 20.12 to Commission requests, Mauritania clarified that they understood the research requirement to mean their participation in GBYP, in which they have been actively participating. Additionally, they explained that they do not have a bluefin tuna fleet and, therefore, are unable to provide information regarding that stock. They stated that they were unaware of any other specific commitments they had made regarding research, aside from participation in the GBYP. The SCRS Chair explained that the SCRS interpreted Mauritania's research requirement to be related exclusively to experimental fishing, of which there has yet to be any activity. The SCRS Chair did acknowledge that Mauritania actively participated in the GBYP program and those efforts are appreciated.

Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

The United States requested clarification from the SCRS Chair regarding the effect on stock biomass levels of setting the same TAC over three years vs. implementing a step-wise increase in TAC over three years if the average harvest over the period were the same. The SCRS Chair explained that if the Commission decided to increase the TAC gradually over the three years, the relative change in biomass in 2020 would be less than shown in BFTW-Table 3 (of the Bluefin Tuna West Executive Summary in section 8.5 of the 2017 SCRS Report), because annual catches would be lower in 2018 and 2019.

Relevant to both bluefin tuna stocks

A CPC requested clarification from the SCRS Chair on the definition of 'declining' and what that means for the development of TAC advice for eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna. The SCRS Chair clarified that even though recommended TACs are expected to lead to short-term declines in biomass, they are still expected to be sustainable.

Several CPCs and one observer (The Pew Charitable Trusts) requested clarification regarding the SCRS decision to use $F_{0.1}$ as a proxy for F_{MSY} in order to develop TAC advice, without providing biomass reference points. The SCRS Chair clarified that the move to $F_{0.1}$ was due to the inability to choose between high or low recruitment models, and that because the SCRS did not have confidence to estimate biomass, the TAC recommendation was based on only the Kobe matrix regarding fishing mortality. Additionally, the SCRS Chair confirmed that additional management options other than $F_{0.1}$ will be considered in future MSE analysis.

Northern albacore

One CPC asked if the MSE testing has included the potential carry-forward of quotas as allowed in Rec. 16-06, paragraph 7, and if not, if it is possible to do so in the future. The SCRS Chair responded that carry-forward of underharvests was not considered in the MSE work, but it could be considered in future analysis. The SCRS Chair clarified that the candidate HCRs are currently tied to particular management procedures.

Another CPC requested clarification regarding the HCRs, particularly related to the parameters in the stability clause. There was some concern that application of minimum catch limit could be counterintuitive because after some amount of stock decline, it would result in an inappropriate fishing mortality rate. The SCRS Chair provided further clarification regarding the effect of having a minimum catch limit vs. a provision allowing the catch to drop in response to relative stock abundance.

7 Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

7.1 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The Chair noted that there were two proposals submitted for the management of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, one by the European Union and one by Norway. The European Union introduced their proposal outlining a new framework that signals a move from a recovery plan to a

management plan, replacing Rec. 14-04. Norway introduced their proposal amending Rec. 14-04 to add in language regarding CPCs with landings obligation, among other changes. Norway also tabled a companion document explaining in writing the areas of Rec. 14-04 that were in particular need of revision.

After a brief discussion, the Chair suggested that the two proposals be combined and requested that the European Union take the lead on that effort. After a series of informal technical meetings and input from concerned CPCs, the European Union tabled a revised proposal (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8**). While acknowledging the hard work that had gone into producing a revised document, several CPCs still had concerns. As there was no time to fully address them, consensus could not be reached and consideration of the document was suspended. Morocco submitted a written statement of their position in which they reiterated their concerns with moving prematurely to a management plan from a recovery plan (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8**).

To ensure management measures would be in place for the eastern fishery in 2018, the Chair proposed to roll over Rec. 14-04 with a few important changes, including the TAC and allocations. It also included a provision that the Commission shall establish a management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 2018. The Chair explained that the SCRS report recommended a step-wise increase in TAC, which he had included in his proposal. Under the Chair's proposal regarding TAC and quota provisions, the TAC would increase to 28,200 t in 2018, 32,240 t in 2019, and 36,000 t in 2020. It also would set aside a reserve of unallocated quota for 2018-2019-2020. With reference to his document on the history of TACs for E-BFT, the Chair suggested that the reduction of TACs started from 32,000 t and that the difference of 4,000 between 32,000 t and 36,000 t could and should be considered as a bonus to be used for addressing the longstanding requests of CPCs which joined ICCAT after the TAC reduction started as well as setting aside a reserve for unexpected reduction of the stock. He also reflected that the time had come to fix individual CPC quotas in consideration of their traditional catches, while having pointed to the fact that some CPCs objected to quota allocation decisions and established independent catch limits in the past that were then recognized as their constant shares. The Chair recalled the recommendation from the second independent performance review that urged resolution of the longstanding allocation issues in this fishery, and indicated that the proposed table should not be interpreted as changing the allocation key in Rec. 14-04. The Chair explained that the part of the unallocated reserve might be used to accommodate CPCs dissatisfied with their current quotas for 2019 and 2020, and that this could be addressed intersessionally (5-7 March, 2018).

Several CPCs expressed disappointment with their allocated quota in the proposal. Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Korea, Libya, and Turkey submitted written statements (**Appendices 1 to 7 and 10 to ANNEX 8**), and intervened on the floor requesting increases in their quota allocations. Tunisia and Morocco sympathized with all the requests from other CPCs but stressed that the Commission cannot forget other countries, particularly developing countries, including Morocco, when discussing changes in the allocation key. Tunisia also requested increases in their quota. Turkey pointed out that it considered the proposal as a positive step towards rebuilding of the rightful traditional shares of CPCs such as Algeria and Turkey incrementally up to 2020. It noted that it would be difficult to reach a settlement at the next intersessional meeting in March 2018 in the event that the decision on the new allocation key was reverted, which would impede the reinstatement of traditional shares. Iceland described the history of its fishery and requested an increase in allocation, noting that decisions on quota allocation should consider other criteria beyond recent catch history. The delegate from the European Union wished to remind the Panel that the EU has by far the largest coastline of any CPC in the Convention area and that some of its Member States have been fishing tuna since antiquity. Additionally, the EU and Japan emphasized that their substantial contributions to data collection and stock assessments, such as conducting aerial and larval surveys (EU) or providing longtime series of longline CPUE (Japan), should be taken into account when deciding quota allocation. Norway noted that they have one of the largest historic fishery in ICCAT and expressed frustration that although they are a coastal State with major feeding grounds for adult bluefin tuna, have refrained from directed fishing following adoption of the recovery plan thus contributing to rebuilding of stock, and have complied with all ICCAT decisions both in terms of management and science, their request to regain their rightful share of the TAC has not been accommodated. By the end of the Panel 2 sessions, there was an agreement to the Chair's proposal for a rollover of Rec. 14-04, with the exception of paragraphs 45 and 45a which were amended, with new TACs and quotas for 2018, 2019 and 2020, while adjustments to 2019 and 2020 quotas would be discussed and potentially made using the reserves specified in the proposal, at an intersessional meeting in March. Any adjustments to quotas for 2019 and 2020 resulting from the March Panel 2 meeting would be presented to the Commission for its adoption at its 2018 annual meeting. The

Chair indicated he would present the proposal (“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 14-04 on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean”) to the Commission for adoption while requesting the Commission to approve the proposed intersessional Panel 2 meeting. Given its concerns, Norway reserved its right to object to the proposal.

Europêche expressed their disappointment in the decision to change the quota allocation in 2018 prior to the TAC reaching 32,000 t, the level at the start of the rebuilding plan. They explained that a change in the allocation of quota before that time would send a message that the stock is recovering yet some fishermen would see a reduction in their quotas.

The Pew Charitable Trusts and the World Wildlife Fund expressed concern about the proposed increase in quota for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna. The Pew Charitable Trusts provided a written statement of their position (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**).

7.2 Western bluefin tuna

The United States introduced a proposal for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna for the period 2018-2020, explaining the need to be responsive to scientific advice while recognizing the need for a transition between the 20-year rebuilding program adopted in 1998 and a future approach to managing the stock that relies on management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for bluefin tuna and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties. After consultation with the other western Atlantic bluefin tuna harvesting CPCs, the final proposal, which was co-sponsored by Japan and France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), established a TAC of 2,350 t, which provides a buffer from the top end of the range in the scientific advice to ensure an additional layer of precaution given the uncertainties that are not fully accounted for in the assessment. The proposal established a schedule to advance the management strategy evaluation process and otherwise incorporated relevant provisions of Rec. 16-08. The instructions to the SCRS regarding advice on spawning times and areas was modified slightly to request that the SCRS advise on the efficacy of the Gulf of Mexico directed fishery restriction to reduce mortality of spawning age bluefin tuna.

Canada requested that two changes be made during Panel discussions before adoption of the proposed recommendation. The two changes related to adding language in the Preamble and Paragraph 1 to clarify why this recommendation moves away from a rebuilding program and towards management procedures, and that this recommendation lays out an interim plan that would be re-evaluated using advice from the MSE analysis. With those edits, Panel 2 approved the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna” and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

Ecology Action Centre, Ocean Foundation, and The Pew Charitable Trusts expressed concern regarding the increased TAC level in the recommendation and the move from a rebuilding program to an interim management plan.

7.3 North Atlantic albacore

The European Union tabled a proposal for an interim Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for northern albacore. There was general agreement on the need to adopt an HCR for northern albacore and after consultations to enhance the proposal, the EU tabled a revised version, with the United States and Canada as co-sponsors. The final version established an interim HCR for northern albacore for 2018-2020 in accordance with the management objectives of the multi-annual management and conservation program set out in paragraph 2 of Rec. 16-06. The proposal established interim reference points ($B_{THRESH}=B_{MSY}$; $B_{LIM}=0.4B_{MSY}$; $F_{TAR}=0.8F_{MSY}$; and $F_{MIN}=0.1F_{MSY}$, the last of which is to ensure scientific monitoring), and includes the specific harvest control rule formula and figure for setting the appropriate fishing mortality rate and, in turn, the TAC. It also included provisions regarding a maximum catch limit (50,000 t) and a maximum change in catch limit (not to exceed 20% of the previous recommended catch limit when $B_{CURR} > B_{THRESH}$.) Under the proposal, a stock assessment shall be conducted every 3 years with the next assessment to occur in 2020, and, consistent with the 20% cap on TAC increase, a 3-year constant annual TAC of 33,600 t was established for 2018-2020.

Prior to adoption, two changes were requested. Japan requested that the text in paragraph 18 be changed to make it clear that this recommendation and Rec. 16-06 will be consolidated into a single recommendation in 2018. In the same paragraph Norway requested “its structure” be deleted to make it clear that this recommendation, not just its structure, does not set a precedent for future HCRs. With these changes, Panel 2 approved the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on A Harvest Control Rule for the North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme [Rec. 16-06]” and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

7.4 Mediterranean albacore

The European Union introduced a proposal for the conservation and management of Mediterranean albacore. The Panel 2 Chair requested that concerned parties send comments to the EU. After consultation, no changes were made to the original proposal. The final recommendation outlined several measures to be taken to prevent increase in fishing effort or catch levels. Specifically, each CPC shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorized to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number that were authorized in 2017 under Rec. 16-05, and fishing shall not be permitted from 1 October to 30 November inclusive. Panel 2 approved the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing Management Measures for the Stock of Mediterranean Albacore” and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

8 Research

Dr Die reviewed several highlights of the GBYP and work on MSE to date. The SCRS Chair emphasized the importance of the data collection activities carried out as part of this program, and their significant contribution to both the stock assessment and MSE development for bluefin tuna. Additionally, the SCRS Chair noted that the modelling group has now developed an operating model that is spatially explicit, which allows for the development of different hypotheses on mixing between western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks. Regarding the MSE, the SCRS Chair reported that the modelling group has developed initial candidate management procedures based on abundance indices used to determine the TACs for bluefin tuna. Looking forward to 2018-2019, the SCRS Chair emphasized that the work on MSE should and will progress by broadening the group working on the bluefin tuna MSE to include other scientists and that this will partly be accomplished through a meeting to be held in 2018 looking at both swordfish and bluefin tuna MSEs. Additional meetings, workshops, and trainings are also planned. The SCRS Chair emphasized that the Commission, through the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and Panel 2, would be involved in the MSE process. He explained that the SCRS plans to present its preliminary evaluation of candidate management procedures to the Commission in 2018 and that the Commission could provide feedback to narrow the set of candidate management procedures for final testing in 2019.

A CPC asked the SCRS Chair how the review of the GBYP should be conducted, and if it should be through the SCRS or a separate independent working group. The SCRS Chair explained that the GBYP has been reviewed several times already by independent scientists, but he left the decision to the Commission as to what would be most useful in the future. Japan suggested a way forward would be to utilize the SWGSM as the venue to conduct this review. The European Union expressed their desire that there be an increased focus on MSE and modelling, as well as maintenance of aerial surveys, with less focus on tagging studies in the future. The EU also stressed that it is very important that the whole SCRS, not just the modelling group, discuss and understand the entire bluefin tuna MSE work.

9 Election of Chair

Japan was elected to continue as Chair of Panel 2 for the 2018-2019 biennial period.

10 Other matters

The Chair suggested that, in the interest of time, CPCs wishing to respond to the requests for clarification contained in the Secretariat’s report on the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme should do so in writing directly to the Secretariat. No other matters were discussed.

11 Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the Panel 2 report would be adopted by correspondence.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat and interpreters for all their hard work in supporting a very busy meeting of Panel 2 and adjourned the meeting.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the acting Panel 3 Chair, Mr. Asanda Njobeni (South Africa).

2 Appointment of rapporteur

France in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon put forward a rapporteur.

3 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Panel members and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

4 Review of Panel membership

Panel 3 is currently comprised of the following 15 members: Belize, Brazil, China (Rep.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Namibia, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, United States and Uruguay.

5 Presentation of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review reviewed some of the approximately one hundred recommendations contained in **ANNEX 4.3**. Some should be addressed by different ICCAT bodies and/or different panels. Although Panel 3 is not identified as the lead on any particular recommendation, several recommendations that are of direct interest to Panel 3 were reviewed in detail. CPCs have not made any requests or raised any specific issues in relation to these recommendations.

6 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

Relevant information is contained in the 2017 Report of the SCRS. In 2017, it was not possible to carry out a stock assessment but an assessment of southern albacore was carried out in 2016. The SCRS Chair, Dr David Die, noted that catches remain stable.

6.1 South Atlantic albacore

The SCRS Chair presented a summary of previous studies on temperate tunas in the southern hemisphere. Further assessments have not been carried out for 2017 but were conducted in 2016. The recommendations and the prospects outlined in 2016 are still valid. Most catches are taken mainly by longliners (Chinese Taipei) as well as by baitboats (Namibia). Catches are currently below the allocated quotas. The trend since the mid-1980s has remained similar. A priori the decrease in biomass according to the 8 production models remains stable. According to the Kobe II diagram, there is a 66% probability that the stock is in the green area, and at the current level of exploitation (TAC of 24,000 t) there is a greater than 60% probability that it will remain in the green area until 2029. In 2016, the TAC was 24 000 t. The most recent catches are estimated at 13,279 t.

6.2 Southern bluefin tuna

This stock is currently managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). No estimation has been made with regard to this stock this year.

7 Quota allocation criteria

In accordance with the paragraph 4 b) of the recommendation on southern albacore (Rec. 16-07), the Panel Chair opened the discussion and invited CPCs that wished to benefit from carry-over to request so except for the European Union and South Africa that have already submitted their respective requests in writing. Japan wishes to carry over 25% of its quota for 2018. Belize has requested carry-over of 25% of its quota for 2018. Chinese Taipei wishes to carry over 2,350 t for 2018. China wishes to transfer 25% of its quota for 2018. South Korea has expressed its wish to benefit from carry-over of 20% of its quota, i.e. 175 t (southern albacore). The European Union has concluded with a request for additional carry-over of southern albacore.

8 Research

The SCRS Chair noted that he had already presented a summary of relevant implemented research programmes on the southern albacore stock as part of his presentation of the SCRS report. However, he noted that the SCRS intended to carry out additional studies on the inclusion of environmental factors in CPUE standardisation in order to improve the estimation of CPUE. Moreover, he insisted on the need for participation of regional scientists and noted greater participation by South Africa in its work. He concluded this point by stating that he wished this cooperation to be sustained over time for the benefit of southern albacore. Finally, the SCRS Chair considers that southern albacore would benefit from an appropriate research fund to address new research issues.

9 Election of Chair

South Africa was re-elected as Chair of Panel 3 for a further two years.

10 Other matters

There were no other matters.

11 Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 3 by correspondence. The meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

REPORT ON THE SESSION MEETINGS OF PANEL 4

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil).

2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

3 Appointment of the Rapporteur

The Panel appointed Ms. Julia Snouck-Hurgronje (United States) as Rapporteur.

4 Review of panel membership

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Panel 4 membership and following Libya's acceptance, the Panel now comprises the following members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

5 Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The 1st Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, reviewed those recommendations made by the performance review panel that were referred by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review to Panel 4 for consideration. Mr. Depypere noted that several of these recommendations had already been implemented or were under active discussion. Two CPCs expressed dissatisfaction with some of the recommended measures, including potential difficulties in their implementation by developing coastal States. Lacking time to discuss the range of CPCs' views on each of these individual recommendations, Mr. Depypere invited the Panel to consider these recommendations further and determine if and how they should be addressed during subsequent meetings of Panel 4. It was noted that the recommendations pertaining to Panel 4 will be on the agenda each year in order to track progress.

6 Report on the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr David Die, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: swordfish, marlins, sailfish, small tunas, and sharks, including detailed results from the 2017 North and South Atlantic swordfish and shortfin mako assessments.

6.1 Swordfish

The status of the stocks of North Atlantic swordfish and South Atlantic swordfish was assessed in 2017. The TAC has not been reached in the fisheries for either the northern or southern stock for several years.

6.1.1 North Atlantic swordfish

The SCRS Chair noted that the inclusion of new data in the 2017 stock assessment for North Atlantic swordfish resulted in significant improvements to the understanding of the current stock status. According to the 2017 assessment, the North Atlantic swordfish stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, with a 61% probability of being in the green zone of the Kobe matrix. While catch has remained below the current TAC of 13,700 t for a number of years, the current TAC only has a 36% probability of maintaining the stock in the green zone by 2028.

The SCRS recommended lowering the TAC to 13,200 t, which would increase the probability of keeping the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot to 50%, with a probability of biomass being above $B_{MSY} > 50\%$ through 2028. The SCRS Chair noted that this advice does not account for possible unreported dead discards, quota carryover, or quota transfers across the North and South stock management boundaries, all of which could result in cumulative quotas above the TAC.

6.1.2 South Atlantic swordfish

According to the 2017 assessment, the South Atlantic swordfish stock is overfished and overfishing is either occurring or very close to F_{MSY} . There is a 51% probability that the stock is both overfished and experiencing overfishing. The SCRS Chair noted that this advice does not account for possible unreported dead discards, quota carryover, or quota transfers across the North and South stock management boundaries, all of which could result in cumulative quotas above the TAC.

The current TAC of 15,000 t has a 26% probability of rebuilding the South Atlantic swordfish stock by 2028, while a TAC of 14,000 t has a 50% probability of rebuilding the stock. Therefore, the SCRS recommended lowering the TAC to 14,000 t or lower.

6.1.3 Mediterranean swordfish

Mediterranean swordfish was assessed in 2016 and the stock was found to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. In order to allow rebuilding to take place, the SCRS advised that substantial reductions in harvest will need to occur. Recruitment has been declining for the last ten years and recent recruitment has been lower than expected for recent levels of spawning stock biomass. The SCRS emphasized the need for increased monitoring of landings and discards in order to gain a better understanding of stock status and trends.

6.2 Marlins

Blue and white marlins were not assessed this year; blue marlin will be assessed in 2018 and white marlin in 2019. The last stock assessment for blue marlin, conducted in 2011, indicated that this species was overfished and overfishing was occurring. The SCRS expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of extending the 2,000 t catch limit through 2018 in light of severe underreporting occurring in some fisheries. The SCRS cautioned that unless these noncompliance issues are addressed, management measures might not achieve their intended effect.

The last stock assessment in 2012 of white marlin indicated that the stock was overfished but not likely to be experiencing overfishing. The SCRS noted that if catches continue to exceed the 400 t TAC, as they have in 2015 and 2016, rebuilding will occur more slowly than projected.

6.3 Sailfish

The most recent assessments for the eastern and western sailfish stocks were conducted in 2016. The eastern Atlantic stock is overfished, but models disagree regarding whether overfishing is occurring and if the stock is recovering. The SCRS recommended that the Commission consider management measures to prevent further increases in catches. The western Atlantic stock assessment had a high probability of being in the green zone of the Kobe plot, but the results were highly uncertain. Therefore, the SCRS recommended that the western Atlantic sailfish catches should not exceed current levels.

6.4 Small tunas

The SCRS has been unable to conduct stock assessments for any of the small tuna species due to data limitations and suggests that countries be requested to submit all available data to ICCAT as soon as possible. The SCRS has developed indicators of reference points, but their robustness needs to be evaluated before they can be used to provide management advice. The SCRS also highlighted that there is a general lack of information on mortality of these species as bycatch.

6.5 Sharks

6.5.1 Blue shark

The SCRS last assessed blue shark in 2015. For the North Atlantic stock, the high level of uncertainty in the data inputs and model structural assumptions left the SCRS unable to rule out the possibility that the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. For the southern stock of blue shark, assessment results were also uncertain and the SCRS was not able to determine if the stock was overfished or if overfishing was occurring. In light of this, the SCRS strongly recommended that the Commission consider a precautionary approach for the South Atlantic stock of blue shark, noting the recommendation adopted for the North Atlantic blue shark with a catch limit set based on the average catch of the final five years used in the assessment (2009-13).

6.5.2 Shortfin mako

The North and South Atlantic stocks of shortfin mako were assessed in 2017. There were substantial improvements in the data sources and new models were used for the 2017 assessment. The SCRS Chair pointed out that the results represent a significant improvement in the understanding of current stock status, especially for the North Atlantic stock.

The North Atlantic stock was determined to be overfished and experiencing overfishing, with a 90% probability of being in the red zone of the Kobe matrix. Current catch levels in the North Atlantic were projected to cause continued decline. The SCRS stated that catches would need to be 1,000 t or lower to prevent further population decline. The spawning stock size is expected to continue to decline for several years, even after fishing pressure is reduced because the fisheries mostly catch juveniles. In order to stop overfishing immediately and start the rebuilding process, the TAC should be set to 500 t or less. The SCRS advised that if the Commission desires to achieve rebuilding by 2040 with over a 50% probability, the most effective immediate measure would be a complete prohibition of retention. The SCRS Chair discussed other recommended measures that could be used to reduce incidental mortality, such as time/area closures, gear restrictions, and best practices for releasing sharks alive at sea. The SCRS Chair also emphasized the necessity of improving monitoring and data collection programs, such as reporting total estimated dead discards and estimating CPUE using observer data.

There is a 47% probability that the South Atlantic stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing; a 51% probability that the stock is overfished but not experiencing overfishing; and only a 2% probability that the stock is not overfished and is also not experiencing overfishing. The SCRS considers the results for the South Atlantic shortfin mako stock to be highly uncertain due to the conflict between catch and CPUE data, and, therefore, it was not able to produce biomass projections. Given the uncertainty in stock status, large fluctuations in catch, high intrinsic vulnerability of the species, and the depleted status for the North Atlantic stock, the SCRS recommended that catch levels should not exceed the minimum catch in the last five years of the assessment (2011-2015; 2,001 t with catch scenario C1).

6.5.3 Porbeagle

Porbeagle stocks were last assessed in 2009. At that time, the northwest Atlantic stock of porbeagle was overfished with no overfishing occurring, and the southwest stock was overfished, but it could not be determined whether overfishing was occurring. Biomass projections could not be conducted during that assessment due to data limitations. The SCRS recommended that catch should not exceed current levels. The SCRS strongly urged all CPCs to provide shark data, including dead and live discards, for all ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries that capture porbeagle shark.

6.6 Responses of the SCRS to the Commission Requests

20.13 Provide the Commission with the confirmed average round weight and gilled and gutted weight, corresponding to the LJFL of 100 cm. Rec. 16-05, paragraph 16.

This response is presented in point 20.13 of the 2017 SCRS report.

20.14 Continue to monitor and analyze the effects of the minimum size measure on the mortality of immature swordfish. Recs. 16-03, paragraph 10 and 16-04, paragraph 7.

This response is presented in point 20.14 of the 2017 SCRS report.

20.15 Develop a new data collection initiative as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues. Rec. 15-05, paragraph 10 and Rec. 16-11, paragraph 3

This response is presented in point 20.15 of the 2017 SCRS report. The SCRS Chair noted that only two CPCs reported dead and live discards for all major billfish species through 2015 and that if other CPCs provided that data as required, the 2018 blue marlin assessment would be greatly improved.

20.20 Confirmation by the Shark Species Group regarding exemption of the necessity for data submission by CPCs. Rec. 16-13, paragraph 2

This response is presented in point 20.20 of the 2017 SCRS report. Panel 4 discussed the proposed criteria developed by the SCRS Shark Species Group to evaluate CPCs' requests for an exemption to the requirement to submit information to the Commission regarding the implementation of shark conservation measures pursuant to Rec. 16-13. CPCs would be required to submit the following information when requesting an exemption: (1) List of species of sharks recorded to be present in the area of tuna fishing activities of the CPC; (2) Evidence (e.g. scientific surveys, scientific observer data, landing surveys) that clearly indicate the lack of interactions between CPCs' tuna fleets and shark species considered by ICCAT conservation measures; (3) Information on the spatial extent of fishing effort by CPC tuna fleets; and (4) A plan for periodic review of the scientific information that justifies the exemption request. The Panel agreed on the criteria recommended by the SCRS, with some changes, including a clarification that reporting requirements apply only to oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory sharks.

6.7 General comments

6.7.1 Shortfin mako

It was noted that the post-release survival rate for Atlantic shortfin mako juveniles is high. The SCRS Chair confirmed that the species has a low productivity rate, so the ability for the stock to grow quickly is limited. Several CPCs asked if the SCRS had information available to provide additional advice on the efficacy of setting size limits, time/area closures, and any other mitigation measures. The SCRS Chair responded that there is length information available and information on post-release survival rates, as well as some data on the spatial distribution of shortfin mako based on tagging studies. The SCRS Chair also noted that use of monofilament rather than wire leaders in longline fisheries has been shown to reduce shark mortality. One CPC asked if setting a TAC at 500 t would end overfishing by 2018; the SCRS Chair confirmed this.

The Chair offered the floor to observers and Europêche commented that more countries' data should be used for abundance indices. The SCRS Chair responded that various models had been considered, which included several indices, including the Spanish longline index. Overall, the trends in the fleets of Spain and Chinese Taipei were not notably different and both showed a downward trend. Defenders of Wildlife, on behalf of a coalition of environmental NGOs, and Pew Charitable Trusts expressed concern with the assessment results and emphasized the urgent need for action consistent with scientific advice. These statements are included in the record (**Appendix 13 and 14 to ANNEX 8**).

6.7.2 Swordfish

Two CPCs asked why the SCRS had advised a reduction in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic swordfish TACs when catches have not reached the level of these TACs in several years. The SCRS Chair responded that if catches remain as low as they have been in recent years, then the stocks should be fine. However, if catches increased for some reason up to the current TACs, there would be too much fishing pressure on the stocks.

7 Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

7.1 Introduction of proposals

The Chair identified nine proposals for the Panel's consideration, and each of these documents was presented by the proponents. The Chair asked the delegations to work together to merge their separate proposals on the same species for further consideration by the Panel.

7.2 Swordfish

7.2.1 North Atlantic stock

The European Union introduced the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish [Rec. 16-03]*, which proposed to lower the TAC to 13,200 t for the period 2018-2020, in line with the scientific advice. Following intervention by a CPC, the timeframe of the measure was increased to four years in order to avoid having both bluefin tuna and swordfish negotiations occurring in the same year.

Several CPCs expressed opposition to the initial provisions to reduce allocations proportionally to the proposed TAC reduction, and those provisions were removed. Several CPCs also opposed the removal of provisions allowing carryover of quota underharvest to future years, and so those provisions were re-introduced in the proposal. The existing allocations were thereby preserved and the maximum carryover of quota underharvest allowed from year to year was reduced to 15% for CPCs with catch limits above 500 t and 40% for other CPCs.

Mauritania expressed its disappointment that its quota was reduced due to decreased transfers from other CPCs, which will make it more difficult to develop a national fleet. Mauritania was asked if it had submitted its fishery development plan for 2017, which was a prerequisite for receiving quota transfers in 2017. It was reported that Mauritania had not done so.

China asked for the 25 t transfer from the Philippines for North Atlantic swordfish quota be incorporated into the allocation table in the final recommendation, removing the Philippines from the allocation table, and this was incorporated into the text.

Chinese Taipei requested that cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities be added to the measure along with Contracting Parties. This suggestion was incorporated.

The draft recommendation was approved with changes and sent to the Commission for adoption.

7.2.2 South Atlantic swordfish

The European Union introduced the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish [Rec. 16-04]*, which proposed to lower the TAC to 14,000 t for 2018-2020, in line with the scientific advice. Several CPCs expressed opposition to the initial provisions to reduce allocations, and those provisions were removed. Several CPCs also opposed the removal of provisions allowing carryover of quota underharvest to future years, and so those provisions were retained in the proposal. The existing allocations were thereby preserved and the maximum carryover of quota underharvest allowed from year to year was set to 20%.

The time frame of the measure was increased to four years in order to avoid having both the bluefin tuna and swordfish negotiations occurring in the same year.

After the Panel reached consensus on the measure, Equatorial Guinea requested a quota allocation for South Atlantic swordfish during the last session of Panel 4 (attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**). The Chair noted the request was ill-timed, since it was coming very late in the meeting, but Brazil offered Equatorial Guinea an annual quota transfer of 50 t for the duration of the measure and it was so agreed.

The draft recommendation was approved with changes and sent to the Commission for adoption.

7.3 Sharks

7.3.1 Fins attached

Belize introduced the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT*, cosponsored by El Salvador, EU, Gabon, Honduras, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, UK-OT, and the United States. Albania, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, France (St Pierre et Miquelon), Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Rep., Iceland, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines also became cosponsors. The proposal was introduced with no changes to the text from 2016. The proposal would prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (fully or partially) through the point of first landing of the shark. This measure would prevent the practice of shark finning and also improve shark species identification for data collection. Liberia also expressed interest in the assistance for developing countries in implementing a shark fin ban. The United States offered to share a technical memorandum with other CPCs regarding how it implements domestic legislation for keeping fins naturally attached.

Japan and China stated that they could not support the proposal. As there was no consensus on the proposal, it was not adopted.

7.3.2 North Atlantic shortfin mako

The Chair of Panel 4 noted that four proposals had been tabled regarding North Atlantic shortfin mako, as follows.

Japan proposed prohibiting retention of all shortfin mako sharks and requiring live sharks be promptly released unharmed. The proposal would have allowed retention of dead sharks if observers were on board vessels. The proposal emphasized observer data collection requirements and would have required reporting within 60 days. Japan proposed a TAC of 500 t and proposed using an allocation scheme, but had not determined which CPCs would be allocated. The proposal called for a stock assessment in 2022.

The EU proposed the release of all shortfin mako sharks caught alive. The proposal would have allowed retention of dead sharks with an observer or electronic monitoring system on board the vessel. The EU proposed a monthly reporting requirement to allow the Secretariat to track catches and prohibit all retention of shortfin mako sharks once 90% of the TAC is reached. The EU proposed a TAC of 500 t in 2018 and 2019, and called for a stock assessment in 2019. Catches in excess of the TAC in a given year would be deducted from the TAC the following year, or if the TAC is exceeded for two out of three consecutive years, the management measures be reviewed and a zero TAC put in place. The EU proposed creating an allocation scheme in 2019.

The United States proposed a two-phase program to end overfishing and rebuild the stock. Phase 1 would include a prohibition on retention of shortfin mako shark with live sharks promptly released to maximize survival. Retention of dead sharks would be allowed with an observer or electronic monitoring system on board, or a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and 210 cm fork length for females, or when a CPC's domestic regulations require landing of all fish and no profit is drawn from those fish. Catches would be limited to 500 t in 2018 and 2019. In phase 2 of this proposal, a formal rebuilding program would be established in 2019 taking into account additional information from the SCRS and the effectiveness of the proposed measures in phase 1.

Morocco proposed to require vessels to promptly release unharmed all North Atlantic shortfin mako. The proposal would have allowed retention of dead sharks if observers were on board vessels greater than 15 m length. The proposal emphasized observer data collection requirements and would have required reporting within 90 days. Morocco proposed prohibiting retention of female shortfin mako sharks and prohibiting retention of sharks from April 1 to June 30 each year. Morocco proposed a TAC of 1,500 t in 2018 and 1,000 t in 2019 and called for a working group in 2018 to establish an allocation scheme. The proposal called for a stock assessment in 2019.

After numerous informal consultations, a combined text was developed. The proposal maintained the primary requirement that all North Atlantic shortfin mako be released and that CPCs use best practices for release in order to increase survival rates. In certain circumstances, however, retention could be allowed. For vessels greater than 12m, shortfin mako that are dead when brought alongside the vessel could be retained provided that the vessel had an onboard observer or functioning electronic monitoring system to identify the status of the shark; and when present onboard observers collected required data. For vessels smaller than 12m, the shark could only be retained if it were dead when brought alongside the vessel. Vessels could also retain dead shortfin mako if the retention did not exceed the vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer was on board and this was verified by logbooks and landings inspections on the basis of risk assessment. Finally, vessels could retain North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive if a CPC had implemented a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and 210 cm for females or if a CPC had a domestic law requiring all dead or dying fish be landed and that fishermen could not draw any profit from such fish. The combined proposal also included expanded data collection and reporting provisions. At its 2018 meeting, the Commission would review data on North Atlantic shortfin mako retention and dead discards from the first six months of 2018. In 2019, the SCRS would review the effectiveness of the measure in preventing stock decline, stopping overfishing, and beginning the rebuilding process, and would provide additional scientific advice for the conservation and management of North Atlantic shortfin mako to the Commission, including information on rebuilding timeframes beyond 2040, areas of biological importance to the stock, and the effectiveness of circle hooks in reducing mortality. The measure would sunset in December 2019 with the expectation that the Commission would establish a rebuilding plan at its 2019 meeting with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock within a timeframe that would take into account the biology of North Atlantic shortfin mako.

Several CPCs expressed concerns that the final version did not include a TAC. A co-sponsor of the proposal noted that it was reasonable to not specify a TAC because most shortfin mako sharks are incidentally caught rather than targeted. Belize and Brazil expressed their disappointment that the measure did not go far enough to ensure a high probability of rebuilding by 2040. Belize noted reservations about the efficacy of the measure but chose not to block consensus, recognizing that it was better to get some mitigation measures passed rather than none.

China suggested changes that ensured that only CPCs that profit from shortfin mako sharks are required to report under this recommendation. These edits were incorporated.

Norway requested the inclusion of an exemption for CPCs with a landing obligation. The language was changed to ensure that CPCs whose domestic law requires all dead or dying fish be landed, provided the fishermen may not draw profit from such fish, may retain and land incidental bycatch of shortfin mako shark.

The draft recommendation was approved with changes and sent to the Commission for adoption.

The Chair offered the floor to the observers, and Pew Charitable Trust commented that it recognized significant work had gone into the proposal but expressed doubt that the stock would recover without a TAC or allocation table (**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8**). Defenders of Wildlife, on behalf of a coalition of environmental NGOs, also noted disappointment with the resulting measure (**Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8**).

7.3.3 South Atlantic shortfin mako

The European Union proposed the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of the South Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*. The proposal would have required vessels that retain, transship, or land South Atlantic shortfin mako to have onboard observers or electronic monitoring systems that collect specific biological data on the shortfin mako sharks caught, effort data, and report on number of dead and live discards. It also proposed a TAC of 2,000 t for 2018 and 2019, monthly reporting requirements on catch to the ICCAT Secretariat, and a stock assessment for South Atlantic shortfin mako in 2019 in order to provide advice on setting the level of a new TAC.

Concern was raised about whether electronic monitoring systems would be able to collect the same data as human observers. The main concern was expressed with regard to the burden of the monthly reporting requirement, especially on small fleets. Consensus was not reached and therefore the recommendation was not adopted.

7.4 Sea turtles

The United States proposed a *Supplemental Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*, with Brazil, Guatemala, and Honduras as cosponsors. The proposal would have required that vessels employ at least one of the following mitigation measures in shallow-set longline fisheries: use of large circle hooks instead of J-hooks; use of whole finfish bait; or other mitigation measures recommended by the SCRS and approved by the Commission. The proposal also outlined bycatch reporting obligations and asked the SCRS to continue to advise the Commission on the efficacy of sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures. Several CPCs expressed support for the proposal. A few CPCs requested that a definition of “shallow-set longline fisheries” be included, as well as the geographic boundaries of Atlantic sea turtles that would define which fisheries would be affected by the measure. Both of these suggestions were incorporated into an updated draft.

One CPC raised concerns that, while circle hooks may reduce sea turtle bycatch, they may increase shark and other species’ bycatch rates. In response it was noted that while studies have shown that hooking rates of sharks increase with circle hooks, mortality rates resulting from those hooking incidents are much lower than the mortality rate with use of J-hooks. Another CPC expressed the desire to have more time to consult with scientists and the SCRS on the question of expected impacts on other bycatch species, and therefore, consensus was not reached.

8 Research

The SCRS Chair noted that in 2018, the work of the SCRS will include the blue marlin stock assessment, efforts to advance the development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) and harvest control rules for swordfish, and assessments of the highest priority small tunas.

The SCRS Chair also took note of the CPCs’ requests for improved understanding of times and areas that are of importance for shortfin mako, the estimation of post-release mortality of discarded sharks, and updated shortfin mako assessments with new relative abundance indices. He emphasized that financial resources would be needed in order to support this work in the future.

9 Election of Chair

Brazil was nominated to serve as the Chair of Panel 4 for the next biennial period (2018-19).

10 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

11 Adoption of the Report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence. The 2017 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

Panel Agendas

Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
6. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
8. Research
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
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8. Research
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 3

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
6. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
8. Research
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
6. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
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10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 1**

Despite ICCAT having a full agenda of issues to address under other panels, Panel 1 convenes this year with several priorities that require immediate attention. The Pew Charitable Trusts is extremely concerned that there is currently very little time on ICCAT's agenda for Panel 1 to meet, despite the fact that:

- Both the bigeye and yellowfin TACs were exceeded in 2016, causing overfishing on both of these already overfished stocks and reducing the likelihood of bigeye recovery to a mere 38% by 2028, should this catch level continue. There is no indication that 2017 catch will be any lower;
- The independent performance review questioned the low probability of successfully recovering bigeye tuna by 2028 even at catch levels equivalent to the TAC and highlighted bigeye recovery as a key immediate management priority for ICCAT;
- ICCAT's Ad hoc Working Group on FADs made a clear recommendation that Panel 1 could consider management objectives for FAD fisheries and for the tropical tuna stocks as early as this meeting;
- The SCRS provided preliminary thoughts on the FAD time-area closure that imply the closure is not likely to be effective in reducing FAD fishing effort;

In light of the serious issues that should be addressed by this Panel and the Commission, The Pew Charitable Trusts urges Panel 1 to ensure that that the tropical tuna measure is in line with the Convention's commitment to rebuilding or maintaining stocks at B_{MSY} . Also, as FAD fishing is a significant contributor to the undesirable stock status of bigeye, ICCAT should move beyond an information-gathering exercise toward action to reduce FAD fishing effort. Therefore, Panel 1 should amend Recommendation 16-01 to:

- At minimum, reduce the overall catch (including by minor harvesters) of bigeye to 55,000 t, the amount that has a greater than 50% probability of recovering the stock by 2024 and a nearly 70% likelihood of recovering the stock by 2028;
- Strike allowance for any rollover of catch underage for bigeye tuna;
- Add language on FAD management objectives that defines ICCAT's philosophy for managing FADs and FAD fisheries and provides benchmarks for SCRS scientists to test the success of proposed or adopted ICCAT actions;
- Freeze the total number of floating object associated purse seine sets across the Convention area at the 2016 level, and directly task the SCRS to provide advice in 2018 on a possible range of total number of such sets that would end overfishing in 2019 with 70% probability;
- Add language to schedule a Panel 1 intersessional meeting for early 2018 which could be used to address any outstanding bigeye allocation issues (e.g., with respect to minor harvesters), develop an allocation scheme for yellowfin, and develop draft management objectives for the tropical tuna stocks in order to advance harvest strategies for these fisheries.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Albania to Panel 2

First of all I would like to thank you for the support that you and the ICCAT staff have given to our authorities during these years, in order that Albanian authorities follow and implement all recommendations and resolutions of this important Regional Fisheries Management Organization.

On behalf of the Albanian Government, I have the honour to submit a request for increase of Albania's bluefin tuna quota.

Albania has been a member of ICCAT since 2008 and during this period has sought to fulfil all the obligations that ICCAT membership brings. Let me assure you that in the future the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in this direction will be maximum in order that the bluefin tuna fishing activity is continued in a sustainable way and in accordance with the relevant international instruments and ICCAT.

Today, after 10 years of ICCAT membership, we have almost the same quota as at the beginning, but now we have more experience in management of such fishing activity. Of course, in the moments when the quota has had a downward tendency over the years, this demand would be out of context, but today under the conditions where successful management measures taken by ICCAT have led to a tendency to rebuild the stocks, we hope that this demand will also have a positive response.

The quota is too small and as such does not promote investment in the sector, either for catch or for its processing. In the last two years, fishing activity has encountered problems related to the existence of a single fishing vessel, which under conditions it cannot make joint fishing operations with EU countries that provide a high level of management and control of fishing activity, has encountered difficulty in fishing of Albania quota, while jeopardizing its fishing. During 2016 and 2017, the quota was fished only on the last day (days) of the fishing season and during 2017 a vessel's defect in the fishing season, seriously jeopardized its fishing.

Taking into consideration the economic dimension of bluefin tuna fishing, Albania as a developing State of the region sees this activity as a field that can create prosperity and employment, contributing to growth of the economy of the country.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Algeria to Panel 2

Algeria has been among the main CPCs that have made every effort and commitment for success of the multi-annual conservation and management plans for the purpose of rebuilding the bluefin tuna stocks.

Algeria, which was not represented at the 17th Special Meeting of ICCAT which was held in Paris from 17 to 27 November 2010, has seen its annual bluefin tuna catch quota drastically reduced from 684.90 t in 2010 to 138.46 t for 2011, in the absence of precise criteria for fishing quota allocation to the ICCAT parties concerned.

This reduction in the order of 80% cannot be explained by a general reduction of the TAC (total admissible catch) which fell from 13 500 t in 2010 to 12 900 t for 2011 (i.e. less than 5%).

If the evolution is analysed of the allocation keys of the members of Panel 2, all the countries have kept the same allocation key except for 4 countries, including Algeria which has seen its allocation key fall from 5.07% to 1.07%.

Algeria's quota has dropped considerably. In short, the quota that should have been allocated to Algeria in 2011 (654.417 t according to the 2010 key: 5.073%) was lowered significantly (515.957 t).

In 2012, and following considerable efforts made by Algeria, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas acknowledged indirectly the harm caused to Algeria by the Commission. In this regard, ICCAT established, in Recommendations 12-03 and 14-04 which established a multi-annual programme for rebuilding eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, that quota adjustments will continue until Algeria's combined quota amount reaches 5.07% of the TAC.

Algeria also obtained through ICCAT recommendations additional quotas and in particular that secured in 2016. Algeria's combined quota represents for 2017, 4.5% of the TAC.

Taking into account the situation of current data, the results of the assessment and the recommendations by the SCRS which underscores the positive trend in particular with a TAC of 36000 t in 2020, and taking into account the ICCAT commitments referred to above, Algeria requests, this time with the support of the CPCs, that the harm caused be remedied once and for all.

We sincerely hope that the Commission will fulfil its responsibilities in a fair and equitable manner with regard to allocation of quotas to Algeria.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Egypt to Panel 2

In the beginning, Egypt would like to thank you for all your effort that you are making continuously in order to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its roles, on the other hand, it has our highest appreciation what you did provide to Egypt all those years of support so we can apply and implement the needed conservation regulations through transposed the ICCAT Recommendation into the Egyptian domestic law.

All over 11 years which reflect our contribution in ICCAT since Egypt joined in 2007, we are trying hard to fulfil all our obligations and compliance with the ICCAT recommendations, each year we are getting closer to the perfect management of our tuna file - as much as we can - through enhance and develop the management standers as well as the protective regulation that organizing fishing operations, in accordance with our available economic resources "which unfortunately very limited" to reach the highest level of commitment.

Despite all these efforts to develop our management methods to the BFT File, the current Egyptian quota is out of proportion as well as it is not proportionate with the Egyptian long coast on the Mediterranean Sea approximately 1000 kilometres, and our geographic position, and the biggest fishing fleet on the Mediterranean Sea according to the FAO statistics, regardless the Egyptian population and its nation's rights in their water Egypt only has 0. % from the whole total allowed quota which is against all justice, if we consider all above mentioned.

Even when Egypt tried to develop its fishing capability during the 2017 fishing season, our Egyptian quota doesn't commensurate to have three registered BFT vessels and we have been forced to eliminate one vessel from our fishing plan So, we are kindly asking you to reconsider our Egyptian quota to be commensurate and justify our original rights so we can enhance and develop our tuna management level in the practical and scientific side especially in this time that Egypt should have all support from your esteemed organization to up-rise the Egyptian economy.

Your positive response is a highly appreciated.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Korea to Panel 2**

Korea is writing to express its position with regard to the discussion to be held by the Panel 2 on the allocation of bluefin tuna quota for CPCs.

In 2000, Korea's allocation key was set at 2.1% of the TAC, taking its 1994's catch record as a basis (Recommendation 00-09) and in 2002, it was decreased to a level of 1.5%. Once again, in 2007, Korea yielded a part of its allocation key to other CPCs, agreeing its further reduction to 0.6% for 3 years to join a collective effort to recover bluefin tuna stock. It was our belief that the Commission would reinstate Korea's allocation key in 2011, however any increase of the allocation key has not been realized until today.

Times have changed. The SCRS, most importantly, recommended to gradually increase TAC to 36,000 t until 2020 indicating that bluefin tuna stock is recovered. As it is a proud result of the efforts that all CPCs including Korea have made according to the multi-annual recovery plan, proper consideration is to be given to the all CPCs who have made a commitment to the recovery of the stock by cutting their allocation keys.

In addition, Korean longliners have initiated bluefin tuna fishery in 2016 and exhausted almost all quota allocated to Korea. Voluntarily deploying observers with 100% of coverage, Korea could enhance scientific contribution particularly to estimate biological parameters and to provide data on fishing efforts in high latitude areas of the North Atlantic Ocean. All in all, Korea would like to request for increasing its allocation key to 1.5% of TAC previously allocated to Korea.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Libya to Panel 2**

Taking into consideration:-

- Libya is the guardian of the principal spawning grounds of E-BFT.
- Libya is a major Mediterranean coastal State and has the biggest fishing grounds within its own EEZ.
- Libya has been a significant player in BFT fisheries with trap nets since 1930 and more recently with LL and PS.
- Despite the difficult political and economic circumstances over the last seven years Libya has continued to manage its E-BFT fishery responsibly adhering to the various ICCAT recommendations.
- Libya has refrained from taking any unilateral decisions regarding the exploitation of fishing stocks within its EEZ as accorded to it by UNCLOS Cl.61.

Libya strongly believes that its responsibilities resulting from the management and safeguarding of the spawning biomass and consequently the sustainability of the fishery as expressed in 15-13 Section III Paras B,C,D are to bear more weight in quota distribution than simple historical catch criteria. Consequently, Libya insists that its existing allocation key is not commensurate with the burden of the above responsibilities and potential fishing capabilities within its EEZ.

Now that the stock is recovering to the levels of 1999 Libya demands that it should be awarded a larger share than the present one on any quota allocation on the eventual increases in TAC above the 1999 levels.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

**Draft recommendation by ICCAT establishing a
multi-annual [management/recovery] plan for
bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean**

Proposed by the EU

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2017 advice that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) could be set at 36,000 t to be reached in 2020 in a gradual stepwise way without undermining the success of the rebuilding plan;

[...]

ACKNOWLEDGING the advice from SCRS to consider moving from the current recovery plan to a management plan and that the current status of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency measures introduced under the Recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 13-07);

STRESSING the need in light of this to rationalize some of the provisions existing under the recovery plan;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the impacts of the Recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean on the small scale artisanal fleets, in particular with regards to the reduction of fishing capacity;

CONSIDERING that in the context of reasonable concerns linked to the assessment uncertainties and the subsequent reduction of the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it will be paramount to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase exponentially in the coming years and the controls remain effective;

NOTING that on the basis of the latest stock assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise (MSE) and after the harvest control rules (HCR) have been defined by the SCRS, the Commission may decide in 2020 on advisable changes to the management framework for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures, in particular with regards to the transport of live fish and farming activities,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**Part I
General Provisions**

Objective

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a [management/recovery] plan for bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2018 with the goal of maintaining the biomass around $B_{0.1}$ (achieved by fishing at $F_{0.1}$). Although SCRS considers $F_{0.1}$ to be a reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} , the management aim for the stock should be to maintain the biomass around B_{MSY} . [Based on the objectives of this plan, CPCs commit to transitioning from a recovery plan to a management plan by 2019]
2. When the SCRS stock evaluation indicates that the status and development of the stock (in terms of biomass and/or fishing mortality) is diverting from this objective, safeguards and review clauses as defined in the final provisions of this plan shall apply.

Definitions

3. For purposes of this Plan:

[...]

- a) “fishing vessel” means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
- b) “catching vessel” means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
- c) “processing vessel” means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
- d) “auxiliary vessel” means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel.
- e) “towing vessel” means any vessel used for towing cages.
- f) “support vessel” means any other fishing vessel referred to under 3a).
- g) “fishing actively” means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
- h) “joint fishing operation” (hereinafter referred in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key.
- i) “transfer operations” means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
- j) “control transfer” means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- k) “trap” means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming.
- l) “caging” means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
- m) “farming” means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
- n) “farm” means a marine area clearly defined by geographical coordinates, on which aquaculture installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners are placed. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (four points with a clear definition of longitude and latitude).
- o) “harvesting” means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.

[...]

6. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
7. Carry-over of any under-harvested quota is not authorized. The Commission may allow, at the request of a CPC, a carry-over of 5% when duly justified and when the status of the stock has recovered.
8. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
9. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.

[...]

[...]

Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing capacity management and inspection plans and farming management plans

10. By 15 February each year, each CPC with allocated bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat:
 - a) an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
 - b) an annual fishing capacity plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota.
 - c) a monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation.
11. Prior to 31 March and in line with paragraph 118 of this recommendation the Commission shall convene an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2 to endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 10. In case of non-submission of the plans by a CPC or if the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC.

Annual fishing plans

12. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.

A certain degree of flexibility shall be authorized for coastal vessels providing they are subject to 100% of electronic monitoring and subject to scientific monitoring and reporting to SCRS.

13. Each CPC shall allocate, when appropriate, a specific quota for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries. That allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries, to account for possible dead fish.
14. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.

Capacity management measures

Fishing capacity

15. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.
16. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 15 to 27, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping when capacity reduction is required.
17. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels with the exception of artisanal vessels.
18. Paragraph 17 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in Annex 1 paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
19. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number of traps authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
20. The adjustments defined in paragraph 15 to 19 may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
21. Without prejudice to paragraph 20, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 17 to 19 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its potential fishing capacity and the fishing capacity that would be commensurate with its allocated quota in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 Annual meeting, with the exception of artisanal vessels with length overall equal or inferior to 12m, for which the minimum quota requirement of 5t shall no longer be applicable. This methodology shall be revised prior to the 2019 Annual meeting on the basis of the information provided by the SCRS.
22. To calculate its fishing capacity adjustment, each CPC shall take into account, inter alia, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear estimated by SCRS.
23. The SCRS shall update the Commission every second year and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated catch rates.
24. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.
[...]
25. CPCs shall commit not to increase more than 20% of fishing capacity for purse-seiners for the period 2018 to 2020.
26. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 17 and 19, for 2018, 2019 and 2020 CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans, referred to in paragraph 12, a higher number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such increase shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 Annual meeting and with the conditions set forth in paragraph 22.
27. By way of derogation; the reference period used to calculate the base line for capacity does not apply to CPCs who prohibited bluefin tuna fisheries in the years when capacity reduction measures were adopted.

[...]

[...]
[...]
[...]
[...]
[...]

Farming capacity

28. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 29 and 30. Modifications of the farming management plan shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 May each year.
29. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT on 1 July 2008.
30. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008 and allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
31. The plans referred to in paragraphs 12 to 14 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraphs 10 and 11 of this recommendation.

Part III Technical measures

Open fishing seasons

32. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July, with the exceptions of a) the Norwegian Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October and b) the Adriatic Sea where such fishing shall be permitted from 26 May until 15 July.
33. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraph 32 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

Minimum size

34. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115cm fork length. Therefore, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm.
35. By derogation from paragraph 34, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations.
 - a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean sea by the coastal artisanal fleet fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners;
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic sea for farming purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, and for the fleets referred to in this paragraph, each CPC may define a tolerance level for specimens of bluefin tuna with a minimum length of 6.4 Kg or 66 cm fork length, with a maximum of 7% of the quantities caught.

[...]

36. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorisations to vessels fishing under the derogation referred to in paragraph 35.

Incidental catches of fish below minimum size and general rules on by-catches

37. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized.

This percentage is calculated in relation to the total catches in number of bluefin tuna retained on board this vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories.

General rules on by-catches

38. CPCs may grant tolerance to vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna, with the condition that these incidental catches shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board by weight or number of pieces. The levels of authorized by-catches shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat under paragraph 10 of this recommendation. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT as provided in the 2014 SCRS Report.

All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however such bluefin tuna dies it must be landed, whole and unprocessed, where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 79 to 85 and 109 shall apply to by-catch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

39. When CPCs allocate a specific quota to sport and recreational fisheries, each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.

40. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for sport fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed.

41. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
42. Each CPC shall record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 1 July each year.
43. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.
44. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.

45. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the north east Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the

description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation, b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year.

46. CPCs shall be make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
47. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 46 shall include the following information:
- a) Name of vessel, register number
 - b) ICCAT Record Number (if any)
 - c) Previous name (if any)
 - d) Vessel length
 - e) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

Use of aerial means

48. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

Part IV: Control measures

Section A - Records of vessels and traps

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

49. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. That record should consist of two lists:
- a) all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
 - b) all other fishing vessels, other than catching vessels, authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel may be registered in any of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b) as long as such registration is not in both lists at the same time. Without prejudice to paragraph 38, for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna.

50. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the quota period the list of its catching vessels, authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 49.a). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
51. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included in the records referred to in paragraph 49; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on the list referred to in paragraph 49, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included in the records referred to in paragraph 49 and for which an ICCAT number has been provided by the Secretariat.
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases not sufficiently justified or incomplete to the Compliance Committee as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original request for change of fishing vessels listed in the records.

52. Conditions and procedures referred to in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 13-13] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
53. Without prejudice to paragraph 38 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 49 a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

54. CPCs shall issue special authorisations to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 46, 49 and 56. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 12**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorisation is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall withdraw the fishing authorisation for bluefin tuna and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

55. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
56. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 12 to 14, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 55.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

57. By 31 July each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding quota allocation period. This information should include:
 - a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
 - b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
 - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);

- d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
- e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
 - b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.
58. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 57 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag CPC for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Joint fishing operations

59. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorised, each purse-seiner shall be equipped to fish for bluefin tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the requirements defined in the following paragraphs. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated to purse-seiner vessels participating in the concerned JFO; Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for purse-seiners, as referred to under paragraph 32 of this Recommendation. No JFOs between purse-seiners from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize JFO with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO
60. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:
- the period of authorization of the JFO,
 - the identity of the operators involved,
 - the individual vessels' quotas,
 - the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
 - information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the purse-seiners fishing season as defined in paragraph 32.

In the case of *force majeure* the deadline set out in this paragraph shall not apply regarding the information on the farms of destination. In such cases, CPCs shall provide ICCAT Secretariat with an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting *force majeure*.

61. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
62. No JFOs between purse-seiners from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Section B - Catches and transhipments

Recording requirements

63. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of **Annex 2**.
64. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of **Annex 2**.

Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators

65. Masters of catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send to the authorities of the flag CPC weekly information from logbooks, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34. They shall send that information electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** during the whole period in which the vessel is authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
66. Masters of purse seiners shall produce daily reports as referred to in paragraphs 63 to 65 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero.
67. The reports referred to in paragraphs 65 and 66 shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities on a daily basis for purse seiners by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day and for other catching vessels by Monday 24.00 (midnight) for the preceding week ending Sunday 24.00 (midnight) GMT.
68. Trap operators or their authorised representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in Annex 2 to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.

Designated ports

69. The flag CPC shall ensure that masters of catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as well as the masters of the processing vessels and the auxiliary vessels shall ensure that they only land and/or tranship their catches in designated ports of CPCs.
70. Each CPC shall designate ports where landing or transhipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC as defined in paragraph 10. Any amendment shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat.
71. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port state shall ensure that the following conditions are met:
 - a) established landing and transhipment times;
 - b) established landing and transhipment places; and
 - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transhipping times and at all landing and transhipping places.
72. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from fishing vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 69 to 71.
73. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 70 the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior notification of landings and transshipments

74. Prior to entry into any port, masters of fishing vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival;
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- c) estimate of quantity of dead or dying bluefin tuna discarded;
- d) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC including the percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10e of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

For catching vessels with a length overall (LOA) equal to or greater than 15 m, after each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag CPC. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify its completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

For catching vessels with a length overall (LOA) inferior to 15 m not equipped with an electronic logbook, weekly landing declarations shall be provided and transmitted to the competent authorities of the flag CPC.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to ICCAT Secretariat

[...]

75. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made. When 90% of the allocated quota has been consumed for one CPC, that CPC shall increase the frequency of transmission to weekly transmission of catches.

76. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs.

77. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

78. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and possibly e-BCDs, the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transshipment

79. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.
80. Fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. Conditions for designated ports are defined in paragraph 69 to 73 of this Recommendation.
81. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in **Annex 3**. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore, the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the data required in **Annex 3**.
82. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.
83. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 h after the date of transshipment in port. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the e-BCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
84. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.
85. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Section C - Observer programmes

CPC Observer Programme

86. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:
 - 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
 - 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
 - 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
 - 100% of towing vessels,
 - 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessels and traps compliance with the present Recommendation,

- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
- amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears,
 - date of catch.
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2019 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

87. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100%:
- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners;
 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
 - during all transfers from one farm to another;
 - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
 - during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms and
 - during the release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea.

Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel/tug boat/trap or farm for which their services are required, to the extent possible, ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that Regional observers deployed shall have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag CPC of the vessel or farm or traps.

One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the whole period of caging operations.

88. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and BCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not being respected;
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

Section D - Live fish

Transfer operations

89. Before any transfer operation, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag CPC or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
- estimated time of transfer,
- estimated quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
- information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
- port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. If several transport cages need to be used when transferring a catch from one fishing operation, only one transfer declaration is required.

[...]

[...]

Cages numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

90. The flag CPC shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap. Information regarding dead or dying fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 4**.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, or had not been authorized to be caged and therefore not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish has not a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this recommendation, or
- d) the towing vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49.b) or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and fully functioning Automatic Identification System (AIS),

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall immediately issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the master of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in **Annex 10**.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be performed in accordance with **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

In the event of a technical failure of its VMS during the transport to the farm, the towing vessel shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS as soon as feasible.

91. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.
 - a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC- 20**/xxx/ITD).
 - b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
 - c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
92. The authorization for transfer by the flag CPC does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.
93. For transfers of live bluefin tuna the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 8**.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

94. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 6**) and paragraphs 87 and 88, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 89 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 90.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated, [where possible]. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated.

However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the enforcement authorities of the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall conduct a control transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the Regional Observer. New transfers shall be conducted until the quality of the video record could allow estimating the quantities transferred.

95. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations, including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraph 94. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and BCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not being respected.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

Caging operations

96. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical mile of farming facilities, shall be prohibited. To this end, geographical coordinates corresponding to the polygon where the farm is placed need to be available in the farming management plans transmitted to ICCAT under paragraph 28 of this recommendation.
97. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this Recommendation,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 91 and **Annex 10**.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours/1 working day of the request, of the catching vessel's or trap flag CPC, or of the CPC authorities of the farm if agreed with the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap. If no response is received within 24 hours/1 working day from the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, the CPC authorities of the farm may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farm CPC.

Fish shall be caged before the 22 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including force majeure, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted. In any case the fish could not be caged after 7th September. As a way of derogation for the general rule, this period could be expanded until 15 September for the caging of fish in the Adriatic Sea.

98. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall prohibit placing bluefin tuna in cages for farming bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.
99. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by their enforcement authorities by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 8**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with the flag CPC of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal, including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 100 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods provided they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy.

100. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods that guarantee the same level of precisions and accuracy shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program using stereoscopic cameras shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 9**. In case of the use of alternative methods, those methods should be duly analysed by the SCRS, who should present its conclusions regarding their precision and accuracy for endorsement by the Commission during the Annual meeting before an alternative methodology could be considered as valid for the purpose of monitoring the caging operations.

The results of this programme shall be communicated to the catching CPC, and by the flag CPC of the farm CPC, to the Regional Observer. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and/or transferred, an investigation shall be launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in **Annex 9**, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all caging operations from a JFO, or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and/or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 91 and **Annex 10** and in the presence of enforcement authorities.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the presence of a national enforcement authority and an ICCAT observer to monitor the release.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting in accordance with **Annex 9**.

101. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm State control authorities. Each transfer shall be recorded to control the number of specimens. National enforcement authorities shall monitor those transfers.
102. A difference superior or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera at the moment of caging shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned and should therefore be duly investigated.
103. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBS) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBS are located.
104. On the basis of a risk analysis, mandatory random controls shall be undertaken by the flag CPC farm control authorities on bluefin tuna in farm cages between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Each CPC shall fix a minimum percentage of fish to be controlled which shall be reflected in its control plan referred to under paragraph 10c of this Recommendation.

Access to and requirements for video records

105. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraph 99 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers at request.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

Section E - Tracking of fishing activities

VMS

106. CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15 m, in accordance with the Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 14-09]. Each CPC can take any measure stricter than the ICCAT recommendation on vessels subjected to mandatory VMS.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 110 to 114 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15 m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after their period of authorisation, unless the vessel is removed of the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS by bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

Section F - Enforcement

Enforcement

107. CPCs shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of this recommendation.

The measures shall be commensurate with the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law in such way to make sure that they effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit derived from their infringement without prejudice to the exercise of their profession. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.

108. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 89 to 106.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law, suspension or withdrawal of the record of bluefin tuna farms, together with fines.

Section G - Market measures

Market measures

109. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20] and Recommendation [15-10] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels or traps whose flag CPC either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag CPC fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 12 are exhausted.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports from farms that do not comply with this recommendation.

Part V

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

110. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.
111. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 110 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].
112. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the [Mediterranean Sea/Convention area], the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.
113. Mixed teams of ICCAT inspectors from CPCs may be deployed to participate in inspections at sea and/or verifications on farming installations when both CPCs involved in fishing operation do agree so.
114. In the cases when enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag CPC inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail on their territory, their jurisdictional waters and/or on board of their inspection platform.

Part VI

Final provisions

Availability of data to the SCRS

115. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

Safeguards

116. When as a result of a scientific evaluation the goal of maintaining the biomass at $B_{0.1}$ (to be achieved by fishing at $F_{0.1}$) is not achieved and the trend of the stock dynamics including the evaluation of the biomass shows that the objectives of this plan are in danger, the SCRS shall propose a new advice on TAC for the following years.

Review clause

117. For the first time in 2020 and, in any case, after the next stock assessment for the stock of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, the Commission following the scientific advice provide by the SCRS, shall decide on the continuity of this management plan or in a possible revision of the rules defined therein.
118. Notwithstanding paragraph 117, an ICCAT Intersessional Working Group of Panel 2 shall be established in March 2018 in order to:
- a) Approve the annual fishing plan, annual capacity plans and inspection plans capacity plans sent to ICCAT under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation;
 - b) To discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and revise it if so decided.

Evaluation

119. All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat not later than 15 October regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall elaborate bi-yearly a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.

Repeals

120. This Recommendation repeals Recommendation of ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 06-07] and Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 14-04].

ANNEXES

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN BLUEFIN TUNA

Annex 1

Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels fishing under paragraph 35

1. CPCs shall limit:
 - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
 - The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna.
 - The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49a of this recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Logbook requirements

A - Catching Vessels

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipment
2. Products
 - a) species and presentation by FAO code
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
 - a) Species identification by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their logbook:
 - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - amount of catches taken on board,
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,

- the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO
- b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
 - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

B - Towing Vessels

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessel shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

C - Auxiliary Vessels

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

D - Processing Vessels

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transshipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

Annex 3

No. Document

ICCAT Transshipment Declaration

Carrier vessel	Fishing Vessel	Final destination:																																
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For transshipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: | | kilograms.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Annex 4

Document No.	ICCAT Transfer Declaration		
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no. eBCD nbr.	Trap name: ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Name of destination farm: ICCAT Register no: Cage Number:
2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION			
Date: / /	Place or position:Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:	Species:		
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:			Observer
Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:			
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS			
Date: / /	Place or position:Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: / /	Place or position:Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: / /	Place or position:Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	ICCAT Register no.	
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
4 - SPLIT CAGES			
Donor Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Donor Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.

Annex 6**ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 87 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm or trap observed.

Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
 - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
 - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;

- vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
 - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
 - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
 - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
 - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
 - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
 - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 93 and 94;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
 - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and traps and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

Obligations of the flag CPCs of purse seine vessels and farm and trap State

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag CPCs of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication;

- c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
- e) The flag CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State, trap State or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Observer fees and organization

- 12. a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
 - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c) fishing in a closed area;
 - d) fishing during a closed season;
 - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
 - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
 - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
 - q) transshipment at sea.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this **Annex**, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this **Annex** shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this **Annex**.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this **Annex**, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master¹ of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this **Annex**, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this **Annex** safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this **Annex**. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag CPC of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.

¹Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector’s own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
 - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
 - b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
16. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
 - b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
17. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission’s recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.
18. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag CPC.
19. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
20. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">ICCAT</p> <p>Inspector Identity Card</p> </div> </div> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> Photograph </div> <div style="width: 80%;"> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card n°:</p> <p>Issue Date:</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Valid five years</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">ICCAT</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px dotted black; font-size: 0.8em;"> ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority </div> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px dotted black; font-size: 0.8em;"> Inspector </div> </div>
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Minimum standards for video recording procedures

Transfers

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer operation that shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. If the inspection services are present during the transfer shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT caging authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.

- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

Annex 9**Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations****Use of stereoscopic cameras systems**

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 83 of this Recommendation shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, or the flag CPC authorities of the farm.

Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. The farm CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
 - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
 - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
 - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.
 - ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.

ii.3 Caging report including:

- general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, BCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage file name;
- algorithm used to convert length into weight;
- comparison between the amounts declared in the BCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: $(\text{Stereoscopic System}-\text{BCD})/\text{Stereoscopic System} \times 100$);
- margin of error of the system;
- for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.

iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.

iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:

- no release shall be ordered;
- the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.

iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:

- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
- the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in [paragraph 91](#) and **Annex 10**;
- after the release operations took place, the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.

iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:

- no release shall be ordered;
- the BCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.

iv. For any relevant modification of the BCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall be not higher those in Section 2.

v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant BCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The BCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The BCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The BCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Annex 10**Release Protocol**

The release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT Regional Observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from transport cages or traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer of the traps CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to its CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 91.

Treatment of dead fish

During fishing operations by purse seiners, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the Flag CPCs quota.

Recording/treating of dead fish during 1st transfer

- a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including “dead” fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD.

- b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead BFT to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.

Annex 12

Minimum Information for Fishing Authorisations

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and number)

B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorisation, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	From... to...	From... to	From... to	From... to	From... to
Zones					
Species					
Fishing gear					
Other conditions					

Statement by Morocco to Panel 2

We welcome the very positive development in the stock status and the SCRS recommendations which come within the framework of a precautionary approach. This approach is not a luxury but a necessity. There continue to be numerous uncertainties and it is crucial that we are very cautious. It is within this context, that we will carefully consider transition to a management plan, which still seems premature.

The Kingdom of Morocco is a coastal State, with two coastlines, Atlantic and Mediterranean (3,500 km), an extensive fishing area and is a strategic position for the passage of vessels.

Up to 33% of the fishing capacity of the Kingdom of Morocco is underutilised (high harvest-release of more than 5,000 individuals by traps in the last three years). The majority of our fishing techniques use selective gear (Moroccan traps have existed for over 50 years). Our trap data are essential and constitute a source of relevant data for assessment of this stock, as reflected by the SCRS in the report presented. This activity is the basis of a fully-fledged social-economic dynamic that must be encouraged.

The allocation key is a particularly sensitive issue and if all Contracting Parties agree, it should not be applied to the detriment of the developing countries like Morocco.

It is also in this context that transition to a management plan would seem premature and the recovery plan should be maintained over a longer period to confirm achievement of our management objectives for this fishery.

Statement by Turkey to Panel 2

Turkey has been among the leading CPCs that exerted the highest efforts with the utmost degree of sacrifice and commitment for the success of the multi-year conservation and management plans towards recovery of E-BFT stocks. When Recommendation 98-5, introducing E-BFT catch limitations for the first time, had entered into force in 1999, total allowable catch limit was set as 32.000 metric tons. At that time, Turkey had made an E-BFT catch of 5.899 metric tons, constituting 15% of total E-BFT catch of the CPCs in 1998 even before its membership to ICCAT. Later on, Turkey reduced its 1998 catches fivefold in 1999 voluntarily when the period of substantial catch limitations / TAC reductions was commenced for the first time.

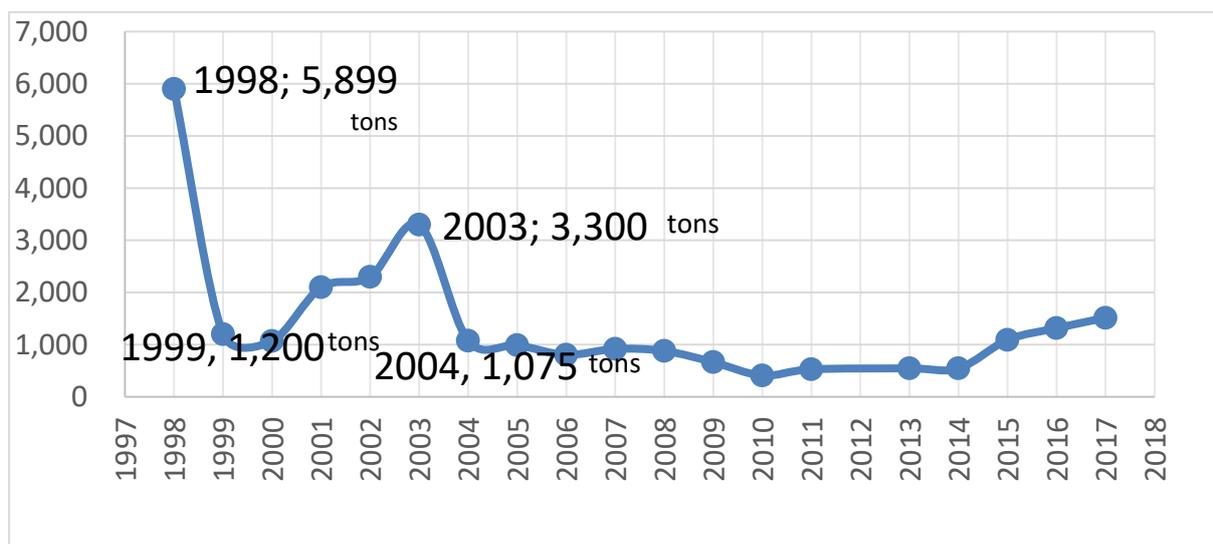


Figure 1. E-BFT Catches of Turkey by years (1998-2017), metric tons.

Becoming a full member of ICCAT, Turkey started to benefit from the limited quota, namely "Others", as from 2004 by further limiting its E-BFT catches voluntarily with the aim of further contributing to ICCAT's multi-year conservation and management plan. In fact Turkey did use to catch the full amount of "Others" quota separately by herself already before starting of substantial TAC reductions in 1998 and before it was included in "Others" quota segment. Notwithstanding, the current allocation level of 4.15% as set by ICCAT definitely ignores Turkey's traditional shares, thus it is not fair or tone.

As to the current state of affairs, it is understood from SCRS's advice that increasing of TAC up to a level of 32.000 metric tons or above as from 2018 would still keep the stocks within biological safe limits. Obviously, 32.000 metric tons was also the level of TAC at the beginning of the biennial period of substantial TAC reductions that started in 1998/1999.

Since it is time to bring TAC to the historical levels of 1998/1999, the time has also come to fix up individual CPC quotas through a fair and equitable allocation scheme that will not leave out Turkey from quota recovery to the levels before gradual and substantial TAC reductions.

From the beginning of Turkey's membership to ICCAT, Turkish fishermen and the fishing industry have fulfilled their obligations by making enormous contributions to the success of management and conservation initiatives introduced by ICCAT towards E-BFT. Compared to the period before 2004, Turkey managed to realize a tenfold deduction in terms of fishing capacity, number of vessel and total catch yield by sacrificing a lot from fishermen's livelihood and from the well-being of industry as a whole.

In this context, Turkey's individual quota should be recovered in line with its traditional share in the 1990s' since Turkey has incurred the highest losses in terms of E-BFT catch quantities and fisheries by showing the utmost commitment and sacrifice throughout the biennial period of substantial TAC reductions. In the case that TAC becomes 32,000 t and the current allocation keys are applied; only Turkey would be left out without recovery of its quota to the level before TAC reductions.

Though, it is observed that the individual CPC quotas starting from 1999 have been allocated on the basis of E-BFT catches of CPCs at 1993-1994 reference years and that this conjecture is still valid since quota shares of CPCs have remained almost the same, as unchanged over the years, except for that of Turkey.

Consequently, compared to other CPCs Turkey has never been availed of a fair level of quota despite the fact that it has incurred the highest losses in terms of E-BFT catch quantities and fisheries and that it has made the utmost sacrifice and commitments for the success of multi-year conservation plans throughout a period of 20-year-long substantial TAC reductions.

Turkey has suffered the most, among other CPCs benefiting from E-BFT quotas since 2004, and if the current Turkish allocation key is maintained unchanged, Turkey would not be compensated fairly, even when TAC is raised at 32.000 metric tons.

It is time to bring TAC up to the historical levels of 1990s when period of substantial reductions did start for the first time. With a substantially increased TAC as from 2018, Turkey's E-BFT catch quota should be restored in line with its traditional share, i.e., 7.73% of the TAC.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 2**

Panel 2 convenes this year with a lengthy to-do list and an unprecedented opportunity – and responsibility – to lead ICCAT into a new phase by adopting its first harvest strategy and committing to a full recovery of ICCAT’s most iconic species – the Atlantic bluefin tuna. The SCRS advice has positive news for both, but also reason for caution. A harvest control rule (HCR) is ready for interim adoption for northern albacore, but the management strategy evaluation (MSE) process and results should be peer-reviewed. The 2017 bluefin assessment estimated that both stocks have grown, but neither stock could be confirmed as recovered and the SCRS-recommended quotas are predicted to lead to stock decline.

In light of the science and in recognition of ICCAT’s commitment to apply a precautionary approach, The Pew Charitable Trusts urges Panel 2 to:

- Adopt an interim HCR for northern albacore with a F_{TARGET} of $0.8F_{MSY}$, a $B_{THRESHOLD}$ of B_{MSY} , a B_{LIMIT} of $0.4B_{MSY}$, and a stability provision limiting TAC changes to 20% between 3-year quota cycles.
 - The measure should include specifications for the monitoring data and stock assessment method to be used to calculate the HCR’s reference points, making it a comprehensive harvest strategy.
 - The measure should also include terms of reference for an independent review of the MSE process and code, the results of which would be presented to the Commission at the 2018 annual meeting.
- Adopt quotas for Atlantic bluefin tuna for 2018 through 2020 that will allow both stocks to continue to grow, namely 28,000 t or below for the eastern stock and 1,000 t or below for the western stock. This would allow up to a nearly 20% increase in the eastern quota, but under no circumstances should the western quota be increased, especially since ICCAT’s 20-year, B_{MSY} -based rebuilding plan ends next year, and the stock is just 45% to 69% of the already depleted 1974 level. Even the current western quota is predicted to lead to decline.
 - Panel 2 should act to bring all eastern quota allocations into the main allocation key to eliminate subparagraph allocations. Any negotiations on the allocation key should be finalized before discussing the quota.
 - Given increasing concerns about IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea, existing monitoring and control measures, including capacity limits and seasonal closures, should be maintained.
 - Both eastern and western measures should also outline the process for a transition to harvest strategy-based management for Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2019 per Recommendation 15-07.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Equatorial Guinea to Panel 4**

Equatorial Guinea, which is a coastal State with an extensive coastline on the South Atlantic Ocean, has been a member of ICCAT since 1987.

As part of our internal process to diversify the economy we wish to develop the fisheries sector, making it a driver of our development and creation of direct employment. Therefore, we would like to request from ICCAT a minimum swordfish quota of 800 t for the South Atlantic, which would enable us to improve our economy by helping the country to establish a surface longline fishing fleet, ensuring both catches and employment for our fishing sector.

As a coastal State that has been a Contracting Party since 1987, and having actively collaborated, we hope that our request is taken into account.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 4**

The shortfin mako shark remains one of the most vulnerable shark stocks caught in the ICCAT Convention Area, based on results of the 2012 ecological risk assessment. This species is characterized by low productivity and high susceptibility to overfishing, even at low levels of fishing mortality. Globally, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies it as Vulnerable.

The Commission has adopted measures for shortfin mako in the past, but they have done little to reduce the mortality. According to the 2017 stock assessment, the northern stock is overfished with overfishing occurring. Although the results from the assessment of southern stock are highly uncertain, the possibility of overfishing occurring and the stock being overfished cannot be discounted.

While we appreciate that Japan, the United States, and the European Union have put forward proposals to reduce the mortality of both the northern and southern stocks of shortfin mako, these proposals, particularly for the northern stock, are not precautionary. According to the SCRS, the most effective immediate measure to stop overfishing immediately and achieve rebuilding of the northern stock by 2040 with more than a 50% probability is a complete prohibition of retention. By allowing the retention of shortfin mako sharks up to 500 t, these proposals would result in an unacceptable low level of probability for successful stock recovery by 2040. For the southern stock, given the uncertainty of the assessment, the vulnerability of the species, and the results of the northern stock assessment, precautionary action is needed to ensure the stock does not collapse as well. It had been further noted that even if fishing pressure is reduced, the spawning stock size will continue to decline for many years because so many juveniles are being fished before reaching maturity.

The Commission has taken decisions to prohibit retention of vulnerable shark species in the Convention area in the past, some with less available science and with a lower chance of post-release survival. As a result, we urge the Commission to take precautionary action and immediately prohibit retention of both stocks of shortfin mako.

In addition, Pew welcomes the fact that a fins naturally attached proposal have been submitted, co-sponsored by a large number of Contracting Parties. We are hopeful that this proposal can be successfully adopted at this year's meeting.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8**Joint Statement by Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre, Project Aware, Shark Advocates International and Shark Trust to Panel 4*****Protecting shortfin mako sharks***

Our organizations are focused this year on the dire status of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), particularly in the North Atlantic, revealed through the recent assessment by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). We are encouraged to see several proposals to begin addressing serious overexploitation. At the same time, we are disappointed that none so far match the SCRS advice, which centers around - with unprecedented clarity - a complete prohibition on retention as a first, immediate step.

Whereas we recognize the challenges associated with this advice, we respectfully remind Parties that the SCRS has flagged the possibility of overfishing this species since 2004 and has specifically warned about its exceptional intrinsic vulnerability since the first Ecological Risk Assessment in 2008. Despite ranking third in terms of vulnerability to ICCAT fisheries, shortfin makos have been passed over for concrete conservation action while retention bans have been granted for many other shark species. Parties' responses to past SCRS advice to cap or reduce fishing mortality have been inadequate, leading to the serious and urgent situation we face today.

The alarm bells are now loud. For the North Atlantic, the SCRS reports:

- Overfishing is occurring on an overfished population (90% probability of both);
- Mortality must be cut to zero in order to have a reasonable chance of rebuilding over two decades (54% by 2040);
- Banning retention is the most effective immediate step; and
- Additional bycatch mitigation measures are needed.

While makos are inherently vulnerable, the species does survive capture relatively well. The SCRS notes post release survival can reach 70%. This rate can be improved through better handling and release techniques. Banning retention can therefore be effective at dramatically reducing mako fishing mortality, as needed.

A retention ban is also prudent for South Atlantic makos, given the uncertainty regarding this population, the species' vulnerability, enforcement challenges, and lessons from the North.

The situation for makos is now critical. We urge ICCAT to adopt measures to immediately minimize mortality on this vulnerable species, in line with the SCRS advice and the precautionary approach. It is also imperative that retention bans and bycatch mitigation measures be incorporated into a comprehensive rebuilding program with mechanisms to ensure reliable monitoring and accountability for effective implementation.

Preventing shark finning

We are pleased with the growing support for the joint proposal to require that all sharks be landed with their fins attached. We welcome new co-sponsors, and are hopeful that other Parties will join or rejoin this important initiative this week. Such action would:

- ease enforcement burden,
- eliminate wiggle-room to fin sharks,
- facilitate the collection of species-specific catch data, and
- complement adoption of this best practice by NEAFC and NAFO.

We appreciate Parties' consideration of our views.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Mr Derek Campbell (United States) opened the meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Rita Santos of the European Union was appointed Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair suggested the addition of a new point 6.5 “Review of the Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee” noting that this report would guide the work of the COC during the meeting. The Chair aimed to review the report and discuss relevant recommendations. A second addition was made by the Chair to include under Item 12 “Other matters” a presentation by FAO’s representative on the compliance related work and initiatives related to the ABNJ work.

The revised agenda was adopted and is attached to this report as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

4 Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair drew attention to the recommendations made in the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review (**ANNEX 4.3**) and encouraged CPCs to consider the recommendations made to better inform the work of the COC throughout the Commission meeting and to develop concrete actions. The specific recommendations to the COC were discussed under item 12 of the agenda.

5 Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters relating to issues arising from the 2016 meeting

The Chair informed the Committee that in 2016, 32 CPCs received letters of concern or identification for compliance issues. Only 16 responses were sent to the Secretariat by the deadline and a few more were received by the time of the annual meeting. Despite a poor response rate to the letters, the Chair indicated that the situation has slightly improved this year. Nevertheless, the Chair expressed his disappointment on the poor response rate and encouraged CPCs to provide responses in time, i.e., 30 days in advance of the annual meeting, to allow the Secretariat and the COC Chair to assess responses and prepare accurate compliance tables.

The United States shared their disappointment with the Chair on the low level of response, stressing that it sees this as a very serious problem that undermines the work of the Compliance Committee and the Commission, and strongly encouraged CPCs to provide written replies by the deadline.

6 Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements:

6.1 Compliance tables

The Chair offered the opportunity for CPCs to provide information and clarify any aspects on the compliance tables with the Chair and the Secretariat ahead of the CPC-by-CPC discussion (item 6.6 in the agenda). The Chair indicated that there was a good response rate from CPCs on the submission of the tables, with 32 CPCs

providing information. However, responses were still received late, leaving little time for the Chair and the Secretariat to assess the responses and include information in the compliance tables (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**).

Some compliance tables needed revision from the Secretariat, including the table for South Atlantic albacore, where the carry forward from 2016 was mistakenly carried forward to 2017; the table for bigeye, in which reductions subject to adoption in Panel 1 had not been applied, and the table for blue marlin, in which a few CPCs had not accurately applied their overages.

Japan suggested that the adoption of the compliance table for bigeye tuna should await the outcomes of the discussions on Panel 1 on the draft proposal by the EU for a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to supplement Recommendation [16-01] by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas”. The suggestion was agreed by the Committee and Panel 1 was encouraged to resolve the proposal.

The Chair also highlighted persisting concerns regarding the format of the tables and the process to determine the adjusted quotas for the next year. Although a lot of work has been put into developing the reporting system, tables are still very confusing and the process quite burdensome on the COC and ICCAT Secretariat staff. The Committee agreed to propose that the Commission endorse a request to Panels to add an item early in their annual meeting agenda to review, advise on, and, as appropriate, confirm the contents of compliance tables early in their sessions and refer these to the COC for appropriate action on the tables by the COC.

An Online Reporting Working Group is working on the development of tools that are expected to facilitate reporting by CPCs. The progress made by the Working Group in 2017 was presented under item 8.

6.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries

The Chair stressed again that the late submission to the Secretariat or absence of information are a real concern and undermine the work by the COC Chair and the Secretariat. Key issues identified in the assessment of the CPC annual reports are incomplete information, blanks, the use of “not applicable (n.a.)” followed by no justification, and the use of older reporting formats, which result in missing compulsory information. Several CPCs highlighted that lack of, or limited, resources contributes to late responses and asked for assistance from the Secretariat, i.e., through an individual CPC check list, regarding that CPC’s reporting obligations.

Brazil requested the Committee to delay applicability to Brazil of the retention prohibition under Rec. 11-15 to enable it to submit Brazil’s Task I data to ICCAT, justifying the delay due to the economic and institutional instability experienced in the past year in this CPC. In its intervention, Brazil specifically committed to submit a comprehensive revision to its Task I data covering the last five years by March 31, 2018, after which point the retention prohibition would be activated if Brazil had not submitted its Task I data. The justification and commitment presented by Brazil were enough to receive the endorsement from the Compliance Committee for this derogation. Brazil’s statement is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**. In addition, the Chair requested all CPCs that have not already done so report their Task I data or confirm zero catch by December 1, 2017, and noted that those that had not provided this information prior to the end of the year would receive a letter informing them of prohibition of relevant ICCAT species beginning January 1, 2018. Also regarding Rec. 11-15, the Chair posed the following question from the Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee: Recommendation 11-15 and associated guidelines in Res. 15-09 are silent on actions to be taken by CPCs, the Commission, or the Secretariat in the case of CPCs fishing in contravention of a prohibition on retention in place under Rec. 11-15. Guidance is sought as to whether any intersessional action is required of the Secretariat in such cases. In response, there was support for the Secretariat informing the Commission by circular when it has information of such activity.

As echoed by many CPCs, data submission is very important for stock assessment and management, yet the current reporting requirements are quite complicated, hence the importance of considering how to simplify the method for data and compliance information submission. The Committee agreed that it is necessary to continue work to simplify the format of the compliance tables and on procedure in light of Rec. 16-17, and that support should be available to guide CPCs in their reporting requirements. The Chair suggested that the online reporting group would be a helpful forum to consider this matter.

6.3 Inspection and Regional observer reports

The discussion was referred to points 6.4 and 6.7 in the agenda.

6.4 Information on implementation of shark recommendations (Appendix 3 to the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee)

The Chair introduced the report entitled Shark Check Sheets Received in Accordance With Rec. 16-13 (Appendix 3 to the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee), in which CPCs are to provide responses and explanations on their implementation of specific provisions of ICCAT shark measures. The Commission received check sheets from 35 out of 51 CPCs at the time of the meeting, and a CPC's failure to reply is indicated in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**).

As not all ICCAT CPCs had responded to this requirement, the Committee decided to delay its review of shark check sheets to the 2018 annual meeting in order to secure responses from all CPCs. The Chair encouraged CPCs to submit their shark check sheets at least one month before the 2018 annual meeting. The United States also requested that the Secretariat provide a summary of shark conservation measure compliance in the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee next year to facilitate the Committee's review of the information in 2018. A decision should then be made on the use of the shark check sheets as a reporting requirement to be fulfilled on an annual basis (and perhaps reviewed by COC in-depth on a biennial basis), as well as application of exemptions from this reporting requirement based on guidelines recommended by the SCRS.

6.5 Review of the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee

The Chair then turned to a review of the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee, with an intent of reflecting on some recommendations and questions in the report in preparation for the CPC-by-CPC compliance review.

General comments

Concerns about lack of reporting and sufficiency of reporting were highlighted both by the Chair and a few CPCs who stressed that these are issues that need reflection as well as how lack of enforcement of the rules is dealt with by the COC. One CPC also raised concerns about fishing activities taking place in certain areas of the Convention (particularly the Caribbean Sea) by non-CPCs who do not recognise the rules of ICCAT. This is a recurrent problem for which action is needed.

Vessels that fished in 2016 (EBFT/SWO/BET/YFT/SKJ)

Referring to Mediterranean SWO, the European Union highlighted a discrepancy between the data presented in the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee and the document E-BFT, TROP, SWO-Med Vessels which fished in 2016 [Annex 4 to the Secretariat' Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee], when referring to the Egyptian vessels. The European Union contested the inclusion of six Egyptian vessels in the 2016 list of active vessels for Mediterranean SWO, because no such authority has been endorsed during the adoption of Rec. 16-05, and Egypt has no quota available for Mediterranean SWO commensurate with such a fleet. This was notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by letter, in reaction to the fishing plan on Mediterranean SWO presented by Egypt in August. Egypt confirmed one registered vessel for SWO and that Egyptian vessels in the area were not active. In reaction, the European Union stressed that the answer by Egypt confirmed that there was no justification for the presence of those vessels for the reasons highlighted previously, and requested the removal of the six vessels. There was no objection to this proposed action.

Information submitted in accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 14-04]

The EU raised concerns about the drafting of "Potential non-compliance issues reported by regional observers" when referring to the confirmation of potential non-compliance reported by regional observers for EBFT. The text of this document on this point suggests that by answering "yes" to the potential existence of a PNC, the CPC confirms the PNC itself, which is not the case. To avoid confusion, the EU suggested that from now on column "y" or "n" should be deleted; this recommendation was endorsed by the Committee.

The EU also recommended that the Committee only consider inspection reports where an infringement has been confirmed by the flag CPC's inspection services. The Secretariat advised that Recommendation 14-04 would need to be changed to address such modification, which would need to be undertaken by Panel 2.

Information submitted in accordance with Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 14-05]

The EU requested clarification on the meaning of pilot projects referenced by Canada. The Secretariat clarified that Canada and Mexico are required, under the provisions of the Recommendation, to provide this information.

Information submitted in accordance with Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Process for the Review and Reporting of Compliance Information [Rec. 08-09]

The EU referred to the sighting of many Tunisian vessels not included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels declared by Tunisia as fishing for small tuna in the Mediterranean Sea, but observed transshipping at sea of substantial quantities of BFT. The EU expressed concerns on the legality of these operations, and the risk of this activity undermining the efforts made by CPCs as per the ICCAT recommendations.

The EU also referred to the inspection at sea in October 2017 of a Tunisian purse seine vessel targeting BFT, with an estimated quantity of 14.7 tonnes of BFT on board at the moment of the inspection. While highlighting the good collaboration and cooperation the EU and Tunisia develop for the sea control of Mediterranean fishing related activities, the EU submitted this case to the Committee to invite Tunisia to pay increasing attention to the development of such illegal activities under its flag.

These issues were discussed further in the CPC-by-CPC review under agenda item 6.6.

Information submitted in accordance with Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures [Rec. 06-13]

The Chair encouraged CPCs to report information under para 1 of the Recommendation and received full support from Japan, which sees the added value of this recommendation to identify illegal activities by fishing vessels. Some CPCs indicated that the reporting procedure is not clear and it is time consuming. Other CPCs indicated their view that the obligation is only to report relevant information, and that this obligation may be fulfilled through the reporting of information pursuant to requirements under the BET and SWO statistical document program.

Other measures

The Chair expressed once again his disappointment for the lack of response and the lack of no associated justification to "n.a." replies received under many of the provisions associated with marlin or by-catch species.

With respect to marlin and sailfish measures, the Chair reminded the Committee that reports are expected to cover all aspects of the fishery, including artisanal, recreational, and sport fisheries, as well as fisheries not targeting billfish but that take billfish as by-catch. With respect to sea turtle and seabird measures, the Chair reminded the Committee that by-catch reduction requirements apply across all fisheries.

6.6 CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements

The COC conducted the CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements. CPCs were discouraged from reiterating what they had already submitted in writing and were asked to provide updated information on their actions or plans for action. The issues discussed are detailed in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**).

6.7 Review of information relating to NCPs

The Chair informed the Committee that responses to letters from the Chair had been received from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Gibraltar, Grenada and St. Kitts & Nevis, but no response had been received from Dominica or Sta. Lucia.

The Chair informed the Committee that a letter had been received from Gibraltar in response to previous correspondence from the Chair requesting information on this NCP's engagement in the bluefin fisheries. Despite confirmation from Gibraltar that their fisheries are managed in line with ICCAT requirements, the Chair recommended, and the COC approved, that a follow up letter be sent by the Commission requesting information on management measures and catches. Specifically, for Gibraltar, the letter should include a request for catch data and information on specific measures to manage its bluefin tuna fishery in a manner consistent with ICCAT requirements.

The COC also recommended that the Commission maintain identification status for Dominica, to lift identification of Cambodia, and to send letters to Sta. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Costa Rica requesting information and increased participation with ICCAT. The United States noted that Dominica was recently devastated by the natural disasters in the Caribbean region and suggested that the Commission exercise patience in receiving reporting information.

7 Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 4 and 5

Taking into account recommendations of the Friends of the Chair Group, it was agreed that letters on compliance issues will be sent to 38 CPCs. The COC also recommended, the continued identification of Sierra Leone and Dominica, which will receive letters notifying them of this decision, and approved the removal of identifications for Cambodia, Grenada, Liberia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Trinidad and Tobago.

8 Review of progress of the Working Group on the development of an online reporting system

The Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group to develop an online reporting system presented the progress made by the Working Group in 2017. The Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System 2017 Status Report is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**. The Working Group identified two existing projects that share the common objectives of developing an online reporting system: 1) work requested by the SCRS to provide an online reporting system for handling statistical information, and 2) work being conducted through the GEF/Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Common Oceans Program for an online reporting prototype for handling catch & effort submissions. The Working Group acknowledged the need to coordinate with these projects in order to avoid duplication, converge the systems as needed and appropriate, and leverage resources efficiently. Details on these projects are given in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**. In parallel, the Working Group has compiled examples of online reporting systems currently being developed and/or used by other RFMOs to support the Group's work.

The Chair of the Working Group submitted one recommendation to expand the participation in the Working Group to include representatives from the SCRS and a second one for a Working Group meeting to be held in 2018, possibly in conjunction with another ICCAT intersessional meeting. Both recommendations were endorsed by the Committee.

9 Review of requests for cooperating status

The Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission renew the cooperating non-contracting party, entity, and fishing entity status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname.

The United States, although raising no objections to the request from Guyana, would like to receive clarifications on whether Guyana's research fishery for swordfish has expanded and would like Guyana to report on its 2017 fishing activities. The Chair agreed that a letter should be sent to this non-member indicating that this information needs to be provided and failure to do so before the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting could result in a decision not to renew cooperating status for Guyana.

10 Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

The following list of recommendations was agreed by the COC and approved, where necessary, by the Commission:

- COC will hold a special session in advance of the annual Commission meeting in order to conduct more in depth CPC-by-CPC review;
- Panels 1 to 4 will add an agenda item to review, advise on, and, as appropriate, confirm the contents of relevant compliance tables early in their sessions and refer these to COC for appropriate action at the annual meeting;
- Future COC meetings will review the format of compliance tables;
- The COC to further consider how to progressively implement the Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures [Res. 16-17].
- The Rec. 11-15 prohibition on retention that would otherwise take effect 1 January 2018 will not apply to Brazil unless Brazil does not submit its data to the Commission by 31 March 2018.
- The Commission continues to explore ways to improve reporting by providing guidelines on how to fill in forms and considers potential capacity building projects addressing these needs.

The Chair revisited the Report of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review (**ANNEX 4.3**) highlighting the need for the Committee to be responsive to the recommendations made in the performance review report.

The Chair confirmed that the recommendations agreed by the Compliance Committee for the Commission's endorsement have also addressed the recommendations by the performance review exercise and that significant work in fulfilling some of those recommendations was already ongoing. With respect to Performance Review recommendations regarding billfish management and reporting, the Committee recommended, that the COC Chair coordinate with the Panel 4 Chair and ICCAT Secretariat to prepare a draft billfish reporting check sheet modelled on the shark check sheet for consideration at the 2018 annual meeting, with the possibility of preliminary discussions of a draft on the margins of the 2018 intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). The COC also recommended that the Secretariat seek data from the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) on all countries engaged in marlin fisheries in the Caribbean.

11 Election of the Chair

Mr. Derek Campbell (USA) was nominated and re-elected Chair of the Compliance Committee for a further two years.

12 Other matters

12.1 Compliance related work and initiatives supported by the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project

The Chair invited the FAO representative to present the work performed under the framework of the ABNJ work concerning compliance related initiatives.

The FAO's representative confirmed that FAO's support to the ABNJ tuna project has benefited several RFMOs and developing countries through the development of MCS tools and capacity building initiatives. The outcomes of the project have been welcomed by several actors and there is interest for a second phase of the tuna ABNJ project.

The United States expressed its support for the ABNJ's project, stressing that this and associated projects have provided many benefits to ICCAT, including the improvements in the integrity of the CLAV data base that had been developed by the tuna RFMOs under the Kobe process. Due to the benefits derived from this, the United States suggested that an in-depth discussion on continuation of funding is taken up at next year's ICCAT meetings. Following supporting views by other CPCs, the Chair requested CPCs to reflect on what the COC would be able to do in next year's meeting regarding the continuation of maintenance of data base support to the CLAV.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary noted that ICCAT has not been included in the work plan adopted by FAO and GEF, but there have been tentative efforts to improve the cooperation between the project and ICCAT. He mentioned that this cooperation should be clarified in the near future.

13 Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of the Committee would be adopted by correspondence. The Committee was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
5. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters relating to issues arising from the 2016 meeting
6. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements:
 - 6.1 Compliance tables
 - 6.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries
 - 6.3 Inspection and observer reports
 - 6.4 Information on implementation of shark recommendations
 - 6.5 Review of the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee
 - 6.6 CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements
 - 6.7 Review of information relating to NCPs
7. Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 4 and 5
8. Review of progress of the Working Group on the development of an online reporting system
9. Review of requests for cooperating status
10. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
 - 12.1 Compliance related work and initiatives supported by the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project
13. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

2017 Compliance Tables
(Compliance in 2016, reported in 2017)

NOTE: Japanese 2016 catch figures and subsequent adjusted quota were updated following the adoption of the Compliance tables at the 25th Regular meeting of the Commission and will be subject to revision at 21st Special meeting of the Commission.

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	22.20	12.80	15.90	38.10	177.80	227.20	224.10	201.90	200.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	230.00	79.20	0.74	398.50	50.00	120.80	449.26	51.50	280.00	418.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		250.00	250.00	250.00		250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	31.90	47.10	32.20	19.92	218.10	202.90	217.80	230.07	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	81.08	34.87	20.96	103.20	168.92	165.13	229.04	146.80	250.00	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.56	250.00	250.00	250.00	99.38	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	18607.00	23544.56	20891.80	24308.65	8323.13	2990.40	6047.33	233.05	26939.13	26534.96	26939.13	24541.70	26939.10	26939.10
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.27	0.08	0.00	0.00	249.73	249.92	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
JAPAN	573.68	503.81	407.19	240.88		266.40	305.20	329.80	143.30	307.28	198.61	77.39	97.58	na	na	na	na		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	184.40	63.87	4.54	13.18	65.60	186.13	211.06	236.82	250.00	250.00	215.60	250.00	250.00	250.00
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	230.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	230.00	230.00
ST V & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	286.00	326.91	305.00	291.60	30.40	3.49	-1.51	6.89	316.40	330.40	303.49	298.50	298.49	298.49
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	66.70	71.10	94.80	70.70	183.30	178.90	155.20	179.30	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.30	0.63	5.38	0.60	249.70	249.37	244.62		250.00	250.00	250.00			
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	598.84	572.60	246.80	249.60	59.91	14.31	294.51	409.15	658.75	586.91	541.31	658.75	658.75	658.75
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	257.60	195.32	64.55	0.00	-7.60	54.68	185.45	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	180.70	284.71	350.90	286.98	-549.60	-584.31	-665.21	-702.19	-368.90	-299.60	-314.31	-415.21	-128.19	-128.19
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	2393.63	947.00	2857.00	3134.00	1395.99	2842.62	932.62	655.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62
TOTAL CATCH						23207.02	26485.95	25220.37	29228.89										
Recommendation n ^o	11-04	13-05	13-05	13-05	16-06									11-04	13-05	13-05	13-05	16-06	16-06

BELIZE: intends to use 50t of its underages from 2015 in 2017 (Rec. 13-05, par. 5); receiving a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei: 200 t in 2017 and 2018 (Rec. 16-06).

EU: is authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of its unused portion of its 2015 quota [Rec. 16-06].

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch.

SVG: 2013-2015 data for adjusted quota were not adopted by the Commission in 2015. In March 2016, the above data were submitted by correspondence to CPCs in the event of any objection.

USA: are authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 150 t of its unused portion of its 2015 quota [Rec. 16-06].

CHINESE TAIPEI: is authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 114 t of its unused portion of its 2015 quota [Rec. 16-06].

CHINESE TAIPEI-N-ALB: 2017 adjusted quota is 3789.62 t (=3271.7+3271.7*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2015 exceeding 25% of 2017 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St.V&G and 200 t to Belize.

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SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000														
ANGOLA		50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00			0.00	0.00										
BRAZIL	3500.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	1720.30	438.45	424.52		1757.00	1621.55	1635.50		3500.00	2060.00	2700.00	2700.00	2060.00	2160.00
NAMIBIA	10000.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	990.00	1044.00	1070.00	994.00	5012.00	3195.00	3162.00	3506.00	6002.00	4239.00	4232.00	4500.00	4477.00	4500.00
S. AFRICA		4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	3526.10	3719.00	4030.00	2065.00				2335.00			5650.00	4400.00	5500.00	5500.00
URUGUAY	1200.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	209.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			440.00	440.00		70.00	660.00	550.00	450.00	440.00
CH. TAIPEI	13000.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	8519.00	6675.00	7157.00	8907.00	4481.00	2725.00	4349.75	2843.00		9400.00	11506.75	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00
BELIZE	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	87.00	98.36	0.00	122.86	163.00	226.64	325.00	189.64	250.00	325.00	325.00	312.50	312.50	312.50
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	200.00	65.12	33.82	124.41	94.37	34.88	66.18	4.60	30.63	n.a	n.a	125.00	125.00	204.60	250.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00								125.00	125.00	100.00
CURAÇAO		50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00								50.00		
EU	1540.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	455.00	335.36	472.71	54.77	1085.00	1502.14	1246.29	1782.73		1470.00	1719	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50
JAPAN	342.28	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1713.80	1198.90	1392.90	561.70	-1372.12	526.10	162.10	1132.05	n.a	1725.00	1555.00	1693.75	1717.10	1693.75
KOREA	150.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	33.22	3.42	3.47	48.27	116.78	146.58	174.03	126.73	150.00	150.00	177.50	175.00	175.00	175.00
PANAMA	100.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	3.00	0.30	23.73	3.20	97.00	24.70	1.27	21.80		25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
PHILIPPINES	150.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	25.00	495.00	18.00	0.00		-345.00	2.00	40.00			20.00	40.00	140.00	25.00	25.00
ST V & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	140.00	97.40	109.83	100.00	107.40	16.50	6.67	6.67	-0.73	113.90	116.50	106.67	106.67	99.27	100.00
T&TO				25.00					0.40										
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	80.00	100.00	116.00	125.00	100.00	100.00
USA	100.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.95	25.00	25.00	25.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	25.00
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	53.11	91.00	5.01	0.40	46.89	9.00	94.99	99.60	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
GUYANA							n.a	0.00	0.04										
TOTAL CATCH						17969.10	13765.44	14803.75	12971.41										
Rec. number	11-05	13-06	13-06	13-06	16-07									11-05	11-05	13-06	13-06	13-06	16-07

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5t of its underages from 2015 in 2017 (Rec. 13-06, par. 4.b).

BRAZIL: in December 2015 informs the Commission that it will transfer 100t in 2015 to Japan.

JAPAN-S-ALB: 2015 adjusted limit included 100t transferred from Brazil and 100t transferred from South Africa.

JAPAN-S-ALB: 2016 adjusted limit included 25% of the original limit as carry-over from 2014 underage [Rec.13-06]

JAPAN-S-ALB: 2017 adjusted limit included 100t transferred from Brazil and 100t transferred from Uruguay. [Rec.16-07]

JAPAN-S-ALB: Japan's underage in 2015 was carried over to the 2017 initial limit [Rec.13-06]

PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending the adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondence.

SOUTH AFRICA: transfers 100 of its 2015 southern Atlantic albacore quota to Japan, Rec. 13-06.

SOUTH AFRICA: notified in 2016 the Commission of its request to transfer the 2015 underage of 1110 t to be caught and landed in 2017, Rec. 13-06.

URUGUAY: in 2015 notified a transfer of 120 t to Japan in 2014.

URUGUAY: notified in 2015 a transfer in 2014 of 150 t of its quota to South Africa.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota is 11750t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 20th Special Meeting.

In accordance with Paragraph 4b of 16-07, the 25 percent carryover request made by China at the 2017 Regular Meeting of the Commission has been completed using their underage from 2016 of 30.63 t. and 19.37 t. of the total underage of the TAC from 2016.

NORTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	13700	13700	13700	13700	13700														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	16.10	21.10	29.00	20.50	48.30	46.40	38.50	47.00	64.40	64.40	67.50	67.50	67.50	67.50
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	142.00	75.61	8.40	29.50	63.00	54.39	259.60	224.89	205.00	270.00	268.00	254.39	270.00	270.00
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		75.00	50.00	50.00		75.00	75.00	75.00	50.00	50.00	
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1505.50	1604.20	1579.34	1547.88	176.80	278.30	578.36	492.32	1682.30	1882.50	2157.70	2040.20	2070.20	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	95.95	60.29	140.78	135.06	4.05	39.71	-36.73	2.44	100.00	100.00	104.05	137.50	88.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	1.37	0.00	0.00	27.45	73.63	75.00	75.00	47.55	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5567.90	5020.43	5449.08	5765.63	2829.60	2867.07	2448.42	1625.07	8397.50	7927.50	7897.50	7390.70	7385.70	tbc
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	17.85	3.02	0.00	0.00	82.15	96.98	100.00		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	112.75	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	438.70	392.90	452.10	264.00	2676.03	3015.13	2895.03	3363.03	3114.73	3114.73	3408.03	3391.62	4045.03	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	64.40	34.66	0.00	9.14	-4.40	15.34	45.60	56.20	60.00	50.00	45.60	65.34	75.00	
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	1062.00	1062.50	850.00	850.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1062.50	1062.50	850.00	850.00	850.00	
MAURITANIA							0.00	0.00			100.00	100.00							
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	32.00	32.00	31.00	36.00	268.00	268.00	269.00	264.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		37.50	25.00	25.00		37.50	25.00	25.00			
SENEGAL	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	43.20	48.79	45.86	52.33	387.92	436.21	542.94	680.74	431.12	485.00	588.80	733.07	919.00	
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	4.21	39.80	102.00	33.40	108.29	72.70	10.50	52.10	112.50	112.50	85.50	85.50	85.50	
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	15.90	26.40	16.80	13.30	96.60	86.10	95.70	99.20	112.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	14.40	0.98	1.40	2.18	38.10	51.52	51.10		52.50	52.50	52.50			
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	2955.00	1945.20	1718.40	1521.90	1778.75	2913.55	2749.65	2946.15	4733.75	4858.75	4468.05	4468.05	4468.05	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	1.75	43.67	0.61	0.00	29.25	-12.67	24.39	31.00	31.00	31.00	25.00	31.00		
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	24.10	23.85	28.52	52.75	103.40	103.65	98.98	74.75	127.50	127.50	127.50	127.50		
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	114.82	78.00	115.00	148.00	255.18	292.00	255.00	222.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	
Recommendation n ^o	11-02	13-02	13-02	13-02	16-03									11-02	11-02	13-02	13-02	16-03	16-03
DISCARDS																			
CANADA																			
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL CATCH						12117.15	10513.40	10568.29	10509.02										

BELIZE: intends to use 65t of its underages from 2015 in 2017 (Rec. 13-02, par. 6); receiving a transfer of N-SWO from Trinidad & Tobago: 75t (Rec. 16-03).

CANADA: new balances and adjusted quotas for 2011-2013 presented in November 2015 due to recalculation of historic dead discards as submitted to SCRS.

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: quota transfer in 2017 from EU-Spain to Canada of 300 t.

JAPAN-N-SWO: adjusted limit in 2014, 2015 and 2016 excluded 50 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 transferred to Canada, and 25 transferred to Mauritania. [Rec. 13-02].

JAPAN-N-SWO: adjusted limit in 2017 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 transferred to Canada, and 25 transferred to Mauritania. [Rec. 16-03].

JAPAN-N-SWO: 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area was counted against its uncaught catch limits in 2015. [Rec.13-02].

MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year.

MAURITANIA: is acquiring a coastal fleet to target swordfish. The intention is for this fleet to commence its activity in 2016.

SENEGAL: informed the Commission in January 2017 of its decision to transfer 25 t to Canada [Rec. 16-03].

USA: 2016 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota is 370t (=270+270*50%-35) due to the underage of 2015 exceeding 50% of 2017 catch limit and a transfer of 35t to Canada.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			0.00	0.00										
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	136.00	45.29	103.56	149.60	-11.00	79.71	135.44	137.90	125.00	205.00	239.00	287.50	271.44	
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	1395.11	2892.02	2587.53		3726.89	1047.98	2534.47		5122.00	5048.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	
CHINA	263.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	195.96	205.89	327.70	222.22	67.04	119.10	2.34	119.68	263.00	324.99	330.04	341.90	315.34	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	108.98	53.42	41.90	25.21	78.52	134.08	145.60	137.29	187.50	187.50	187.50	162.50	162.50	
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4308.60	4364.64	5295.02	5461.54	871.40	777.06	400.38	139.52	5180.00	5141.70	5695.40	5601.06	5224.38	<i>tbc</i>
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	37.00	26.00	56.06	36.00	50.72	23.30	43.94	64.00	87.72	49.30				
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	958.20	790.10	569.80	616.80	-532.50	508.46	148.70	742.66	425.70	1298.56	318.50	1359.46	999.70	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	47.30	52.63	5.45	19.25	10.70	-2.63	55.25	28.12	58.00	50.00	60.70	47.37	65.00	
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	421.80	392.80	516.97	466.00	1330.20	1359.20	1235.03	1286.00	1752.00	1752.00	1752.00	1752.00	1704.00	
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	44.00	71.80	0.00		31.00	2.20	50.00		74.00	74.00	50.00			
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.20	94.30	145.00	77.40	39.80	29.58	-5.20	22.60	100.00	115.90	139.80	100.00	112.10	
SENEGAL	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	178.40	143.33	97.43	173.30	400.60	357.42	385.09	346.57	579.00	500.75	482.52	519.87	467.87	
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	171.40	152.39	218.00	124.40	1429.60	848.61	733.00	926.60	1601.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	5.00	6.41	0.00	0.00	32.50	31.09	37.50		37.50	37.50	37.50			
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	103.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1774.50	1202.00	1252.00	1252.00	1878.00	1202.00	1596.00	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	100.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.10	8.00	0.00	0.00	28.90	17.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	582.10	406.00	511.00	478.00	75.90	128.90	76.90	57.90	658.00	534.90	587.90	535.90	516.90	
GUYANA							n.a	0.66	5.63										
TOTAL						8753.71	9705.02	10476.08	7855.35										
Rec. n°	12-01	16-04	16-04	16-04	16-04									12-01	12-01	12-01	16-04	16-04	16-04

BELIZE: intends to use 21.44 t of its underages from 2015 in 2017 (Rec. 16-04, para 2); receiving a transfer of S-SWO from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 16-04).

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 excluded 50 t transferred to Namibia [Rec. 09-03] [Rec. 12-01] [Rec. 13-03] [Rec. 15-03] [Rec. 16-04].

JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2014 was carried over to the 2016 initial limit [Rec. 13-03] [Rec. 15-03] [Rec. 16-04].

JAPAN: 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the South Atlantic management area was counted against its N-SWO uncaught quota in 2015 [Rec. 13-02].

USA: adjusted quota for 2016 reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) under Rec. 13-03.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota includes 57.9 t of 2016 underage.

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
TAC	13400	13400	16142	19296	22705													
ALBANIA	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.40	56.91	8.59	33.55	40.75	45.79	24.99	0.03	-1.10	0.51	33.58	33.58	39.65	46.30	56.91
ALGERIE	143.83	143.83	169.81	202.98	243.70	243.80	243.80	370.20	448.39	0.00	0.00	-0.39	4.59	243.83	243.83	369.81	452.98	1043.70
CHINA	38.19	38.19	45.09	53.90	64.71	38.14	37.62	45.08	53.89	0.05	0.58	0.01	0.01	38.19	38.19	45.09	53.90	64.71
EGYPT	67.08	67.08	79.20	94.67	113.67	77.10	77.08	155.19	99.33	-0.02	0.00	0.01	0.34	77.08	77.08	155.20	99.67	123.67
EU	7548.06	7938.65	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36	7841.00	7795.98	9120.82	10974.35	97.65	142.67	252.10	229.19	7548.06	7938.65	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36
ICELAND	30.97	30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	3.80	30.24	37.43	5.76	27.17	0.73	-0.86	37.09	30.97	30.97	36.57	42.85	52.48
JAPAN	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21	1930.88	1128.97	1134.47	1385.92	1578.37	10.58	5.08	4.52	4.84	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	1583.21	1910.88
KOREA	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	80.50	80.52	0.00	161.08	0.03	0.01	95.08	2.58	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46
LIBYA	937.65	937.65	1107.06	1323.28	1588.77	933.20	932.64	1153.45	1367.80	4.45	5.01	3.61	5.48	937.65	937.65	1157.06	1373.28	1638.77
MAROC	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	1269.90	1270.46	1498.10	1783.30	0.57	0.01	1.91	9.68	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71
MAURITANIA			5.00	5.00	5.00			0.00				5.00				5.00	5.00	5.00
NORWAY	30.97	30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	0.31	0.12	8.29	43.80	30.66	30.85	28.28	-0.09	30.97	30.97	36.57	43.71	52.39
SYRIA	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.40	56.91	0.00	0.00	39.65	47.39	0.00	33.58	0.00	0.01	0.00	33.58	39.65	47.40	56.91
TUNISIE	1057.00	1057.00	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00	1056.60	1056.60	1247.83	1490.60	0.40	0.40	0.14	1.11	1057.00	1057.00	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00
TURKEY	556.66	556.66	657.23	785.59	943.21	551.45	555.08	1091.10	1324.30	5.21	1.58	131.86	137.52	556.66	556.66	1222.96	1461.82	1013.21
CH. TAIPEI	41.29	41.29	48.76	58.28	69.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97
TOTAL CATCH						13233.36	13248.16	16193.81	19424.15									
Rec. number	12-03	13-07	14-04	14-04	14-04									12-03	13-07	14-04	14-04	14-04

ALGERIA : may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. This adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota reaches 5% of the TAC [Rec. 14-04].

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2015 included 45t transferred from Korea.[Rec.14-04]

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2016 excluded 25 t transferred to Korea.[Rec.14-04]

JAPAN-E-BFT: adjusted quota in 2017 excluded 20 t transferred to Korea.

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged a formal objection to Rec. 14-04 and, consistent with Res. 12-11, has submitted measures to be taken.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2016 indicating 1461.82 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2016 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

KOREA: transfers in 2015 50 t of its quota to Egypt and 45 t of its quota to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota is 59.97t (=69.97-10) due to the transfer of 10t to Egypt.

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	1750	1750	2000	2000	2000														
CANADA	396.66	396.66	437.47	437.47	437.47	480.40	462.90	530.59	466.11	4.10	24.40	-1.71	36.14	484.50	487.30	528.88	506.74	488.61	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.00	4.51	4.51	4.51	0.31	0.17	9.34	0.00	7.69	7.83	-0.83	3.68	8.00	8.00	8.51	3.68	9.02	
JAPAN	301.64	301.64	345.74	345.74	345.74	306.26	302.63	345.52	345.49	1.86	0.87	1.09	1.34	304.12	303.50	346.61	346.83	347.08	
MEXICO	95.00	95.00	108.98	108.98	108.98	22.00	51.00	53.00	55.00	67.40	24.90	28.90	82.88	89.40	75.90	81.90	135.88	135.88	
UK-OT	4.00	4.00	4.51	4.51	4.51	0.80	0.01	0.21	0.00	7.20	7.99	8.30	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.51	8.00		
USA	948.70	948.70	1058.79	1058.79	1058.79	658.90	810.29	898.80	1025.10	384.67	233.28	279.86	167.07	1043.57	1043.57	1178.66	1192.17	1192.17	
TOTAL LANDING						1468.67	1627.00	1837.46	1891.70										
<i>Discards</i>																			
CANADA																			
JAPAN																			
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
<i>Rec. number</i>	12-02	13-09	14-05	14-05	16-08									12-02	12-02	14-05	14-05	14-05	16-08

CANADA: Mexico's transfer to Canada for 2016 is 55.98 t.

JAPAN: the underharvest may be added to next year to 10% of the initial quota allocation [Rec. 13-09, 14-05, 16-08].

MEXICO: transfer of its adjusted quota to Canada for 2016 is 55.98 t (Rec. 14-05, para 6 d).

BIGEYE

YEAR	Initial catch limit					1999 (SCRS 2000)	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	85000	85000	85000	65000	65000															
ANGOLA						0.00			0.00	0.00										
BARBADOS						0.00	11.10	25.70	30.40	18.60										
BELIZE						0.00	1336.00	1501.60	1877.30	1764.10										
BRAZIL						2024.00	1134.99	3475.12	3561.10	2823.00										
CANADA						263.00	197.30	185.90	257.32	171.12										
CABO VERDE						1.00	1333.00	2271.00	2913.92	1679.00										
CHINA	5572	5572	5572	5376.00	5376.00	7347.00	2371.30	2231.75	4941.85	5852.39	6130.70	7941.85	5232.12	1330.01	8502.00	10173.60	10173.60	7182.40	6964.29	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	635.40	440.90	12.14	544.39										
CURACAO						0.00	1964.00	2315.00	2573.00	3436.00										
EL SALVADOR			3500.00	1575.00	1575.00				992.00	1450.00										
EU	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	16989.00	16989.00	21970.00	18652.00	18152.90	15741.23	18059.42	10815.10	11314.20	13725.87	5729.68	29467.10	29467.10	29467.10	23789.10	19699.83	19537.35
FRANCE (SP&M)						0.00	0.31	0.10	0.00	0.00										
GABON						184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GHANA	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4250.00	4250.00	11460.00	2786.00	4369.00	5749.68	4812.60	3637.20	583.00	864.92	-121.30	6423.20	4952.00	6614.60	4691.30	3689.3	
GUATEMALA						0.00	163.10	651.80	340.50	640.27										
JAPAN	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	17696.00	17696.00	23690.00	14342.00	12595.20	10179.80	6022.00	13282.30	15029.10	17444.50	17687.30	27624.30	27624.30	27624.30	23709.30	18562.71	
KOREA	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1486.00	1486.00	124.00	1150.90	1038.83	670.70	561.97	881.10	1319.07	1887.20	1518.93	2039.00	2357.90	2557.90	2080.90	1648.61	
LIBERIA										538.00										
MAROC						700.00	308.00	300.00	308.50	350.00										
MAURITANIE								1.00	10.00	20.40										
MEXICO						6.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	n.a	n.a	n.a.		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a.
NAMIBIA						423.00	129.59	224.09	434.90	359.00										
PANAMA	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00			26.00	2774.00	2315.00	1285.00	1617.11	532.00	991.00	2021.00	1688.89	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3500.00	
PHILIPPINES	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	286.00	286.00	943.00	1323.00	1963.00	0.00		660.00	615.00	1983.00			2578.00	1983.00			
RUSSIA						8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00								
S. TOME & PRIN						0.00	106.60	110.05	633.10	421.10										
SENEGAL						0.00	639.00	361.00	1031.00	1500.30										
SOUTH AFRICA						41.00	436.00	331.50	200.00	107.30	n.a	n.a			n.a	n.a	n.a			
St. V. & GR.							15.03	29.70	496.00	622.20										
TRIN & TOBAGO						19.00	36.60	58.90	76.50	37.10										
UK-OT						8.00	25.70	17.70	44.10	77.10										
URUGUAY						59.00	29.90	0.00	0.00	0.00										
USA						1261.00	880.40	859.40	831.40	533.30										
VANUATU						0.00	8.82	4.00	0.70	0.00										
VENEZUELA						128.00	93.70	169.10	132.00	156.00										
CH. TAIPEI	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	11679.00	11679.00	16837.00	10315.55	13272.00	16453.00	13115.00	9872.35	6915.90	3734.90	3238.90	20187.90	20187.90	20187.90	16353.90	13542.61	
GUYANA									2.52	52.73										
TOTAL CATCH							63059.09	69271.24	71781.66	67343.50										
Rec. number	11-01	11-01	14-01	16-01	16-01										11-01	11-01	14-01	16-01	16-01	

GHANA: in 2012-2015, annual transfers of China (70 t), Korea (20 t), Chinese Taipei (70 t) and Japan (70 t) have been authorised, Rec. 14-01.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t by year.

GHANA: a total of 15% of the initial quota of 2015 were used in addition to the quota transferred from other countries (70 t) less the payback of overharvest with 337 t.

JAPAN: the 2015 adjusted limit included 30% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2014 underage and excluded 3000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 14-01].

JAPAN: the 2016 adjusted limit included 30% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2015 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 14-01] [Rec.15-01].

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 16-01].

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catches are artisanal.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota is 14016.45 t (=11679+15583*15%) due to the underage of 2015 exceeding 15% of 2017 catch limit.

BLUE MARLIN

	<i>Landings limit</i>					<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>				<i>Adjusted landings limit</i>		
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	1996	1999	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)											
	2000	2000	2000	1985	1985													
BELIZE								19.00	8.47	4.70	13.10	-9.00						
BRAZIL	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	16.30	19.77	0.63								
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	62	201	44.85	39.66	44.41	49.71	0.15	5.34	0.58	0.63	45.58		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00			26.32	43.84	29.90	50.61	123.68	106.16	120.10	114.39	165.00		
EU	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	357.07	552.37	658.51	335.07	122.93	-72.37	-130.51	52.56	414.75	414.75	414.75
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			163.00	235.57	87.92	43.66	87.00	14.43	162.00	206.34			
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	231.50	288.80	261.50	191.00	158.50	101.20	167.50	238.00	429.00	429.00	
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	23.77	9.78	3.07	26.19	11.23	25.22	31.93	8.81	42.00		
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	85.00	67.00	72.00	65.00	-15.00	-12.00	-14.00	-9.00	61.00		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00			73.10	80.60	10.80	9.08	-28.01	-63.61	-28.61	7.32			
SENÉGAL	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00			21.84	11.65	9.87	12.52	38.16	48.35	50.13	47.48			
SOUTH AFRICA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.43	0.05	0.87	0.26							
T & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	47.60	48.10	34.90	18.70	-27.60	-48.10	-84.90	-116.80	-183.00		
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	47.56	40.77	60.46	82.51	52.44	59.23	39.54	27.49	110.00	110.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	77.84	62.00	61.00	75.00	72.16	88.00	104.00	90.00	165.00		
TOTAL								1235.18	1508.43	1339.67	972.41							
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			105.00	98.00	139.00	162.00	145.00	152.00	111.00	88.00			
<i>Rec. number</i>	12-04	12-04	12-04	15-05	15-05											15-05	15-05	15-05

GHANA: catch is from artisanal fisheries-gillnet

JAPAN: the 2015 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2013 underage[Rec.12-04]

JAPAN: the 2016 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2014 underage[Rec.12-04][Rec.15-05].

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2015 underage[Rec.15-05].

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota is 165t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2015 exceeding 10% of 2017 catch limit.

USA: total marlin landings for 2015 include 60 BUM, 55 WHM and 10 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2016 include 80 BUM, 60 WHM, and 22 RSP.

EUROPEAN UNION: the quota overharvest for 2014 and 2015 are payed back as decided by Panel 4.

VENEZUELA: is authorised to transfer 30 t to the European Union for 2017, Rec. 16-10.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2015 catch to its 2017 adjusted quota.

WHITE MARLIN

	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings limit		
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	1996	1999	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	400	400	400	355	355													
						PS+LL	PS+LL											
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			5.00	5.30	9.50	11.50	5.00	4.70	0.50	0.50	10.50		
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	33.16	49.24	115.43								
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	2.70	4.60	3.10	1.03	7.30	5.40	6.90	8.97			
CHINA	10	10	10	10.00	10.00	9	30	2.12	0	0.34	0.26	7.88	10.00	11.65	11.74	12.00		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	0.63	0.91	1.19	0.97	9.37	9.09	8.81	9.03	12.00		
EU	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	47.50	102.21	119.69	101.54	2.50	-52.21	-67.19	-77.64	23.90	27.60	27.60
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	16.90	5.70	9.90	5.40	18.10	29.30	32.10	36.60	42.00	42.00	
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	20.00	19.85	20.00	20.00	24.00		
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	30.00	20.00	26.00	20.00	-5.00	5.00	-1.00	9.00			
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00													
SOUTH AFRICA		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00							
TRIN & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	32.50	38.30	31.90	19.90	-17.50	-38.30	-74.30	-100.60	-155.00		
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	44.30	73.74	104.33	157.98	5.70	-23.74	-54.33	-107.98	31.26		
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	6.72	10.00	12.00	11.00	43.28	40.00	43.00	44.00	55.00		
GUYANA									n.a	2.64	48.42							
TOTAL								221.53	310.15	436.02	378.00							
USA (# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			105.00	98.00	139.00	162.00	145.00	152.00	111.00	88.00			
<i>Recommendation number</i>	12-04	12-04	12-04	15-05	15-05											15-05	15-05	15-05

EUROPEAN UNION: the quota overharvest for 2014 and 2015 are paid back up to 2020 as decided by Panel 4.

The EU will undertake to compensate the overharvest for 2016 by reducing WHM catch to zero for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (no consumption of the adjusted landings).

JAPAN-WHM • SPF: the 2015 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2013 underage[Rec.12-04]

JAPAN: the 2016 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2014 underage[Rec.12-04][Rec.15-05]

JAPAN-WHM • SPF: the 2017 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2015 underage[Rec.15-05]

USA: total marlin landings for 2015 include 60 BUM, 55 WHM and 10 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2016 include 80 BUM, 60 WHM, and 22 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2017 adjusted quota is 55t (=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2015 exceeding 10% of 2017 catch limit.

Compliance with size limits in 2016

Species	SWO			BFT						
	AT.N	AT.S	Medi	AT.E	AT.E	Adriatic	Medi	AT.E	Medi	AT.W
Area	13-02	13-02	13-04	14-04	14-04	14-04	14-04	14-04	14-04	14-05
Recommendation Number	§ 9-10	§ 9-10	§ 7-8	§ 27	Annex I, §2	§ 27	§ 27	§ 28	§ 28	§ 9
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TROL; >17 m*	BB <17 m**	Adriatic catches taken	coastal artisanal	14-04 all other gears	all other gears	all gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5	8 kg	6.4 kg	8 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Atl-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be introduced for: *, **, *** and ****	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 15kg/119c m		5%	0%	100 t**	0%	0%	5% between 8-30 kg; 75- 115 cm FL	5% between 8-30 kg; 75- 115 cm FL	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per total landings		weight or number of fish per total landings	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	weight per allocation of max 100t	weight or number of fish per total catch	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	number of fish per total landings	number of fish per total landings	weight of the total quota of each CPC
PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL CATCH UNDER MINIMUM SIZE										
Albania										
Algérie			0%					0%		0%
Angola										
Barbados	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Belize	1%	1%								
Brazil										
Canada	2.1									0
Cabo verde										
China	0	0	na	na	na	na	na	0	na	na
Côte d'Ivoire	0%	0%								
Curaçao										
Egypt								0	0	
El Salvador										
EU	14%	14.25%	3.50%	0	0	0	0	2.91%	0.68%	NA
France (SPM)	0									0
Gabon										
Ghana		5%								
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée Bissau										
Guinée République										
Honduras										
Iceland								0		
Japan	13.60%	0%	na	na	na	na	na	0%	na	0%
Korea										
Liberia										
Libya										
Maroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
Mauritanie	0			0	0		0			
México	13.4									0
Namibia*		0%								
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								0%		
Panama										
Philippines										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	1.61%	5.75%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa										
St. Vincent & G									0	0
Syria										
Trinidad & Tobago	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Tunisie			0%						3.927%	
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	1.78%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.00%	n.a.
UK-OT	3 undersized fish released alive. None landed.									
USA	0.4%									3.70%
Uruguay										
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	5.03									
Bolivia										
Chinese Taipei	cm) 0%(<119cm)	0.65%(<125c m) 0%(<119cm)	na							
Costa Rica										
Guyana										
Suriname										

*NAMIBIA: Kindly note that we do not really have size composition data for SWO, due to limited sampling by on-board observers and this is one area we really require assistance from ICCAT to come up with sampling manuals for Large Pelagic species, namely SWO and Sharks. Consequently, we are unable to give you a proper estimate of our undersized SWO catches at the moment. However, information obtained from our Fisheries Inspectors located at the landing sites shows that we have virtually not landed undersized SWO during 2016.

		2016		2017			
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	
ALBANIA	Annual Reports/Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task I T1FC fishing fleet form received. No STATS of any kind for 2015 were reported during 2016. Only summary table part 1 submitted late in November.	Albania has restructured duties recently. Next year will be on time.	Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" category. Missing fleet characteristics and Task II catch & effort data.	Recommendation 16-14 by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program Albania has reported not applicable, but the reason for this is not explained. Explanation: Albania will set those scientific standards as necessary and good contribution to resource management. (Without that standard in Albania, is impossible to give any explanation). Albania will be careful and prepare the Annual reports based on Revised Guidelines.	Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2016 COC letter, while noting improvement in reporting.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels and no closure report (Rec. 13-04); Rec. 14-04, paras 19 & 52: late submission of E-BFT catching vessel; late submission of 14-04 implementation report. BCD annual report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.			No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Conservation and Management Measures: 16-13. Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (at annual meeting). For other by- catch requirements, not applicable, not explained. No information on implementation of turtle by-catch mitigation and general by-catch/discard mitigation.	Regulation 1, Article 7 (3). "It is prohibited using of bottom nets or floating nets for fishing of following species: white tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>), Blue-fin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>), swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>), and sharks (<i>Hexanchus griseu</i> , <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> Alopiidae; <i>Carcharhinidae</i> ; <i>Sphyrnidae</i> ; <i>Isuridae</i> ; <i>Lamnidae</i>)". Check Sheet submitted on 29/09/2017. According the Fishery legislation all fishing vessels are obliged to avoid any incidental catch of turtles, sharks, seabirds, marine mammals, etc. When it happen should take care to free them without damaging and registering, reporting as well.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. E-BFT overcatch in 2015.				Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305. EU informed that no reply to the inspection report (Rec. 14-04, Annex 7) was received.				Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
ALGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	PLE-143/2016 explained the 2015 over harvest at 2016 meeting.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN number (IMO or other) for 1 vessel.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: E-BFT overcatch in 2015.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.		

	2016			2017			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	
ANGOLA	Annual Reports/Statistics: Summary table Part 1 and summary table Part II are missing from Annual Report.	In November Angola informed the Secretariat of the following: We have not sent the compliance tables previously as we do not have Angolan vessels for tuna fisheries. Therefore, our catches are considered (0.0). Tuna species in Angola were caught by contracted vessels with foreign flags.	Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late (but before previous deadline). No explanation for "Not applicable" category. No Fleet characteristics data submitted (ST01).		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2016 COC letter.	
	Conservation and Management Measures:						Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. No information on implementation of turtle and seabird by-catch mitigation and general by-catch/discard mitigation (not applicable, not explained). Vessels not included on tropical list but small quantities of tropical tunas reported.
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received						Quotas and catch limits:
	Other issues:						Other issues:
			No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.				

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
BARBADOS	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on BUM overharvest, N SWO development/ management plan, and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report submitted late.		Letter on reporting issues, N SWO development/management plan.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).		Barbados has replied to the letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: 15-01/16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports; Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 16-03. No N. SWO management plan submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: overharvest of BUM: 33 t.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	2016		2017		
		<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
BELIZE	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2016				2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
BRAZIL	Annual Reports/Statistics: Summary table (section 3) missing from Annual Report; Annual Report summary tables contain several blanks or "N/A" without explanation.		Letter on reporting and retroactive vessel authorization submission. Brazil has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/Statistics: No annual report received. No statistical data received.	Brazil requested a derogation of the application of the provisions of 11-15 due to very exceptional circumstances outlined in their statement to COC [313]. They will submit a plan to ensure all outstanding data are submitted.	Letter on reporting and while noting commitment to provide 2016 Task I data by March 31.
	Conservation and Management measures: 13-13/14-10 & 14-01/15-01: retroactive registration of "+20m & TROP"-vessels; No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).	Brazil went through profound restructuring and down sizing of fisheries department. Committed to not be late in the future.		Conservation and Management measures: Rec. 15-01/16-01: No quarterly reports for bigeye tuna. No tropical tuna management plan. Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 16-03. No N. SWO management plan submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
CABO VERDE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report summary tables contain several blanks or "N/A" without explanation.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or size data received. Some Catch & Effort data received late.		Letter on reporting issues, no tropical tuna management plan.
	Conservation and Management Measures:	Conservation and Management Measures:		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan		
	Quotas and catch limits:	Quotas and catch limits:		Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.		
	Other issues:	Other issues:		Other issues:		

<i>CPC</i>	2016			2017		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
CANADA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Late submission of Annual Report (Part 2, received after reminder/4 days late).		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
CHINA, People's Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Our understanding is that the request of each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation is not applicable to China as China is not Atlantic Ocean coastal state. However, from time to time, some carrier vessels carry tuna products caught only by Chinese fishing vessels operating in the ICCAT area entering into Chinese port, in this case, we are not sure such carrier vessels be regarded as foreign fishing vessels. Therefore, it is our understanding that the Rec.12-07 is not applicable to China. Up until now China has no authorized port for BFT landing and/or transhipment. In addition, China implemented the Customs Clearance system for any BFT products entering into Chinese territory, the fishing vessel owner or importer must apply the Customs Clearance Certificate to the Ministry of Agriculture, during this process, the relevant material/information including CDS, transhipment declaration, bill of lading must be showed to China fishery Authority, through this way we can monitor the BFT landing in the Chinese port.	Letter on implementation of Rec. 12-07 requirements, including designation of ports and application to foreign flagged carrier vessels carrying fish caught by China flagged vessels in ICCAT fisheries, and on list authorised BFT ports, while noting positively the steps China has already taken to control landings of ICCAT species in its ports.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No list of authorised ports submitted but no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated. Rec. 14-04: No list of authorised BFT ports submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Possible overharvest NSW0.	Will follow payback rules and make effort to avoid overharvest in future.		Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Japan requested information about the species landed under Rec. 12-06. Senegal informed the Secretariat in February 2016 of a port inspection report of October 2015 with apparent infringement (refer to doc. COC_307/16).			Other issues: ROP-transhipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Late submission of Part 2 of Annual Report and no summary table for Part 2; Part 1 summary tables		Letter on N SWO development / management plan and reporting issues. Cote d'Ivoire has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/Statistics: Reporting summary of Annual Report incomplete. Revised version submitted, but still incomplete.	Sumbitted revised version [still incomplete].	Letter on reporting issues, while noting positively substantial improvement from last year, and seeking clarification on the license of two vessels fishing in ICCAT area, information on any further actions taken to address the PNCs reflected in COC-305, and information on management and monitoring of these fisheries in light of high import numbers for these two vessels.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02). Late submission of statistical document data, Rec. 01-22.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-11 - no report on implementation of this Rec as old format for Annual Report used.	Revised Annual Report received with information on sailfish annex presented as an appendix.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other Issues:			Other Issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.	Owner has been notified and team set up at Ministry to investigate issues.	

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
CURAÇAO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report Part 1 summary table not submitted; Part 2 summary table contains several blanks or "N/A" without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues. Curaçao has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" in all cases.		Letter on reporting issues, while noting positively improvements from last year.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-05. Answer insufficiently clear to cover requirements. No report on Rec. 16-11.	Curacao is willing to work with other CPs to continue improvement.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
EGYPT	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task I T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter. Egypt has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" in all cases. No data on sharks or turtles reported. Fleet characteristics (ST01) received late.	As it is prohibited to catch or trade sharks and turtles domestically or internationally, no one case has been reported since ever.	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of shark and bycatch measures, while noting positively reporting improvements from last year, and to encourage request for removal of vessels included on Med-SWO authorized list in order to align with current fishing possibilities under Rec. 16-05.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No BCD annual report submitted, Rec. 11-20; No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels and no closure report (Rec. 13-04); No report on the implementation of Rec. 14-04.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Rec. 16-14. No information on domestic observer programmes for fisheries other than BFT Rec. 10-09: no details on implementation reported. Rec. 16-05: inclusion of swordfish vessels on ICCAT Record in excess of capacity allowed and fishing plan for MED-SWO submitted without quota.	As it is prohibited to catch or trade sharks and turtles domestically or internationally, no one case has been reported since ever, and there is no fishing activity for this species. Unfortunately in 2016/2017 Egypt has faced some problems in the data collection, on the other hand the domestic program is under progress, unfortunately the economic circumstances doesn't support its development. Regarding Rec. 10-09 there is no by-catch for the turtles or seabirds recorded by domestic observers and due to the current economic circumstances and the high expenses, Egypt enforced the ICCAT Recommendation in this regard through the assigned inspectors in ports.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted.			Quotas and catch limits:	Egypt confirmed that despite the vessel listing, no fishing for swordfish had taken place.	
	Other issues:			Other issues: information on implementation of turtle, seabird, by catch and discard measures insufficient to cover the requirements.	There is no by-catch for turtles or seabirds recorded by domestic observers in ports, also Egypt prohibits the catch of turtles and seabirds.	

2016				2017		
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
EU	Annual Reports/Statistics: clarification is requested for EU-Denmark, EU-Estonia, EU-Germany, EU-Latvia, EU-Lithuania and EU-Sweden for some historical Task 1 catches in the last decade (refer to doc. PLE_105/16, Table 2).	EU explained that it referred to by-catches previous to 2015 that were not reported in PLE 105/16.	Letter on BUM/WHM overharvest. EU has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/Statistics: Reporting on sea turtle and seabird interactions may be incomplete. Some size data missing for other EU member States.	Interaction on Sea turtles: this item is not relevant because in COC 303 the EU is not associated to incomplete submissions, and all EU data is referred in Table 10 of PLE 105. Interaction on Seabirds: as per Rec 11-09, there is no obligation to use mitigation measures north of 25° South, and referred to as on a voluntary basis for the Mediterranean Sea. Statistical data for EU Lithuania and EU Denmark: zero catch in 2016 has been confirmed for both; Rec 11-15 has been completed accordingly. Size data missing: Size data has been submitted for the whole EU, and not by EU-Member State; no non-compliance detected.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04, para 52: Retroactive registry (2+months) of 37 EU-GREECE-flagged "E-BFT catching"-vessels, not in accordance with current regulation. BCD annual report submitted late for EU-Portugal, Rec. 11-20. Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMO or others) for 2 EU-Croatian vessels. No VMS messages from EU-Portugal received in 2016.	EU-Greece sent registration info on time to DG MARE who, due to an IT error, did not receive it on time. EU explained that a new process has been introduced to ensure this doesn't happen again. One Croatian vessel is wooden and does not require IMO number and the IMO number of the other vessel was submitted. EU-Portugal does not send VMS messages because it has no vessel targeting BFT.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04: Implementation report submitted late due to confusion with previous deadline (was submitted before 15 Oct). Rec. 11-20: BCD annual report incomplete - no report for EU-France, EU-Italy and EU-Netherlands. Rec. 16-05, para 28: non-respect of "ALB-Med"-vessel submission deadline (20/07/2017 set by Circular #4454/17) regarding 6 EU-Cyprus vessels and 293 EU-Greece vessels. Rec. 16-11: Previous format of Annual Report received, so no report on implementation of Rec. 16-11, although sailfish included in Task 1. Rec. 15-05, information for EU-Portugal missing. Rec. 16-12. No information included in Annual Report. Rec. 12-07: List of authorised ports have not been submitted for all EU Member States, and no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated for those missing from the list (ports submitted for 8 Member States).	Rec 14-04: Due to administrative reasons, the EU implementation report has been submitted after the 1 st October (new deadline in 16-16), but before 15 October (previous deadline); Rec 11-20 Reports for EU France, EU Italy and EU Netherlands have been sent to ICCAT, after 16 October; Rec 16-05 § 28: Due to administrative reasons, the SWO Med vessels lists for EU Greece and EU Cyprus have been submitted after the entry into force of Rec 16-05. For the year 2017, this is not contrary to Rec 16-05. Rec 16-11: Due to administrative reasons, the EU has used to the previous format for the Annual report. However, all the requested data has been reported. An addendum on Section III (sailfish) has been sent on 7 November, but the data was initially submitted in Task 1. Rec 15-05: EU Portugal has no vessel targeting BFT, which explains the absence of VMS data. Rec 16-12: The actions to be taken domestically by all EU Member States to monitor catches of blue sharks are detailed in the EU legislation. All EU measures have been reported in the shark check sheets in COC 302. Rec 12-07: The list of designated ports submitted by the EU is valid for the EU as a whole and includes all EU Member States concerned. The list has not been modified in 2017 from previous years.	
	Quotas and catch limits: BUM/WHM overharvest.			Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest of WHM.	The overharvest of WHM in 2016 was already expected and addressed at the 2016 Annual meeting. As stated in the response to the 2016 letter of concern, EU Spain (only EU Member State concerned by this overharvest, as by-catch) has closed the fishery for both BUM and WHM in 2017.	
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.			Other issues: -ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. No information on domestic scientific observer programme.	We have not transmitted information on observations (Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs (Rec. 16-14) because our only vessel operating in the ICCAT area did not engage in fishing activities following technical difficulties.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: BCD Annual Report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
GABON	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late and not complete; no statistical data received.		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2016 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. No response to Rec. 16-11.		
	Quotas and catch limits:		No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted more than two months after deadline reporting 0 catches.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
GHANA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In annual report parts 1, 2, summary tables: several N/As without explanation.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" category. Task II size data not submitted.	AVDTH protocol as prescribed to Ghana by SCRS-ICCAT cannot estimate the length frequencies in the classical format as requested on the form. All length frequencies for species have been captured in the AVDTH databases which includes yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye and other tuna-like species.	Letter on reporting issues (NAs without explanation, Rec. 16-11 on sailfish).
	Conservation and Management Measures: late submission of statistical document data, Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-11. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on 16-11 made in annual report (reported not applicable).	Education of crew onboard have been ongoing since 2012 with seminars and training workshops being held by ISSF/AZTI officials in Ghana code named "Skippers workshops". Methods and types of FADs to use and release strategies for endangered species have been shown and illustrated to the industry. Skippers and crew are well aware of steps to reduce the entanglement and destruction of species which are endangered and becoming extinct. This initiative from ISSF will continue in subsequent years.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of bigeye tuna.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
GUATEMALA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted late (following Secretariat reminder, Parts 1 and 2). In Annual Report summary tables, several N/As without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues. Guatemala replied to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
GUINEA BISSAU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; no statistical data received.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.		
	Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report summary tables (part 1 and 2) missing.	Part I and Part II summary tables have been submitted on 18 November 2016. On the other hand, Equatorial Guinea explained that it does not have a national fishing fleet and that many of the forms are difficult to complete such as the CP 13/Compliance tables. Equatorial Guinea therefore requires assistance as it has a lot of deficiencies.	Letter on reporting issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late.		Letter on reporting issues, no shark check sheet, implementation of Rec. 12-07.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		Guinea Equatorial has sent an e-mail message in reply to the letter	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-07 List of authorised ports not submitted (included in Annual Report but not with all required details).		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
GUINEA Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).	Since 2015, the Republic of Guinea did not issue any tuna fishing licenses for vessels flying a Guinean flag. Moreover, within the framework of the EU fishing agreements, there have been no cases. Thus, no tuna statistics are available between 2015 and 2016. The reasons to explain the absence of tuna fishing vessels flying Guinean flag are explained in the 2015 Annual Report of the Republic of Guinea. On the other hand, it should be noted that Guinea issued three fishing licenses to vessels flying a Senegalese flag: Granada, Western Kim, Solevant. These vessels do not land their catches in Guinea.	Letter on reporting issues. Reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies received late (during meeting).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received; no statistical data received.	Between 2013 and 2016, the Republic of Guinea was included by the European Union in the list of non-cooperating third countries in the fight against IUU fishing. During this period, many measures were taken whose implementation has required reorganization of the structures involved in data provision and processing. In addition, there is currently no vessel flying the Guinean flag targeting tuna and tuna-like species monitored by ICCAT. However, some individuals are landed at the different artisanal fishing ports. Moreover, administrative staff mobility, limited human capacities and difficulties in monitoring artisanal fishing activities, have not favoured the collection, processing and submission of information and data. Guinea requests an extension of the deadline for submission of this information and data until the end of the 1st semester 2018 and in that time, Guinea would like technical assistance in this area.	Letter on reporting issues, while positively noting request for assistance.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
HONDURAS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2) late during the Commission meeting. No Task I or standard format zero catch report received.	In November Honduras informed the Secretariat that in 2015 there was no fishing activity targeting species managed by ICCAT in the ICCAT Convention area.	Letter on reporting issues. Reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies received late (during meeting).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report and statistical data received late (during meeting).		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting).		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late during the Commission meeting.	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.				
	Other issues:	Other issues:				

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
ICELAND	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: BCD annual report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04 Implementation report received slightly late (but before previous deadline).		
	Quotas and catch limits: E-BFT overcatch in 2015.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
JAPAN	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. No list of authorised ports for foreign vessel entry but no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs reported under transshipment programmes and explanations contained in COC-305.			Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.		
		In August 2016, Japanese vessels have started to use bound logbooks or e-logbooks.			Japan has ratified the FAO Port State Measures Agreement in 2017. Currently, the government is working on detailed internal regulations to implement the Agreement, which will contain designated port for foreign vessels. Japan will inform such information to the Secretariat as soon as finalizing internal arrangements.	

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
KOREA, Rep. of	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02) late, at annual meeting. BCD annual report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.	8 species including yellowfin tuna and albacore were landed in a designated foreign port in 2015.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec.01-21 & Rec. 01-22, para 5; 7-day late "CP16-SDP_BiRp"-submissions.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
Other issues: PNCs reported under transshipment programmes contained in COC-305. Japan requested information about the species landed under Rec. 12-06.	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.					

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
LIBERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Identification due to: 1. lack of sufficient actions to address unauthorized transshipment by New Bai 168; 2. lack of clarity as to Liberia's ability to effectively control its carrier vessels to ensure respect of ICCAT requirements, including ability to impose sanctions for violations of ICCAT requirements that are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance and to discourage violations wherever they occur; 3. effective coordination among relevant Liberian agencies.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Not applicable not explained. Statistics not correctly reported. Task II catch & effort or size data could not be processed.	Liberia submitted Action Plan to Combat IUU Fishing (COC-312). Liberia commenced tuna licenses in 2016 and can only report on 3 of the 9 species designated for reporting, namely marlin, albacore and bigeye. The remaining 6 species cannot be reported on because they are not found in Liberia's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and other species like swordfish fishing are not been granted license. Under sheet 2 of CP-13 which require for size limits for swordfish and bluefin tuna, Liberia has not granted any fishing rights for vessels targeting said species. Sheet 3 of CP-13 which calls for data on over and under harvest, Liberia unfortunately cannot report on this because vessels licensed to fish tuna in Liberia's EEZ are all foreign flagged vessels. Liberia now has fully operative FMC and is monitoring the distant water fleet.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of Rec. 12-07, catches of tropical tuna reported but no vessels on tropical list. Lift identification.
	Conservation and Management Measures:					
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.					
	Other issues: Senegal informed the Secretariat in February 2016 of a port inspection report of October 2015 with apparent infringement (refer to doc. COC_307/16).					

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
LIBYA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on reporting issues (SWO-Med). Libya has replied to the letter. Libya has also sent a response to allegations of infractions contained in an inspection report issued by EU in 2016. This response is contained in COC-303/2017 Addendum 1.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Not applicable not fully explained. Information reported on foreign ports does not match information submitted.	Although Libya tried to follow the Guidelines for reporting on occasions mistakes occurred. For issues where "not applicable" was mentioned short explanations were provided as far as possible; only BFT is targeted. Regarding foreign ports mentioned in the Annual Report these are located in neighbouring countries (Tunisia, Turkey).	Letter on reporting issues (including no information on implementation of shark and bycatch measures).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-04: late submission of SWO-Med vessels and no closure report; 14-04: Late submission of BFT Ports (after 1 March deadline but before fishing season). Submission of a "E-BFT Catching"-vessel in replacement to a deactivated one not sufficiently justified as <i>force majeure</i> (not documented). EU informed the COC that it would contact Libya about this issue/vessel seized.	Vessel was replaced as one was seized by Italian authorities with no further information available.		Conservation and Management Measures: No information on implementation of shark, turtle, by-catch/discard measures.	Libya provided some information on implementation of measures on targeted BFT Some information is missing on by-catch as it was not reported by ROP or any Other Observers. No by-catch were discarded, even small sizes bluefin tuna.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305. EU informed that no reply to the inspection report (Rec. 14-04, Annex 7) was received.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
MAURITANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received. Summary table (section 3) missing from Annual Report.		Letter on reporting issues (no SWO plan submitted) and lack of reply to 2015 COC letter. Mauritania has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No reporting summary for Part II. Part I summary may be incomplete. Statistical data in incorrect format which could not be processed. Report indicated fishing while under prohibition.	Two vessels had requested licence and undertaken one exploratory fishing trip, but in the end license was not granted. Very small amount of tuna caught, these were reported to ICCAT. No fishing plan has been submitted, as the vessels do not plan to carry out any further tuna fisheries. Any other tuna catch would be as by-catch in other fisheries. Does not have the capacity to meet all ICCAT requirements, and has requested assistance from Secretariat.	Letter on reporting issues, fishing in contravention of Rec. 11-15 prohibition on retention, fishing by vessels not included on ICCAT authorized vessel list under Rec. 13-13.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO management plan submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline. Report indicates harvest of ICCAT species in 2016 while under prohibition.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
MEXICO	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Revised report received with additional explanation	Letter on Rec. 12-07 implementation, no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish), while noting controls in place for foreign vessels landing in Mexican ports and request for guidance on information required under Rec. 16-11.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No BCD annual report submitted, Rec. 11-20. Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMOs or others) for 11 vessels.	Mexico stated that only 6 IMO numbers are missing and that these would be submitted.		Conservation and Management Measures: Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on 16-11 made in Annual Report (reported not applicable). Rec. 12-07: No list of authorised ports submitted and no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated.	Mexico continues maintaining a 100% onboard observer coverage in fishing trips. This information is reported to ICCAT and it includes dead and live discards as part of the presentation of Task I and Task II. In accordance with the General Law of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of Mexico, there is no list of specific ports for the entry of foreign vessels, however and in accordance with the abovementioned law: "All foreign vessels requiring entry into Mexican ports, should require a license to unload live, fresh, iced and frozen live fish products from commercial fishing. To do this, the interested parties should attach to their application the corresponding title covering the fishing activity that was carried out and was issued by the competent authority of the country of origin, and comply with the requirements established in the regulation of this Law. Requests clearer guidelines	
	Quotas and catch limits: overcatch of BUM.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
MOROCCO	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management: Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing INR numbers (IMOs or others) for 30 vessels.	Morocco transmitted its response to the ICCAT Secretariat stating that among the aforementioned 30 vessels only 6 must have an IMO No. These vessels are inactive since 2012. The other 24 vessels include wooden vessels (WOD) and/or are made of steel, however with a GRT which is less than 100 t (JUS). These 24 vessels are reported to the Secretariat in accordance with ICCAT regulations in force.		Conservation and Management:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.	Morocco sent its response to the ICCAT Secretariat on 29/09/2016 indicating that this operation was repeated in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 and Annex 8 of Rec. 14-04. Thereafter, the counting and estimation of the fish was carried out successfully as there was a video recording with better quality allowing the observer to sign the ITD.		Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.	Response in COC-305. Following a remark of the ICCAT observer mentioned in COC-305 Report, Annex 2 concerning Morocco: Bluefin tuna is caged without authorisation number/transfer operation 12 with the same AUT number as transfer number 13.I would like to inform you that this does not refer to a missing caging authorisation number, as the caging authorisation exists and it is authentic and the number is correct. It is the transfer authorization of another catch that includes a numbering error. To this effect, it should be noted that two authorizations are authentic and include entirely different real data, which demonstrates that there is an involuntary error in the transfer authorization number.	

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
NAMIBIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Tropical management plan: This was a failure from our side. We have already made an effort to consult our capital and will try our level best to submit the above mentioned management plan and all other incomplete data before the end of the Annual meeting. With regards to the retroactive of 1 Namibian flag ' P20m' vessel not in accordance with current regulation. Namibia acknowledged that she did not comply with the current regulation due to internal miss communication. Namibia has already strengthened its internal control measures to avoid repeating the same mistakes in the future and we commit to improve our compliance with all ICCAT conservation and management measures.	Letter on reporting issues (old Annual Report format used), no tropical tuna management plan; retroactive vessel submission (Rec. 13-13/14-10), no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish).
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan. Rec. 13-13/14-10; Paras 2 and 3 / Paras 1 and 2; Retroactive registry 1 NAMIBIA-flagged "P20m"-vessel, not in accordance with current regulation. Rec. 16-14. Difficulties in implementing this recommendation have been reported. Rec. 16-11 Previous format of Annual Report used; no report on implementation of this Recommendation received. Implementation of Rec. 10-09 may be incomplete.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
NICARAGUA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task 1 or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.		Letter on continued reporting issues. Nicaragua has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (during meeting).	Does not have a tuna fleet or flag vessel operating in the ICCAT area. Nicaragua requires by-catch to be landed in port, they are working on the implementation of this and hope to have more details to report in 2018.	Letter on continued reporting issues, while positively noting request for assistance.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
NIGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Part II of Annual Report submitted (the reporting table for Part II has been submitted).	Nigeria informed the Secretariat that in 2015 it did not operate tuna fishing vessel and had no Access Agreement with any country.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Only reporting tables of Annual Report received. Summary received late.	Nigeria has no quota allocation and has no tuna fishing vessel. Therefore no data to report.	Letter on reporting issue (no shark check sheet submitted (Rec. 16-13)).
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No fishing licences Have reported zero catch in the Compliance tables		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
NORWAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
PANAMA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts I and II). No Task I T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).		Letter on reporting and VMS issues. Reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies received late (during meeting).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (during meeting). No fleet characteristics (ST01) received. Not applicable not sufficiently explained in all cases.		Letter on continued reporting and VMS issues, no tropical tuna management plan (Rec. 16-01), no in port transshipment report received (Rec. 12-06/16-15).
	Conservation and Management Measures: No reply to VMS questions of the Secretariat to NAF format issues.	Panama has had issues with IT. Several VMS messages were sent in incorrect format. The correct VMS messages will be submitted.		Conservation and Management Measures: Still problems with NAF format of VMS messages; Rec. 16-13: shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late, during meeting; Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan. Rec. 12-06/16-15. No in port transshipment report received.	FMC had a problem with the security certificate; this has now been resolved and all reporting should be in correct format before the end of the year.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
PHILIPPINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).		Letter on reporting issues, no N SWO management plan, no response to 2015 COC letter. No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received.	There are no provisions where the Philippines can indicate that there were no active nor listed fishing vessels in the Convention area. For reportorial requirements under Rec. 16-01, the Philippines cannot submit reports because there were no active nor listed fishing vessels in the Convention area for the year 2016.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no response to 2016 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No active fishing vessel in the ICCAT Convention area for 2015.			Quotas and catch limits: Have reported zero catch.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2016				2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
RUSSIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Not applicable, not explained. No information regarding sea turtle interaction or mitigation of by-catch/discards.		Letter on reporting issues (N/As not explained), no information regarding sea turtle interaction or mitigation of by-catch/discards, no shark check sheet (16-13), implementation of Rec. 12-07.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-07. No list of ports into which foreign vessels may enter or contact points submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).	Sao Tomé mainly conducts artisanal and subsistence fishing and it does not target ICCAT species. Industrial fishing is conducted by the foreign fleet within the framework of the agreement between the EU and Sao Tomé as well as some foreign vessels operating under private access agreements based on private licenses. Sao Tomé also explained that their catches are by-catch.	Identification due to continued significant reporting issues (5th year in a row no Annual Report), possible overharvest of WHM, and lack of response to 2015 COC Chair letter; letter to also inquire about BUM catches. STP replied to the letter and submitted BUM data for 2015-2016.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No reporting summary for Part II, and Part I submitted late (before Part II deadline). No observer data submitted due to infancy of programme. No shark data improvement plan reported, and no informaton on sea turtle interaction or by-catch/discard mitigation. No Task II catch and effort or size data received.		Letter due on reporting issues, no tropical tuna management plan, no shark data improvement plan, while noting improvement in reporting from last year, lift identification.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-01/16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. "N/A" on BUM/WHM table. Overharvest of S-SWO, BUM, WHM.			Quotas and catch limits: Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
SENEGAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In Annual Report Parts 1 and 2 several blanks and N/As without explanations.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No scientific observer programme yet in place. Reporting summary tables incomplete, and some explanations for not applicable missing in Part I. Fleet characteristics (ST01) received late.		Letter noting no scientific observer programme yet in place (while noting the difficulties Senegal reported on implementing), no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 01-21/01-22, para 5: Late submission of statistical document data.			Conservation and Management Measures: Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on Rec. 16-11 made in Annual Report. Rec. 15-01/16-01: List of authorized vessels which fished BET/YFT/SKJ tuna in previous year (2016).		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
SIERRA LEONE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task I or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.		Identification due to continued significant reporting issues (5th year in a row no Ann Rpt) and lack of response to 2015 COC Chair letter. No reply to 2017 COC identification letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received ; no statistical data received.		Maintain identification due to continued significant reporting issues (6th year in a row no Annual Report) and lack of response to 2016 COC Chair letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.		
	Other issues: 5th year in row with no Annual Report submitted.			Other issues:		

		2016		2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
SOUTH AFRICA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Late submission in November of Annual Report (Parts 1 and 2); Task I and Task II data submitted late. No Task I T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).	South Africa stated that only 3 IMO numbers are still outstanding and will be submitted as soon as possible.	Letter on continued reporting issues and lack of reply to 2015 COC letter. Reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies received late (during meeting).	Annual Reports/Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMOs or others) for 16 vessels.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting).		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.					
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (at Annual meeting).	SVG committed to send it on time next year.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no N SWO development/management plan, and lack of response to 2015 letter. Reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies received late, during meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late (but before previous deadline). No information from domestic observer programmes as still being established, No plan for improving shark data collection/ interaction with turtles, mitigation of by-catch/discards. Annual Report indicates implementation of ICCAT requirements on high seas but is unclear on implementation in SVG waters.		Letter on continued reporting issues, no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish), no information from domestic observer programmes as still being established, no plan for improving shark data collection or information on implementation of bycatch mitigation requirements, lack of clarity as to implementation of ICCAT measures in SVG waters.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).	Has been sent to Secretariat on 18 November 2016.		Conservation and Management Measures: N.SWO Management plan submitted late. Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on Rec. 16-11 made in Annual Report (reported not applicable). Rec. 16-01. Tropical tuna management plan submitted late. Responses to Recs. 15-05 and 16-11 may be insufficient to meet the requirements. Rec. 12-06: Transshipment report submitted late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest N-ALB.	Stated that it would rectify in 2016 using pay-back system.		Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs reported under transshipment programmes contained in COC-305.			Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
SYRIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task 1 T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).	Syria was not present at the meeting. In a message to the Secretariat it explained that fishing in Syria is traditional, and vessels traditionally operate in territorial water and not equipped to target tuna species. Only one vessel equipped to participate in BFT fishing activities (Fesal) which used to catch Syrian quota previously. Syrian quotas of BFT transferred, and no landing of BFT. Most requirements in Part I are not applicable in Syria (farming, landing, tuna caging, tuna traps, etc.).	Letter on continued reporting issues, no VMS messages. No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late (but before previous deadline). No fleet characteristics (ST01) received.		Letter on no shark measures implementation check sheet submitted, no monthly BFT catch reports.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels (Rec. 13-04) and no closure report (Rec. 13-04); Late submission of 14-04 implementation report. No VMS messages received in 2016.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 14-04 Implementation report received slightly late (but before previous deadline). No monthly BFT catch report received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In Annual Report Part 1, several N/As without explanation.	Not present at the meeting.	Identification for continued and significant white marlin and blue marlin overharvests . Trinidad & Tobago has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/Statistics: not applicable not explained in reporting summary. No report on bycatch/discards or turtle mitigation.		Lift identification, letter on reporting issues, no report on bycatch/discards or turtle mitigation, implementation of Rec. 12-07, while noting improvement in managing marlin catches.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 01-21/01-22, para 5: Late submission of statistical document data.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. no designated list of authorised ports or contact points submitted. Have reported difficulties in implementing this Rec. Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22: incomplete bi-annual reports (2nd Semester 2016) and late submission (1st Semester 2017).		
	Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest BUM and WHM overharvest. No management plan presented.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
TUNISIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In Annual Report parts 1 and 2 summary tables, several blanks and N/As without explanation.	The missing IMO number is due to the change of ownership of the vessel: it will be submitted.	Letter on reporting issues. Tunisia has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Please see Addendum1 to Annex 3 of COC-303 and Addendum 1 to Annex 1 of COC-307 for allegations and responses.	Letter on reporting and transshipment at sea issues in relation to bycatch of bluefin tuna in small tuna fishery, and fishing of bluefin tuna by purse seine tuna fishing vessel not included on the ICCAT Authorized list and during closed season, while noting positively Tunisia's collaboration with other CPCs on inspection at sea and its intention to improve monitoring and control and to take punitive actions.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels (Rec. 13-04). Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN number (IMO or other) for 1 vessel.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305. EU requested some explanations about 3 inspection reports under Annex 7 of Rec. 14-04.	Tunisia submitted a written response during the meeting (posted as Annex 8 to doc. COC-303/16).		Other issues: Received, in application of Rec. 08-09, a report from the European Union (EU) on potential non compliance by several Tunisian purse seine vessels in June 2017 and replied to the initial information submitted by the EU (refer to Doc. COC-307/17); ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
TURKEY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	<p>1. We confirm that the authorized list of SWO-Med vessels submitted late (on 26 January 2016, with 11 days delay). A clarification was sent to the Secretariat (on 28 January) that indicates the fact that the inadvertent delay occurred in submitting the required data/information was caused by technical issues arising from the recent updating and integration works on Ministry's web-based information system. Correspondingly, vessel registrations made by Ministry's provincial directorates from different regions – including vessels those targeting Med-SWO – have sporadically been interrupted due to the said process of renovation and integration works at the system (Turkish fishery information system.) Since acquiring the data on registered vessels from regions retarded temporarily, by extension, processing and submitting these data to ICCAT had to delay as well. Necessary measures have been taken to avoid repetition of similar inconveniences. 2. Timely reporting and recording of authorized BFT Catching and Other Vessels has been made. Total number of BFT Other Vessels has been 32 in 2016. Regarding this exceptional case, we fully aware of the 15 days requirement for notification, in the first place. Our authority received an "extension of E-BFT Other vessel authorization" request from an operator. Questioning its appropriateness, and considering that the vessel in question is an already authorized vessel having no previous record of illegal fishing, and also since the vessel has no IUU fishing potential or a capacity to catch tuna, the request was conveyed to the Secretariat, as it was regarded that the operator unintentionally failed to notice informing our authority of the expired extension, for only once. Then the secretariat notified that the requested updates to the authorization was made, indicating that the issue was reported to the COC.</p> <p>The operation has been instructed to take much care of the required procedures, and necessary administrative measures have been taken to avoid repetition of similar incidents. 3. We confirm that the 1st April deadline for submission was missed one week since the required trade data could not be acquired in good time. Necessary administrative measures have been taken by our authority.</p>	<p>Letter on vessel submissions. Turkey replied to the letter explaining a technical issue that entailed some exceptional delay in the submission.</p>	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task II catch and effort data could not be processed.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: 1.) Late submission of SWO-Med vessels, Rec. 13-04; 2.) Submission of a "E-BFT other"-vessel not in accordance with Rec. 14-04, para 52; 3.) Late submission of statistical document data, Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17. Has presented possible IUU activities by two EU-Greece vessels, as reported in the draft IUU list.		

ICCAT REPORT 2016-2017 (II)

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	Annual Reports/ Statistics: the Annual Report contains several dates referring to 2014 and 2015.		Letter on reporting issues. UK-OT has replied to the letter.	Annual Reports/Statistics: Part II Annual Report and BCD annual report submitted late (but within previous deadline). Difficulties in implementing domestic observer programmes reported. No Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level yet.	UKOT have indicated that some of their territories could not report in a timely manner due to the extensive hurricane damage. Some data from UKOT (Bermuda) received late due to communication problems. Original mail sent July but not received at Secretariat. Annual Reports/Statistics: Part II Annual Report and BCD annual report submitted within the given deadline. Unfortunately errors were identified and so the reports were resubmitted with amendments on 12 October, which was within the deadline for submission of documents for consideration at the Annual Meeting;- Difficulties in implementing domestic observer programmes reported: The majority of tuna catch in the UKOTs is taken in the St Helena fishery. A domestic observer programme has now been implemented in St Helena, with 7% observer coverage achieved in 2016. The programme has continued in 2017 and will be maintained for 2018. The small catches on Bermuda are taken by small inshore vessels scattered around the island, making both observer coverage and data collection very difficult but we will seek to make improvements on our reporting. - No Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level submitted: The catch of sharks in the UKOTs is very small. In St Helena, a single shark was caught in 2016, and in Bermuda, the majority of captured sharks were released alive. St Helena started a conventional tagging programme in late 2015, and during 2016 a total of 537 yellowfin and 65 skipjack were double tagged, in accordance with ICCAT protocols. Data from the tagging programme is submitted to ICCAT on a regular basis. No list of designated ports or contact points submitted: The UKOTs have limited port facilities and are rarely visited by foreign fishing vessels, hence no ports have been designated under Recommendation 12-07. The UKOTs will review this obligation and if necessary submit the relevant information by the end of the year.	Letter on implementation of Rec. 12-07.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No BCD Annual Report submitted, Rec. 11-20.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. No list of designated ports or contact points submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
UNITED STATES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In Annual Report Part 1, several N/As without explanation.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
URUGUAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In Annual Report Parts 1 and 2, several blanks and N/As without explanation.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Sections 4 and 5 in Part II of Annual Report submitted late. Not applicable not explained in summary table.	Uruguay did not participate in any fisheries within the framework of ICCAT. There was no fishing effort and therefore there were zero catches. Thus, the implementation sheet was not sent. This also explains why N/A appears in some parts of the Annual Report.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: Have reported zero catch.		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
VANUATU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: In Annual Report Part 1, several blanks and N/As without explanation. No Task I or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.	Vanuatu was not present at the meeting. In the summary table of Part 2 Annual Report informs: "Task I and Task II: nothing to report on since there was no fishing activities carried out in 2015."	Letter on continued reporting issues, no N SWO fishing/management plan. No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted not complete (received summary and reporting summary Table 2).	There were no fishing activity in the ICCAT area in 2016.	Letter on implementation of 12-07, while noting improvement on reporting from past years.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02). Rec. 12-06: No report on transshipment received (for carrier vessels operating in 2015).			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07 No list of designated ports or contact points submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: some CPCs would have liked to ask some questions to Vanuatu about its transshipment activities.			Other issues:		

CPC	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
VENEZUELA	Annual Reports/Statistics: In Annual Report Parts 1 and 2, several blanks and N/As without explanation.	IMO details have been requested from vessel owners. There has been a restructuring of fishing duties which have been taken over by the Dept of Agriculture. Will submit updated list with the 8 IMO numbers.	Letter on reporting issues, no N SWO development/m anagement plan, continued N. ALB and WHM overharvest. Late reply received to the 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted late (but before previous deadline) and incomplete - many entries reference 2016 report or shown not applicable without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues, no information on Rec. 16-11 (sailfish), continued N. ALB and WHM overharvest, request specific information actions planned or taken to address continued overharvest.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02). Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMOs or others) for 8 vessels.	Albacore is not targetted, are making attempts to reduce overharvest. Discard measures being added to national legislation in January 2016.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on 16-11 made in annual report (reference made to 2016 report, but requirement is new in 2017).		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Continued N-ALB overharvest. Significant WHM overharvest.			Quotas and catch limits: continued overharvest of north albacore and white marlin.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

BOLIVIA	2016			2017		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted late. No Task 1 or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.	Bolivia informs that they do not account for a fleet of fishing vessels operating in the ICCAT area. Bolivia has not carried out fishing operations, therefore it reiterates that it has had "0" catches during the 2015 and 2016 management, as a result there are no scientific data.	Cooperating status letter to note late reporting issues. Has requested renewal of cooperating status.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not have fishing vessels that operate in the ICCAT Convention area.	Cooperating status renewed. No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
CHINESE TAIPEI	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on retroactive vessel submission. Chinese Taipei has replied to the COC Chair letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Cooperating status renewed. No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-06: Annual list of LSPLVs authorised to tranship incomplete - one vessel included retroactively.	Chinese Taipei explained that retroactivity was due to an oversight.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Senegal informed the Secretariat in February 2016 of a port inspection report of October 2015 with apparent infringement (refer to doc. COC_307/16). EU asked what actions had been taken with the owner of the vessel New Bai 168 who was from Chinese Taipei. Japan requested information about the species landed under Rec. 12-06.			Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.		

2017			
COSTA RICA	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Cooperating status renewed. Letter on no shark check sheet (Rec. 16-13).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Zero catch reported.		
	Other issues:	Has requested renewal of cooperating status.	

GUYANA	2016			2017		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Summary table (section 3) missing from Annual Report.	In 2015 Fisheries Department gave permission to one local company to use one vessel to conduct research on harvesting tuna. The total submitted to Department are as follows; swordfish 339 pounds and 12,063 pounds of bigeye tuna. There is no quota system in place and fishes caught were sold directly to Trinidad.	Letter on reporting issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No statistical data received. No Part I and no Part II reporting summary received. No fleet characteristics (ST01) received.		Cooperating status renewed but on provision that data reporting improves. If Guyana continues to fail to comply with ICCAT Reporting Requirements, then cooperating status will not be renewed at the 2018 meeting. Letter on reporting issues, noting continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision in 2018 whether to renew Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		No reply to 2017 COC letter regarding reporting deficiencies.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted more than 2 months after deadline.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2016			2017		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2016</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2016</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>
SURINAME	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Cooperating status renewed. No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: no vessels targetting tuna and tuna-like species in 2015.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.	Suriname has no vessels fishing for ICCAT species in the Atlantic and no catches to report.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**Statement by Brazil to the Compliance Committee**

Since you have mentioned Rec 11/15, I take this opportunity to present to the COC the reasons that have led Brazil to fail to submit data on our fishing activities this year.

Due to the gravity of the situation, I would request you to bear with me, while I give you details on the matter.

My country has been going through both an economic recession and institutional changes.

The consequences have been so broad that all areas have been affected, including fisheries.

In October 2015, the Fisheries Ministry was dismantled and the management of the sector has, since then, been dealt with by a Secretary, which has been moved from Ministry to Ministry.

The institutional instability has deeply affected the correct functioning of the system.

In addition to this, the recession has led to several cuts in budget that have also contributed to furthering the difficulties.

Such lack of resources has led, for example, to the collective resignation of the scientific committee responsible for conducting research and statistic work.

We fully understand the gravity of the situation we find ourselves in and this is why we have strived to take several concrete measures before coming to Morocco, despite the continuing difficulties.

We strongly believe that such measures will start to get Brazil back on track.

On 3rd November a new Secretary, with ministerial status, has been created under the Presidency. The Secretary currently in charge, Mr. de Souza, stands by my side and leads the Brazilian delegation.

In addition, approximately 600.000 dollars have been allocated to the scientific subcommittee to allow it to return to its activities.

The President of the subcommittee, Mr. Paulo Travassos, is also a member of my delegation and can attest to the changes in progress.

I now turn to the issue of the lack of data submission.

The government has already tasked the scientific committee that has just been reinstated to start a full revision of all the data submitted in the past 5 years, in addition to the collection and processing of data related to 2017.

We will closely coordinate with the ICCAT Secretariat to assess all the statistical deficiencies we might have.

We anticipate that such work will require at least 4 months to be completed properly.

Having that in mind, we would like to request the COC to allow for a derogation of the application of measure 11/15 until the 31st March 2018, so that we have enough time to produce a thorough analysis.

We make this request based on the rationales that lead us to come to this meeting with no data submitted.

We would rather face the possibility of a fisheries prohibition than submitting bad data.

As a CPC that has for several years been deeply involved in the elaboration of scientific advice to guide the Commission, we know the negative impact of unreliable data.

We are confident that this Commission shares our view that it is more important to submit adequate and accurate data than to just submit any data to fulfill a requirement.

We are ready to submit, by the 31st December, a plan of data recovery, where we would detail the work to be conducted by the task force mentioned above and the coordination means with the Secretariat.

My delegation and I stand ready to answer to any questions you might have.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System Status Report 2017

Overview of Working Group Activities for 2017

The Commission adopted *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* [Rec. 16-19] at its 2016 Annual meeting. Rec. 16-19 established the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG), in collaboration with the Secretariat, and tasked it with developing an online reporting system covering ICCAT reporting requirements, with an initial focus on elements of the required CPC Annual Reports. The Working Group (WG) was further tasked to specify what information the system will collect, the format and structure of the user interface, and the underlying technical specifications, as well as a cost-benefit analysis of options for system development and maintenance. In January 2017, the WG convened virtually and began developing a draft document laying out the topics that needed to be considered by the Group in the development of an online reporting system. A model schematic was also developed to assist the Group in visualizing what an online reporting system could look like and how it might work. All agreed the document and schematic were helpful in advancing discussions.

The WG identified two existing projects with common objectives: 1) work requested by the SCRS to provide an online reporting system for handling statistical information, and 2) work being conducted through the GEF/Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Common Oceans Program for an online reporting prototype for handling catch & effort submissions. The WG saw the need to coordinate with these projects so as to avoid duplication, converge the systems if needed, and leverage resources. Given the timelines for these two projects, new updates should be produced by September 2017. The WG agreed to wait until this information was available to continue discussions. See **Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9** for more details on these projects.

The Group compiled and uploaded a number of background documents to the ICCAT Cloud for the use and information of the WG, including examples of online reporting systems being developed and/or used by other RFMOs that clearly showed how those systems operate, and other information relevant to the work of the WG.

In addition to coordinating through electronic means, the WG met informally on the margins of the three back-to-back ICCAT intersessional meetings in Madrid, Spain, in June 2017. A report on the discussion together with the meeting agenda is attached as **Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

The completion goal for the WG is 2019 per Recommendation 16-19. In order to meet this deadline, it is anticipated that one or more additional in-person meetings of the WG will be needed. Costs associated with such meetings are anticipated to be relatively small as they can be convened at ICCAT headquarters. To help further limit costs, the WG can meet in conjunction with another ICCAT intersessional meeting in 2018. The Commission is asked to consider WG needs when deciding on the 2018 intersessional meeting schedule.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

1. *ICCAT Online Reporting System for handling statistical information.* The ICCAT database information system (ICCAT-DB) is an integrated system that manages all the structured information received by the Secretariat. In addition to the statistical and scientific information managed, the ICCAT-DB system also manages a large portion of the information associated with the Commission's compliance requirements. In 2014 the SCRS recommended the JAVA project which aims to improve the ICCAT-DB system in general. This project was developed entirely by the ICCAT Secretariat (IT Department). Currently, the system operates online (fill out, read, validate, allow for corrections, and submit for automatic storage in the ICCAT database system) six SCRS statistical EXCEL forms (ST1-ST6, available at <https://www.iccat.int/Forms/ST01-10-TRI.zip>) and is fully based on open-source technologies (JAVA 8 (backend) and JAVASCRIPT (frontend)). Several elements (tests, optimizations, tools, etc.) still need to be implemented. The Secretariat will demonstrate the system during the next SCRS meeting (October 2017). For more background information, please refer to section 11, Java Project of the *Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2016* in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2016-17 Part I (2016) – Vol. 4*.

2. *GEF/Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Common Oceans Program for an online reporting prototype for handling catch & effort submissions.* In 2016 the GEF/ABNJ Common Oceans Program proposed funding for a project where an online reporting prototype for handling catch & effort submissions is developed for ICCAT. Specifically, the project will produce a feasibility study to develop web data submission and validation systems. In March 2017 the ICCAT Secretariat put out the request for a contract for a “Feasibility Study for an ICCAT Online Reporting System”, including the design and development of a working prototype (case study) based on catch and effort reporting. The contract also included a cost benefit analysis of the system. The project aims to be finalized and presented to the SCRS Sub-Committee on Statistics by the end of September 2017. The WG aims to use the information presented to continue discussions on developing an online reporting system.

Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

**Working Group on Online Reporting
Meeting Report
(Madrid, 29 June 2017)**

1 Overview of Working Group - Current status

The Chair of the Online Reporting Working Group, Ms. Oriana Villar, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. The Agenda was adopted without amendment (**Attachment 1 to Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**). The List of Participants is included as **Attachment 2 to Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

The Chair provided an overview of the purpose of the Working Group and activities to date.

- The Commission agreed to *Recommendation 16-19 for the Development of an Online Reporting System* at the 2016 Annual meeting.
- GEF/ABNJ Common Oceans Program proposed funding for a project to develop a fisheries online reporting information system in 2016.
- The ICCAT Online Reporting Working Group convened in January 2017.
- In February 2017 the Group began developing a draft discussion paper as well as a model schematic, which attempted to lay out discussion topics specific to an online reporting system for the Group to discuss and visualize what a system could look like. All agreed to use the documents to help guide discussions.
- In March 2017 the ICCAT Secretariat put out a request for a contract, stemming from funding from the ABNJ/GEF Common Ocean Program, which calls for the development of a “Feasibility Study for an ICCAT Online Reporting system”, including the design and development of a working prototype (case study) based on catch and effort reporting. The contract also requests a cost benefit analysis of the system. The project aims to be finalized by the end of September.
- Since the Group convened, all background documents have been compiled and uploaded to the ICCAT Cloud with the objective to inform Working Group participants what other systems RFMOs are using and how these are working as well as other information specific to the Working Group’s needs.

2 Updates

2.1 System Updates

The Secretariat provided an overview of the two projects it is managing: 1) work requested by the SCRS to provide an Online Reporting system for handling statistical information, and 2) work being conducted through the ABNJ/GEF project for an online reporting prototype for handling catch & effort submissions (feasibility study to develop a web data submission and validation systems).

Status update on 1. This project was developed entirely by the ICCAT Secretariat (IT Department). Currently, the system operates online (fill out, read, validate, allow for corrections, and submit for automatic storage in the ICCAT database system) six SCRS statistical EXCEL forms (ST1-ST6, available at <https://www.iccat.int/Forms/ST01-10-TRI.zip>). The system, fully based on open-source technologies, was implemented using JAVA 8 (backend) and JAVASCRIPT (frontend). Much of the backend (server-side) implementation uses the same code base (reusability of JAVA libraries developed in 2015) as the application developed/used by the Secretariat (in production since 2015) to read, validate, and store data arriving from the six forms into the ICCAT database system. Statistical data can also be entered manually as an alternate

option (directly database validated/storage). The system can also generate data, summaries (charts, tables, maps, etc.) and querying facilities. Several elements (tests, optimizations, tools, etc.) still need to be implemented. The Secretariat will demonstrate the system during the next SCRS meeting (October 2017). For more background information, please refer to section 11, Java Project of the *Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2016 in the Report for Biennial Period, 2016-17 Part I (2016) – Vol. 4*. Further updates will be provided at the SCRS and annual meetings.

Status update on 2. The project start state was delayed, so there is not much information provided in regards to progress. The Secretariat noted that the project is really focused on an online reporting prototype for catch and effort data, and specifically aims to incorporate deadlines, traceability components, and how these data sets can be applied within a system. The Secretariat highlighted that there are two components to this project; a feasibility study and the actual prototype being developed, which is the proof of concept demo. Initially the contractor spent two weeks compiling information on the different types of system architectures the different RFMOs are using and the different types of technologies. It was noted that CCSBT as well as WCPFC have the most advanced systems. It is anticipated the project will be completed by the end of September. The Secretariat informed the Group that the results to the study will be presented at the upcoming SCRS Sub-Committee on Statistics meeting.

The Secretariat noted that the three projects, the above two, plus the Online Reporting Working Group, share common objectives and need to be coordinated in a way where duplication does not happen, convergence is foreseen, and where the different systems can possibly work in concert with each other.

A number of questions and concerns were raised, including the following, which fomented a general discussion on online reporting and different systems.

- Data exchange standards: the need for the systems to meet international data reporting standards (FLUX).
- Standard coding systems: Currently ICCAT is using codifications that are not in line with international codifications. It was explained that this was a decision the SCRS had made because they did not think the international standards were specific enough (example: FAO gear codes known as ISSCFG and do not have gear types such as baitboat and rod & reel). CPCs discussed the need to align ICCAT to international standards.
- The need to facilitate communication between systems. An example was provided where through the eBCD system information is uploaded online, yet there is still the need to download that data and send it weekly and monthly to the Secretariat, resulting in duplicative processes. There was a discussion on streamlining processes as the development moves forward.
- The need to fix certain specifications/requirements within the existing ICCAT Recommendations/Resolutions.
- The need to use, if possible, open source technologies.
- The need to maximize automatic communications.
- The need to use a modular approach (code reuse etc.).
- The importance of initial costs, associated costs, and maintenance costs.

The Group discussed the pros and cons of the ABNJ program in general. It was noted the program will not be able to fund projects specific to ICCAT, funding has to go to projects which encompass all tuna RFMOs. There was a discussion about how the ABNJ program may be able to fund components of other projects if these can be linked to the need from all RFMOs. It was also noted that funding may be available for targeted projects or capacity building overall, such as the exchange of technicians or training.

The Secretariat confirmed that it could not support the maintenance of a future online reporting system with its current workforce and workload. The Group should keep in mind maintenance of the system.

2.2 Overview of the WCPFC online reporting system/showcasing the system

The Chair provided an overview of the current WCPFC online reporting system as an example of an existing online reporting system being used by a tuna RFMO. It was noted that although the WCPFC has many similarities to ICCAT, differences between the two tuna RFMOs would need to be reflected in the ICCAT online reporting system. The Working Group discussed the possibility of building from the WCPFC system or tailoring it to ICCAT's needs.

The Working Group expressed concerns regarding the WCPFC system, including:

- How the Sharepoint platform (currently used by WCPFC) is not an easy system to develop (to serve/handle 160 information requirements) and possibly not fully compatible with the ICCAT Secretariat's current systems.
- How some design elements (components, functional aspects, etc.) could be replicated to meet ICCAT needs, and lessons learnt.
- Overall concern, in particular for developing countries, about having an online system at all. Due to bandwidth constraints a lot of countries depend on the ability to download forms to complete offline and then upload and submit.

The Working Group began discussing items that the ICCAT system should include and prioritize. These included having a system that can handle both non-structured information such as documents and structured data, is dynamic, a system with no redundancies, be modular, and a certain level of automation.

3 Discussion document item 2.3.1 (Annual Report, Part II, section 3) and initial comments provided (20 March email)

Due to timing this Agenda item was not discussed.

4 Next steps for Working Group

The Working Group discussed next steps and agreed to:

- Wait for the outcomes of the ABNJ project. These outcomes will help further inform the Group.
- The Chair would put out an email to compile information from Group participants on the pros and cons of an online system and what attributes the structure of the system should have.
- The Working Group would aim to meet during the Annual meeting (pending scheduling).
- The Chair would draft up a report of the Working Group activities in 2017 to present at the Annual meeting, which would be distributed ahead of the Annual meeting to the Working Group participants for comment.

Attachment 1 to Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Agenda

1. Overview of Working Group - current status
2. Updates
 - 2.1 System Updates
 - 2.2 Overview of the WCPFC online reporting system/showcasing the system
3. Discussion on Discussion document item
 - 3.1 (Annual Report, Part II, section 3) and initial comments provided (20 March email)
4. Next steps for Working Group
5. Other items

Attachment 2 to Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

List of Participants

South Africa - Sven Kerwath
 South Africa - Qayiso Mketsu
 Tunisia - Hamadi Mejri
 USA - Terra Lederhouse
 USA - Oriana Villar
 Côte d'Ivoire - Julien Djou
 EU - Thierry Remy
 Japan - Masahiro Akiyama
 Morocco - Mohammed Zahraoui (via skype)
 Secretariat - Paul de Bruyn, Jenny Cheate, Carlos Palma

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

1 Opening of the meeting

The PWG Chair reminded of the need for close coordination with the Panels and the Compliance Committee on the issues that were to be addressed during the session.

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Fabien Le Galloudec (European Union) was appointed Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**) was adopted without modifications.

The United States requested that the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT’s regional observer programs”, which covers the regional programme, be addressed under item 5.3 rather than 5.2 on the agenda.

4 Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group recalled that the group’s working method had already been explained on an earlier occasion during this 25th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. The Expert Panel’s report set out 110 recommendations, several of which specifically concerned the PWG.

The PWG is charged with deciding what action is to be taken in relation to these proposals, which the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working suggested be taken into consideration progressively in the course of the group’s work.

The PWG Chair pointed to several trends in the improvements sought through the recommendations of the Review Panel:

- Greater compliance with control, monitoring and implementation of recommendations;
- Improved quality and variety of data (others sources, other ICCAT bodies or other structures).

Further improvement in the quality and streamlining of the work of the PWG.

The Panel’s recommendations and the reactions of CPCs to them are detailed below:

- **Recommendation 6:** The Review Panel recommends developing a mechanism to enable small-scale occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions that would disincentivize data reporting. The European Union believes that the future of this recommendation must be linked to careful consideration of implementation of an approach to discards within ICCAT.
- **Recommendation 6 bis:** ICCAT is called upon to make efforts to improve reporting of by-catch and discards.
- **Recommendation 67:** The Panel proposes amending Recommendation 12-07 to ensure more consistency with the port State control measures agreement, by including new definitions and requiring CPCs to incorporate key measures (e.g. denial of access to port). Several CPCs spoke in favor of advancing this recommendation.

- **Recommendation 68:** The Panel proposes alignment with the IOTC with regard to port State control measure standards and implementation of e-PSM. The delegate of Morocco indicated that electronic monitoring of port inspections is very important, and should be supported financially by ICCAT.
- **Recommendation 69:** Efforts should be made to monitor implementation of control measures by the port State. Several CPCs supported a review of the port inspection measure (Rec. 12-07) in line with the Port State Measures Agreement as a matter of priority. Morocco emphasized the implementation of controls by the port State to be particularly important for developing States.
- **Recommendation 70:** The Panel recommends giving priority to the adoption of a modern framework for high seas control measures (HSBI). China refused to endorse this recommendation, as it considers that adoption of an amendment to the inspection systems would necessarily entail amendment of the ICCAT Convention. China requested that its position be explicitly reflected in the meeting report. Some CPCs noted a different interpretation of Article 9 of the ICCAT Convention. The European Union fully supported the recommendation of the panel on this matter and considers that it should be implemented as a matter of priority.
- **Recommendation 71:** The Panel proposed assessing the need and appropriateness of coverage of national/non-national onboard observers for fishing activities. The European Union considers that the work in this area had already been done through Recommendation 16-04, and that this point cannot be considered a priority of the work of the PWG.
- **Recommendation 72:** The Panel proposed considering the possibility of expanding VMS coverage, by progressively converting it into a fully centralized system. The European Union signalled that transition to a centralised VMS system is a proposal that would be difficult to implement quickly. Morocco indicated its keen interest in a centralised system.
- **Recommendation 73:** It was suggested that the work of the PWG focus on the implementation of electronic statistical documents. The European Union believes that it is time to consider updating the concept of statistical document. This subject could be included in the agenda of the IMM meeting to be held early next year.
- **Recommendation 74:** The Panel recommends that consideration be given to collating into a single framework recommendation all the provisions contained in ICCAT texts regarding at-sea observers. The European Union felt that while incorporating all documents on this subject into a single ICCAT recommendation was appealing, it was a purely administrative task, without any direct link to the scope of competence of the PWG.
- **Recommendations 78 and 79:** Fisheries-independent information proposed by independent observer bodies may be made available to the PWG. The European Union considered that the work in this area has already been carried out.
- **Recommendation 84:** The Panel recommends implementation of electronic catch documents for bigeye tuna and swordfish, in accordance with Recommendation 12-09. The European Union reminded delegates of the position it has expressed with regard to recommendation 73. Morocco indicated its desire to move away from the cumbersome duality of statistical documents and catch documentation systems present in national legislations.
- **Recommendation 85:** The Panel recommends a broad review of reporting on a stock by stock basis to determine whether management obligations have been properly complied with. The European Union feels that this work should first be filtered by the Panels before being reviewed by the PWG. The United States noted that this is a topic that could be taken up through an intersessional process. This proposal was supported by Brazil.
- **Recommendation 87:** It has been requested that consideration be given to a provision under which reporting obligations would take effect after 9 to 12 months have lapsed, which would enable developing CPCs to adjust to the new requirements. Brazil fully supported this recommendation. While the European Union did not oppose this recommendation, it sought further clarification as it did not feel that developing CPCs encountered difficulties in introducing new requirements. The European Union recalled that ICCAT already offers assistance to developing countries for implementation of new measures.
- **Recommendation 97:** The Panel recommends that the PWG revise ICCAT's data confidentiality requirements and consider harmonization with other RFMOs.
- **Recommendation 98:** The Panel recommends conducting a review of the procedure on data confidentiality, as well as development of a general policy on information security if considered necessary following this review.

- **Recommendation 102:** This recommendation considers taking appropriate sanctions against non-cooperating non-members that continue to ignore ICCAT's requests for information and cooperation. The European Union indicated that defining actions with regard to non-cooperating members should be a priority of the PWG.
- **Recommendation 109:** The Panel urged CPCs to work towards identification of capacity-building needs. The European Union considers that the group already takes action in this respect. The Expert Group, which was established on the basis of Recommendation 16-18, met for the first time this year and its advice could be taken into account within the framework of the PWG. Brazil considers that ICCAT has already done much in terms of capacity building. Moving forward, it is important for the group to discuss global strategy, in connection with the different assistance funds even though not all CPCs know what would be useful or possible.
- **Recommendation 110 (a & b):** The Panel proposes to coordinate implementation of Recommendation 14-08 with existing and future capacity, with the objective of harmonizing with the practices of the other tuna RFMOs on this subject. The European Union enquired whether this issue was more within the scope of the ICCAT Secretariat.

One CPC noted that many of these recommendations correspond to existing topics on the PWG agenda and that they would be addressed under the appropriate agenda item. The PWG Chair concluded by indicating that it would be appropriate for work to be carried out intersessionally, mainly on reporting, capacity building and simplification of procedures.

5 Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through three reference documents: Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG) ; Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2017 and Secretariat Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee.

The Secretariat report to the PWG refers to the exports / re-exports of swordfish and bigeye tuna. These amounts include imports from States from which the Secretariat has not received information relating to validation. Guyana has submitted the information required by the Secretariat. Tanzania and Papua New Guinea, as importing entities, have not submitted any data. The Secretariat will request through correspondence that these States transmit the information required.

The European Union signalled the redundant nature of discussions on statistical document issues, considering that it should be possible to improve the regulation, which is outdated and at times, obsolete. The European Union proposes holding a meeting that focusses on the evolution of the statistical document system within the framework of the next IMM Working Group meeting.

Morocco indicated that there is a duplication of the work of administrations, professionals and exporters in relation to catch certificates. The exported product must effectively be accompanied by two documents:

- The catch certificate;
- The ICCAT statistical document.

Morocco stated that it strongly supported all work that aims to address this issue within the framework of the IMM.

Japan supported the interventions of the European Union and Morocco. The Japanese delegation stated that in the past it had proposed improvements in this area but they had not been taken into account. Japan recalled that the scope of the bigeye tuna statistical document is only limited to frozen products; fresh products are outside the scope of the measure. It stated that it is high time to undertake improvement of the system, given that the objective is to reduce IUU fishing activities, and that this issue should be addressed within the framework of the IMM Working Group.

The PWG Chair proposed that this issue be taken up in a meeting of the IMM Working Group be held in 2018.

The United States supported the Chair's suggestion for an intersessional meeting, noting a number of monitoring, control, and surveillance issues are ripe for inclusion on the agenda.

Regarding the eBCD system, Morocco indicated that it was necessary to specify, in connection with paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20, what data can be extracted and whether reports generated from the eBCD system can or should replace the BCD annual report. The United States noted that some data elements of the required BCD annual report can be taken from the eBCD system, while others require transmission of supplementary data that are not collected by the eBCD system. Therefore, consideration must be given to current reporting requirements under the BCD program, in accordance with Recommendations 11-20 and 15-10, and potentially other ICCAT recommendations, and which can and should be met by the eBCD system.

The European Union indicated that it had encountered difficulties in extracting data from the e-BCD. The European Union supports the idea that the e-BCD Working Group should still table proposals to streamline and extract data from the system in the best manner possible. In addition, the European Union signalled that the reports of France, Italy and the Netherlands had been submitted to ICCAT. It added that these Member States submitted the reports after the deadline, but they were transmitted to ICCAT in early November.

The PWG Chair concluded by indicating that the discussions extended beyond the extraction of data from the e-BCD. There are reporting obligations and methods that were established under Recommendation 11-20 that were overlooked at the time of adoption of Recommendation 15-10, and it was therefore necessary to revisit this subject. As the system improves it may be necessary to review the reporting obligations desired and how to enable CPCs to extract data easily from the system.

5.1.1 Presentation of the e-BCD Working Group

The Chair of the e-BCD Working Group reported that the group had met once, with a mandate for broad discussion but with the following priorities:

- Financial issues: also discussed within STACFAD. The cost of the e-BCD system to date is approximately €1.5 million, with an annual maintenance cost of around €200,000, excluding additional development. The system has been a success, but its financing through the ICCAT Working Capital Fund does not appear to be sustainable. The group looked at more sustainable financing of the system for the future. It also indicated that the mechanism should take into account three main parameters: catches, number of transactions, and the weights and quantities of these transactions. The weight given to each of these elements has not yet been decided. The group considers that the mechanism should follow the current ICCAT financial regulations as much as possible. Two meetings have already taken place on the margins of the meeting, but an agreement has not yet been reached. This point has been further discussed within the framework of STACFAD.
- Use of paper: The experiences of the Contracting Parties have improved in this regard. More detailed procedures to govern the use of paper BCDs in the event of eBCD system technical difficulties are under development as an annex to Rec. 15-10. In this regard, the United States noted that revision of paragraph 6.c of Rec. 15-10 would be necessary to ensure consistency between the body of the new recommendation and the proposed annex.

Secondary issues (bugs, etc.), detailed in the report of the development consortium (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**), require that another eBCD TWG meeting be held, which is proposed for early in 2018.

5.1.2 Presentation of the consortium's report

The Report of the eBCD development consortium (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**) sets out in detail the different issues that have arisen during the year. The consortium's report presents elements of interest, in particular the problems with the system and explanations regarding training networks.

Participants did not make any comment in connection with this report.

5.1.3 Presentation of the report of the European Union on implementation of the derogation contained in paragraph 5.b of Rec. 15-10

The European Union presented its report on implementation of the derogations contained in paragraphs 5.b and 5.d of Rec. 15-10 in relation to:

- Internal validation of trade operations between EU Member States;
- Derogation on the average weight of fish tagged by vessels authorised to fish under the derogation on minimum size.

Validation of trade events places a significant administrative burden on the European Union. The data taken into account in this report correspond to the period from 15 January to 30 June 2017. The European Union stated that it is restricted to Member States actively participating in the bluefin tuna fishery, and data from other Member States are regarded as insignificant. The report takes into account events involving bluefin tuna sold to Member States, so as to avoid duplication. The seller Member States are responsible for validation in the e-BCD.

The United States requested clarification from the European Union on implementation of the derogations referred to above, particularly analyses of data on these activities before the derogations were implemented vs after to help determine if the derogations were resulting in a loss of data in the system. The European Union responded that there is insufficient information to make a point of comparison in this regard but the two parties agreed to consult on ways to ensure meaningful reporting in the future.

5.1.4 Presentation of the proposals of CPCs

Three delegations (Norway, the EU and Japan) presented draft proposals to amend the eBCD system and the bluefin tuna catch documentation program (Norway).

In its documents, Norway proposed amendments to the current BCD system in relation to CPCs with landing obligations. The proposals were linked to the proposed amendments to Recommendation 14-04, and Norway explained that its legislation includes a general landing obligation for all dead or dying fish, the purpose of which is to improve resource control by counting all landings against the established quotas. This landing obligation applies to dead or dying catches of bluefin tuna as well, including by-catch. Both catches and by-catches are counted against the quota. Furthermore, the value of the by-catch is confiscated, preventing the fishermen from drawing commercial profit from the catches, and this value accrues to inspection and control services. Toward that end, Norway proposed that they be allowed to validate eBCDs for confiscated bluefin tuna even in cases where the catch is over quota. Norway noted that for the past year it has established a 20% quota for bluefin tuna taken as by-catch. By-catch of bluefin tuna is, in its view, likely to increase and may result in the quota being exceeded. The Norwegian delegation reminded the PWG that Norway had been inspecting 100% of landings of targeted catches of bluefin tuna. Crosschecks of logbook data, landing data and fishing authorisations are carried out as part of the control process.

Iceland indicated that it was in a similar situation to Norway, and supported the possibility of selling catches of bluefin tuna that had been confiscated for the benefit of the control services.

Japan and the European Union expressed their understanding of Norway's situation but were of the view that even though fishers were not paid for these catches, these should be deducted from Norway's catch quotas in the subsequent year. Norway confirmed that this would be the case. The Japanese delegation asked Norway about the destination of the fish that would be sold within this framework, which is a point that is likely to create difficulties within the e-BCD. The European Union expressed its concerns about the possibility to authorize the sale of confiscated fish caught outside of the quota limits of the CPCs, since this could effectively legalise illegal catches and create an incentive for further catches taking place in addition to the quota, and this would create difficulties for the quota system.

Norway responded:

- to Japan, that any first sale necessarily requires a BCD, whether the fish is sold on the national market or exported.
- to the European Union, that all catches landed, including confiscated fish is taken into account in all cases. Norway indicated that it had studied ICCAT statistics to determine which countries report their dead discards and 5 CPCs had reported dead discards between 2011 and 2016. This seems to imply that other CPCs simply do not report dead discards. Norway also stated that it would make every effort to avoid any illegal catch and any quota overshoot.
- Japan, as an importing country, was concerned about fish traceability and indicated that it did not wish to import fish, which is outside the CPC's quota.

The Japanese delegation suggested that Norway could provide a supporting letter for the fish sold to the effect that it is under the control of the Norwegian government and detailing the singularity of this confiscated fish.

Norway considered Japan's proposal to be of interest and would discuss bilaterally with the European Union to clarify their proposal.

Morocco considered that compliance with internationally set quotas should not be confused with the introduction of a landing obligation to fight against discards for which provision is often made in national legislation. Most CPCs that have established a by-catch quota implement control measures for compliance with this quota. The Moroccan delegation was in favour of the amendment proposed by Norway in this regard. Canada stated that it supported wider discussion on implementation of the obligation in the context of the bluefin tuna fishery.

While noting Japan's concerns, the United States understood the reasoning behind Norway's proposal. The United States recalled that ICCAT requires CPCs to deduct quota overharvests made in one year from the following year or the year after that. The United States suggested a possible way forward could be to allow the validation of BCDs for confiscated fish as well as their export even if the quota for a CPC were exhausted provided that the exporting CPC reduced its quota in the following year(s) in accordance with ICCAT's quota payback rules. The European Union reminded delegates that it was not at the root of Norway's proposals and considered it appropriate to refer the issues raised by these discussions to the next IMM meeting.

The European Union presented its "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system", which is a request for clarification regarding the particular cases in which the paper BCD system may be used. The European Union recalled that its derogation from the obligation to validate any transaction between Member States is due to a specific justification related to the single market. The European Union highlighted that the current system is properly applied.

The European Union proposed:

- that the validation derogations relating to paragraph 5.b for various product types, and paragraph 5.d on the individual weight of tagged bluefin tuna for the fisheries affected by the minimum size exemption through representative sampling, become permanent arrangements;
- development of an annex detailing procedures to allow the use of paper BCDs in the case of eBCD technical difficulties. Paragraph 6.c of Rec. 15-10 would need to be amended to refer to this annex.

To the question put by the PWG Chair who wished to know whether this proposal would entail changes to existing ICCAT law, the European Union responded that changes would only be proposed to the extent necessary to amend these aspects of Recommendation 15-10.

The Japanese delegation also presented a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system", which aims to simplify transmission of information on bluefin tuna by importing countries done pursuant to Rec. 06-13 by linking it to reporting using the e-BCD system. This proposal was supported by the delegations of Korea and Turkey.

The United States agreed that it is necessary to amend the system to ensure necessary and appropriate data and reports can be easily extracted. The United States noted, however, that additional consideration needed to be given to what data should be compiled, who should do it, and how it should be provided to ICCAT. The delegate from the United States highlighted the extensive nature of the data elements contained in Recommendation 06-13 and noted that CPCs were required under that recommendation to review that information but only to provide “relevant” information to ICCAT. The United States stressed that the process built into Rec. 06-13 requiring CPC evaluation of catch and trade data to determine what was relevant for submission to ICCAT was an important feature to ensure the Commission was not overloaded with meaningless data. The United States stressed that the first order of business in revising Rec. 15-10 with regard to reporting was to ensure that CPCs could more easily generate the BCD annual report and that the important broader questions of data extraction and reporting should be considered by the eBCD TWG and perhaps the IMM Working Group.

Morocco indicated that the Japanese proposal ties in with its previous comment on availability of importer information, which must be achieved as soon as possible.

Given the lack of agreement on the possibility of presenting jointly all the proposals relating to the eBCD system, Norway maintained its two proposals, which were supported by Iceland.

The European Union stated that it was willing to support the approach proposed by Norway while taking into account the elements advocated by Japan. This proposed derogation from the eBCD requirements requested for CPCs that implement a landing obligation, should limit the amounts in order not to encourage quota overshoot.

Japan, while supporting the proposed approach, insisted on the availability of specific information on the origin of the fish concerned, and reiterated its proposal to develop a letter or specific document to identify the singularity of confiscated fish for export, or to use the e-BCD system to validly trace this confiscated fish. Japan proposed adding language at the end of proposed modification to the text: “and in the event of export of this fish, the exporting government shall provide a formal document certifying this circumstance of the fish”, but was not able to provide a formulation for the e-BCD.

Morocco considered that the authority that seizes illegally caught fish should be entitled to export it. In its view, the authority of the CPC should manage this situation. Morocco also wished to refer discussions regarding the extraction of data from the e-BCD system to the IMM to clarify the subject-matter of these extractions which are to replace the mandatory annual reports.

Norway emphasized that their proposal concerned legal catch, such as incidental by-catch of bluefin tuna, not illegally caught fish. Norway thanked Japan for its constructive proposal, and recalled that it wished to address this matter in a legal and transparent manner; many CPCs report practically zero discards or by-catch. Work needs to be carried out with regard to the wording in order to reach a compromise.

The PWG Chair noted the absence of agreement on this text as it stands, and referred the work to future intersessional discussions.

Korea indicated that while it understood that the text will be discussed again, it could only endorse the Norwegian text if CPCs that implement the landing obligation could report the measures taken the previous year to obtain the clearest and most transparent information possible, and if the amount of fish deducted from the quota was effectively reported.

Japan indicated that it would transmit suggestions to Norway in the margins for intersessional discussion, but that the payback practice would obviously apply to fish exceeding the quota.

At the invitation of the PWG Chair, the European Union presented a new version of its proposed “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 15-10 on the Application of the eBCD System”, drafted following bilateral contacts early on in the process.

The changes focus in particular on the following:

- paragraphs 5b and d: derogations in relation to validation of certain product types and the individual weight of the tagged fish to be extended until 2020. For small fish, the control regulation of the European Union imposes a 100% obligation to weigh. Division of this weight by the number of specimens gives the average weight;
- paragraph 5 h: so that information on the buyer can be included as soon as possible and prior to re-export;
- paragraph 5 j: with revision of the annual report requirement in connection with Rec. 11-20 to ensure as much of this report as possible is generated from the eBCD.
- Paragraph 6c: to ensure the text is consistent with the new annex establishing procedures allowing the use of paper in the case of technical difficulties with the eBCD system.

The United States, Japan, and Morocco thanked the European Union for its swift preparation of the revised document.

The United States considered that the document took into account their suggestions, and that it could accept the proposed changes with a slight clarifying amendment to paragraph 5 h, which was missing the word “and”. The United States also noted that it had come to an understanding with the EU concerning its future reporting on the two derogations and could accept the proposed extensions. In that regard, the PWG agreed that, in order to effectively evaluate the implementation of the derogations set out in paragraphs 5b and 5d when they are reconsidered in 2020, the required annual reporting from EU would include, *inter alia*, the weight of bluefin tuna traded; the number of validated and unvalidated trade events in the reporting period; the percent of unvalidated documents due to tagging vs the 5b derogation; details on the verification processes used to ensure unvalidated product is included in the eBCD system; the percent of trade events that are cross-checked, if known; any irregularities found in conducting verifications and cross checks concerning the implementation of the derogations specified in paragraph 5b and 5d; and any other relevant information.

Japan indicated that the work of the European Union reflects the conclusions of the e-BCD group and indicated that it fully supported the wording of the derogation of this proposal. The Japanese delegation also accepted that the derogation could continue until 2020. The derogation would be reviewed following the report of the European Union.

The European proposal was endorsed subject to the changes and understandings referred to above and the PWG agreed to forward it to the Commission for adoption.

5.2 Observer Programmes

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through a reference document: Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. No issues were discussed with respect to this document.

The United States presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT’s regional observer programs”. The United States proposed to develop provisions on health and safety of onboard observers within the framework of ICCAT in light of recent cases of disappearances of deployed observers in the regulatory areas of other RFMOs, building on input received from CPCs on a similar proposal that the United States presented in 2016. The proposal specifies protocols to protect the health and safety of onboard observers within the framework of ICCAT’s transshipment and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna ROPs. In response to a question, the United States presented information on the minimal cost implications of the proposal.

Norway considered that the issues raised by this draft recommendation seem to fall within the purview of the IMO.

Japan agreed with Norway but at the same time shared the opinion held by the United States and considered that these elements are important and believed that they should be discussed intersessionally in order to detail elements of the emergency action plans required by the proposal, as well as methods to ensure the effective provision of safety equipment by observer service providers.

China requested an amendment to the preamble of the U.S. proposal to add a reference to the framework Recommendations 16-15 and 14-04 under which these programs are implemented.

The United States indicated that the interventions by China and Japan would be taken into account and provided an updated proposal intended to address these comments.

Libya requested inclusion of a reference to the need to inform the vessel master as to whether the onboard observer knows how to swim or not.

Norway indicated that it had forwarded to the United States its comments on its proposal, but they had not yet been taken into account.

The PWG Chair concluded that this document must be revisited intersessionally, but that this should not hinder contacts being made following this meeting. The United States thanked CPCs for their views and confirmed that it would work to address the comments raised on the floor and submit an updated proposal to the next IMM meeting.

5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through two reference documents: Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for transshipment 2016/2017 and Potential Non-compliance Issues Reported By Regional Observers. This agenda item was not discussed due to lack of time.

5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through a reference document: Secretariat Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee. This agenda item was not discussed due to lack of time.

5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through three reference documents: Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG), Secretariat Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee and Information submitted by the European Union in accordance with Rec. 08-09. No issues were raised by the CPCs with regard to these documents.

The United States presented "Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspectors to conduct joint international inspections at sea", submitted jointly with Liberia, European Union and Senegal. The proposal detailed the framework and conditions for implementation of a voluntary inspector exchange pilot programme between ICCAT CPCs. Two changes were incorporated with regard to the first version of the text to better reflect the non-binding nature of the proposal.

Norway supported the idea of a voluntary exchange of inspectors. However, it has concerns with regard to the possible consequences of this measure with respect to the question of national sovereignty and indicated that it had transmitted its suggestions for modifications to the text to address this concern.

The European Union, which is a co-sponsor of this text, recalled that it participates in similar programmes through different bodies and wished them to be extended to ICCAT fisheries. Canada supported this proposal and reported on its experience with inspector exchanges within the framework of other RFMOs. Senegal, another co-sponsor, noted that it had benefited from these programmes and highlighted their excellent results in terms of the fight against IUU fishing in their waters. The Senegalese delegation invited CPCs to participate in these exchange programmes.

China endorsed the voluntary nature of participation in these programmes and requested a modification to clarify the conditions of compliance / implementation of the programme.

Uruguay expressed that, in its view, the interpretation of the document is incorrect, given that the aim of paragraph 3 of article 9 of the Convention would be to introduce a joint implementation system; and also expressed its concerns over the relevance of such a measure, which aims to implement mechanisms that are bilateral.

Uruguay also requested to limit implementation of these inspector exchanges to inspections in international waters and not in EEZs.

Morocco asked the co-authors about the intended geographical area of application of the measure.

The PWG Chair informed Uruguay that the measure aimed to provide guidance to enable CPCs wishing to implement the exchange programme to do so on a voluntary basis. This reading was endorsed by the European Union and other cosponsors.

The United States noted that CPCs would have the flexibility to establish the bounds of bilateral cooperation with other CPCs under this measure, including whether to limit cooperative agreements to activities on the high seas or to allow them to cover their respective EEZs. The European Union was of the view that restricting activity to the high seas would effectively undermine the scheme.

China preferred to limit implementation of these programmes only to tuna fisheries managed by ICCAT.

The PWG Chair invited CPCs to continue work and to revisit this draft resolution intersessionally.

5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures

The PWG Chair invited the Chair of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity and Assistance to present the status of the work of this group, which are detailed in the Report of the 2017 Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity and Assistance (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

The Chair of the group recalled that an expert group for port State inspection had been established following adoption of Recommendation 16-18. It met in Madrid in October 2017, financed by FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project, with the aim of evaluating training material and considering possibilities to strengthen control capacity, through analysis of:

- training standards implemented within the framework of the IOTC;
- control measure standards of the port State within the framework of the FAO;
- a proposal from the Pew Charitable Trusts;
- a supplementary proposal from the United States.

The IOTC had presented elements which the group considered useful to transpose into the ICCAT context.

The group proposed to facilitate the initial assessment of capacity building of the port State by carrying out two assessments, as detailed in Addendums 3 and 4 of the Expert Group's 2017 Report: one is very quick, and the other phase of assessment could possibly be carried out by the expert group or by a third party.

The group recommended that another meeting be held in 2018 to evaluate the training assessment programme.

The European Union indicated that it fully supported the conclusions of the report of the expert group.

The conclusions of the group were endorsed during the session.

5.7 Vessel listing requirements

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through a reference document: Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG). This agenda item was not discussed due to lack of time.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through two reference documents: Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG) and Secretariat Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee. While there was no time to discuss the VMS issue in detail due to lack of time, the United States noted that Rec. 14-09 required review in 2017 and called for prioritization of this issue at the expected 2018 IMM intersessional meeting.

5.9 Flag State responsibilities

For this agenda item, the Secretariat has reported to the PWG through two reference documents: Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG) and Secretariat Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee. This agenda item was not discussed due to lack of time.

5.10 Other issues

The ICCAT Secretariat requested further clarification on items 5.3, 5.6 and 5.7, regarding issues that could not be addressed intersessionally.

The reference documents presented by the Secretariat under agenda items 5.2 to 5.9 contain some requests for clarification made by the Secretariat and the ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes' conclusions and recommendations.

The PWG Chair has particularly brought to the CPCs' attention the requests for clarification made in:

- Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG), under agenda item 5.6 (Port inspection schemes and other port State measures), agenda item 5.7 (Vessel listing requirements), agenda item 7 (Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list).
- Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, under agenda item 5.2 (Observer Programme / ROP-BFT).
- Secretariat Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee, under agenda item 5.6 (Port inspection schemes and other port State measures).
- Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for transshipment 2016/2017, under agenda item 5.3 (At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements) regarding ROP-TRANS conclusions and recommendations.

He encouraged CPCs to provide/make their responses/suggestions either in writing or through direct contacts with the Secretariat or during the intersessional IMM meetings.

The United States welcomed the approach suggested by the PWG Chair, justified by lack of time due to the amount of work at PWG sessions.

6 Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures

No additional measures were considered beyond those discussed under agenda Item 5.

7 Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

CPC were invited to react to the draft IUU vessel list which had been transmitted by the Secretariat and updated with the most recent inclusions of the WCPFC and IATTC:

- Request from Bolivia: It was proposed that three vessels reported to be carrying out IUU fishing in 2015 and flying the Bolivian flag be recorded as having an "unknown flag". The United States indicated that another Bolivian vessel, KIM SENG DENG 3, appears to have retained its flag.

Following review of the elements transmitted by Bolivia, the United States supported recording the flag of the KIM SENG DENG 3 as “unknown flag” on the IUU vessel list. CPCs were consulted on this point by the PWG Chair and they did not raise any objection.

- Request from Turkey: Turkey reported to the ICCAT Secretariat Greek vessels suspected of infringement. Following an exchange with the European Union, it chose not to maintain its request. The European Union highlighted the excellent quality of the contacts between Turkey and its administration in relation to this matter.
- Request from China: China raised the case of the longliner SHUN CHANG No. 3 (also known as SHUNCHANG No. 3), which has been the subject of an extensive examination following a request from the European Union, due to potential confusion with the vessel called No. 3 CHOYU (also known as CHOYU 3), previously listed on the ICCAT list of IUU vessels in 2006. The investigation conducted by the European Union, with the cooperation of the ICCAT Secretariat and the Chinese authorities, revealed significant incoherencies regarding the vessel SHUN CHANG No. 3, for which two different IMO numbers have been allocated, as well as serious imprecisions regarding the identification criteria for vessels recorded on the ICCAT IUU list. Since the identification of the vessels SHUN CHANG No. 3 and No. 3 CHOYU could not be established, the European Union does not request the listing of the SHUN CHANG No. 3 on the IUU list, but nevertheless underlines the urgent need for ICCAT to review the criteria for listing on its IUU list. China does not want the vessel to be confused again in the future and asked the PWG how to proceed. The United States and Japan initially suggested withdrawing the IMO number from No. 3 CHOYU on the ICCAT list. The United States acknowledged that this approach was the best option in this case but was not fully satisfactory, as it would not enable the vessel to be distinguished if it were encountered by the control authorities of ICCAT CPCs, and that listing criteria should be reviewed more thoroughly at an intersessional meeting. China accepted the proposal of the PWG Chair to withdraw the reference to the IMO number of No. 3 CHOYU on the ICCAT IUU list, and requested that its position be clearly reflected in the meeting report.
- Request from Equatorial Guinea: Equatorial Guinea enquired about the reason for maintaining two vessels flying the Equatorial Guinea flag on the IUU list, of which the authorities of this country have no knowledge. Equatorial Guinea indicated that this issue had been addressed in the previous regular meeting of ICCAT in 2016. The Executive Secretary indicated that the authorities of Equatorial Guinea had not responded within the deadline to his requests regarding this matter.

At the initiative of the PWG Chair, the issue of the procedure to register vessels on the IUU list was discussed during the session. Following a request from the European Union, a review and correction of all criteria for the identification of vessels on the IUU list will be initiated during an intersessional meeting of PWG in 2018. Vessels that are likely to change name or registration become difficult to trace by the means offered by ICCAT. The United States noted ongoing difficulty with the interpretation of the rules concerning procedures for the cross-listing of vessels from other tuna RFMO IUU vessel lists as well as for the intersessional removal of a vessel from the IUU list. The PWG agreed that both the various procedures and listing criteria in the IUU vessel list measure (Rec. 11-18) should be reviewed at the proposed 2018 meeting of IMM.

The PWG approved the revised IUU list and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**).

8 Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

The recommendations to the Commission are outlined in the relevant agenda items above. No additional recommendations were made.

9 Election of Chair

Mr. Neil Ansell (EU) was elected to be the new PWG Chair for the next biennial period, replacing Mr. Fabrizio Donatella (EU).

10 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

11 Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

The Chair adjourned the session and thanked the participants.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
 - 5.2 Observer Programmes
 - 5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
 - 5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
 - 5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
 - 5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
 - 5.7 Vessel listing requirements
 - 5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
 - 5.9 Flag State responsibilities
 - 5.10 Other issues
6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Report of the eBCD development consortium

1 Annual Report of User support Service

All data provided in this report considers 1st December 2016 as start date, as the previous User support included information until 30th November 2016.

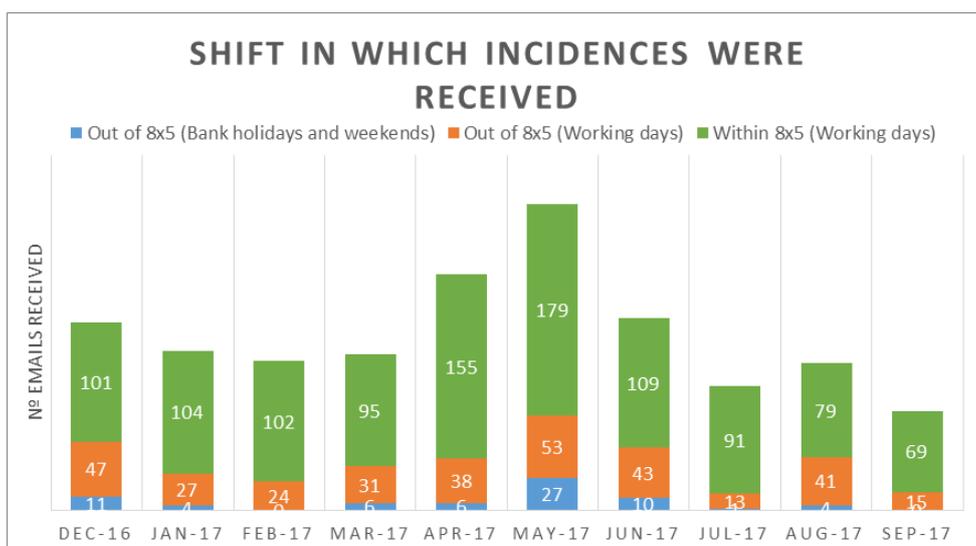
1.1 Statistics about User Support Service

From 1st December 2016 to 30th September 2017(304 calendar days), Tragsa carried out an 8 hours 5 days user support service.

During this period of time, 48 CPCs or Member States have contacted the user support service. 1,485 emails were received and a total of 2,572 emails were exchanged. Per each day of this 304 calendar days, were received an average of 4.88 emails and an average of 8.46emails were exchanged.

Period from 1 st December 2016 to 30 th September 2017								
Type day	Nº of CPCs/Flags that contacted the support team	Nº Emails received	Nº Emails exchanged	Nº of days in which emails were received	Nº of days comprising this period	Average emails received/day comprising this period	Average emails exchanged/days comprising this period	
Total	48	1485	2572	216	304	4.88	8.46	
Working days	Within 8x5 Schedule	46	1115	1939	191	205	5.44	9.46
	Out of 8x5 Schedule	33	332	595	121	205	1.62	2.90
Weekends and Bank holidays	Out of 8x5 Schedule	15	38	38	19	99	0.38	0.38

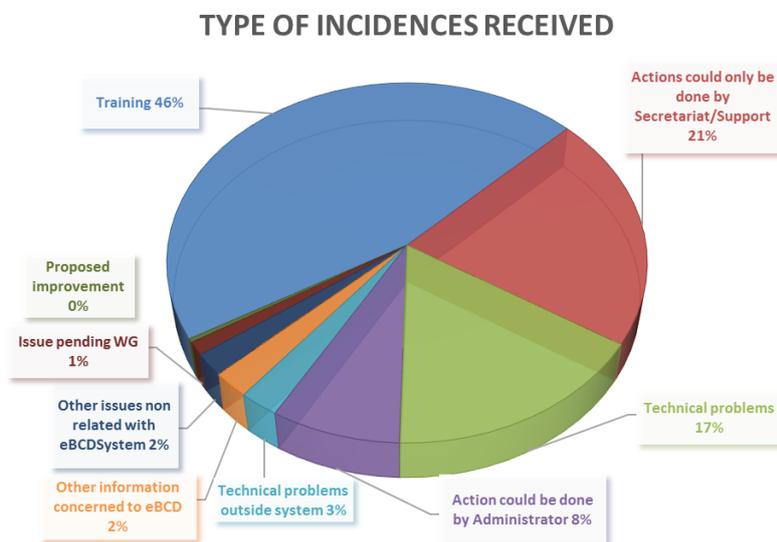
148.5 is de average of emails received per month, being May the month with the highest number of emails received (259 emails). The figure below desegregates the number of emails received in each shift per month.



1.2 Main difficulties found from 1st December 2016

The figure below illustrates the main categories on which incidences received could be included.

Doubts regarding the use of the system represent the 46% of the incidences reported by CPCs. 21% of the emails requested an action that could only be performed by the profile ICCAT Secretariat, and 17% of problems found by users, were related with technical problems in the system.



Main problems included in "Training" category can be grouped in:

- Problems due to doubts regarding the *creation and maintenance of users*: i.e. users were not familiar with self-registration and users management functionalities.
- General doubts regarding the *use of the system*: i.e. how BCDs are codified, information that cannot be modified in the system.
- Problems related to *validation process*: i.e. installation of certificates; validators incorrectly set.
- Problems when trying to *use entities with expired permissions*.
- Problems with mix of information between BCDs caused when a user opens more than one session with the same user and the same browser at the same time. System has been improved to prevent a user to log in the system more than once at the same time.

Among the emails classified as "Actions could only be done by Secretariat/Support", the following issues may be highlighted:

- Request of *validation certificates*.
- Update of observers, farms, traps and ports *permissions*.
- Record *new companies form Non CPCs* and create in the Data Base the *new non CPCs*
- Request to *delete from Data Base wrong information* recorded by users.
- Exporters request to check if their *importers* already exist in the system.

The main "Technical problems" found by CPCs are:

- *Validation problems* due to server's problems: On several occasions, and due to maintenance works validators experienced problems at time of validation.
- Process of *self-registration* not finished with success due to an error in the system when the solicitant forgets adding the roles to be requested. This error will be solved with the next version of the application.
- Problems when trying to *Group BCDs*: Under specific circumstances system didn't allow to group some BCDs. This error has been corrected.
- *Connection problems*: On several occasions, after the performance of a correction in the system, some users experienced problems to log in the system.

- Problems with the synchronization of some vessels: some CPCs reported that the information of some vessels was not correctly displayed in the system. This error has been corrected.
- The *average weight of BCDs that participate in a JFO* is not being updated by the system after the modification of kilos caught. This error will be solved with the next version of the application.
- Some *traceability alerts are not updated* after the modification of figures. This problem will be solved if WG requests the development of the pending issue “Develop one refreshment a day to update alerts”
- The Secretariat found problems to *update the permissions of some observers* due to an error in the system that prevented extending permissions of observers after 15th May of each year. This problem will be solved with the next version of the application.
- Problems with mix of information between BCDs caused when a user opens more than one session with the same user and the same browser at the same time. System has been improved to prevent a user to log in the system more than once at the same time. Further improvements will be uploaded in the next version of the application.

The Secretariat and/or Support Team had to perform several actions that could be done by administrators. These actions include.

- *Create and maintain users and entities* of CPCs.
- Check that *data of validators provided by CPCs* when they requested the certificates was consistent with validator’s information in the system. To avoid this extra work, the system has been modified under maintenance allotment. In the next version of the application the way to request certificates will be improved. Administrators will access the profile of the validator that needs a certificate and will click on a button to request it.
- Make changes in the system in name of an Administrator/Validator/ Observer when the user had connection problems or when actions were not easy to perform.

Among the “technical problems outside the system”, problems with the use of *non-updated Internet browser* can be highlighted.

Several issues were considered in a group named “Issues pending WG”

- Confirm that *exemption of validation in East Atlantic* can be obtained by filling out all tag codes and average weights. (Individual weights are not necessary).
- Decide if it is preferable that message “*This shipment’s code does not meet the sequencing of split shipments rule because a previous consignment has been deleted from the system*” is only shown to the exporter and Administrator, but not to the importer.
- A CPC wants to be able to download the *raw data from the previous sections of BCDs on which they have at some point been involved*. Currently data can only be downloaded from sections in which they are involved.
- A CPC proposes to modify the information displayed when the *Audit of Changes* is created. Current text says “This section has changes after validation. View Changes”. The CPC explains that when a BCD is exempted of validation this “after validation” can be confusing.
- A CPC asked the Support Team why the name of a tug boat must be selected in a *transfer from a trap*. The Support Team informed that the issue was discussed in the WG but no modification of the system had been requested.
- When a user obtains a role over an entity, i.e a vessel, gains *access to all previous BCDs* where the entity is involved, even if they should belong to a different company or vessel representative.
- A CPC does not agree that *alerts related with Para 13 d) of Rec.11-20* are shown when validation occurs after 7 days from the Catch. They consider that landing date should be taken into account. Support team informs that a field for entering landing date is not included in the requirements of current eBCD system.

2 Use of the eBCD System by CPCs

The table below shows from 1st November 2016 to 8th October 2017 the total n^o of catches; group BCDs and re-exports created in the system by each flag. The last two columns illustrate the total n^o of users from that flag that have accessed the system and the total n^o of logins performed.

FLAG	No. BCDS.		No. BFTRCs	No. USERS THAT HAVE ACCESSED THE SYSTEM	No. CONNECTIONS
	No. CATCHES	No. GROUPS			
ALB	2	0	0	2	38
BEN	0	0	0	2	263
BHS	0	0	0	2	325
BRA	0	0	0	2	90
BRB	0	0	0	2	60
CAN	1.002	0	0	65	1.660
CHN	0	0	0	11	248
COG	0	0	0	4	233
CPV	0	0	0	2	115
CUB	0	0	0	2	47
CYM	0	0	0	1	65
DMA	0	0	0	1	4
DOM	0	0	0	1	19
DZA	12	0	0	13	68
EGY	2	0	0	3	42
EU	0	0	0	3	103
EU.AUT	0	0	0	4	45
EU.BEL	0	0	0	3	37
EU.CYP	55	0	0	20	480
EU.DEU	0	0	0	17	703
EU.DNK	3	0	0	11	100
EU.ESP	1.978	0	1	259	29.256
EU.EST	0	0	0	2	3
EU.FRA	2.203	0	0	429	16.122
EU.GRC	757	0	0	67	4.039
EU.HRV	332	11	0	125	6.619
EU.HUN	0	0	0	2	26
EU.IRL	29	0	0	2	54
EU.ITA	697	0	0	2.132	58.386
EU.LUX	0	0	0	1	9
EU.MLT	219	9	0	32	4.837
EU.NLD	3	0	0	13	416
EU.PRT	123	0	0	40	2.620
EU.ROU	0	0	0	2	2
EU.SVN	0	0	0	5	75
EU.SWE	6	0	0	6	173
EU.UK	0	0	0	11	88
FR.SPM	0	0	0	1	1
HKG	0	0	0	2	3
ISL	2	0	0	2	14
JPN	17	0	327	135	7.963
KOR	16	0	35	55	1.912

FLAG	No. BCDS.		No. BFTRCs	No. USERS THAT HAVE ACCESSED THE SYSTEM	No. CONNECTIONS
	No. CATCHES	No. GROUPS			
LBR	0	0	0	1	67
LBY	31	0	0	13	512
MAR	1.206	0	0	42	2.275
MEX	48	0	0	13	345
NOR	20	0	0	9	316
PAN	0	0	0	3	8
SLV	0	0	0	3	158
SYR	1	0	0	3	60
TAI	0	0	0	12	959
TUN	23	0	0	21	1.491
TUR	118	11	0	105	6.308
UK.BMU	1	0	0	2	11
USA	3.325	0	35	70	6.636
VUT	0	0	0	6	27
Totals	12.231	31	398	3.797	156.536

3 Summary of March 2017 WG meeting

On 2017, Tragsa participated only in one WG Meeting held in Madrid on March 2017.

In this meeting 14 issues were identified as priority issues that should be cost estimated. Nevertheless, no cost estimate was requested in 2017.

ISSUES THAT MUST BE COST TIME ESTIMATED	TOPIC	TYPE OF PRIORITY	STATUS (OPEN/CLOSED)
Send email to Administrators when a vessel exceeds its quota	19. Requirement for additional/corrections to 'alert' functions.	SECONDARY	OPEN
limit the trade of more fresh products than those indicated in the previous section	32. Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members	SECONDARY	OPEN
include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	32. Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members	SECONDARY	OPEN
Adapt the system to allow access to NCP	35. Trades companies of other countries	SECONDARY	OPEN
Adapt parallel transfers functionality to take into consideration parallel live trades	36. Parallel transfers from live trade.	PRIORITY	OPEN
Adapt catch section to allow creating catches from the previous year (during the first 2 months of the fishing year)	3.15 Fishing year and end of year catches	SECONDARY	OPEN
Create a new type of section that allows recording movements between cages	3.19 Caging section	SECONDARY	OPEN
Develop one 1 refreshment a day to update alerts	S.3 update of alerts in all existing BCDs from one Flag when one BCD is deleted or modified (Turkey)	NEW ISSUE	OPEN
Don't use the code of a BCD deleted if it was validated or rejected	S.4 Necessity or not of re-coding the BCDs when a section is deleted	NEW ISSUE	OPEN
Limit the message in deleted splits to BFT Owners and his Administrator	S.4 Necessity or not of re-coding the BCDs when a section is deleted	NEW ISSUE	OPEN
Show alerts only in concerned branches	S.5 When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch	NEW ISSUE	OPEN
Make not compulsory "vessel" field in transfer section when the catching entity is a trap	S.6 traps cage BFT without the need of a transfer	NEW ISSUE	OPEN
Show BCDs/BFTRCs with inconsistencies in Task Sections (Admin HomePage)	S.7 BCDs with inconsistencies are not reported to Administrators when BCDs are exempted of validation	NEW ISSUE	OPEN
Create an European English version to show dates in European English format (dd/mm/year)	S. 13 Create new system to show dates with European format in English version in addition to American version	NEW ISSUE	OPEN

Other 6 issues were identified as they could be addressed under support allotment. All this issues have been developed and will be uploaded into production environment in the next update of the system.

ISSUE	TOPIC	TYPE OF PRIORITY	STATUS
Adapt products type in tags (CA section)	3. Domestic trade	PRIORITY	To be uploaded in next version
include system graphical/descriptive explanations of each product code	3. Domestic trade	SECONDARY	To be uploaded in next version
Include number of tags in printed version	4. Tagging	PRIORITY	To be uploaded in next version
allow re-exporting a single BCD without including the total quantity imported.	31. Re-export certificate	SECONDARY	To be uploaded in next version
Send an email to Administrator when exempted section with inconsistencies is saved. Send a new email if when saving again inconsistency is solved	S.7 BCDs with inconsistencies are not reported to Administrators when BCDs are exempted of validation	NEW ISSUE	To be uploaded in next version
Adding a Transshipment should not be allowed if CA has not been validated	S.10 Joint validation of Catch and Transshipment.	NEW ISSUE	To be uploaded in next version

**Report of the 2017 Meeting of the
Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity And Assistance**
(Madrid, Spain, 9-10 October 2017)

1. Opening of the Meeting and logistical arrangements

The meeting was held at the ICCAT Secretariat offices in Madrid, Spain, from 9-10 October 2017, with financial assistance for many of the participants being provided by the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project. Dr. Miguel Neves dos Santos, on behalf of the ICCAT Executive Secretary, welcomed the participants to the meeting. Mr. Todd Dubois (United States) chaired the meeting, welcomed the meeting participants (“the Group”), and requested the Group’s concurrence to serve as both the Chairman of the meeting as well as the CPC representative from the United States to which there was no objection. The meeting agenda was adopted with no changes (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). The List of Participants is attached as **Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**. Dr. Katheryn Patterson (United States) was nominated from the floor and served as Rapporteur for the meeting.

2. Review of available assessment tools, training materials, and programmes related to port inspection

The Chair reflected on the ToR of the Group which emphasizes that the Group should identify and assess existing training materials and initiatives in support of port inspection capacity building for the purpose of ICCAT to avoid duplicative efforts wherever possible. The following existing materials and tools were discussed:

- IOTC’s Course Curriculum and Training Program along with the RFMO’s multiple available resources in support of the implementation of its Port State Measures Resolution (PSMR).
- FAO’s “Implementation of Port State Measures; Legislative Template Framework for Procedures Role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations”
- The Pew Charitable Trust’s “Implementing the Port State Measures Agreement: A Methodology for Conducting Capacity Needs Assessment”
- The Port Inspector Training Program of the United States

The Chair called for the consideration of other items in which the Group responded that there were no additional items to add to the discussion at this time.

3. Overview of IOTC Port Inspection training and related activities

Mr. Florian Giroux of the IOTC Secretariat provided an overview presentation on the resources the RFMO had developed in support of implementing the IOTC Port State Measures Resolutions (PSMR). Mr. Giroux provided information related to PSM capacity building activities – training courses, resources, timeframes, materials developed, and estimated program costs for each of the following capacity building activities in support of implementing the IOTC PSMR:

- Legal and capacity assessment of port State CPCs (Materials produced: Legal and capacity assessment of readiness to implement the IOTC PSMR and Guidelines: Strengthening the implementation of the IOTC PSMR).
- National PSM training (<http://iotc.org/compliance/port-state-measures>) (Materials produced: IOTC PSM Course Curriculum and Training Program; Manual - Procedures for the implementation of the IOTC PSM; IOTC PSM Species Identification Guide for Fisheries Inspectors; IOTC PSM Translation Guide; IOTC PSM Notebook; Inspector kits; and PSM Leaflets).

- Regional PSM training on national interagency collaboration and regional cooperation (<http://iotc.org/meetings/regional-psm-training-national-interagency-collaboration-and-regional-cooperationsures>) (Materials produced: Model MOU on national interagency collaboration & regional cooperation; Guidelines - Best Practices on interagency & regional cooperation; and Leaflets on interagency & regional cooperation).
- Regional PSM training - monitoring of landings and transshipments in port (<http://iotc.org/meetings/1st-regional-psm-training-monitoring-landings-and-transshipments-port>) (Materials produced: IOTC PSM Procedures for the implementation of the IOTC Port State Measures Manual; and the IOTC PSM Species Identification Guide for Fisheries Inspectors)
- e-PSM application (Materials produced: The application itself and four user's manuals for the application).
- Legal assistance (Material produced: IOTC PSM legislative template).

While beyond the scope of the Group's ToR, an overview of the IOTC e-PSM application was of interest to the Group and discussed in the context of the application's potential future expansion to ICCAT where provisions from both RFMOs would be integrated. The point was raised that the application could be transposed to any RFMO with minor adjustments, since the application follows the requirement of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement in full. To better understand the functionality of the application the Group requested a demonstration of the e-PSM application. Mr. Giroux provided a step-by-step demonstration of how a vessel uses the system to call to port and how the vessel submits its prior notification information through the application, which is then automatically populated into a report.

The e-PSM also contains a built-in risk assessment feature that automatically generates a Risk Assessment Report once a prior notification report has been submitted. It was clarified that the Risk Assessment Report feature of the application is solely a tool offered to port States who may then be able to make more informed decisions regarding vessel port entry authorization or denial based on the State's individual assessment of the information provided. This aspect was of interest to the Group as a potential tool to aid ICCAT port inspectors in the future.

The application features three different log-in levels for Industry, port States, and flag States, each having varying levels of access which sparked discussions from the Group on the need for ensuring individuals submitting information to the system can be identified/verified as well as the need for varying levels of access to information to ensure the confidentiality of information as well as ensuring law enforcement related information can only be accessed by appropriate authorities.

A Member raised a question regarding the linkage of the prior notification information in the application and port inspectors to which the IOTC responded that the application is a communication tool was not originally developed with a focus on supporting inspections but this too can evolve. However, port inspection prioritization procedures can utilize the analyses of e-PSM data. Additionally, inspectors are able to call on the Risk Assessment report, vessel calls history data, inspection reports, and CPCs are able to share vessel file information among one another, which includes all of the vessel's submitted documentation (e.g., equipment, vessel gear, vessel particulars, etc.). The e-PSM provides CPCs quick and easy access to critical data where prior to the implementation of this system the same information typically had to be manually requested from relevant Parties.

The Group also raised an important point regarding the timeliness of the system as there is a 30-day delay for inspection reports to be available to CPCs. All inspection reports that are created in the e-PSM forms and processes module of the application, are automatically archived in the e-PSM library sector of the Application 30-days after submission to allow for the resolution of any legal disputes and are then available to inspectors. The Group raised the need for inspector's to have access to real time data such as inspection reports, information related to vessel histories (e.g., detailed information related to any port entry denials), and other applicable information instead of after a 30-day delay. While many of the items discussed by the Group were not requested to be developed by IOTC CPC's, the Group raised the importance of and the need for careful evaluation of additional features within the e-PSM prior to integration. It was noted that the e-PSM was of significant interest to the Group and has direct benefits to port inspectors, it was a tool for potential future discussion and would not directly affect the work of the group at this time.

4. Input for the development of self-assessment forms for port inspection capacity building needs

The Chair introduced a draft self-assessment form to the Group for the purpose of discussion. This form was drafted by utilizing information from existing resources from the IOTC, International MCS Network and Pew's Capacity Needs Assessment, in order to identify the best focal points and starting places for a proposed working draft. The Chair acknowledged the fact that many existing assessments are more narrative based in nature, but the goal of the proposed working draft was to encourage participation from CPCs seeking assistance by creating more fillable options. The Chair walked through each section of the draft assessment for translation purposes, and then in-depth discussions regarding the length and content of the draft assessment commenced.

Some members raised concerns regarding the length of the assessment as a possible deterrent for the participation of developing CPCs. However, other members emphasized the importance of requesting detailed information from a CPC seeking assistance in order to accurately assess what the CPC has implemented, assist the CPC in identifying potential unrealized gaps, and help requesting CPCs understand what assistance is most important to them. A Member also highlighted the need to distinguish whether the assessment or parts of would be obligatory or voluntary for a CPC to complete.

Some Members also cautioned that it was important to carefully evaluate what information was being asked from the CPC to ensure that this information would not unintentionally expose a CPC to compliance concerns if answering honestly when seeking technical assistance. It was emphasized that the Group should strive to establish confidence and trust from any CPC seeking assistance without judgement.

The Group decided that the best way forward was to create a two-phased approach that begins with a written pre-assessment to be completed by a CPC seeking capacity building assistance. The pre-assessment is to be shorter in length and contain the critical elements needed for the Group to properly evaluate the request. The Group in line with its ToR recommends that it or a subset of the Group should be the responsible body for receiving and reviewing the assessments with the assurance that the information provided by a CPC will not be used for identify noncompliance. This recommendation aims to instill trust and confidence between developing CPCs seeking assistance and the Group so that accurate and detailed information is provided to ensure that effective assistance can be provided. Following the pre-assessment, the Group agrees that the second phase of the assessment will include a thorough and detailed assessment of the requesting CPCs capacities and in-person discussions will be conducted. The Group recommends to the Commission, that the assessment should also have established timelines for finalizing the assessment tools as well as deadlines for CPC submissions.

The Group walked through each item of the Chair's Draft Assessment during the second day of the meeting. All content was reviewed for inclusion into the forms and all editorial changes were made according to the Group's recommendations. The Pre-Assessment and Second-Phase Detailed Assessment were adopted by the Group (**Addendum 3 and 4 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**) and will be submitted to the Commission for approval.

5. Identification of CPCs with possible existing capacity building programs that may be able to provide assistance to developing CPCs

The United States presented on its International Port Inspection Training Program, while the EU and Canada both spoke about their capacity building work that is more often conducted bilaterally, and spoke about their ability to provide assistance as required. Other CPCs raised attention to ongoing regional efforts which may also have the potential to be utilized by ICCAT such as the work being conducted by the GEF FAO ABNJ tuna project, Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea, the West African Task Force, and Latin American efforts in collaboration with FAO. There was also the mention of the work being conducted by other organizations such as the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network as well as INTERPOL's Capacity Building and Advocacy Project under its Fisheries Crime Working Group.

6. Consideration of next steps and assignment of tasks

The finalized pre-assessment and detailed assessment will be submitted to the Secretariat for translation and distribution to Group for final approval in time for submission to the Commission for the Annual Meeting.

The Group recommends the Commission approves the assessment forms and process as follows: the pre-assessment is to be completed by a developing CPC seeking assistance and submitted to the Secretariat for review electronically; and the second phase of the assessment will be conducted in-person by a CPC representative from the Group (preferred), the Secretariat, or via a consultant.

The Group recommends that the Commission distribute the pre-assessment as soon as possible accompanied with a deadline for the submission of requests. The group also recommends that the Commission charge the Group as the reviewing body for technical assistance requests per the ToR and develop a long-term structure that allows the Group to review rolling assistant requests on a quarterly or biannual basis after the first submission deadline has passed.

The Group should be assembled again in early 2018 to continue the evaluation of available port inspection training materials and develop ICCAT specific training tools from these resources.

7. Other matters

No additional matters were raised by the group.

8. Adoption of report and adjournment

The Chair reviewed the main points of the draft report with the Group; however, the short duration of the working group meeting did not allow for the adoption of the report. The draft report will be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, and once the report has been translated, it will be sent to all members of the Group for comment and approval before submission of a final report to the Commission prior to the Annual Meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and logistical arrangements
2. Review of available assessment tools, training materials, and programmes related to port Inspection
3. Overview of IOTC Port Inspection training and related activities
4. Input for the development of self-assessment forms for port inspection capacity building needs
5. Identification of CPCs with possible existing capacity building programmes that may be able to provide assistance to developing CPCs
6. Consideration of next steps and assignation of tasks
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of report and adjournment

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Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**Proposed ICCAT Port Inspection Assessment
Phase One: Self Pre-Assessment****Developed by the Port Inspection Expert Working Group****Introduction and Purpose**

The following document was produced pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and supplement the process for seeking capacity building assistance pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08 [Rec. 16-18]*, which established the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a Port Inspection Expert Group (“the Group”) for Capacity Building and Assistance. The third paragraph of the ToRs identifies that development of a tool for self-assessment is an essential first step in helping developing CPCs in requesting capacity building assistance and in facilitating the prioritization of such requests. This pre-assessment was developed as an outcome to the Group’s first meeting. The Group agreed to utilize a two-phased approach that begins with this pre-assessment to be completed in writing by a CPC seeking capacity building assistance. This pre-assessment contains the critical elements needed for the Group to properly evaluate the request and will be followed by a more in-depth assessment.

ICCAT Port Inspection Self Pre-Assessment

CPCs seeking capacity building for implementing ICCAT Recommendation 12-07 are encouraged to complete this Pre-Assessment as completely as possible (using additional sheets as needed) so that the assistance request can be effectively reviewed and evaluated by the Expert Working Group. All information provided is on a voluntary basis and CPCs are encouraged to solicit input from all relevant domestic entities (e.g., all organizations and agencies involved in controlling access to port, conducting port inspections, and investigating and prosecuting violations of fisheries laws) in completing this self-assessment.

1. ICCAT Delegate Completing the Assessment

- a) CPC:
- b) Name:
- c) Ministry or Agency:
- d) Position:
- e) Email:
- f) Telephone:
- g) Assessment Completion Date:

2. Port Inspection Authorities

Please fill out the table on the following page in order to provide an overview of the nation’s port inspection management structure that includes the following information:

- a) List the agencies or ministries, including agencies within both national and sub-national (e.g., local) government, that have authorities related to granting or denying port access, granting or denying access to port services, conducting vessel inspections in port or other enforcement authorities associated with fishing or fishing-related activities.
- b) Provide a broad description of each listed agency’s authority. Please indicate if there is any overlap in jurisdiction between agencies. In the “additional notes” column, please identify which authorities need support or additional training to better implement port State measures and, in particular, ICCAT Recommendation 12-07.

Please provide an overview of the CPC's authorities related to granting or denying port access, granting or denying access to port services, conducting vessel inspections in port or other enforcement authorities associated with fishing or fishing-related activities where applicable and indicate which authorities need support or additional training to implement ICCAT Recommendation 12-07.

Thematic Areas	Agency/Ministry Name	Jurisdiction/Authority	Additional Notes
Fisheries			
Customs			
Immigration			
Port Authorities			
Maritime Authorities (i.e., Coast Guard, Navy)			
Other(s) <i>(please specify)</i>			

4. Conduct of Port Inspections

- a. In what order do agencies, if applicable, inspect a fishing vessel and is the fisheries inspectorate first?
- b. Describe the procedure when multiple agencies are involved in conducting joint-inspections
- c. How many fisheries inspectors board a vessel at a time and does each inspector within the inspection team have a designated role?
- d. Where there is no common language between the fisheries inspectors and the vessels, are there translation services or other methods of facilitating communication available?
- e. Has the CPC entered into a bilateral agreement to allow for the exchange of fisheries inspectors?¹

5. Fisheries Inspector Training²

Please identify whether fisheries inspectors already receive training in each of the following areas, and/or areas where additional training is being requested.

Training Element	Training Already Provided? (Yes / No)	Supplemental Training Needed (Yes/No) and in which Topic Areas?	Notes
Ethics			
Health, Safety and Security Issues			
Applicable national laws and regulations, applicable RFMO measures (e.g., ICCAT measures), and applicable international law			
Collection, evaluation and preservation of evidence			
General inspection procedures such as report writing and interview techniques (including techniques for interviewing observers)			
Analysis of information, such as logbooks and vessel history			
Vessel inspection, including hold inspections			
Verification and validation of information relating to landings, transshipments, processing and fish remaining on board, including utilization of conversion factors			
Identification of fish species and the measurement of length and other biological parameters			

¹ Rec. 12-07, paragraph 27.

² Based in large part on the minimum elements of an inspector training program identified in Annex E of the *FAO Agreement of Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*.

Identification of vessels and gear and techniques for the inspection and measurement of gear			
Equipment and operation of VMS and other electronic tracking systems			
Actions to be taken following inspection			
Knowledge of the relevant fisheries (e.g., ICCAT fisheries)			
Knowledge of the methods used by violators			

6. Follow-Up Enforcement Actions

- a. Does domestic law allow for enforcement action to be taken when infringements are found during the conduct of a port inspection?
- b. Are fisheries inspectors made available to support enforcement proceedings undertaken by other CPCs?
- c. What additional measures are taken to prevent landings of tuna or tuna-like species caught in violation of ICCAT Recommendation?³

7. Optional Addition Information

Please utilize the space provided to provide any additional comments relevant to capacity building needs that have not already been addressed in the questions above.

³ Recommendation by ICCAT to Adopt Additional Measures against IUU Fishing.

**Proposed ICCAT Port Inspection Assessment
Phase Two**

Developed by the Port Inspection Expert Working Group

Introduction and Purpose

The following document was produced pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and supplement the process for seeking capacity building assistance pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08 [Rec. 16-18]*, which established the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance. The third paragraph of the ToRs identifies that development of a tool for self-assessment is an essential first step in helping developing CPCs in requesting capacity building assistance and in facilitating the prioritization of such requests. This assessment represents the second phase of the assessment process for CPCs requesting capacity building assistance. This second phase is geared to be a more detailed review of a CPC's port State controls and implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 12-07]* in order to better understand where assistance may best be provided. While this assessment is focused on the requirements of the ICCAT Rec. 12-07, developing CPCs may find it a useful tool for assessing their capacity building needs with respect to port inspection obligations outside of the scope of ICCAT as well.

ICCAT Port Inspection Self-Assessment

Please provide any additional comments or explanations of additional needs for each category using the section entitled "Further comments." CPCs are encouraged to solicit input from all relevant domestic entities (e.g., all organizations and agencies involved in controlling access to port, conducting port inspections, and investigating and prosecuting violations of fisheries laws) in completing this self-assessment.

1. ICCAT Delegate Completing the Assessment

- a) CPC:
- b) Name:
- c) Ministry or Agency:
- d) Position:
- e) Email:
- f) Telephone:
- g) Assessment Completion Date:

2. Please find the results of the CPC's Self Pre-Assessment Attached in Appendix I.

3. International Engagement

- a) List any RFMOs or other arrangements, in addition to ICCAT, of which the CPC is a Member, Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties.
- b) List relevant agreements to which the CPC is a party and other organizations or arrangements through which the CPC engages in international efforts to combat IUU fishing (e.g., the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network, INTERPOL, etc.).

4. Ongoing/Completed Technical Assistance Projects

Please clarify any technical assistance projects that are envisioned, already in progress or have been completed, what assistance will be / was provided, and whether there are any additional requests for assistance on these topics.

Are any bilateral or other arrangements already in place for the purpose of providing (or receiving) capacity building assistance related to implementation of ICCAT Rec. 12-07? ⁴	Yes: No:
If yes, please name the projects and provide a brief description. (Expand space to account for multiple projects).	
Are these projects or requests for capacity-building funding relative to port inspections coordinated regionally?	Yes: No:
If so, please explain.	

5. Communication, Cooperation, and Information-Sharing

In the following two tables, please describe the primary authorities and secondary roles outlined for each decision point required for carrying out the requirements of a port inspection scheme (e.g., pre-screening vessels, communicating the pre-arrival information with the fisheries inspector, primary authority to conduct fisheries inspections on foreign-flagged vessels, or the authority(s) to take law enforcement action) and identify whether these roles are established through legal rulemaking.

⁴ Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 14-08], paragraph 8; See also, Rec. 12-07, Paragraph 27.

When ICCAT adopts new measures, do these entities receive training on those new measures? Please describe

Please answer the following questions to explain what intelligence or reports inspecting authorities have access to prior to a vessel's arrival.

Are reports (including reports from other port States or CPCs) of vessels engaging in IUU fishing communicated with fisheries inspectors and other appropriate authorities?	Yes: No:
Are the reports referenced in the above row provided to the inspectors?	Yes: No:
Is a risk assessment conducted to prioritize inspections and is this information transmitted to the inspector?	Yes: No:
Are the inspection results of at-sea inspections communicated with fisheries inspectors?	Yes: No:
Do fisheries inspectors receive reports regarding infractions (e.g., flagless vessels, EEZ incursions, etc.)?	Yes: No:
Do fisheries inspectors have access to the ICCAT authorized and IUU vessels lists, including the list of authorized carrier vessels?	Yes: No:

6. General Information on Vessel Activities in Port

Please list the name of each port that receives foreign-flagged fishing/fishing-related vessels carrying ICCAT managed fish/products that have not been previously landed, the number of vessels, the purpose of these port call, and the vessel types. Please add rows if necessary.

Designated port name pursuant to ICCAT Rec. 12-07 ⁵	Total number of foreign-flagged fishing/fishing-related vessels carrying ICCAT managed species that enter port annually	Purpose of port call (e.g., landing fish, transshipment, port services, other)	Percentage of vessels that are harvesting vessels	Percentage of vessels that are refrigerated carrier vessels	Volume of fish/product unloaded at this port	Primary species landed, transshipped, processed at this port?

⁵ Recommendation 12-07, paragraph 9.

7. Prior Notification Information

Please describe the following aspects of the notification process for foreign-flagged fishing and fishing-related vessels carrying fish or fish products that have not been previously landed.

How far in advance are vessels required to provide their advance request for entry into port?	
Which agencies/ministries receive the advance request for port entry from the vessel and how is the information in shared with fisheries inspectors prior to inspection?	
What method of communication (e.g. email, radio, arrival notice system, etc.) do vessels use when submitting their request for port entry?	
Are there procedures in place to conduct risk assessment to prioritize vessels for inspection?	

8. Legal authorities of fisheries inspectors

Do fisheries inspectors have the legal authority to examine all relevant areas of a vessel, including:

Vessel Areas	Legal authority to inspect? (Yes / No)
Decks	
Rooms	
Catches, processed or otherwise	
Nets and other fishing gear	
Equipment (both technical and electronic)	
Records of transmissions	
Fishing logbooks	
Cargo manifests	
Mate's receipt and landing declarations	
Any other relevant document	

9. Inspection documentation

Please answer the following questions.

Has the country implemented the use of the ICCAT port inspection form/report ⁶ or are the required fields integrated into an appropriate agency form?	Yes: No:
If no, how is this required information documented?	

10. Transmittal of Inspection Results

To who does the fisheries inspector submit the inspection report to once complete and then with whom does the CPC share inspection results with (please list all entities)?

11. Optional Addition Information

Please utilize the space provided to provide any additional comments relevant to capacity building needs that have not already been addressed.

⁶ <https://www.iccat.int/en/portinspection.htm>

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

RECOMMENDATION 11-18: IUU LIST 2017⁷

LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040005	Not available	JAPAN - sighting of tuna longliner in the Convention area, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown	Unknown	BRAVO	NO INFO	T8AN3	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040006	Not available	JAPAN - Reefer company provided documents showing frozen tuna had been transhipped.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040007	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)	AT	

⁷ Note: The supporting information to ICCAT IUU list is available in electronic format only.

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<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040008	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(INDONESIA)		
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL -fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	NO INFO	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT	
20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	NO INFO	FN 003883	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	MARIA	NO INFO	FN 003882	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060003	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	NO. 101 GLORIA	GOLDEN LAKE	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	

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20060004	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 103	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060005	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 101	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060007	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	LILA NO. 10	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060008	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No 2 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	

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20060009	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060010	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060011	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No. 3 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060012	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	

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20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT recorded as AT000GUI00002)	Japan- Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/2008 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QMC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB0039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON 1	MANARA 1 (previously POSEIDON)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB0041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	OCEAN LION	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090002	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Georgia	YU MAAN WON	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090003	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Unknown	GUNUAR MELYAN 21	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	

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20100004	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 09/03	07/07/2010	E10-2860	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG II			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.			
20110003	C-00545 M-00545	IATTC WCPFC	30/08/2011 09/03/2016	E11-5762 E16- 02093/16	Georgia Unknown	Georgia	Neptune		4LOG Unknown	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		Pacific Ocean	LL
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 10	Bhaskara No. 10				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No.9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown		Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Chia Hao No. 66	Chia Hao No. 66	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma alegre, San Francisco, Panamá	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130001	IMO 7355662	WCPFC	09/03/2016	E16- 02093	Unknown	Georgia	Fu Lien nº 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			
20130002		WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Chinese Taipei		Yu Fong 168		BJ4786	Chang Lin Pao- Chun	161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei		

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20130003		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21*		OTS 024 or OTS 089	Unknown			
20130004		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International LTD			
20130005		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Dragon III			Reino De Mar S.A	125 metros al Oeste de Sardimar cocal de Puntarenas Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130006		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Panamá	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	HO- 2508	Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A	1 Fl, No. 101 Ta-She Road Ta She Hsiang Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130007		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130008		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	Longline

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20130009		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130011		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	Tching Ye No. 6	Tching Ye No. 6, (El Diria I)	V3GN		Costado Este de UCR El Cocal Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130012	8994295	IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Wen Teng No. 688	Wen Teng No. 688, (Mahkoia Abadi No. 196)	V3TK4		No. 32 Hai Shan 4th Road Hsiao Kang District Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130013		ICCAT	25/11/2013	COC-303/2013 Annex 4; Plenary report Commission 2013	Indonesia	Uknown	Samudera Pasifik No. 18	Kawil No. 03; Lady VI-T-III	YGGY	Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger Indonesia, PT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar		Drifting longline
20140001		IATTC	12/08/2014	E14-06604	Fiji		Xin Shi Ji 16		3DTN	Xin Shi Ji Fisheries Limited	346 Waimanu Road, Suva, Fiji		Longline

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20150001	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150002	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228; KM.		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150003	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	CHI TONG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150004	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA 18		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150005	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO 01		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150006	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150007	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 06		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150008	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 08		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150009	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 09		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150010	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150011	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150012	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150013	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 20		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150014	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21*		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150015	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 23		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150016	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 26		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150017	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150018	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 101		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150019	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 103		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150020	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 105		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150021	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Bolivia	KIM SENG DENG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150022	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 127		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150023	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150024	7322897	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Equatorial Guinea		KUNLUN (TAISHAN)		3CAG	Stanley Management Inc	Unknown		

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20150025	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	MAAN YIH HSING		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150026	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150027	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 12		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150028	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SHUEN SIANG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150029	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 6		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150030	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150031	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 8		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150032	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 9		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150033	9319856	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	SONGHUA (YUNNAN)		3CAF	Eastern Holdings	Unknown		
20150034	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 168		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150035	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 18		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150036	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 188		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150037	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 189		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150038	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 286		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150039	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150040	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 888		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150041	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	TIAN LUNG NO.12		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150042	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown		Abundant 12 (YI HONG 106)		CPA 202	Huang Jia Yi/Mendez Francisco Delos Reyes	C/O Room 18- E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		

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20150043	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown		Abundant 9 (YI HONG 116)		CPA222	Huang Jia Yi /Pan Chao Maon	C/O Room 18- E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		
20150044	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 3 (YI HONG 16)		CPA 201	Huang Jia Yi Huang Wen Hsin	C/O Room 18- E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		
20150045	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	YI HONG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150046	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown		Abundant 1 (YI HONG 6)		CPA 226	Huang Jia Yi /Hatto Daroi	C/O Room 18- E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Equatorial Guinea		YONGDING (JIANFENG)		3CAE	Stanley Management Inc.	Unknown		
20150048	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15- 07643	Unknown	Unknown	YU FONG 168		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20160001	n.a	Senegal/ICCAT	25/02/2016	E16-01726	Unknown	Liberia; Indonesia	New Bai I No. 168	Samudera	YGMY	Shin Pao K ONG Winnie Tsengi	Unknown	AT	
20170003	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		BENAI AH		Not available	Mr. Raju S/O John Rose	11-4-137 Kalingarapur am		
20170004	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		BEO HINGIS		Not available	Nasians. P S/O Peter			
20170005	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		CARMAL MATHA		Not available	Antony J S/O Joseph	111-7-28 St. Thomas Nagar, Talminadu		
20170006	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		DIGNAMOL 1		Not available	Jelvis S/O Dicostan	7/103 K R Puram. Mamilnadu		
20170007	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		EPHRAEEM		Not available	Not available			

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<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20170008	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		KING JESUS		Not available	Unknown			
20170009	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		SACRED HEART		Not available	Metlan S/O Paniyadim			
20170010	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		SHALOM		Not available	Not available			
20170011	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		VACHANAM		Not available	Satril T			
20170012	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		WISDOM		Not available	Lowerence			
20170013	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		ABUNDANT 6	YI HONG 86	CPA 221	Huang Jia Yi	C/O Room 18-E, Tze Wei No. 8 6 Th Road Lin Ya District Kaoshiung		

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign	Owner/Operator Name	Owner/Operator Address	Area	Gear
20170014	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		SHENG JI QUN 3		CPA 311	Chang Lin	Pao-Chun No. 161, Kaohsiung		
20170015	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	SHUN LAI	HSIN JYI WANG NO.6	CPA 514	Lee Cheng Chung	5 Tze Wei Road, Kaohsiung		
20170016	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		YUTUNA 3	HUNG SHENG NO. 166	CPA 212	Yen Shih Hsiung	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung		
20170017	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		YUTUNA NO. 1		CPA 302	Tseng Min Tsai	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung		

(*) No information from IOTC on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels.

Photography available: Serial number 20050001; Photography for Hoom Xuang 11; Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21 and Full Rich are available in, respectively, IOTC Reports IOTC-S14-CoC13-add1 [E]; IOTC-2013-CoC10-07 Rev 1[E] and IOTC-2013-CoC10-08a[E]; Photography for the vessel Wen Teng No. 688 is available at <http://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselDetails.aspx?VesNo=129&Lang=en>



Attachment as supporting information: As requested at the 20th Special meeting, Chinese Taipei and Liberia submitted further information concerning the vessel *New Bai I No. 168* while Bolivia submitted information concerning the vessels *Kim Seng Deng 3*; *Yi Hong 106* and *Yi Hong 116*.